President U Thein Sein felicitates Amir, PM of the State of Kuwait

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and to His Highness Sheikh Jabar Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2013.—MNA

No. 17 Heavy Industry (Malun) manufacturing agricultural machinery

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint on 16 February met the factory manager and staff at No. 17 Heavy Industry in Malun of Minhla Township of Magway Region.

After that, the Union minister viewed round manufacturing of small-scale rice mill, test-running of milling rice, production of gears for power-tillers, rollers and combined harvesters, and signing of the letter of intent. The minister also attended the meeting under the banner of Myanmar Investment Law and Investment Prospects held at JCCI in Japan on 20 February.

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint on 16 February met the factory manager and staff at No. 17 Heavy Industry in Malun of Minhla Township of Magway Region.

After that, the Union minister viewed round manufacturing of small-scale rice mill, test-running of milling rice, production of gears for power-tillers, rollers and combined harvesters. The minister also attended the meeting under the banner of Myanmar Investment Law and Investment Prospects held at JCCI in Japan on 20 February.

MNA

Union Minister U Aye Myint at No. 17 Heavy Industry (Malun).

MNA

Shwechaung Bridge No (2) construction completed by 70 percent

By Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)

Construction of Shwechaung Bridge No (2) has been completed by 70 percent in the third week of February. The construction of the bridge started on 11-11-2012 as the bridge No (1) was subject to traffic jam.

The bridge lies near Pakokku-Kyunchaung-Seikpyu road.

“Our special project group No (3) is working day in day out to build Shwechaung bridge No (2). The group is also undertaking construction of detour that will pass through the bridge,” said an official.

The detour will link the outskirts of Pakokku and Ayeyawady Bridge.

The bridge has the length of 540 ft and 24-foot-wide motorway flanked by six-foot-wide sidewalks. It is of RC type.

The bridge will contribute towards socio-economic development of the region with rapid commodity flow.

Myanmar Alinn:
24-2-2013
Twa: HKA
Work coord meeting of Mon State Police Force

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb — A work coordination meeting of Mon State Police Force was held at the meeting hall of Mon State Police Commander’s Office in Mawlamyine on 15 February, attended by the Mon State Police Commander and heads of district/township police stations. Mon State Police Commander Police Col. Myo Swe Win spoke on the occasion and those present reported on work progress and criminal and drug cases carried out in January 2013 and last year. Next, the state police commander called for further cooperation with ward administrators and town councillors in carrying out the tasks of curbing crimes, crackdown on gambling, preventive measures against possible occurrence of crimes and seizure of unlicensed vehicles. MNA

Digging tubewells in progress in NyaungU, Kyaukpaduungs Tspn

NYAUNGU, 24 Feb — Director Daw Lei Lei Aye of Rural Region Development Department and party on 17 February visited Ywatha Aye Village of NyaungU Township where a tubewell is being dug to relieve water stress in coming summer. They supervised and provided necessary assistance there. They also visited Yin Hsan Village and Aye Aye Village in Kyaukpaduung Township where tubewells are also being dug.

Pyinmana Township organizes subject-wise talks for high matriculation pass rate

PYINMANA, 24 Feb — A subject-wise talks was given to students who are going to sit for the matriculation examination in conjunction with a donation ceremony at Ngwehsaung cinema in Pyinmana on 22 February.

Ten private teachers gave talks on their respective subjects at the ceremony organized by Ashaemya educational sphere for the first time. Next, wellwishers presented 1000 sets of subject-wise books to students from seven BEHSs in Pyinmana Township.

On his message sent to the ceremony, Patron of Pyinmana Township Association (Yangon) Retired Ambassador U Hla Maung said he was very pleased to organize the talks for students who are playing a pivotal role in promotion of education sector that is a key to development of a certain country. U Pyae Son of Pyinmana Township Education Committee said the aim of conducting the talks was to encourage students to be able to sit for the examination with full of confidence after receiving helpful advice given by veteran teachers. — Kyemon

Htmane-making ceremony on 3 March in Thakayta Township

YANGON, 24 Feb — Under the aegis of Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhuddantta Dhammasara of Buddhatangui Minguntuaung project, the tenth collective Htmane-making ceremony will be held at Mingun Dhammasara Pariyatti Sarthintaik on Aung Chantha street in ward-7/1 west of Thakayta Township on 3 March (Sunday).

Wellwishers will offer alms to more than 1000 members of Sangha at 5 pm on that day. Those wishing to donate cash for the Htmane-making ceremony, please contact Ph: 450658. 09 5146609 and 450825 of the monastery.

Overturned ferry bus hurts 29 factory workers in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 24 Feb — From 1 to 15 February, eight fatal road accidents happened to passengers buses of the bus lines under all-bus line control committee (central), leaving six people dead and 71 wounded.

Among the car accidents, a ferry bus of No (85) bus line carrying workers of Gaba (1) garment factory in Shwepyitha skidded and turned over while swerving sharply to avoid a motorcycle driving on the wrong side of the road in front of Shwepyitha cinema near Khamauk market on 2 February. Out of passengers on the ferry, one man and 28 women totaling 29 suffered injuries in the car accident. — Kyemon

Rural people provided with health care

YEDASHE, 24 Feb — A medical team led by Dr Maung Maung Htwe of Jivitasana free clinic in Swa Township and Daw Hnin Hnin of Swa Township Traditional Medicine Department gave free medical treatment to rural people at the ward administrator’s office of Sipaing Village on the other side of Sittoung river from Swa Township on 16 February. Members of Swa Township Blood Donation Association and town councillors took part in the activity.

The medical team provided more than 500 locals from Sipaing, Shanu, Thaphansin, Kyunkon, Paduakon villages and other villages with free health care service. — Kyemon

Two houses burnt to ground in short circuit

YANGON, 24 Feb — An electric shock sparked a fire at a house in Aungcheint Village of Hmawby Township, here, on 13 February.

The fire started from the wire shock circuit at the main house of U Shwe Htoo in the village. A shower of sparks from the electrical shock had set fire to other materials and swept through the whole house. Then the fire spread the next house and burned the house of Daw Kyi Win to the ground.

Firefighters accompanied by one fire engine and local people put out the fire which reduced two houses to ashes. — Kyemon

Poor harvest hurts grape growers in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 24 Feb — Grapes are grown on a wider scale in 24 villages of Ywadan station in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region.

This year, the grape harvest failed because of the drought caused by climate change and plant pests. Grape harvest can be made twice a year in the region. According to the market demand, local people are to rely on the harvest of grapes in summer. Due to a drop in grape yield and falling grape price in the market, grape growers could not generate income as they expected this year. Of various kinds of grape strains, farmers plant No (3) grape strain with resistance to pests and bad weather in the region.

Locally-grown grapes are transported to Yangon and Mandalay, Taunggyi, Muse and Mawlamyine.

“We price of one viss of grapes was K 2000 last year. Now the falling price is K 100 per viss. A poor harvest of grapes hits our incomes,” says a grape grower. — Kyemon

Grapes are grown on a wider scale in 24 villages of Ywadan station in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region. of grape strains, farmers plant No (3) grape strain with resistance to pests and bad weather in the region. Locally-grown grapes are transported to Yangon and Mandalay, Taunggyi, Muse and Mawlamyine. “The price of one viss of grapes was K 2000 last year. Now the falling price is K 100 per viss. A poor harvest of grapes hits our incomes,” says a grape grower. — Kyemon

Overturned ferry bus hurts 29 factory workers in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 24 Feb — From 1 to 15 February, eight fatal road accidents happened to passengers buses of the bus lines under all-bus line control committee (central), leaving six people dead and 71 wounded.

Among the car accidents, a ferry bus of No (85) bus line carrying workers of Gaba (1) garment factory in Shwepyitha skidded and turned over while swerving sharply to avoid a motorcycle driving on the wrong side of the road in front of Shwepyitha cinema near Khamauk market on 2 February. Out of passengers on the ferry, one man and 28 women totaling 29 suffered injuries in the car accident. — Kyemon

Rural people provided with health care

YEDASHE, 24 Feb — A medical team led by Dr Maung Maung Htwe of Jivitasana free clinic in Swa Township and Daw Hnin Hnin of Swa Township Traditional Medicine Department gave free medical treatment to rural people at the ward administrator’s office of Sipaing Village on the other side of Sittoung river from Swa Township on 16 February. Members of Swa Township Blood Donation Association and town councillors took part in the activity.

The medical team provided more than 500 locals from Sipaing, Shanu, Thaphansin, Kyunkon, Paduakon villages and other villages with free health care service. — Kyemon

Two houses burnt to ground in short circuit

YANGON, 24 Feb — An electric shock sparked a fire at a house in Aungcheint Village of Hmawby Township, here, on 13 February.

The fire started from the wire shock circuit at the main house of U Shwe Htoo in the village. A shower of sparks from the electrical shock had set fire to other materials and swept through the whole house. Then the fire spread the next house and burned the house of Daw Kyi Win to the ground.

Firefighters accompanied by one fire engine and local people put out the fire which reduced two houses to ashes. — Kyemon

Poor harvest hurts grape growers in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 24 Feb — Grapes are grown on a wider scale in 24 villages of Ywadan station in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region.

This year, the grape harvest failed because of the drought caused by climate change and plant pests. Grape harvest can be made twice a year in the region. According to the market demand, local people are to rely on the harvest of grapes in summer. Due to a drop in grape yield and falling grape price in the market, grape growers could not generate income as they expected this year. Of various kinds of grape strains, farmers plant No (3) grape strain with resistance to pests and bad weather in the region. Locally-grown grapes are transported to Yangon and Mandalay, Taunggyi, Muse and Mawlamyine. “The price of one viss of grapes was K 2000 last year. Now the falling price is K 100 per viss. A poor harvest of grapes hits our incomes,” says a grape grower. — Kyemon

Grapes are grown on a wider scale in 24 villages of Ywadan station in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region. of grape strains, farmers plant No (3) grape strain with resistance to pests and bad weather in the region. Locally-grown grapes are transported to Yangon and Mandalay, Taunggyi, Muse and Mawlamyine. “The price of one viss of grapes was K 2000 last year. Now the falling price is K 100 per viss. A poor harvest of grapes hits our incomes,” says a grape grower. — Kyemon
Iran announces uranium finds, days before nuclear talks

DUBAI, 24 Feb—Days before resuming talks over its disputed atomic programme, Iran said on Saturday it had found significant new deposits of raw uranium and identified sites for 16 more nuclear power stations.

State news agency IRNA quoted a report by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) which said the reserves were discovered in northern and southern coastal areas and had trebled the amount outlined in previous estimates.

There was no independent confirmation. With few uranium mines of its own, Western experts had previously thought that Iran might be close to exhausting its supply of raw uranium.

“We have discovered new sources of uranium in the country and we will put them to use in the near future,” Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani, head of the AEOI, was quoted as saying at Iran’s annual nuclear industry conference.

The timing of the announcement suggested Iran, by talking up its reserves and nuclear ambitions, may hope to strengthen its negotiating hand at talks in Kazakhstan on Tuesday with the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. Diplomats say the six powers, known as the P5+1, are set to offer Iran some relief from international sanctions if it agrees to curb its production of higher-grade enriched uranium. The West says Iran’s enrichment of uranium to a fissile purity of 20 percent demonstrates its intent to develop a nuclear weapons capability, an allegation the Islamic republic denies.

The enriched uranium required for use in nuclear reactors or weapons is produced in centrifuges that spin uranium hexafluoride gas (UF6) at high speeds. The UF6 is derived from yellow cake, a concentrate from uranium ore discovered in mines.

France offers India support to combat terrorism after Hyderabad blasts

NEW DELHI, 24 Feb—France has offered support and cooperation to India in fighting terrorism following the Hyderabad terrorist attack which killed 16 and injured 110, said local media on Saturday.

French President Francois Hollande, who visited India recently, has expressed condemnation of the attacks in India while conveying his heartfelt condolences to the victims’ families, reported Indo-Asian News Service.

Holland, expressing “his complete solidarity with the Indian people and the government in the fight against terrorism, for which they count on France’s steadfast support and cooperation,” a statement of the Elysee Palace was quoted as saying on Friday.

The French ministry of foreign affairs also said French Consul General in Bangalore has already visited Hyderabad “to express our solidarity with India and ensure the safety of the French community there.”—Xinhua

Third straight weekend storm heads for New England

WASHINGTON, 24 Feb—US President Barack Obama on Saturday urged Congress to stop the looming sequester that will lead to harmful automatic cuts, and that could threaten thousands of jobs and affect national security.

In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama warned that the sequester, which will take effect on 1 March if no deal is reached to reduce deficit, will slow the US economy and eliminate good, middle class jobs because of a series of arbitrary, automatic budget cuts.

He also warned that if the sequester comes, it will force thousands of teachers and educators out of jobs, create travel delays across the country’s airports and set back medical science for a generation.

Such cuts will also hurt national security by affecting the US ability to respond to threats in the world. For example, the Navy will be forced to delay the deployment of an aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf. The Pentagon has just announced that if these cuts go through, almost 800,000 defense employees will be forced to take unpaid leave.

But the US president said the sequester can be averted if Congress can pass a balanced plan for deficit reduction.

“They can cut spending in a smart way, and close wasteful tax loopholes for the well-off and well-connected,” he said.

The US president criticized Congressional Republicans for refusing to make compromise to allow tax hikes for the wealthiest Americans.

“These are the questions Republicans in Congress need to ask themselves. And I’m hopeful they’ll change their minds. Because the American people have worked too hard for too long to see everything they’ve built undone by partisan recklessness in Washington,” he said.

The Republicans have insisted for massive cuts in government spending to reduce the spiraling debt rather than increasing taxes for the wealthy Americans, citing this will hinder their ability to make new investments and create new jobs.

Patriots in Turkey send clear warning to Syria

Turkey’s defence minister inspected Patriot missile batteries close to the Syria-Turkey border on Saturday and said they delivered a “clear warning” to Damascus that NATO would not tolerate missiles being fired into Turkey.

Thomas de Maiziere and his Turkish counterpart Ismet Yilmaz, with the Patriot system in the background, are seen during their visit NATO German patriot troops at a Turkish military base in Kahramanmaras on 23 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

A family digs snow out of their driveway during a blizzard in Overland Park, Kansas, on 21 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

Obama urges Congress to stop looming sequester

Saturday, 24 Feb—New England faced a third straight weekend of storms dumping a messy mix of wet snow and freezing rain across the region, meteorologists said on Saturday.

Another storm in the West is rolling out of the Rocky Mountains this weekend and could create blizzard conditions in Colorado, according to a National Weather Service advisory.

Much of the Midwest is already blanketed with snow. More than a foot of snow was reported in Kansas on Thursday, forcing airports to cancel hundreds of flights and leaving motorists stranded on highways.

Starting on Saturday, the New England coast—from northern Connecticut to southern Maine—was expecting an extended mix of snow and rain, according to a National Weather Service advisory, while inland areas could see a significant accumulation of snow.

Wet snow and freezing rain were expected on Saturday afternoon through Sunday evening in southern New Hampshire, northern Rhode Island and much of Massachusetts.

The Boston metropolitan area could see from 2 to 5 inches of snow, while parts of central Massachusetts may get up to 12 inches, said National Weather Service meteorologist John Foley.

The heaviest snowfall was expected on Saturday night through Sunday morning, with 1 to 2 inches per hour possible, the weather service said.

Despite the forecasts, some residents were taking it in stride, wondering what all the fuss was about.

“Look, it’s winter, it’s New England, it snows. Happens every time!” said Steve Scarnello, a software sales executive and lifelong New Engander from Hopkinton, Massachusetts.

But others were not so sanguine. —Reuters

French state TV Channels said the Patriots in Turkey were preparing to take Saudi Arabia by storm with their Patriot missile batteries which were deployed near the Turkish-Syrian border. The troops were the latest move by NATO to strengthen its presence in the region.

The move comes in the wake of a weekend of escalating violence in the region, which saw five Syrian refugees killed and more than 100 wounded in a series of rocket attacks on government buildings.

The United States has scrambled war planes to land near the Syrian border after the Syrian regime launched a new airstrike in the region.

Syria doesn’t turn its capabilities into action,” de Maiziere said, while also saying that the risk of attack was “minimal”.

“We can see from here that Syria is using rockets—often several times a day.”

Syria is believed to have more than 1,000 rockets with a range of up to 100 km, and around 1,000 tonnes of chemical weapons material.

Turkey is a staunch supporter of the nearly two-year uprising against President Bashar al-Assad and has harboured both Syrian refugees and rebels. Violence has sometimes spilled over the border.

Tensions increased in recent weeks after NATO said it had detected launches of short-range ballistic missiles inside Syria, several of which have landed close to the Turkish border. Turkey has scrambled war planes along the frontier, fanning fears the war could spread and further destabilise the region.—Reuters

Obama urged Congress to stop the looming sequester.

The US president said the sequester could be averted if Congress can pass a balanced plan for deficit reduction.

“'They can cut spending in a smart way, and close wasteful tax loopholes for the well-off and well-connected,' he said.

The US president criticized Congressional Republicans for refusing to make compromise to allow tax hikes for the wealthiest Americans.

‘These are the questions Republicans in Congress need to ask themselves. And I’m hopeful they’ll change their minds. Because the American people have worked too hard for too long to see everything they’ve built undone by partisan recklessness in Washington,” he said.

The Republicans have insisted for massive cuts in government spending to reduce the spiraling debt rather than increasing taxes for the wealthy Americans, citing this will hinder their ability to make new investments and create new jobs.

Xinhua

New Light of Myanmar

WORLD

Monday, 25 February, 2013

3

New Light of Myanmar

WORLD

Monday, 25 February, 2013

3
**Sharp revival plan unlikely to include Hon Hai capital**

**Tokyo, 24 Feb —** Sharp Corp is unlikely to include a capital infusion from Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd in its turnaround plan as talks between the two companies have hit a snag, sources familiar with the matter said. The Japanese consumer electronics maker and its main lenders are drawing up a business restructuring plan for the company, which would include a capital infusion from Hon Hai for the first time, two sources said.

The two companies, which areFinal Edit Company still locked in a dispute over the overpriced, overhyped free smartphone offers that have dominated the mobile market in recent years, have been in talks since last year to settle the issue. The talks have been complicated by Sharp’s ongoing difficulties with its main supplier, Hon Hai, which is the world’s largest contract manufacturer.

**Qualcomm said it would work with Sharp to develop new, power-saving screens based on Sharp’s IGZO technology.**

Sources said drawing up Sharp’s business plan has fallen behind schedule as the company has yet to come up with convincing growth strategies, and an announcement is not likely to come until after its new financial year which starts in April. A Sharp spokes-

**Vietnam’s hi-tech park aims at 2.7 bln USD export revenue in 2013**

HANOI, 24 Feb — Vietnam’s Saigon High-Tech Park (SHTP) targets export revenue of 2.7 billion US dollars in 2013, while attracting 6 to 10 investment projects with a combined registered capital of around 150 million dollars, according to SHTP’s management board. In addition, SHTP will continue its efforts to boost exports and develop high-tech human resources training. Located in Vietnam’s southern metropolis Ho Chi Minh City, the park has attracted 68 projects since established in 2002.

**EU takes France, Luxembourg to court over low VAT on e-books**

**Paris, 24 Feb —** EU regulators hope to resolve a two-year investigation into US internet company Google in the latter half of the year. The EU’s antitrust chief said on Friday, although a rival expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of any solution. The European Commission —the EU’s executive arm— has been examining proposals put forward by Google to resolve complaints from more than a dozen companies, including rival search engines. Google was using its market dominance to block competitors.

“We can reach an agreement after the summer break. We can envisage this as a possible deadline,” EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia told a conference. The Commission is closed for its summer break for most of August. Almunia said there would only be a decision “if everything was okay.” Neither Google nor the EU antitrust authority have detailed what concessions the US group has offered. If the EU authority accepts the offer, it would mean no fine for Google.

**Nokia to fight rivals with cheaper models**

**COPENHAGEN, 24 Feb —** Finnish mobile phone maker Nokia is set to launch cheaper handset models in an effort to fend off growing competition from Chinese rivals in the low-end market, company sources said on Friday. The new models, due to be unveiled at the Mobile World Congress industry convention in Barcelona next week, show Nokia is expanding its focus after concentrating in the past two years on catching up with Apple and Samsung in more expensive smartphones.

The sources said Nokia would introduce cut-price basic phones aimed at competing with the likes of Huawei and ZTE, as well as a new, lower-price model of its Lumia smartphones running on Windows Phone 8 software. Details such as exact pricing were not available, and a company spokesman declined to comment. Nokia, once the undisputed leader in the mobile phone industry, has struggled with growing competition in both smartphones and lower-end devices. Its Lumia smartphone range was widely been seen as a make-or-break product line for Nokia due to its high margins. Its success is seen determining whether Chief Executive Stephen Elop made the right decision two years ago in switching to Microsoft Windows software from its own Symbian system. Most Lumia phones cost over $200, and the top-of-the-range Lumia 920 can cost over $600 without a carrier contract in the United States and some European markets. By contrast, the average selling price of Nokia’s mobile phones was 31 euros in 2012, down from 35 euros a year earlier. But analysts estimate Nokia’s market share in the smartphone business is still only around 5 percent, and that it needs to protect its position in basic phones if it wants to survive. Nokia’s net sales of mobile phones fell 21 percent in 2012 to 9.44 billion euros, while sales of higher-end “smart devices” slumped 50 percent to 5.45 billion.

**EU sees Google competition deal after August**

**Brussels, 24 Feb —** EU regulators hope to resolve a two-year investigation into US internet company Google in the latter half of the year, the EU’s antitrust chief said on Friday, although a rival expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of any solution. The European Commission —the EU’s executive arm— has been examining proposals put forward by Google to resolve complaints from more than a dozen companies, including rival search engines. Google was using its market dominance to block competitors.

“We can reach an agreement after the summer break. We can envisage this as a possible deadline,” EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia told a conference. The Commission is closed for its summer break for most of August. Almunia said there would only be a decision “if everything was okay.” Neither Google nor the EU antitrust authority have detailed what concessions the US group has offered. If the EU authority accepts the offer, it would mean no fine for Google.

**People familiar with the matter have previously told Reuters that Google offered to label its own services in search results to differenti-

**FRANCE & TECHNOLOGY**

An illustration picture shows a Google logo with two one Euro coins, taken in Munich in this 15 Jan, 2013 file photograph. Google Inc shares rose 1 percent to hit $800 per share on 19 Feb, 2013.— REUTERS

**Nokia logo at a shop in Warsaw, on 26 Jan, 2012.— Reuters**

**Picture shows a Nokia logo at a shop in Warsaw, on 26 Jan, 2012.— Reuters**

**New Light of Myanmar**

Sharp revival plan unlikely to include Hon Hai capital

Sharp Corp is unlikely to include a capital infusion from Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd in its turnaround plan as talks between the two companies have hit a snag, sources familiar with the matter said. The Japanese consumer electronics maker and its main lenders are drawing up a business restructuring plan for the company, which would include a capital infusion from Hon Hai for the first time, two sources said.

Qualcomm said it would work with Sharp to develop new, power-saving screens based on Sharp’s IGZO technology. Sources said drawing up Sharp’s business plan has fallen behind schedule as the company has yet to come up with convincing growth strategies, and an announcement is not likely to come until after its new financial year which starts in April. A Sharp spokes-

**Vietnam’s hi-tech park aims at 2.7 bln USD export revenue in 2013**

HANOI, 24 Feb — Vietnam’s Saigon High-Tech Park (SHTP) targets export revenue of 2.7 billion US dollars in 2013, while attracting 6 to 10 investment projects with a combined registered capital of around 150 million dollars, according to SHTP’s management board. In addition, SHTP will continue its efforts to boost exports and develop high-tech human resources training. Located in Vietnam’s southern metropolis Ho Chi Minh City, the park has attracted 68 projects since established in 2002.

**EU takes France, Luxembourg to court over low VAT on e-books**

**Paris, 24 Feb —** EU regulators hope to resolve a two-year investigation into US internet company Google in the latter half of the year, the EU’s antitrust chief said on Friday, although a rival expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of any solution. The European Commission —the EU’s executive arm— has been examining proposals put forward by Google to resolve complaints from more than a dozen companies, including rival search engines. Google was using its market dominance to block competitors.

“We can reach an agreement after the summer break. We can envisage this as a possible deadline,” EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia told a conference. The Commission is closed for its summer break for most of August. Almunia said there would only be a decision “if everything was okay.” Neither Google nor the EU antitrust authority have detailed what concessions the US group has offered. If the EU authority accepts the offer, it would mean no fine for Google.

**People familiar with the matter have previously told Reuters that Google offered to label its own services in search results to differenti-
Spain, France to miss debt goals as euro zone stays in recession

BRUSSELS, 24 Feb—The euro zone will not return to growth until 2014 and struggling Spain and France will be among those who miss debt-cutting targets as a result, the European Commission said on Friday. Paris and Lisbon said they would seek more time from Brussels to reach their deficit goals. Madrid has already indicated the same.

The EU's executive said the euro zone economy, which generates nearly a fifth of global output, would shrink 0.3 percent in 2013 after a 0.6 percent fall last year, blaming a lack of bank lending and record joblessness for delaying the recovery. That represented a marked downgrade of the Commission’s prediction from November that the euro zone would grow this year. The euro slipped on the back of the forecasts.

The currency bloc is continuing to weigh on growth in the short term, EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn said. Under EU budget rules, sharpened at the peak of the crisis in late 2011, euro zone countries can face fines if they fail to take action to meet deficit targets set by EU finance ministers. Progress is uneven among the 17 countries sharing the euro.

The main laggard was Spain, which badly missed the 6.3 percent of GDP target for 2012 with a result of 10.2 percent. Spain had screened 3.2 percent of GDP cost to recapitalize banks, even at 7.0 percent the deficit was above target.

Experts issue guidelines for gene tests in kids

NEW YORK, 24 Feb—Groups representing pediatricians and genetics issued new recommendations on Thursday to provide doctors with guidance about testing in children, said Dr. Laimie Friedman Ross, the Carolyn and Matthew Bucksbaum Professor of Clinical Ethics at the University of Chicago.

"The first thing is what hasn't changed and the most important thing is that what is best for the child should be front and centre for everything in pediatrics," Ross said. That includes offering every parent the opportunity to screen their newborn children for treatable genetic conditions—such as sickle-cell disease—which can lead to chronic health problems as well as fatal sickle-cell "crises.”

Newborns that "shouldn’t just be offered. It should be strongly encouraged, because the benefits far outweigh the risks," Ross said.

Testing children for diseases that don’t affect people until adulthood, however, should be discouraged unless a childhood treatment may decrease the risk of complications of death, according to the experts.

For example, the new policy would recommend against girls being screened for the BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations, which put adult women at a higher risk for breast and ovarian cancer.

About one in 600 women in the US carry the mutations, and those women may decide to have their breasts and ovaries removed later in life. There is no reason to test babies or children for those types of mutations because the results would not change how doctors treat the child, according to Ross.

"That’s something you get pretty universal agreement on from the geneticist side, to not test children for adult onset conditions,” said Dr. David Sweetser, chief of medical genetics at MassGeneral Hospital for Children in Boston.

EU agency recommends Sanofi, Merck pediatric vaccine

LONDON, 24 Feb—The European Medicines Agency recommended approval of Hevon, a new 6-in-1 pediatric vaccine from Sanofi Pasteur MSD, a joint venture between Merck and Sanofi, the companies said on Friday.

The new vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis B, poliomyelitis and invasive infections caused by Haemophilus influenzae type b.

Recommendations for marketing approval by the EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) are normally endorsed by the European Commission within a couple of months.

Medicare drug costs to fall in 2014, but donut hole widens

CHICAGO, 24 Feb—There will be good and bad news next year for seniors using Medicare’s prescription drug programme.

Overall, enrollees can expect a year of flat or decreasing Medicare prescription drug costs, according to data released last week by the federal government. The government said Medicare’s per-beneficiary drug costs fell 4 percent last year, according to Jack Hoadley, research professor at the Health Policy Institute of Georgetown University.

“Premiums are driven by insurance plan estimates of what their average cost will be to treat a patient, so it’s fair to say we’re likely to see relatively flat premium growth next year,” he says.

Pepsi suddenly scarce in Thailand after bottler breakup

BANGKOK, 24 Feb—The day after PepsiCo Inc’s bottling deal in Thailand expired, its partner of 59 years launched its own soft drink that has knocked Pepsi off store shelves. Serm Suk Pcl, backed by the billionaire owner of the company, is outsold arch-rival Coca-Cola Co’s, but Coke caught up later in life. There is no reason to test babies or children for those types of mutations because the results would not change how doctors treat the child, according to Ross.

“That’s something you get pretty universal agreement on from the geneticist side, to not test children for adult onset conditions,” said Dr. David Sweetser, chief of medical genetics at MassGeneral Hospital for Children in Boston.

EU agency recommends Sanofi, Merck pediatric vaccine

LONDON, 24 Feb—The European Medicines Agency recommended approval of Hevon, a new 6-in-1 pediatric vaccine from Sanofi Pasteur MSD, a joint venture between Merck and Sanofi, the companies said on Friday.

The new vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis B, poliomyelitis and invasive infections caused by Haemophilus influenzae type b.

Recommendations for marketing approval by the EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) are normally endorsed by the European Commission within a couple of months.

Medicare drug costs to fall in 2014, but donut hole widens

CHICAGO, 24 Feb—There will be good and bad news next year for seniors using Medicare’s prescription drug programme.

Overall, enrollees can expect a year of flat or decreasing Medicare prescription drug costs, according to data released last week by the federal government. The government said Medicare’s per-beneficiary drug costs fell 4 percent last year, according to Jack Hoadley, research professor at the Health Policy Institute of Georgetown University.

“Premiums are driven by insurance plan estimates of what their average cost will be to treat a patient, so it’s fair to say we’re likely to see relatively flat premium growth next year,” he says.

Pepsi suddenly scarce in Thailand after bottler breakup

BANGKOK, 24 Feb—The day after PepsiCo Inc’s bottling deal in Thailand expired, its partner of 59 years launched its own soft drink that has knocked Pepsi off store shelves. Serm Suk Pcl, backed by the billionaire owner of the company, is outsold arch-rival Coca-Cola Co’s, but Coke caught up later in life. There is no reason to test babies or children for those types of mutations because the results would not change how doctors treat the child, according to Ross.

“That’s something you get pretty universal agreement on from the geneticist side, to not test children for adult onset conditions,” said Dr. David Sweetser, chief of medical genetics at MassGeneral Hospital for Children in Boston.
Cypriot vote in a runoff on Sunday to elect a president who must clinch a bailout deal so the island nation can avoid a financial meltdown that would revive the euro zone crisis. Conservative leader Nicos Anastasiades, who favours hammering out a quick deal with foreign lenders, is favoured to win against Communist-backed rival Stavros Malas, who is more wary of the austerity terms accompanying any rescue.

Financial markets are hoping for an Anastasiades victory that spurs a joint rescue by the European Union and International Monetary Fund before the island runs out of cash and derails fragile confidence returning to the euro zone.

The 66-year-old lawyer took more than 45 percent of the vote in last Sunday’s first round, easily beating Malas who took 27 percent. An anti-austerity candidate who finished third refused to back either contender, boosting Anastasiades’ chances.

The winner takes the reins of a nation ravaged by its worst economic crisis in four decades, with unemployment at a record high of 15 percent. Pay cuts and tax hikes in preparation for a bailout have further soured the normally sunny national mood.

“Whatever happens in this vote, the day after is going to be very difficult for Cyprus,” said Demetris Charalambous, a 56-year-old convenience store owner. “People are really depressed. Business is bad, we are at risk of shutting down.” Prospects for a quick bailout that revives the sinking Cypriot economy — which the EU says will shrink a worse than expected 3.5 percent this year — have been equally grim.

France warns of kidnappings, attack risk in Benin

Dakar, 24 Feb — France said on Tuesday its nationals were at risk of kidnappings or attacks in the Western African state of Benin, warning of a specific danger close to neighbouring Niger.

The advisory came after a French family of seven, including four children, were abducted by suspected militants in Cameroon on Tuesday, the first case of foreigners being seized in the mostly Muslim north of the country.

It highlighted the threat to French interests in West Africa since Paris deployed thousands of troops to Mali to oust al-Qaeda-linked Islamists who controlled the region.

“Despite the Benin authorities committing to increase security in particular areas, the risk of kidnappings and attacks exists in Benin,” the foreign ministry said in an updated travel advisory on its website.

It warned its 3,700 citizens in Benin to avoid going out at night and against all travel on the main road leading from Tchaoaroun, about 350 kilometres north of the capital Portu-Novo, to Malanville and the W National Park on the border with Niger.

The United States and African governments are backing the six-week-old campaign against militants in Mali, where Benin has also sent troops to join an African force being deployed.

Islamists have threatened to strike back at anyone who supports the mission.

Provincial governor escapes suicide bombing in Iraq’s Diyala

Baquba, 24 Feb — The governor of Iraq’s eastern Diyala province escaped unharmed a suicide car bomb attack on his house, which killed a guard and wounded seven people, a provincial police source told Xinhua.

The attack occurred in the early morning hours when a suicide bomber driving an explosive-laden car tried to cross a security checkpoint outside the house of the Sunni governor Omer Aziz al-Hemayari in the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, the source said.

Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iraqi border east of the country, has been a volatile area since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 despite repeated US and Iraqi military operations against the militant groups.

Violence is still common in the province despite the dramatic decrease since its peak in 2006 and 2007 when the country was engulfed in sectarian killings.

Xinhua

Iran says it has brought down a foreign spy drone

LONDON, 24 Feb — Iran’s Revolutionary Guards have brought down a foreign surveillance drone during a military exercise, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said on Saturday.

“We have managed to bring down a drone of the enemy. This has happened before in our country,” the agency quoted war games spokesman General Hamid Sarkhi as saying in Kerman, southeast Iran, where the military exercise is taking place.

The agency gave no details on who the drone belonged to.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman said he had seen the reports. He noted that the Iranians did not specifically claim that the drone was American.

In the past, there have been incidents of Iran claiming to have seized US drones over the past 17 months.

Several drone incidents over the past year or so have highlighted tension in the Gulf as Iran and the United States flex their military capabilities in a standoff over Iran’s disputed nuclear program.

Iran said in January that lightweight RQ11 Raven drones were brought down by Iranian air defence units in separate incidents in August 2011 and November 2012.

Reuters
**Bhamo to get new concrete bridge for smooth transportation**

A concrete bridge is under construction near the wooden one in Hante Ward of Bhamo. The 90 feet long concrete floor bridge can withstand 60 tons of loads.

The construction work started in June 2012 and a plan is set to complete the bridge in April 2013. At present, skilled workers and engineers from Special Project Group (2) of Public Works are making concerted efforts for timely completion of the bridge. It was estimated that the construction of the bridge would cost about K 300 million.

The new bridge is located at the southern exist of the town. On completion, the local people can travel along Bhamo-Swewgu-Mandalay route and Bhamo-Mogok and Bhamo-Namkhon routes through the new bridge safely.

Myaunn Alinn

---

**Union Cup Games**

**Dates and Venues for Sports Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>sport categories</th>
<th>Event Period</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Opening ceremony</td>
<td>28-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Track and field</td>
<td>3-3-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 27-2-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Badminton Training Hall (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Basketball Training Ground (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Billiards and snooker</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Billiards Hall, Lewe Township</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Physical fitness</td>
<td>12-2-2013 - 1-3-2013</td>
<td>MCC (Yangon, Thingangyun Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>24-2-2013 - 1-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chess</td>
<td>26-2-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>Gold Camp (mess hall) (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cycling (Cross Country)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cycling (Down Hill)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Cycling (BMX)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cycling (Road Race)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Cycling training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Football (Men/women)</td>
<td>20-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)/Paunglaung ground (Pyinmana Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Fustal (Men/women)</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Fustal training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>Training grounds (1) and (2) (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Judo</td>
<td>25-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Judo training gym (Lewe Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Karatedo</td>
<td>4-3-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Karatedo training gym (Lewe Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sepak Takraw</td>
<td>25-2-2013 - 5-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Sepak Takraw training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 27-2-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Table Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Taekwondo training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 28-2-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pancek Silat</td>
<td>2-3-2013 - 6-2-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Martial Arts training gym (Lewe Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Traditional Boxing (Muay)</td>
<td>3-3-2013 - 5-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>27-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Volleyball training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Weightlifting</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>Paunglaung Gymnasium (Pyinmana)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Wushu training gym (Lewe Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Wushu</td>
<td>4-3-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Paunglaung gym (Pyinmana Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Concrete road leading to garages under construction**

With the assistance of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, a 1700 feet long concrete road is under construction for satisfying demand of the garages. So far, about 500 feet long section of the concrete road has been completed, and the remaining section, 1200 feet long, is under construction.

Myaunn Alinn

---

**Umbrella hoisted atop earthquake-hit pagoda**

Myaunn Alinn

---

**Bus line for pilgrims to Pujaniya of Minbu**

With the assistance of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, a 1700 feet long concrete road is under construction for satisfying demand of the garages. So far, about 500 feet long section of the concrete road has been completed, and the remaining section, 1200 feet long, is under construction.

Myaunn Alinn

---

**Shwesettaw Pagoda**

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Feb—The earthquake on 11 November 2012 fell the umbrellas down to the ground from Hsutaungyi, Hsutaungyai and Ayezedi Pagodas in Aungtha Village of Sagang Township. Now, the umbrellas have been hoisted atop the pagodas respectively.

A local said that the hoisting of umbrellas atop the pagodas were carried out with K 200,000 assistance from Township General Administration Department and contributions of wellwishers. The structure of Ayezedi Pagoda has been renovated for the same cracks. In addition, the pagoda was girt and the umbrella will be hoisted atop before the fullmoon day of Tabodwe.

Myaunn Alinn

---

**Shwesettaw Pagoda**

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Feb—The earthquake on 11 November 2012 fell the umbrellas down to the ground from Hsutaungyi, Hsutaungyai and Ayezedi Pagodas in Aungtha Village of Sagang Township. Now, the umbrellas have been hoisted atop the pagodas respectively.

A local said that the hoisting of umbrellas atop the pagodas were carried out with K 200,000 assistance from Township General Administration Department and contributions of wellwishers. The structure of Ayezedi Pagoda has been renovated for the same cracks. In addition, the pagoda was girt and the umbrella will be hoisted atop before the fullmoon day of Tabodwe.

Myaunn Alinn

---

**Bus line for pilgrims to Pujaniya of Minbu**

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Feb—The earthquake on 11 November 2012 fell the umbrellas down to the ground from Hsutaungyi, Hsutaungyai and Ayezedi Pagodas in Aungtha Village of Sagang Township. Now, the umbrellas have been hoisted atop the pagodas respectively.

A local said that the hoisting of umbrellas atop the pagodas were carried out with K 200,000 assistance from Township General Administration Department and contributions of wellwishers. The structure of Ayezedi Pagoda has been renovated for the same cracks. In addition, the pagoda was girt and the umbrella will be hoisted atop before the fullmoon day of Tabodwe.

Myaunn Alinn

---

**Shwesettaw Pagoda**

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Feb—The earthquake on 11 November 2012 fell the umbrellas down to the ground from Hsutaungyi, Hsutaungyai and Ayezedi Pagodas in Aungtha Village of Sagang Township. Now, the umbrellas have been hoisted atop the pagodas respectively.

A local said that the hoisting of umbrellas atop the pagodas were carried out with K 200,000 assistance from Township General Administration Department and contributions of wellwishers. The structure of Ayezedi Pagoda has been renovated for the same cracks. In addition, the pagoda was girt and the umbrella will be hoisted atop before the fullmoon day of Tabodwe.

Myaunn Alinn

---

**Bus line for pilgrims to Pujaniya of Minbu**

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Feb—The earthquake on 11 November 2012 fell the umbrellas down to the ground from Hsutaungyi, Hsutaungyai and Ayezedi Pagodas in Aungtha Village of Sagang Township. Now, the umbrellas have been hoisted atop the pagodas respectively.

A local said that the hoisting of umbrellas atop the pagodas were carried out with K 200,000 assistance from Township General Administration Department and contributions of wellwishers. The structure of Ayezedi Pagoda has been renovated for the same cracks. In addition, the pagoda was girt and the umbrella will be hoisted atop before the fullmoon day of Tabodwe.

Myaunn Alinn

---

**Shwesettaw Pagoda**

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Feb—The earthquake on 11 November 2012 fell the umbrellas down to the ground from Hsutaungyi, Hsutaungyai and Ayezedi Pagodas in Aungtha Village of Sagang Township. Now, the umbrellas have been hoisted atop the pagodas respectively.

A local said that the hoisting of umbrellas atop the pagodas were carried out with K 200,000 assistance from Township General Administration Department and contributions of wellwishers. The structure of Ayezedi Pagoda has been renovated for the same cracks. In addition, the pagoda was girt and the umbrella will be hoisted atop before the fullmoon day of Tabodwe.

Myaunn Alinn

---
Effective development cooperation

Myanmar’s reform process turns two years. The world countries were keeping a watchful eyes on it when the reform process started. The beginning of it has met with a lot of hurdles. Some put blame on it at the time. In addition, the burden to be shouldersed is huge. The country has practiced the new political system as well as to make overall changes in economic and social sectors. This is not only in the government but also in all walks of life.

Myanmar has never faced such kind of tasks before. Having been a long-isolated country, the country had lost contact with the world community for many decades. And this country is in urgent need of human resources and financial sources.

Myanmar’s reform is totally different from other countries. After two years, the start of reform is like a dream. Some observers said that it will leave behind in the history if we lose sights on rapid changes in Myanmar even during one week.

Myanmar Spring is much smoother than the events from Arab Spring in Middle East and North African countries. Taking a look at peace and security, talk peace are being made with national races armed groups and sound of gunshots are kept silent the far and the near. With the progress of this kind, the President and officials are also busy with meeting guests.

We have achieved these progresses in a short period of time. This remarkable progress was not achieved by the government alone. It is a result of government’s efforts and mass participation of the people in the political reform processes being made widely and main.

It is impossible to produce better outcomes within the short period of time as much as the majority expects. Since complex and multifaceted problems are being addressed in a rush at the same time. It is needed to say in a quote: ‘Rome was not built in a day’ into consideration.

The present elected government is not only setting old problems to be solved but also tackling new challenges as a result of its overall reform process.

Problems, difficulties and challenges are in the nature of a task which is undertaken. The important thing is to keep an eye on our goal and to adopt a right approach to challenges.

Two points essential for keeping any one of our goal are far-sighted reasoning power and cautious approach.

A right approach is consisted of eight characteristics of view, opinion, words, work, living, effort, sense and integrity. On the other hand, a right approach taken with the genuine sense, staying away from being extreme.

As a second phase of reform process, the President initiated a people-centered reform process in which people are to play the main role in the whole reform process. That’s why, keeping an eye on the goal of achieving success in reform process and taking a right approach to implementation of tasks rest on the people. It calls on the people to take more responsibilities and accountabilities, and to be equipped with more ability to take responsibility and accountabilities. Between the other, people themselves are to accept the point that there are many requirements to be fulfilled. Due to various reasons in the short period, there has been necessity for the people, not only individually but also collectively, to have knowledge, technology, skills and capacity. It is required to restore a certain level of trust among the civil society and between the two groups and two communities. Likewise, reconciliation of unity among the community’s members and the civil society is also needed. Besides, it is also necessary to nurture democratic culture and practices which allows responsibility and accountability to go together.

According to the nature of reform process, liberty and development effective first before capacity building is in good shape. There arise activities based on a combination of mixed feelings while people’s aspiration to embrace a long-awaited change, challenges and difficulties that occur in the transitional period and freedom of holding processing, freedom of expression, freedom of press and freedom of forming organizations were realized.

Labour issues, farmland disputes, conflicts between environmental degradation development and communal strife produced a number of highly sensitive issues. This requires an action to put out the shover of spark as soon as possible before they helped fuel the flames.

Although, in fact, democracy is a system of making rules determined by the people, democracy is noting more than mob rule where the majority takes away the rights of the minority. It is a system of obeying the wishes of the majority, respecting the wishes of the minority. It is not a system of governing by mob rule that deliberately flouts the law and uses the people as a means to an end. It is a system of defining demands for a common interest, making groups and getting into a series of heated confrontations in taking an approach to the problem. It is a system of negotiating at the table in accord with the laws. While establishing a democratic society, only the accountability and responsibilities could lead the civil society to the goal. Those who are abusing liberty and rights given by the state are to take on the responsibility of their own interest, arrogance and grudges are likely to meet a tragic end.

No sooner had news about housing development projects spread from encroachers rushed the designated project territories in time. Undisciplined behaviours of some people are seen on the roads. People are to walk on the busy roads, putting their lives at risk due to undisciplined vendors who are occupying the pavements. The instigators of such violations and protests are seen as soon as problems in wide variety such as labour issue and farmland disputes and protests.

Various kinds of evil deeds are coming from every corner.

Although the majority of the people are sure to the change, they understand that ‘Rome was not built in a day’. Those who are upholding their own interest are a hindrance to reform process of Myanmar which is struggling to translate its reform process into a positive action. Their acts can destroy trusts of the investors in the country if the nation sees lack of the rule of law and order.

If the nation faces the delay in flow of foreign investments or sees a certain amount of investments which is smaller than that of investments as expected, there will be an adverse impact on job creation and promotion of socioeconomic status of the people. Thereby contributing towards frustrating delays in political reform process. It is required for the country to stay away and politics and economics are interdependent.

All in all, the role of the people is crucial to the success of the people-centered reform process. In order to not deviating from the right track, only when the people themselves are to adopt a right approach to the problems with reasoning power and tackle challenges and difficulties in a spirit of goodwill, will the overall reform process that includes political, economic and social sectors be realized.

Ko Myanmar
Union Minister visits construction sites in Yangon

YANGON, 24 Feb—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin yesterday inspected maintenance works of Hlinethaya-Twantay road section and construction of Seik-kyikhanaungto Suspension Bridge.

He also visited the construction site of Bayyantaung Bridge No (2), calling on officials to stick to set standards and pay attention to safety.

MNA

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin at bridge construction site.

Soya bean harvested in University for Development of National Races in Sagaing

SAGAING, 24 Feb—Rector U Soe Tint and officials of University for Development of National Races viewed collective harvesting of Yezin-6 high yield soya bean plantations on 10 acres of farmland in the compound of the university on 16 February morning.

Five acres of farmland have been put under monsoon paddy, 28 acres under summer paddy, 10 acres under soya bean and 4000 Scintalon mango plantation, 355 soap acacia plants, 220 Taiwan plum plants, 161 coconut plants, 100 Eugenia and 1000 pepper plants in 2012-2013.

Indeed, it is a subject to be conducted to trainees from the university practically and theoretically and to provide welfare services to the staff.

Moreover, the university undertakes breeding of 41 goats, six cattle, 40000 fish in three ponds and other livestock breeding tasks.

Now, the vegetables, fruits and meat produced from the farms of the university are sold to trainees at fair prices.

Myanma Alinn

Plan underway to open Thilawa SEZ in 2015

YANGON, 24 Feb—A master plan is being drafted by the government with the assistance of JICA for developing Yangon meeting international standard.

“Yangon will be upgraded for emergence of an international level city. In so doing, efforts will be made for supply of electricity and potable water and better transport for the dwellers residing in the municipal area of Yangon,” said an official of Yangon City Development Committee.

With the assistance of Japan, plans are underway to build power stations, install power lines, implement Thilawa special economic zone and its related infrastructures and supply clean drinking water for the people so as to upgrading the city. JICA will assist 20 Yen as loans. Thilawa Special Economic Zone will be opened in 2015.

Myanma Alinn

Cars in collision claim two lives, leaving one injured

PYAY, 24 Feb—A UD vehicle driven by Aung Aung, 30 from Aunglan to Pyay and XLF brand tuk-tuk driven by Po Lin, 30 together with passengers Ma Mi Nge, 32 and Ma That Thet, 28 head on in collision between mile posts 190/0 and 190/1 on Pyay-Aunglan Road near Tikut Village at 12.20 pm on 13 February.

In the incident, driver Po Lin and Ma Mi Nge died on the spot and Ma That Thet was injured in a critical condition. Pyay Police Station No 3 opened a file of lawsuit against the traffic accident case. Driver Aung Aung of UD vehicle managed escape from the scene. Policemen are trying to arrest him.

Myanma Alinn

Union FM sends felicitations to Kuwaiti Deputy PM and Foreign Minister

NAW PI TAW, 25 Feb—On the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2013, U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

MNA

Stolen motorbikes handed over to owners

SHWEGYIN, 24 Feb—Under the supervision of Commander of Shwegen Township Police Force Police Major Tint Wai of Bago Region, a ceremony to handover stolen motorcycles to owners was held at the office of the township police force on 12 February.

Deputy Commander of Shwegyin Township Police Force Police Lt-Col Zaw Khin Aung and Shwegyin Township Administrator U Khin Thein Maung presented motor-cycles to owners and certificates of honour and gifts to policemen who made relentless efforts in exposing the theft cases of motor-cycles.

Myanma Alinn

Pinlaung Township gets new rural health branch

PINLAUNG, 24 Feb—A ceremony to inaugurate the self-reliant rural health branch was held at Kaunghmi Village of Sintawng Village-tract in Pa-O Self-Administrated-Zone of Shan State (South) on 14 February.

Member of the Leading Body of Pa-O Self-Administrated Zone U Saw Maung Bwe made speeches. Township Medical Officer Dr Khin Thein Htwe explained emergence of the rural health branch.

Officials cut the ribbon to open the branch. The Township Medical Officer and party gave health care services to the local people.

Local people contributed to construction of the branch which is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide and one staff quarter and one toilet, costing K 8 million.

Myanma Alinn

Ayadaw people face difficulty for feedstuff

AYADAW, 24 Feb—Ayadaw Township of Monywa District is a drought and scarcity. As monsoon has withdrawn from the dry regions early, local people are storing feedstuff for farming cattle as an important task more than food for families.

Farmers from Kyaukpyauk Village of Ayadaw Township buy curry bundles of straw from farmers of Bago Region Police Force Police Li-Col Zaw Khin Aung and Shwegyin Township Administrator U Khin Thein Maung presented motor-cycles to owners.

Myanma Alinn

Thank to the rural health branch, a total of 2805 local people from 545 houses from seven villages can enjoy fruits of health care services.

Tanahmi Village is located east of Pinlaung, 14 miles from Pinlaung. The village is sharing border with Lonkan Village of Nyaungshwe Township.

Lawn Hla Village is located north of Pinlaung, 14 kilometers from Pinlaung.

Local people faced difficulties in receiving health care services in the past because they went to Pinlaung and Nyaungshwe spending hours. Now, they have opportunities to enjoy health facility from the branch in a short time.

Ayadaw people are facing difficulties in receiving health care services at the rural health branch.

Myanma Alinn

Monday, 25 February, 2013
Italy finds no trace of horse DNA in Nestle mince meals

ROME/ Zurich, 24 Feb — Italy's Health Ministry said on Saturday that tests had found no trace of horse DNA in minced beef meals by Swiss food giant Nestle that were removed from sale on Monday.

Nestle removed the ready-made beef ravioli and tortellini sold under its Buitoni brand from shelves in Italy and Spain and halted production of the meals after its own tests had found more than 1 percent horse DNA in the products.

Italian authorities seized 26 tonnes of affected beef products on Thursday after Nestle withdrew the meals — the latest company to become embroiled in the scandal that has highlighted the complexities of Europe's food chain.

"No trace of horse DNA has been found in Nestle cooked and frozen minced beef," the ministry said in a statement. It was not immediately clear what the outcome was of the tests of the food seized in Spain. The Italian tests were carried out on beef products that had been stored at the Salim plant near Turin, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, Italy also ordered the seizure on Saturday of about 6 tonnes of frozen beef lasagne made by Italian group PRIMIA after tests showed the presence of horse meat, an official with Italy's NAS, a police unit that monitors health and safety standards, told Reuters.

A Nestle spokesman welcomed the ministry's decision to release its products. "We are happy the ministry's tests came back negative," spokesman Chris Hogg said in an email to Reuters. "Our focus now is on restarting production of these products today and tomorrow with a new supplier, using beef we have tested to ensure it contains no horse DNA."

The Swiss company has suspended production of the affected goods at its Moretta factory, in Piedmont, on Monday, the spokesman said. Nestle had also suspended deliveries of all products using beef from German subcontractor HJ Schypke. The pan-European scandal has prompted widespread product withdrawals, consumer concern and government investigations into the movement of horse food processing systems.

REUTERS

Iran's Navy equipped with UAVs launched by submarines

TEHERAN, 24 Feb — Iran Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said that the country's naval forces are equipped with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), with different flying ranges, which can be launched by submarines, Press TV reported on Saturday.

The Navy UAVs are capable of carrying out offensive, defensive and reconnaissance missions and can be used wherever necessary and "proportional to the assigned missions," Sayyari was quoted as saying. On Saturday, Deputy Chairman of Iran's Armed Forces' Chief of Staff Brigadier General Masoud Jazayeri said that the Islamic republic will never give in to Western threats and pressures. "It is impossible that the Islamic republic will ever stop pursuing its goals, ideals and policies as a result of pressure," Jazayeri was quoted as saying. Iran is under numerous Western pressures over its disputed nuclear programme.

Railway linking China, ASEAN becomes operational

KUNMING, 24 Feb — A railway that links southwest China's Yunnan Province with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries became operational on Saturday after seven years of construction, local railway authorities said. The railway between Yuxi and Mengzi is part of the eastern line of the planned Pan-Asia Railway network.

The 1,413-km railway has a designed maximum speed of 120 km per hour. It passes through 35 tunnels and crosses 61 bridges, which together account for 84.96 percent of the eastern line’s total length. The eastern line also consists of Kunming-Yuxi Railway, which had been in operation, and the Mengzi-Hekou Railway that is under construction and scheduled to be operational end of next year.

Upon the full completion of the eastern line, it will further open up China’s southwest, improve transportation and boost economic development along the line, experts said.

Crisis in north Mali disrupts schooling of 700,000 children

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Feb — The education of some 700,000 children in Mali has been disrupted due to the violence in the northern part of the West African country, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday, stressing an urgent need to rebuild schools, train teachers and provide learning support.

"When a teacher is afraid to teach and when a student is afraid to go to school, the whole education system is at risk," said the UNICEF’s representative in Mali, Françoise Ackermann.

Northern Mali has been occupied by radical Islamists after fighting broke out in January 2012 between government forces and Tuareg rebels. The conflict uprooted hundreds of thousands of people and prompted the Malian government to request assistance from France to stop the military advance of extremist groups.

Since the violence began more than a year ago, at least 115 schools in the north have been closed, destroyed, looted and sometimes contaminated with unexploded ordnance. Of the 700,000 children affected, 200,000 still have no access to school, the UNICEF said in a news release.

Many teachers were among those displaced and have not returned to northern Mali. Instead, they are working in the already overcrowded schools in the south, which cannot cope with the amount of displaced students from the north.

In the north, only one in three schools is now functioning. In some towns, all schools remain closed, as is the case in Kidjali, while in others a few have opened. Five percent of schools have now reopened in Timbuktu, the UN agency said.

The UNICEF noted that the violence has also had a significant psychological impact on children, who have reported hearing gunshots at school and at home.

Railway linking China, ASEAN becomes operational

KUNMING, 24 Feb — A railway that links southwest China's Yunnan Province with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries became operational on Saturday after seven years of construction, local railway authorities said. The railway between Yuxi and Mengzi is part of the eastern line of the planned Pan-Asia Railway network.

The 1,413-km railway has a designed maximum speed of 120 km per hour. It passes through 35 tunnels and crosses 61 bridges, which together account for 84.96 percent of the eastern line’s total length. The eastern line also consists of Kunming-Yuxi Railway, which had been in operation, and the Mengzi-Hekou Railway that is under construction and scheduled to be operational end of next year.

Upon the full completion of the eastern line, it will further open up China’s southwest, improve transportation and boost economic development along the line, experts said.

Crisis in north Mali disrupts schooling of 700,000 children

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Feb — The education of some 700,000 children in Mali has been disrupted due to the violence in the northern part of the West African country, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday, stressing an urgent need to rebuild schools, train teachers and provide learning support.

"When a teacher is afraid to teach and when a student is afraid to go to school, the whole education system is at risk," said the UNICEF’s representative in Mali, Françoise Ackermann.

Northern Mali has been occupied by radical Islamists after fighting broke out in January 2012 between government forces and Tuareg rebels. The conflict uprooted hundreds of thousands of people and prompted the Malian government to request assistance from France to stop the military advance of extremist groups.

Since the violence began more than a year ago, at least 115 schools in the north have been closed, destroyed, looted and sometimes contaminated with unexploded ordnance. Of the 700,000 children affected, 200,000 still have no access to school, the UNICEF said in a news release.

Many teachers were among those displaced and have not returned to northern Mali. Instead, they are working in the already overcrowded schools in the south, which cannot cope with the amount of displaced students from the north.

In the north, only one in three schools is now functioning. In some towns, all schools remain closed, as is the case in Kidjali, while in others a few have opened. Five percent of schools have now reopened in Timbuktu, the UN agency said.

The UNICEF noted that the violence has also had a significant psychological impact on children, who have reported hearing gunshots at school and at home.
Five dead, 10 injured in S Philippine floods, landslides

DAVAO CITY, 24 Feb — Five people died, 10 others were injured and thousands were displaced following a storm that hit southern Philippine provinces, disaster officials said on Saturday.

The deaths were recorded in the provinces of Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley, where 10 got injured due to floods and landslides as Tropical Depression Crising dumped torrential rains on the southern Philippine region of Davao, according to disaster officials in these areas.

In Davao del Norte Province, flood and landslides hit four towns as well as the provincial capital Tagum, with two people drowned in swollen rivers in Kapalong and Talangod towns, Sonio Sanchez, provincial disaster officer told Xinhua.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) meanwhile said at least 27,000 families have been displaced due to the calamity throughout the region.

In the gold-rich Compostela Valley, one person was killed and five others were hurt as a landslide hit the mining village of Mt Diwalwal in Monkay town late Thursday evening, according to Raul Villocino, provincial disaster officer.

Two people also drowned in the town of New Bataan and Montevista as the storm hit land on Tuesday, lashing the province with moderate to heavy rains. Elsewhere in Mindanao, five others were injured in a landslide in Launao del Norte Province, officials said.

Pakistan to seek Interpol help to extradite Taliban leader from Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, 24 Feb — Pakistan Interior Minister Rehman Malik on Saturday said that the country will demand handing over of Pakistani Taliban leader Maulvi Faqir Muhammad from Afghanistan through the Interpol. Afghan intelligence officials had earlier confirmed to the media, the arrest of Maulvi Faqir, former deputy chief of Pakistani Taliban, in eastern Afghanistan this week.

Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday that Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar had talked to her Afghan counterpart Zalmai Rassoul on Friday night and hoped that the Taliban leader will be handed over to Pakistan as he is wanted for attacks on forces and the civilians.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman had refused to hand over the captured Taliban leader to Pakistan, saying there is no bilateral agreement for exchange of prisoners. After Kabul’s refusal, now Pakistan Interior Minister says that his government will approach the Interpol to seek Faqir’s extradition.

Talking to the media persons in Islamabad, he said Maulvi Faqir Muhammad arrested by the Afghan authorities is wanted in different cases in Pakistan.

3rd China-invested hydropower dam begins operation in Southwestern Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 24 Feb — A road side bomb struck police van in Kunduz province 230 km north of Kabul on Saturday, wounding three police personnel, provincial police chief Mohammad Khalil Andarabzai said.

“A mine planted by anti-government militants struck a police vehicle at around 01:30 pm today injuring three policemen,” Andarabzai said in Xinhua.

The incident, he added took place on the road leading to Shir Khan Bandar border town. Meantime, Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit in talks with media via telephone from unknown location claimed of responsibility, saying eight police were killed in the blast, a claim rejected by the police official as groundless.

Roadside bomb wounds three police in northern Afghan town

KUNDUZ, 24 Feb — A roadside bomb struck police van in Kunduz province 230 km north of Kabul on Saturday, wounding three police personnel, provincial police chief Mohammad Khalil Andarabzai said.

“A mine planted by anti-government militants struck a police vehicle at around 01:30 pm today injuring three policemen,” Andarabzai said in Xinhua.

The incident, he added took place on the road leading to Shir Khan Bandar border town. Meantime, Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit in talks with media via telephone from unknown location claimed of responsibility, saying eight police were killed in the blast, a claim rejected by the police official as groundless.

Roadside bomb wounds three police in northern Afghan town

KUNDUZ, 24 Feb — A roadside bomb struck police van in Kunduz province 230 km north of Kabul on Saturday, wounding three police personnel, provincial police chief Mohammad Khalil Andarabzai said.

“A mine planted by anti-government militants struck a police vehicle at around 01:30 pm today injuring three policemen,” Andarabzai said in Xinhua.

The incident, he added took place on the road leading to Shir Khan Bandar border town. Meantime, Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit in talks with media via telephone from unknown location claimed of responsibility, saying eight police were killed in the blast, a claim rejected by the police official as groundless.

Roadside bomb wounds three police in northern Afghan town

KUNDUZ, 24 Feb — A roadside bomb struck police van in Kunduz province 230 km north of Kabul on Saturday, wounding three police personnel, provincial police chief Mohammad Khalil Andarabzai said.

“A mine planted by anti-government militants struck a police vehicle at around 01:30 pm today injuring three policemen,” Andarabzai said in Xinhua.

The incident, he added took place on the road leading to Shir Khan Bandar border town. Meantime, Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit in talks with media via telephone from unknown location claimed of responsibility, saying eight police were killed in the blast, a claim rejected by the police official as groundless.

Roadside bomb wounds three police in northern Afghan town

KUNDUZ, 24 Feb — A roadside bomb struck police van in Kunduz province 230 km north of Kabul on Saturday, wounding three police personnel, provincial police chief Mohammad Khalil Andarabzai said.

“A mine planted by anti-government militants struck a police vehicle at around 01:30 pm today injuring three policemen,” Andarabzai said in Xinhua.

The incident, he added took place on the road leading to Shir Khan Bandar border town. Meantime, Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit in talks with media via telephone from unknown location claimed of responsibility, saying eight police were killed in the blast, a claim rejected by the police official as groundless.
Tourists visit a market fair in the field of cole flowers in Luoping County in Qujing City, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 19 Feb, 2013. Luoping County is well-known for its cole flower scenery with its 800,000 mu (53,333 hectares) of cropland planted with cole. In 2012, the county saw its cole flowers industry bring more than one billion yuan (about 16 million US dollars) of revenues.—Xinhua

Gas explosion kills two in Minsk

MINSK, 24 Feb—Gas explosion killed at least two people in a nine-storied building in Minsk, capital of Belarus, on Saturday. Two were killed and five injured on Saturday in an apartment building in Minsk, presumably as a result of the explosion of domestic gas, Emergency Ministry press-service said.

The Emergency Ministry received the report of an explosion and fire in several apartments on the ninth floor of the house on Pliskhanova Street on Saturday evening. Representatives of the Emergency Ministry arrived at scene of accident immediately and rescued from the fire nine people while evacuating 22.

In one of the apartments the bodies of two people were found. They are badly burnt and are impossible to identify visually, not even their gender.—Xinhua

Don’t Smoke
Madhuri Dixit has a “huge surprise” for budding dancers

MUMBAI, 24 Feb—Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit says there is a “huge surprise” for dance enthusiasts in the country. “We have a huge surprise in store for all you dancers and budding dancers! Watch for news on Monday,” Madhuri tweeted on Friday.

Perhaps it could be the announcement of a new season of a dance reality show she has judged before. For now, she is heading to Lucknow to shoot for Vishal Bhardwaj’s Dedh Ishqiya. There are also rumours that Madhuri is likely to feature in a fiction TV show. However, there is no confirmation on the front.—PTI

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

(15th Term Supply Tender)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited from the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of:
   - High Speed Diesel (HSD) (150 cSt) 1.034 M bbls ±10%, Jet A1 0.658 M bbls ±10% and MOGAS (92 Ron) 0.047 M bbls ±10%
   - High Speed Diesel 1.034 M bbls ±10%, Jet A1 0.658 M bbls ±10% and MOGAS (92 Ron) 0.047 M bbls ±10%
   - High Speed Diesel 1.034 M bbls ±10%, Jet A1 0.658 M bbls ±10% and MOGAS (92 Ron) 0.047 M bbls ±10%

2. Tenders shall be submitted to: Ministry of Energy, The Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, on or before 19-3-2013 at 12:00 noon.

3. Tenders closing date is 19-3-2013 at 12:00 noon.


5. Tendered documents and details are available at the office of the Ministry of Energy during office hours commencing from 15-2-2013.

6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents will be accepted.

7. Tender opening date is 19-3-2013 at 13:00 hrs.

8. Tender closing date is 19-3-2013 at 12:00 noon.


Madhuri Dixit is likely to announce something of interest to budding dancers soon.—PTI
Kvitova claims 10th tour title with Dubai victory

RABAT, 24 Feb—Carolina Kvitova of the Czech Republic kisses the winner’s trophy after her women’s singles final match against Sara Errani of Italy during the WTA Dubai Tennis Championships, on 23 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

San Antonio Spurs Matt Bonner (L) guards Golden State Warriors Draymond Green (23) during the first half of their NBA basketball game in Oakland, California 22 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Poultier, Mahan to meet in tasty semi-final

MARIANA, (Arizona), 24 Feb—Defending champion Hunter Mahan and 2010 winner Ian Poultier set up a mouth-watering showdown in the last four of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship by winning their quarter-finals on Saturday. American Mahan triumphed 1-up after a tight match with US Open winner Webb Simpson while Briton Poultier advanced with a commanding 3&2 victory over American veteran Steve Stricker on a sun-splashed afternoon at Dove Mountain.

Sunday morning’s other semi-final will be contested between American Matt Kuchar and Australian Jason Day, at 25 the youngest player left in the draw. Kuchar became the first player to reach the last four, beating compatriot Robert Garrigus 3&2, before Day battled past Northern Ireland’s Graeme McDowell 1-up in a closely contested encounter. Most eyes, however, will be firmly focused on the battle between Mahan and Poultier who are both bidding to reach the Match Play final for a second time.

Poultier will be a little fresher, having gone 4-up on 2001 Match Play champion Stricker after 12 holes before wrapping up his win by sinking a 10-foot par putt at the short 16th. The flamboyant Englishman, who is renowned for his matchplay grit and superb putting, went ahead for the first time at the par-three third where he sank a double-breaking 40-footer for birdie while Stricker missed his attempt from seven feet.

Kobe scores 40 points to lead Lakers to beat Trail Blazers

LOS ANGELES, 24 Feb—“Do it for Dr. Buss”, and Kobe did it. With 15 of 23 from the floor and 9 of 9 behind the free throw line, Kobe Bryant donated 40 points for Los Angeles Lakers, helping the team to win a 111-107 victory against the Trail Blazers on Friday night.

The Lakers owner Jerry Buss died of cancer at age 80 on Monday. He purchased the Lakers, ice hockey’s Los Angeles Kings, their arena and a ranch from Jack Kent Cooke for $65.5 million US dollars in 1979. Friday’s game was Kobe’s 10th 40-point game this season, and the 117th of his career.

Dwight Howard also had a standout game, finishing with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Rookie Damian Lillard played with a great attitude, contributing 19 points and seven assists for the Trail Blazers.
Old lamp post replaced with new concrete lamp post

KYANGON, 24 Feb—With the aim of prevention from electric shock and to get full power supply, Kyangon Township MEPE is replacing old lamp post with new concrete lamp post at Bogyoke street in No(3)ward Kyangon.—Myannya Alem

Daytona Speedway crash injures driver, 28 fans

NASCAR driver Tony Stewart (bottom R) avoids a crash on the last lap to win the NASCAR Nationwide Series DRIVE4COPD 300 race at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida on 23 Feb, 2013. Reuters

Orlando, 24 Feb—At least 28 fans and one driver were injured in a multi-car crash at the Daytona speedway on Saturday when car debris flew into the crowd near the end of the Nationwide NASCAR race. Race officials said 14 fans were sent to nearby hospitals, with another 14 being treated at the Florida speedway, which will host the prestigious Daytona 500 race on Sunday.

Driver Michael Annett of the Richard Petty Motorsports team was being treated at the Halifax Health Medical Center in Daytona Beach and would be kept for observation, the team said in a statement.

Jose Chitwood, president of the Daytona International Speedway, said Sunday’s main race would go ahead despite the incident. “First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers are with our fans,” Chitwood said. “Following the incident, we responded appropriately according to our safety protocols and had emergency medical personnel at the incident immediately. “We transported 14 people off property and 14 were treated at our on-track care centre. We are in the process of repairing the facility, and we will be ready to go racing tomorrow,” added Chitwood.

Debris from the 10-car crash flew into the spectator area and amid chaotic scenes, some fans were taken away on stretchers. The crash sent driver Kyle Larson’s car airborne, although he climbed out of the wreckage afterward unhurt.

Dayton Police Department spokesman Jimmie Flynn said 11 people were taken to Halifax Health Medical Center, two of them with serious injuries, and one patient to Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Centre in Daytona Beach. Florida Hospital spokeswoman Lindsay Rew said three more patients were expected there.

Annett was transported to a hospital after complaining of pain in his chest and sternum and was treated for bruising on his chest and underwent a CT Scan. NASCAR’s vice president of race operations, Steve Hofman, confirmed the incident would be reviewed.

“We’re very confident that we’ll be ready for tomorrow’s event with the 55th running of the Daytona, but as with any of these incidents, we’ll conduct a thorough review, we’ll work closely with the tracks as we do for all our events, learn what we can and see what we can apply in the future,” he said.

Tony Stewart won the race on Saturday, which is the curtain-raiser for American stock car racing’s biggest event on Sunday, which will feature Danica Patrick as the first woman to start on the pole position.

Jeremy Lin(1st L), Carlos Delfino(3rd L) of Houston Rockets and Deron Williams(2nd L) of Brooklyn Nets competes for the ball during the NBA game between Houston Rockets and Brooklyn Nets in New York, the United States, on 22 Feb, 2013. Rockets won 106-96.—Xinhua

Old west lives again as Rodeo parade rolls into Houston

Houston, 24 Feb—Houston, the fourth largest US city, was transformed from a modern city into a down-home celebration of western heritage as the annual Rodeo parade rolled down its streets on Saturday night.

A 74-year tradition, the downtown parade brings Houstonians and out-of-town spectators together in one of the city’s most popular annual celebrations. Decorative floats intermingled with thousands of men and women on horseback amid skycrapers and freeways, filling the streets with hoof beats and marching bands.

However, nothing brings to mind the Old West like a modern-day trail ride, which is an important component of the Houston rodeo parade.

Pioneers created trails as they moved west in search of a dream and cowboys created trails to take cattle to major market centers.

While these routes are no longer a necessity in daily life, more than 3,000 riders saddle up each February to relive the Old West.

The Rodeo parade is a prelude to the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the world’s largest live entertainment and livestock exhibition that will kick off on Monday.

Indigenous Person (NCIP). The Philippine Department of Interior and Local Government had come over last month to investigate the claims of the indigenous people. According to BATO, the piece of land promised to them after decades-long struggle were being blocked by an influential businessman.

Xinhua tried to interview the Boracay Tourists Assistance Centre of the Philippine National Police but got no comment. Police officials said they are still investigating the incident.
Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham felicitates
Crown Prince of Kuwait

NAI PLY TAW, 25 Feb—Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2013.—MNA

Lost Buddha Image returned

YANGON, 24 Feb—The US returned a stolen Buddha Image to Myanmar thanks to the IBC (International Broadcasting Commission). Working for the opening and closing ceremonies; holding the RFP at MRTV, Nay Pyi Taw. The date for meeting in person will be further notified too.

Sagaing Region Chief
Minister inspects machinery

NAI PLY TAW, 24 Feb—Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye on 20 February inspected machinery for development works of the region in Region Irrigation Department Office. He also attended a coordination meeting with special project groups and engineers at Region Public Works Office on 21 February. In-charges of BOT companies elaborated on progress of works of each company and region road transportation minister U Tin Ngwe drew a conclusion. The chief minister then attended another coordination meeting with staff officers of district, township and sub-township.—MNA

Significant night temperatures (24-2-2013)

Putao 7°C Machanbaw 7°C Haka 7°C Louldem 7°C

Deadline for SEA Games Broadcasting proposals 10 March

NAI PLY TAW, 24 Feb—It has been announced in the daily newspapers that proposals from local and foreign companies to carry out broadcasting services such as Live broadcasting of the opening and closing ceremonies; working for the IBC (International Broadcasting Center); and Live broadcast of (7) Sports events should reach the Director-General, Myanmar Radio and Television (NPT Tawkone) not later than 28 February, 2013. However, the deadline has been extended to 10th March, 2013, enabling local and foreign companies to have more time for preparations. RFP (Request for Proposal) will have to be issued on 28th February, 2013 and all service providers are to contact to MRTV to get the RFP at MRTV, Nay Pyi Taw. The date for meeting in person will be further notified too.—MNA

More power plants under construction to fulfill electricity demand of people

YANGON, 24 Feb—The Ministry of Electric Power is implementing short- and long-term plans to fulfill the increased electricity demand of the State. As short-term plan, one 120 megawatt turbine out of two turbines donated by Thailand and constructed in the compound of Ywama gas plant was arrived here on 15 February. The fixing of the gas turbine and related materials were being installed by the engineers from the Ministry of Electric Power in cooperation with Sri U Thoung Fortum Engineering (STFE) of Thailand. Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe inspected the fixing of gas turbine yesterday morning. Another one 120 megawatt turbine will arrive in March 2013. The short-term plan is aimed at fulfilling the electricity demand of the people in coming summer and of holding 27th SEA Games and ASEAN Summit to be hosted by Myanmar. Then, the Union Minister inspected arrival of materials in 120 megawatt power plant, installation of No.1 gas turbine LM-6000 PC, construction of switch yard to be linked with 230 KV Ahlon main power station and implementation of concrete foundation to fix No 2 gas turbine being constructed by Toyo-Thai Com at Ahlon Power Plant. Out of the newly-constructed power plants, No.1 turbine will be generated electricity 41.5 megawatt on 31 March and No.2 turbine the same megawatt on 30 April. The whole project will be completed in September 2014 and would be distributed electricity 120 megawatt. The ministry is also striving to distribute electricity from Ywama, Hlawga and Thakatya power plants each of which could produce 50 megawatts to the national grid in summer. Moreover, the ministry is making concerted efforts for supplying electricity to enable the students to study lessons conveniently from 5 pm to 5 am daily starting from 1 March.—MNA

Objectives of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2013

1. To uphold the national policy namely non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To play the leading role in the national politics by the Tatmadaw joining hands with all national races with Union Spirit and the true patriotism in line with the Constitution
3. To crush all destructive elements at home and abroad through the strength of State, People and Tatmadaw
4. To build up a strong, competent, modern, patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the security and sovereignty of the nation

Photo shows new generator being installed at yard of Ahlon Power Station.—MNA

New Light of Myanmar
Monday, 25 February, 2013

The full moon day of Tabodwe 1374 ME