President U Thein Sein receives Chief of Army Staff of Bangladeshi Army

On the occasion, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein explained the purpose of the workshop citing that in accord with the guidance of the President, public service capacity assessment committee and delivery units had been formed to handle public complaints. He expressed his belief that knowledge and lessons from sharing experience of other countries would be gained at today’s workshop.

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh Army General Iqbal Kaim Byuiyan, psc at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace on 18 February afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed emphasis being placed on peace and tranquility and rule of law at border area, three saboteurs arrested by Bangladesh to prevent their acts in Myanmar, cooperation in prevention against transborder crime and human trafficking between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Winna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi and U Aung Min, Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Maj-Gen (Retd.) Anup Kumar Chakma and Defence Attaché Brig-Gen Md Mahbubul Haque, ndc, afwc, psc.

Workshop on public complaint management for public services held

On the occasion, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein explained the purpose of the workshop citing that in accord with the guidance of the President, public service capacity assessment committee and delivery units had been formed to handle public complaints. He expressed his belief that knowledge and lessons from sharing experience of other countries would be gained at today’s workshop.

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Feb—A workshop on public complaint management for public services was held at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here this morning.

Investment in production of natural gas has benefited the local people of the Village of Kanpauk in Kaleinawng Sub-Township under Yebyu Township, Dawei District.

After discovering huge sources of natural gas in the township, companies have carried out production of the natural gas as from the 1996-97 FY, creating job opportunities for local people.

The local people who relied on finding lead, iron and minerals traditionally for their livelihood in the past have enjoyed the comfortable life thanks to their new jobs.

Meanwhile, the correct way for production of natural resources has helped minimizing the wastes and loss during the production process.

The Village of Kanpauk has possessed basic infrastructures for development including schools, a police station, a station hospital and has become a home for over 50,000 population.

The natural gas from Kanpauk Village has been sold out to Thailand as from 1998 through the 36-inch diameter pipeline and the sales will end in 2028, according to the agreement reached between the two countries.

The Kanpauk Project produces from 700 million cubic feet to 900 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. Seventy-five percent of the production is sold to Myanmar with the rest being consumed locally (See page 8).

Local people in Yebyu Tsp benefit from Kanpauk Natural Gas project

The pipeline which transports the natural gas from the Kanpauk Project to Kachanaburi of Thailand has passed through Mawgyi Township, Taninthayi Division, creating job opportunities for local people and earning foreign currency for Myanmar.

The project can be considered as the pride of the nation and it is benefiting the country.

Myanma Alinn: 18-2-2014
Trs: AMS

Photo shows Kanpauk Natural Gas project seen in Yebyu township.
24000 stimulant tablets worth K 48 million seized

LASHIO, 18 Feb— Members of No. 24 Anti-Drug Squad seized 24000 stimulant tablets worth K 48 million from the bag of passenger Ma Hwe Lint and Ma Aye Yein on board Power5 vehicle driven by U Min Zaw, heading for Mandalay from Muse, on 17 February afternoon.

After investigation, Nawngkhio Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against the two suspect women under the law. Kyemon-Hn Htay (IPRD)

Kalay Township emphasizes maintenance of sluice gate, walls of Myaungchaung Diversion Weir

KALAY, 18 Feb— The feeder canal of Myaungchaung Diversion Weir was damaged in the heavy rain that occurred in last September, in Sihauk Village-tract of Kalay Township in Sagaing Region.

At that time, the diversion weir overflowed to the surrounding area.

Under the guidance of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Chairman of District Management Committee U Maung Htoo supervised reconstruction of the feeder canal spending K 21.8 million from the separate fund of the State.

On completion, the canal will irrigate 2644 acres of farmlands for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. Upon completion of the canal, over 700 acres of farmlands will be supplied water for agricultural purpose. Irrigation Department plans to construct the Myaung-chaung Diversion Weir in 2013-14 fiscal year. The department is carrying out construction of Thityeik gravel-filled diversion weir, sluice gate, walls and digging of over 5000 feet long drain, said an official of Irrigation Department. MMAL-Shin Nay Min

Myanmar’s Hotel, Foodstuff and Tourism Exhibition opens

YANGON, 18 Feb— Three-day Myanmar’s Hotel, Foodstuff and Tourism Exhibition was opened at Myanmar Convention Center (MCC) on Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township on 17 February. The exhibition was jointly arranged by Singapore-based Sphere Conferences and Union of Myanmar Travels Federation under the leadership of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Chairman of Sphere Conferences Mr. Chua Wee Phons and member of Sphere Conferences (Myanmar) U Moe Zaw cut the ribbon to launch the exhibition.

The booths from Myanmar Hoteliers Association, Myanmar Restaurant Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Foodstuff Entrepreneurs Association that showcase hotel industries, foodstuff, modernproducts, machinery and technologies are being displayed at the exhibition. The 2nd Conference on Myanmar Hospitality and Tourism will be held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon on 18-19 February. Aung Thura

Concrete bridge completed in Khamaukkyi Sub-Township

KHAMAUKKYI, 18 Feb— Mya Khwanyo Creek Bridge has been completed in Ward 1 of Khamaukkyi Sub-Township, Kawthoung District, Taninthayi Region on 17 February.

It was of reinforced concrete facility. The bridge is 15 feet wide, 10 feet high and 20 feet long.— Kyemon-Khamaukkyi (IPRD)

Poster erected in Kawthoung

KAWTHOUNG, 18 Feb— A poster was put up at the corner of Myayi Pale and Bogysoke Roads in Padauk Shweswa Ward of Kawthoung on 17 February.

The poster bears census taking process to be held in April 2014. Kawthoung District and Township Immigration and National Registration Department erected many posters at public places.— Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Cash and kind donated to Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda

KANBALU, 18 Feb— Wellwishers of Kanbalu Township Association (Yangon) donated cash and kind to the fund for organizing the 14th Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda Pujanya in Kanbalu of Sagaing Region.

On 15 February, the wellwisher group paid homage to the pagoda and returned home after greeting the local people.— MMAL-Aung Win Nyein (Township IPRD)

Roads upgraded in Kanbalu

KANBALU, 18 Feb— Local roads in Kanbalu of Sagaing Region are being upgraded with asphalt and expanded their width spending the budget of Township Development Affairs Committee.

All the maintenance and upgrading of the roads have been completed on 16 February.

The Township DAC has spent K 24.46 million on repaving of Bogysoke Road in Ward 2, K 22.24 million on Nwethaki Road in Ward 3 and K 22.944 million on repaving of Bogyoke Road in Ward 2, K 22.24 million on repaving of Bogyoke Road in Ward 3 and K 22.944 million on repaving of Bogyoke Road in Ward 3.

Thanks to renovation of the roads, the local people and drivers are pleased for efforts of the local authorities due to smooth transportation.— MMAL-Aung Win Nyein (IPRD)

Health care provided: Health staff of Township Health Department is giving vitamin and vaccines to expectant mothers and children under five on Yadana Myaung Road in Ward 1 of Kamayut Township as part of efforts for nutritious development of the people.

MMAL-163

News in Brief
Bomb blasts in Iraq kill 49 - police, medics

HILLA, (Iraq), 18 Feb— Bombs exploded in predominantly Shi’ite Muslim districts of the Iraqi capital and in the southern city of Hilla on Tuesday, killing at least 49 people, police and hospital sources said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for any of the attacks, but Shi’ites are often targeted by Sunni Islamist insurgents who have been regaining ground in Iraq over the past year and overrun several towns in recent weeks.

The deadliest attacks on Tuesday occurred in and around Hilla, 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad, where 35 people were killed in seven car bomb explosions inside the city itself and in the nearby towns of Haswa, Mahaweel and Mussayab.

“Hilla hospital has received 35 bodies so far from seven car bomb blasts,” said one health official. A further 90 people were wounded in the blasts. Fourteen more people were killed in explosions in mainly Shi’ite districts of Baghdad.

In one of those, a bomb inside a parked vehicle exploded near a bus station in the Bayaa district, killing five people, the sources said. There were also blasts in the Amil, Ilam and Shurta districts.

Last year was Iraq’s bloodiest since sectarian bloodshed began to abate in 2008.

Three killed, dozens injured as Thai police raid protest sites

BANGKOK, 18 Feb — One police officer was shot dead and two protesters were killed in street clashes in Bangkok on Tuesday as Thai police confronted protesters, according to a police spokesman and emergency medical personnel.

The police spokesman said a policeman died in hospital after being shot in the head. The circumstances surrounding the death of the two protesters were not immediately known.

As part of the massive operation, the police stormed the main protest site near Democracy Monument, using tear gas and rubber bullets to retake it amid resistance from protesters.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration’s Erawan Emergency Medical Centre said at least 60 people were injured in the street battles amid reports of intense gunfire and at least one explosion.

Local media reported that some policemen may have been injured in a grenade blast.

The situation was also tense at Government House, where around 5,000 police confronted protesters.

The top leader of the protesters, former Deputy Prime Minister Suichep Thaugsuban, sent his representatives there to negotiate with the police. He decided not to go there in person because of an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

The first round of negotiations failed, and a second round was attempted but terminated after the clash at Democracy Monument.

Another protest leader, People’s Democratic Reform Committee co-leader Somkiat Pongpaibul, was reportedly arrested, but he was later rescued by a group of unidentified men. The rescue was carried out amid intense gunfire and an explosion, Somkiat told local television.

The operation is aimed at securing areas near Government House, Democracy Monument, the Interior Ministry, the Energy Ministry and Government Complex. The police have reportedly taken control of the Energy Ministry and detained some protesters there. The police had earlier this month removed protesters from sites near Government Office to allow Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to resume work there, only for the protesters, who are demanding that she resign, to reoccupy them.—Kyodo News

ILO calls for youth integration in Latin America

LIMA, 18 Feb — Latin American governments should adopt policies to encourage social integration of young people, Regional Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for Latin America and the Caribbean Elizabeth Tinoco said here on Monday.

Unemployment and lack of education are two negative factors facing the Latin American youth, which will endanger social stability, Tinoco said in an interview with Xinhua.

She said that the socioeconomic disparities in Latin American societies prevent a full integration of the new workforce into the labor market.

The youth has expressed their dissatisfaction, not only for few job opportunities, but also a lack of social integration, Tinoco said.—Xinhua

EU’s Reding warns Brexit would isolate London’s City

BRUSSELS, 18 Feb — London’s financial services centre would lose access to the wider European Union should Britain quit the bloc, the EU’s justice chief said on Monday, warning that such a move would reduce its status to that of an offshore centre.

Viviane Reding’s blunt comments come amid a heated debate in Britain over its future in the 28-country European Union and will reinforce fears in the City of London that a departure from the EU will hurt its position as a global financial capital.

“The City would most definitely lose its unhindered access to the (EU’s) single market in the case of an exit,” Reding, the EU’s Justice Commissioner, told an audience at Cambridge University.

“EU member states would obviously have no interest in supporting what would then be an offshore financial centre competing with their own financial firms,” she said.

Reding cautioned that Britain, were it to leave, would find itself in a similar situation to that of Norway, which applies the rules of the neighbouring European Union although it is not a member. “It’s difficult to see why the other member states would grant the UK unfettered access to their markets without requiring it to apply the EU’s rules,” she said in the text of her speech, citing research that found British households would be 3,000 pounds ($5,000) worse off annually outside the EU.
Japan, ASEAN discuss Japanese exports to combat disasters, terrorism

NAHA, 18 Feb — Senior defence officials from Japan and ASEAN countries met on Tuesday in Okinawa Prefecture to discuss the use of Japan’s defence equipment in disaster relief and anti-terrorism efforts, as Tokyo aims to set new rules on arms exports.

The officials are expected to exchange views on various topics ranging from post-disaster technical support in infrastructure building to the introduction of Japanese defence equipment such as infrared radars and unmanned robots to clear explosives.

“We hope to deepen and enhance cooperation, as ASEAN countries are Japan’s partners that share basic values and strategic interests,” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in a message delivered to the meeting in Ginowan.

The meeting, the first in Okinawa, is chaired by Japan’s Administrative Vice Minister of Defence Masanori Nishi.

As part of Abe’s envisaged reworking of defence policy to bolster the capabilities of the Self-Defence Forces and increase its presence abroad, the government is expected to set new rules on arms exports to ease the transfer of defence equipment to other countries.

The Defence Ministry plans to showcase defence equipment at an Air Self-Defence Force base in Naha, the Okinawa capital, on Wednesday to explain how Japan conducts surveillance and warning activities in the East China Sea.

China appears to be at the forefront of Abe’s defence vision, bolstering the case for Japan to strengthen ties with ASEAN.

Ex-minister in Afghanistan’s Taleban gov’t gunned down in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 18 Feb — A minister in Afghanistan’s former Taleban gov’t was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan’s northwestern city of Peshawar on Monday, Afghan Islamic Press reported.

Quoting authoritative sources, AIP said that Maulvi Abdul Raqib, who served as minister for the return of Afghan refugees under the Taleban regime, was gunned down at 11 am in the city’s Nasir Bagh area, where he was operating a religious school by the name of Madrasah Sultania.

Raqib was an ethnic Uzbek hailing from Takhar province in northern Afghanistan.—Kyodo News

Syrian troops recapture three towns in Hama, Aleppo

DAMASCUS, 18 Feb — The Syrian army on Monday fully wrested back control over three towns in the central province of Hama and the northern Aleppo Province, according to the official SANA news agency reported. The Syrian troops recaptured the key town of Ma’an in Hama, just days after the al-Qaeda-inspired group massacred more than 42 civilians, including women and children, according to SANA.

In Aleppo, the troops recaptured the towns of Sheikh Najjar and al-Ghulli Hill after intense clashes with the armed rebels. Meanwhile, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that a rebel commander of the Jund al-Islam battalion was killed Monday at al-Zara village in the central province of Homs.—Xinhua

Japan’s administrative vice minister for defence, who was killed Monday in Peshawar, is seen here.

Second Japan snow storm leaves thousands stranded as toll rises to 23

TOKYO, 18 Feb — Snow-choked roads cut off thousands on Tuesday as parts of northern Japan struggled to dig out from its second storm in a week, with the death toll rising to at least 23. Train services were suspended in some areas after the Valentine’s Day storm dumped more than a meter of snow in parts of central Japan and blanketed the capital with record snow for the second weekend in a row, snarling airline traffic and slowing production at some Japanese automakers.

The freak storm dumped more than 1.1 metres of snow in Yamashita prefecture in central Japan, the most in more than a century of record-keeping, and lesser amounts across a wide swathe of the eastern and northeastern parts of the nation. Tokyo was hit by 27 cm (10.6 inches) by Tuesday, day 23 people had died, including some killed in traffic accidents or by being caught under snow that fell from roofs. Several died in cars stuck in the snow, apparently from carbon monoxide poisoning as they ran their car engines to keep warm.—Reuters

A Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force rescuer removes snow covering a bridge at Hinohara village, west of Tokyo, in this handout picture taken and released on 17 Feb, 2014 by the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. —Reuters

One dead, many hurt as asylum seekers riot at PNG detention camp

SYDNEY, 18 Feb — An asylum seeker was killed and at least 77 injured in the second riot this week at a detention centre in Papua New Guinea used to process asylum seekers, Australia’s Immigration Minister said on Tuesday.

One person was in critical condition with a head injury and another sustained gunshot wounds during clashes that erupted after asylum seekers forced their way out of the center on a small island in impoverished Papua New Guinea.

The facility is part of Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s tough stance against asylum seekers but it has come under fire over human rights concerns.

“Our sympathies are extended to the transferees — that person’s family and friends who would have been in the facility as well,” Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said in reference to the dead asylum seeker.

“If people choose to remove themselves from that centre then they’re obviously putting themselves at much greater risk and in an environment where there is violent behavior,” he told reporters in the northern Australian city of Darwin.

Canberra’s tough stance on asylum seekers, including offshore processing and a blanket ban on people arriving by boat ever settling in Australia, has been criticized by the United Nations and other groups as illegal and inhumane.

Australia uses detention centres at Manus Island and another on the tiny Pacific island of Nauru to process would-be refugees sent there after trying to get to Australia, often in unsafe boats after paying people smugglers in Indonesia.

Refugee advocates say that long-term detention, combined with a lack of clarity on where and when the asylum seekers may be resettled, contribute to a host of mental health problems at the facilities. —Reuters

Rescue workers look for survivors in the debris of a residential building collapsed after a propane tank explosion in the Old City of Acre, north Israeli, on 17 Feb, 2014. Five people died and 12 others injured on Monday in a propane tank explosion in north Israel, a police spokesperson confirmed to Xinhua. —Xinhua

Gas blast shakes apartment buildings in central Istanbul

ISTANBUL, 18 Feb — An explosion caused by a gas leak tore through a residential building near central Istanbul’s Taksim Square on Monday, injuring several people and sending debris spewing into a narrow side street, city officials said.

Windows in several multi-storey buildings were blown out and a car tipped onto its side by the force of the blast, which could be heard from across the Bosphorus Strait dividing the city of almost 15 million people. “We heard a very loud explosion and went out to the street, where we saw a car turned upside down. An injured man and a woman were carried away on stretchers,” said Rafet Demir, a 50-year-old parking lot manager.

“Police informed residents and shopkeepers that it was a natural gas explosion,” he said. Most residential buildings in central Istanbul use gas for heating and cooking and explosions caused by leaks are not uncommon, although they are rarely so damaging. Ahmet Misbuh Demircan, mayor of the district of Beyoglu where the blast happened, said the explosion came from a small art gallery on the ground floor of the building and that four injured people had been taken to hospital.—Reuters

Amet Misbuh Demircan, mayor of the district of Beyoglu, speaks to the media in front of a building following the explosion. —Reuters

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3 Japanese MSDF ships on training cruise arrive in Cambodia


The three ships — the Shimakaze, Shimayuki and Yamayuki — with 106 cadet officers aboard will stay until Thursday.

The vessels are led by Capt Koji Yagi, commander of Escort Division 15 of the MSDF.

Naoki Koga, operation officer of the Shimakaze, told Kyodo News that it is the first time for him as well as the cadets to visit Cambodia.

He said during the visit, the cadets will take part in several exchange activities including soccer and volleyball games with their Cambodian counterparts.

He said the three vessels will head to Singapore on Thursday before returning to Japan. In a statement released by the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh, it said the objectives of the visit are to strengthen friendship between Japan and Cambodia and to give opportunities for the cadet officers to learn about the culture and military of Cambodia.—Kyodo News

Search for 2 missing Japanese divers continues after 5 rescued

DENPASAR, 18 Feb — The search for two Japanese women who disappeared while scuba diving off the Indonesian resort island of Bali continued for a fifth day on Tuesday, after five of their diving mates were rescued the previous day.

Rescuers are searching for 35-year-old Shoko Takahashi, a local diving instructor, and 59-year-old diving enthusiast Ritsuko Miyata, while authorities are trying to confirm reports of local fishermen spotting two women who waved their hands from a cliff on the same island where the five were found.

On Monday afternoon, rescuers found Atsumi Yoshidome, 29, Aya Morizono, 27, Emi Yamamoto, 33, and Nahomi Kawasaki, 26, on Nusa Penida, an 202-square-kilometre island southeast of Bali, some 30 kilometres from where they began their dive Friday afternoon off the tiny neighbouring island of Nusa Lembongan. —Kyodo News

Venezuela raids opposition party office, expels three US diplomats

CARACAS, 18 Feb — Venezuelan security forces raided the headquarters of an opposition party accused of fomenting nearly a week of violent protests, witnesses said, as the country expelled three US diplomats on charges of conspiring with demonstrators.

Prosecutors accused military intelligence officers burst into the opposition Popular Will party office and attempted to forcibly remove several activists after throwing tear gas inside, according to party officials.

“The intelligence officers arrived and began to harass us,” said party activist Adriangela Ruiz. “They threw tear gas, took computers and tried to take away several people.”

The government has issued an arrest warrant for Popular Will’s founder, Leopoldo Lopez, 42, the US-educated opposition leader accused of murder and terrorism in relation to the violent demonstrations of the past week.

He has been the main instigator of the demonstrations that have energized Venezuela’s opposition, but show few immediate signs they will achieve their goal of ending the government of socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

Student protesters have taken his lead and are now promising to continue demonstrations around the country.

Videos sent to the media by Popular Will, which could not be independently identified, showed men entering the party’s premises, waving guns and kicking down a door.

Students protesting outside the building then prevented the gunmen from taking anyone away, a party worker said.

Two government officials contacted by Reuters said they had no information about the incident and also did not have any way of making authorized spokespeople available.

The Caracas protests have been limited to mostly upscale areas, with little evidence so far that Venezuelans will join the demonstrations in masse across the country of 29 million people. Even so, thousands were out in the streets again on Monday.

Lopez, whose whereabouts were unknown, promised via an online video to hand himself in on Tuesday and called on supporters to march with him to the Interior Ministry.

“Let’s all go dressed in white to one place. Then I will walk alone. I will not put any Venezuelan’s life at risk,” he tweeted on Monday.

After several days of blaming the violence on meddling by Washington, the Venezuelan government declared three US diplomats persona non grata, giving them 48 hours to leave the country on charges they were recruiting college students for the protests.—Reuters

An opposition supporter shouts at a riot police officer during a protest against President Nicolas Maduro’s government in Caracas on 17 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

16 killed, 43 wounded in violent attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb — At least 16 people were killed and 43 others wounded in violent attacks across Iraq on Monday, police said. Eight people were killed and 20 others wounded when a car bomb exploded near a popular market in the neighborhood of Ur in eastern Baghdad, a police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Another car bomb went off in the district of Karrada in central Baghdad, killing two people and injuring seven others, the source said, adding that one civilian was killed and five others were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near a market in the area of Bour in northwestern Baghdad. Three soldiers were killed and three others injured when a roadside bomb targeted an army patrol in Muslimiaiyah, 80 km northeast of Baghdad, a local police source said.

Two policemen were killed and eight people wounded when a suicide car bomber attacked a police checkpoint near the house of Sheikh Ahmed Abu Risha, a leader of the pro-government Sahwa militia forces in the city of Ramadi, 100 km west of Baghdad, a police source said.—Xinhua
Researchers identify first biological marker for major depression

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — British researchers said on Monday they had identified the first biomarker, or a biological signpost, for major depression, a breakthrough they believe could help identify boys in particular at greatest risk of developing the illness.

The study, published in the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found teenage boys who show a combination of depressive symptoms and elevated levels of the stress hormone cortisol are up to 14 times more likely to develop major depression than those who show neither trait.

Major, or clinical, depression is a debilitating mental health problem that will affect one in six people at some point in their lives. However, until now there have been no biomarkers for major depression.

This is believed to be, in part, because both the causes and the symptoms can be so varied. “We now have a very real way of identifying those teenage boys most likely to develop clinical depression,” Professor Ian Goodyer from the University of Cambridge, who led the study, said in a statement. “This will help us strategically target prevention strategies and interventions at these individuals and hopefully help reduce their risk of serious episodes of depression and their consequences in adult life.”

Matthew Owens from the University of Cambridge, first author on the study, said this new biomarker suggests a more personalized approach to tackling boys at risk for depression. “This could be a much needed way of reducing the number of people suffering from depression, and in particular stemming a risk at a time when there has been an increasing rate of suicide amongst teenage boys and young men,” Owens said.

The researchers measured levels of cortisol in saliva from 1,858 teenagers and combined these with the teenager’s self-reports about current symptoms of depression and other psychiatric disorders, which were collected for up to three years.

The subjects with elevated levels of morning cortisol and high symptoms of depression were on average seven times more likely to suffer from major depression than those with normal levels of morning cortisol and low symptoms of depression. Further analysis revealed that boys with high cortisol levels and high depression symptoms were fourteen times more likely to develop major depression than those with normal levels, while girls with similarly elevated cortisol levels were only up to four times more likely to develop the condition.

The researchers hope that having an easily measurable biomarker, in this case, elevated cortisol plus depressive symptoms, will enable primary care services to identify boys at high risk and counsel them about public mental health strategies for this subgroup in the community. “Progress in identifying biological markers for depression has been frustratingly slow, but now we finally have a biomarker for clinical depression,” said John Williams, head of neuroscience and mental health of the Wellcome Trust, which funded the study. “The approach taken by Professor Goodyer’s team may yet yield further biomarkers, and also gives tantalizing clues about the gender differences in the causes and onset of depression.”

Earth marks close encounter with enormous asteroid

NEW YORK, 18 Feb — An asteroid estimated to be the size of three football fields whizzed close to Earth on Monday, roughly a year after one exploded over Russia and injured 1,200 people.

Slooh Space Camera tracked the approach of the asteroid as it raced past the planet at about 27,000 mph (43,000 kmph), starting at 9 pm EST (2 am GMT, 18 Feb), the robotic telescope service said in a statement on Slooh.com.

The Dubai Astronomy Group provided Slooh photos of the part of the sky where the rock was expected to be seen, but its motion could not be picked out immediately in a live webcast against the backdrop of night-time stars.

The 295-yard (270-m) asteroid was streaking past Earth at a distance of about 2.1 million miles (3.4 million km) little more than a year after another asteroid exploded on 15 February, 2013, over Chelyabinsk, Russia. That asteroid injured 1,200 people following a massive shock wave that shattered windows and damaged buildings.

Chelyabinsk region officials had wanted to mark the anniversary by giving a piece of the meteorite to each 2014 Winter Olympic athlete who won a medal on Saturday at the Sochi Games. However, the International Olympic Committee at the last minute said it could be done only after the games and separately.

Slooh’s flagship observatory on Mount Teide in Spain’s Canary Islands was set over and unable to be used for the 200 EM26 viewing, Paul Cox, Slooh’s technical and research director, said on the one-hour webcast.

Spotify seeks to hire US filings expert as bankers eye IPO

STOCKHOLM, 18 Feb — Online music streaming service Spotify is recruiting a US financial reporting specialist, adding to speculation that the Swedish startup is preparing for a share listing, which one banker said could value the firm at as much as $8 billion.

Meeting US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) standards for filing financial disclosures is essential for any firm planning to go public and bankers and lawyers said they inferred from the job ad that the company is getting ready for an initial public share offering (IPO), possibly next year.

Streaming and on-demand music has soared in popularity alongside smartphone use, though such services have so far struggled to make profits due to the cost of royalty fees. A Spotify IPO would be one of the most eagerly anticipated global tech IPOs, and bankers speculate it could come alongside possible listings by AirBnB, Square and mobile games maker King which was also created in Sweden. “It looks like they are preparing themselves for an IPO,” said one corporate finance lawyer, who is not advising the firm.

The job advertisement, posted on Spotify’s website and on LinkedIn, said the successful candidate — an “External Reporting Specialist” — would be required to “prepare the company for SEC filing standards. Set up all reports necessary to be SEC compliant”. Spotify declined to comment on whether it has IPO plans. “As Spotify grows and becomes a more mature company we are looking for people who can help us keep our financial reporting in order and up to global standards,” a spokesperson said.

Spotify founder and CEO Daniel Ek has previously played down a listing to Swedish media, saying he was keen to keep the company private. But strong investor sentiment and buoyant tech shares have fuelled speculation by bankers and industry players about a possible listing.

Following a botched debut by Facebook, shares in the social media network have soared nearly 80 percent while Twitter shares are up almost 30 percent since its November IPO. 

Spotify’s VP Growth Alex Norstrom speaks at the Slush startup conference at Kaapelitehdas in Helsinki on 13 Nov, 2013. Reuters

IVF responsible for over 1.5 percent of all births in US in 2012

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — In vitro fertilization (IVF) was responsible for more than 1.5 percent of all births in the United States in 2012, showed a report released on Monday.

The report from the US Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) said its 379 member clinics performed 165,172 cycles, or procedures involving IVF, in 2012. These procedures resulted in the birth of 61,740 babies, an increase of more than 2,000 infants from 2011, it said.

“While there were an estimated 3.9 million babies born in the US in 2012, thus IVF babies now constitute over 1 percent of all births, the SART said. “This is the largest number of cycles of babies and percentage of babies born through IVF ever reported.”

Meanwhile, there were fewer embryos per cycle transferred and an increase in elective single embryo transfer, leading to a reduction in the number of twin and triplet births, the report said. Multiple births can be risky for both mothers and children, according to the SART. —Xinhua
Babies with hearty appetite at risk of obesity: studies

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — Infants with a hearty appetite grew more rapidly and might be genetically predisposed to obesity, according to two linked papers published on Monday in the US journal JAMA Pediatrics. The first paper, by Professor Jane Wardle of University College London and colleagues, revealed that infants with a heartier appetite grew more rapidly up to age 15 months, potentially putting them at increased risk for obesity.

The authors used data from non-identical, same-sex twins born in the United Kingdom in 2007, who differed on questionnaire measures of appetite and satiety, and whose weight was measured from birth up to age 15 months. Within pairs, the infant who was more food responsive or less satiety responsive grew faster than their co-twin, the study said. The more food responsive twin was 654 grams heavier than their co-twin at six months and 991 grams heavier at 15 months. The less satiety responsive twin was 637 gram heavier than their co-twin at six months and 918 grams heavier at 15 months. “It might make life easy to have a baby with a hearty appetite, but as she grows up, parents may need to be alert for tendencies to be somewhat over-responsive to food cues in the environment, or somewhat unresponsive to fullness,” said Wardle, lead author of the study. “This behavior could put her at risk of gaining weight faster than is good for her.” The second JAMA Pediatrics paper, in collaboration with King’s College London, shed further light on the appetite that appetite, particularly low satiety reponsiveness, acts as one of the mechanisms underlying genetic predisposition to obesity. The researchers accessed data from 2,258 10-year-old children born in the United Kingdom between 1994 and 1996. The team used 28 obesity-related genes to create a polygenic obesity risk score (PRS) for each child to estimate their genetic susceptibility to obesity. — Xinhua

Panasonic to sell Ibaraki plasma TV panel factory site

OSAKA, 18 Feb — Panasonic Corp. is considering selling the former site of its plasma television panel development plant in Osaka, as the electronics maker has decided to withdraw from the plasma TV business, sources close to the matter said on Tuesday.

The company may consider renting out part of the 120,000-square-meter site to Yamato Transport Co. The city of Ibaraki, where the facility is located, is also showing interest in acquiring the land, they said. The production of plasma display panels began in 2001 at the plant, but it later became a base for assembling TVs and developing display panels after the company transferred plasma display panel production to its Amagasaki plant in Hyogo Prefecture, which manufactures liquid crystal display panels.

Due to the sluggish plasma TV business, Panasonic incurred a massive group net loss for the second straight year in fiscal 2012 ended March 2013. The company is also in the final stage of talks with a real-estate investment advisory company in Tokyo to sell part of its Amagasaki plasma display panel factory building.

The Ibaraki plant started operation in 1982, a production base for color cathode-ray tube televisions.

Kyodo News

Number of test-tube babies born in US hits record percentage

NEW YORK, 18 Feb — More test-tube babies were born in the United States in 2012 than ever before, and they constituted a higher percentage of total births than at any time since the technology was introduced in the 1980s, according to a report released on Monday.

The annual report was from the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART), an organization of medical professionals in the assisted reproduction field. SART had 379 member clinics, which represented more than 90 percent of the infertility clinics in the country, reported that in 2012 they performed 165,172 procedures involving in vitro fertilization (IVF), in which an egg from the mother-to-be or a donor is fertilized in a lab dish. They resulted in the birth of 61,740 babies. That was about 2,000 more IVF babies than in 2011.

With about 3.9 million babies born in the United States in 2012, the IVF newborns accounted for just over 1.5 percent of the total, more than ever before.

The growing percentage reflects, in part, the increasing average age at which women give birth for the first time, since fertility problems become more common as people age. The average age of first-time mothers is now about 26 years; it was 21.4 years in 1970. Although the rising number of test-tube babies suggests that the technology has become mainstream, critics of IVF point out that the numbers, particularly the success rates, mask wide disparities.

“‘It’s important for people to understand that women over 35 have the highest percentage of failures,’” said Miriam Zoll, author of “Cracked Open: Liberty, Fertility and the Pursuit of High Tech Babies.”

Earlier data from SART showed that the percentage of attempts that result in live births is 10 times higher in women under 35 than in women over 42. And in the older women fewer than half the IVF pregnancies result in a live birth.

Zoll added, “These treatments have consistently failed two-thirds of the time since 1978,” when the first test tube baby was born, in England. — Reuters

Brazil to be world’s top soybean producer

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Feb — Brazil will become the world’s largest soybean producer in 2014, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said on Monday.

“Brazil will become the world’s leading soybean producer, showing the strength of our agricultural sector, which is important to our development, the domestic supply and exports,” Rousseff said.

According to Brazil’s national supply company Conab, the total grain yield will reach 193 million tons this year, of which 90 million tons will be soybeans, outnumbering the soybean output of the United States — currently the largest producer. The soybean will remain Brazil’s largest crop, with its share in the total grain production rising from 43 percent to 47 percent, Conab forecast.

Rousseff said Brazil has committed to boosting its agricultural productivity as its grain production increased by more than two-fold in the past two decades, while the arable land grew only by 41 percent during the same period.

Reuters

Months after rehab, knee and hip patients keep improving

NEW YORK, 18 Feb — People who have had a knee or hip replacement reap the benefits of intense rehab months after they’ve returned home, according to a new analysis. “If you can get patients to a certain threshold level, they can do the rest of the rehabilitation on their own,” co-author Kenneth Ottenbacher told Reuters Health.

“In a sense, these patients become their own physical therapists,” he said. Ottenbacher directs the Centre for Rehabilitation Sciences at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He and his team analyzed data from 12,199 US patients who underwent knee or hip replacement between 2008 and 2010. They were still living independently before surgery and were treated at inpatient rehab facilities after the procedure. Patients were 71 years old, on average, and most were female and white. The researchers gathered information on patients’ ability to function at three time points: when they were admitted for surgery, when they were discharged from the rehab center and three to six months after discharge. The functional measures covered everything from eating, bathing and climbing stairs to memory. Criteria were scored on a scale of 1 to 7, with higher numbers representing better functioning. When it came to their ability to move around, patients entered surgery with an average score of 1.6 on that scale. That improved to 4.2 at discharge and 5.6 a few months later. Because of high costs, not all hip and knee replacement patients can be referred to inpatient rehabilitation facilities with constant doctor oversight and intense one-on-one care. “Generally the patients who get referred to these facilities are having other health problems,” Ottenbacher said, like diabetes or heart disease. — Reuters

Xinhua
**Perspectives**

**Wednesday, 19 February, 2014**

**Food security**

The more people there are annually, the greater amount of food is needed significantly. Food sufficiency plays a vital role in the survival of mankind. Food security is of paramount importance. Food insecurity and scarcity can bring about many problems.

There have been rising food prices, chronic health problems caused by hunger and malnutrition, economic crisis and increased crime rate in the wake of a severe food shortage. Peace and prosperity prevail in the countries in which food security gains are achieved. Countries facing a lack of food security are to encounter evil consequences.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in its statement, calls for 60% more food to be produced as 9 billion people will inhabit the world by 2050. It is learnt that World Trade Organization (WTO) will prioritize more food production in the upcoming Doha Round. This indicates that food security has become a top priority, calling for quick implementation of food security.

Individually, food security cannot be achieved, but each and every person is needed to contribute to the task of producing more food. We all need to do our bit for increasing food production. Although farmers are seen as backbone of food sufficiency, the increased productivity of the country in livestock breeding and fisheries sector depends on the levels of productivity of workers and government employees. Likewise, private sector productivity is as important to the high productivity of a certain country as that of the public sector.

While striving for higher agricultural productivity, it is required to promote productivity of workers in other sectors. An increase in agricultural productivity will ensure food security and it can thereby contribute to stable economic growth of a country. With economic stability, problems in other sectors can be addressed to a certain extent. Stable economic growth will happen at the time when food supply surpasses demand. That’s why, only cooperation of all in food production could ensure food security.

**Myanmar Distributor Agreement signed**

**Yangon, 18 Feb**—The signing ceremony of Myanmar Distributor Agreement between General Electric Lighting and Krislite took place at Chatrium Hotel, here, on 18 February.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe made a speech.

Mr Jack Tan, Country Manager from General Electric Lighting and U Kyaw Moe Naing, Managing Director from Krislite, made clarifications on signing of agreement.

Mr Jack Tan and Mr Sims Teo, Director from Krislite, signed the agreement and changed the documents. MNA

(Continued from 18-2-2014)

(b) The project proposal to harvest Spirulina blue-green algae from Twyn Taung lake was submitted to the government in 1985. A team of scientists was formed to study the feasibility and EIA, especially its impact on the life cycle of Ephedra water beetle insect. The project was allowed after receiving a report that there will be no negative impact on the insect.

(c) Along the Chindwin river, feasibility studies of Shwe Sa Ye dam project were made for several years. EIA on Twyn Taung ecosystem was questioned. Report back was as follows. Due to the massive structure of the dam, the ground watertable in the region will rise definitely. As a result, seepage of fresh water into Twyn Taung lake will lower the pH value and change the extreme alkaline ecosystem of the lake into a fresh water ecosystem. Consequently, rare natural living resources namely Spirulina blue-green algae and Ephedra water beetle insect will become extinct.

**Conclusion**

22. The deterioration of Twyn Taung lake ecosystem is due to environmental impacts. As the fish eat the Spirulina blue-green algae and insect larvae, these two rare and living natural resources are facing extinction. It is of utmost importance to take immediate action in order to restore and conserve the unique environmental ecosystem of Twyn Taung Crater Lake.

(Concluded)

**Current situation of Fresh Water Seepage into Twyn Taung Crater Lake with high pH and alkaline ecosystem, causing lower pH and dilution with increased population of Tilapia fish eating Spirulina and water beetle**

**Dr. Min Thein**

The main causes are excess fresh water inflow and increasing Tilapia fish population.

23. Excessive fresh water inflow lowers the pH value below 9.8 at which stage the Tilapia fish can survive and breed luxuriantly.

**Workshop on public …**

(Continued from page 1)

history of Ombudsman, the countries which are practising Ombudsman, basic value of Ombudsman and matters related to parliamentary affairs, judiciary affairs and administrative mechanism. Dr Zaw Oo discussed management on public complaints for public services.

The workshop was jointly organized by Public Service Pension Adjustment (PSPA), MDRI-CESD and Denmark Ombudsman.

It was attended by deputy ministers, directors-general, deputy director-general and departmental staff and officials concerned from Denmark Ombudsman.

**Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw receives Chinese ambassador**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Feb**—Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.—MNA

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shaking hands with Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.—MNA**
Basic principles laid down for implementing work for amending constitution

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said at today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session has sent basic principles for implementing the work for amending the constitution to the committee which will carry out the work.

The chairman of the committee which was formed with 31 Hluttaw representatives on 3 February, 2014, requested the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to give basic principles to be able to implement the work process for amending the constitution successfully.

The joint committee for reviewing and amending the constitution put forward its findings and report on assessment of the constitution to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 1st January, 2014, and to implement the findings and report of the joint-committee, the committee for implementing the work for amending the constitution was formed comprising 31 Hluttaw representatives.

During the meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 18 February, the Bill Amending the Traditional Medicine Law, the Bill Amending the Electronic and Communication Law and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Development Funds Bill which were approved by Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw were put on record.

The Bill Amending the Myanmar Stamp Act, the Bill Amending the Commercial Tax Law, the Bill Amending the Income Tax Law and Court Fees Act were discussed during the meeting.

Union Minister U Aung Min holds talks with special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr Quintana.

(from page 16)

Mr Quintana holds separate talks with UEC chairman, ...

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(from page 16)

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Kaleinaung Bridge, reliable on Yangon-Myeik Union Highway

DAWEI, 18 Feb—Better transport is playing a crucial role in regional development. The strengthening of bridges on the roads are drives for economic and social development of the local people.

Kaleinaung Bridge stretching on Yangon-Myeik Union Highway is located in Yebyu Township of Da Wei District in Taninthayi Region.

The old bridge built by British in 1937 could withstand 10-ton loads of each vehicle. Its clearance was 11.5 feet. The new bridge is under construction near the old one.

In an interview, Junior Engineer U Nyunt Lwin of Bridge Construction Special Group No 6 of Public Works said that the new bridge is No 1/47 called Kaleinaung Bridge. It will be 660 feet long and 31 feet wide. It will be flanked by 3.5 feet wide pedestrian on either side. Its water clearance will be three feet.

The reinforced concrete facility will withstand 60-ton loads. Its construction started on 1 December 2012. Kaleinaung was a town in the Myanmar monarchial period. In the British colonial era, the town was gradually degraded to the village. In the time of new government by restoring peace and tranquility, Kaleinaung became a sub-township.

Thanks to the bridge, Kaleinaung Sub-Township will have the opportunity to transport its products to other regions through Yangon-Myeik Union Highway. It will be a key infrastructure for the local people to be able to uplift living standards.

MMAL-Dawe District IPRD

Electrification for Ingon Village of Natmauk Tsp coordinated

NATMAUK, 18 Feb—A coordination meeting on electrification for Ingon Village of Natmauk Township in Magway Region was held at the monastery in the village on 16 February.

Head of Township Rural Development Department U Aung Ko Latt and Township Development Supportive Committee members U Pyay Thein and U Kyaw Maung, village administrator U Than Huay Lin and electrification committee members and local people attended the meeting.

The head of Township Rural Development Department made a speech. Departmental officials gave talks on electricity supply for the local people.

Chairman of Village Electrification Committee U Kyaw Win explained that the households were classified into four groups; as such there are 307 houses in the village, and the electrification will cost K 20 million. MMAL-Hla Win (IPRD)

Legal affairs for employee lectured in Magway

MAGWAY, 18 Feb—The talks on legal affairs for employees was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Magway Region on 17 February.

Director-General U Win Shein of Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department explained matters related to Factories and General Labour Law.

Staff Officer U Saw Myint Htay of the department gave lectures on worksite safety and health knowledge.

Staff Officer U Kyaw Win of Labour Department of Magway Region discussed labour laws.

Assistant Director Daw Khaing Soe Aye of Labour Department of Magway Region gave lectures on labour disputes and its related laws in 2012.

Officials replied to queries raised by those present.

It was attended by 226 employers and employees and 18 staff at District and Township levels.—MMAL-Tin Tun Oo (IPRD)

Development tasks being accelerated in Karathuri Sub-Township

KARATHURI, 18 Feb—Karathuri Sub-Township is located on Kawthoung-Myeik Road in Taninthayi Region.

As of first week of February this month, strenuous efforts are being made for upgrading of roads in the town under the supervision of township level officials.

All local roads are being expanded to 50 feet wide facilities and undertaken land preparations.

Moreover, gravels were placed along the road and dredging of drains for proper flow of water.

Maintenance of the roads and bridges are aimed at ensuring smooth transport of the local people.

Shwe Kason Construction Company took responsibility for construction of the road.

Kyemon-Karathuri Sub-Township IPRD

Lashio gets transformer for electricity supply for local people

LASHIO, 18 Feb—Lashio Township Electricity Supply Enterprise is trying hard to electrification for the local people day and night.

Electricians and Township electrical engineers joined hands with Mya Thin Kyu Electronic Comapny Ltd carried out substitution of old lamp-posts with new ones and installation of new transformer.

All the repairs and maintenance tasks were completed on 17 February.

A 11/4 KV 160 (KVA) transformer was installed at the corner of Namtu Road and Namphacsi Lake in ward 11 and three lamp-posts were substituted with concrete ones near the golf course on Namtu Road—Kyemon-District IPRD

Aid provided to rural health centres in Kanbalu

KANBALU, 18 Feb—As part of efforts to do public service tasks, Kanbalu Township is implementing the projects by spending K 100 million fund. A ceremony to hand over the beds for expectant mothers to rural health centres was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Kanbalu on 15 February.

Speaker of Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Thin Hlaing stressed the need to carry out public service in implementing the rural development tasks.

The Speaker, Region Hluttaw MP Dr Khin Maung Win and Chairman of Township Management Committee U Myo Lwin handed over the beds to health staff.

At the ceremony, a total of 13 beds were presented to 13 rural health centres. The ceremony was attended by Medical Superintendent of Township Hospital Dr May San Cho, members of township level officials.—MMAL-Aung Win Nyin (IPRD)

Skilled electricians taking care of installing transformer in Lashio for supplying electricity to the local people in Lashio,

Shan State (North).
Tokyo, 18 Feb — Japan vowed on Tuesday to continue assisting five Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River in building infrastructure and development, however, the general economy toward the establishment of a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015.

Parliamentary Senior Vice Foreign Minister Norio Mototsugu said at a Japan-Mekong forum in Tokyo that Japan will help create the envisaged community by “enhancing connectivity and reducing development gaps” between more developed states such as Singapore and less developed ones including Myanmar.

“In addition, Japan will further strengthen assistance in so-called ‘soft’ infrastructure such as institution- and capacity-building for managing so-called ‘hard’ infrastructure,” Mototsugu said. “Japan’s support to the Mekong region is dictated by a long-term perspective for the development of individual countries and the region at large.”

The five Mekong states — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam —form the Association of Southeast Asian Nations with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. Mototsugu said Japan expects economic activities and people-to-people exchanges between Japan and the Mekong region to expand after Tokyo eased visa requirements for all Mekong countries last year.

Japan also agreed with Cambodia and Laos last year to launch bilateral negotiations on direct flight services, while signing an investment pact with Myanmar in December.

The Forum for the Promotion of Public-Private Cooperation in the Mekong Region came after Japan unveiled a total of 200 billion yen in aid to the Mekong region on the sidelines of a Japan-ASEAN summit in December last year, on top of a three-year, 600 billion yen assistance package pledged at a Japan-Mekong summit in 2012. Speaking at the forum, Lao Minister of Public Works and Transport Sommad Pholsena hailed an increase in Japanese investment to his country “as a new production base following the improvement of the country’s infrastructure, legal framework and the availability of cheap labour.”

“...I think that within the next two years, Japan will climb in the ranking from the sixth to the fourth largest foreign investor in Laos after China, Vietnam and Thailand,” Sommad said.

He called for further Japanese investment in the areas of urban transport, logistics and water supply in the form of public-private partnership. Other participants include Vuthy Chea, deputy secretary general of the Council for the Development of Cambodia, Lei Lei Thein, Myanmar’s Deputy Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Sihasak Phuangketkeow, permanent secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry, and Vu Quynh Le, deputy director general of the Public Procurement Agency at Vietnam’s Ministry of Planning and Investment.

The meeting focuses on Japan-Mekong cooperation in the three areas of infrastructure and special economic zones, health and medicine, and tourism. Its outcome will be reported to a foreign ministerial meeting and a summit of Japan and the Mekong states slated for later this year, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

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Brunei to promote investment opportunities with China

Bandar Seri Begawan, 18 Feb — Brunei’s monetary authority Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding Securities and Futures Regulatory Cooperation with China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) on Monday.

The aim of the MoU is to promote investor protection and uphold the integrity of the capital markets in both countries by providing a framework to enhance cross-border regulatory cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information.

The MoU also provides a foundation to foster mutual understanding and encourage sound development of the capital markets in the respective countries.

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Singapore registers slowest tourist spending growth in 2013 since 2009

Singapore, 18 Feb — Singapore’s tourist spending recorded a new high of $23.5 billion Singapore dollars (18.7 billion US dollars) in 2013, up 1.6 percent on year, according to preliminary estimates by Singapore Tourism Board released on Monday. The growth, however, was the slowest since 2009.

The city-state welcomed a record 15.5 million tourists in 2013 — up 6.6 percent on year. The tourism board said the slower growth rate in spending was mainly due to spending cut by business visitors, who spent 6 percent less on year during the first nine months last year. The board said the decline in business travel, meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions (BTMICE) sector was due to cutback on travel budgets. On the other hand, from January to September last year, leisure travallers spent 10 percent more than the same period a year earlier. During the same period, visitors from the Chinese mainland surpassed Indonesia as the biggest spenders in Singapore, with tourism receipts of $2.38 billion Singapore dollars (1.89 billion US dollars), 5.77 percent more than “Indonesians”, which excludes what they spent on sightseeing, entertainment and gaming.

The rise in Chinese visitors’ spending was mainly due to increase in shopping expenditure, the tourism board said. There were totaliy 1.9 million visitors coming into Singapore from Chinese mainland from January to September last year, still ranking as the second largest tourists resource following Indonesia.

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10 people dead after S Korean resort building collapses in snow

Seoul, 18 Feb — Ten people, including nine students, had been confirmed dead by early on Tuesday after a resort building collapsed late Monday in the southern South Korean city of Gyeongju amid heavy snow, Yonhap News Agency reported. More than 100 were injured in the 9:16 pm collapse while over a dozen others remain missing, possibly still trapped in debris. Rescue operations continued through the night in the city 370 kilometres south of Seoul.

About 560 college students were having a welcoming party for freshmen in the resort building when the incident occurred.

Many tried to flee when cracks started to appear in the ceiling but about 100 people are believed to have failed to make it outside when the ceiling collapsed about 15 minutes later.

One of the dead is an employee of an events company. Three students and 11 other employees remain unaccounted for.

Government green-lights Sydney Airport master plan

Sydney, 18 Feb — A controversial 20-year plan for Sydney Airport — known as the Master Plan 2033 — has won Australian federal government approval on Tuesday, with the official green light welcomed by Sydney Airport, despite opposition from local carriers.

Designed to improve the passenger experience and increase efficiency, Sydney Airport welcomed the master plan which will secure development for Australia’s premier airport for the period to 2033 and beyond. “Sydney Airport is one of Australia’s most important pieces of infrastructure and is a vital economic engine for Sydney, NSW and Australia,” Sydney Airport Chief Executive Officer Kerrie Mather said.

Sydney Airport welcomed the official green-light that marks the beginning of the next phase of the Master Plan 2033 — the green-light phase — which will see the airport undergo a large-scale expansion to accommodate the expected growth in air travel over the next two decades.

The Master Plan will deliver a new, world-class international terminal, three new runways and two new terminals for domestic flights. The expanded airport will see more than 100 million passengers annually, compared to just under 51 million in 2012.

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Vietnam to send 90,000 workers abroad in 2014

Ho Chi Minh City, 18 Feb — Vietnam has planned to send 90,000 workers abroad in 2014, on top of last year’s total number of 85,000, following the recovery of the employment markets overseas, according to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA).

The ministry added that it will focus on major markets such as China’s Taiwan, Japan and the ROK.

Labour export is a spearhead and innovative programme for job generation, and key to the country’s economic vitality in the upcoming year, said MOLISA Minister Pham Thoi Hai Chuyen.

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Art students take body-shaping exercises in a model school in Beijing. —Xinhua

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (061)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (061) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** M/S SAMUDELA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256098/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (228)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (228) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** M/S LAND & SEA LOGISTICS

Phone No: 256098/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (004)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** M/S CMA CGM

Phone No: 256098/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SHAMIM VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAMIM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** M/S KUINATEE SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256098/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KUINATEE VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUINATEE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

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**UK employment growth set to slow: survey**

LONDON, 18 Feb — Britain’s recent better-than-expected employment growth is expected to slow slightly just as economic growth is taking hold, said a survey report issued on Monday.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) said in its quarterly labor market outlook survey report: “Although recruitment intentions remain positive, the rate of increase has slowed significantly and the vast majority of organizations expect to give pay awards below the current rate of inflation (CPI).”

The CIPD’s survey result reflected a “productivity hangover” affecting British employers who have maintained and increased employment over a sustained period of falling output.

The survey involving almost 1,000 employers found that optimism was higher for employers in the manufacturing and production sector than the services sector, which accounts for more than 70 percent of the country’s economy. However, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were significantly more positive about their employment prospects than large employers.

According to the report, recruitment intentions among employers have fallen to 54 percent from 65 percent during the past three months, which is the lowest proportion just planning to recruit staff since the survey began.

“In addition, around one in five employers plan to make redundancies in the first quarter 2014, which is also equal to the lowest level since the survey began. “Employment growth, normally a lagging indicator of recovery, seems to have preceded the stronger signs of growth we’re now seeing,” said Gerwyn Davies, the CIPD’s Labor Market Adviser, comments.

“So it is unsurprising that employment intentions are now dipping just as economic growth seems to be taking hold, with employers needing to tackle the major productivity hangover affecting the UK economy.”

“Weak productivity partly explains why a majority of employers expect to continue awarding below-inflation pay rises for their workforce.” — Xinhua
Is this why Angelina, Brad wore matching tuxedos on BAFTA red carpet?

NEW DELHI, 18 Feb — The fashion standout on the BAFTA red carpet in Lon-
don on 16 February was neither Cate Blanchett’s black and silver Alexander McQueen nor Amy Adam’s sleek Victoria Beckham. In fact, it was not a dress at all but Angelina Jolie’s Saint Laurent tuxedo, identical to partner Brad Pitt’s but for the loosened collar and un-
done bow tie.

If Angelina was trying to make a statement, it was this: He’s with me. I’m with him. We’re together. A little way away on the red carpet was the possible cause of this sartorial show of togetherness — Brad’s 12 Years A Slave co-star Lupita Nyong’o, stunning in strapless emerald green Dior. Just weeks ago, Angelina’s appearance at the wrap party for her new film Unbroken raised eyebrows. “She had a bulging vein in her forehead and dark circles under her eyes. Her famous lips even looked thin. Everyone is talking about Brad’s crush on his 12 Years A Slave co-star Lupita Nyong’o and she looked sick with worry,” news agencies had quoted a source as saying then.

There were certainly no signs of worry with the tuxedo — the lips were plowy, eyes sparkled, and, as they posed arm-in-arm on the red carpet, all seemed well with the Jolie-Pitts.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan to play Kalari fighter in P Vasu’s film?

CHENNAI, 18 Feb — Southern filmmaker P Vasu, known for films such as Chandramukhi and Chinn-
a Thambi, says that he has finalised Aishwarya Rai for his upcoming untitled mul-
tilingual, which will feature the former beauty queen as a Kalari fighter.

“Aishwarya was really impressed with the script. She will be seen in a never seen before powerful role. She will essay a Kalari fighter in the film and for the same she will undergo special stunt training,” Vasu said in a statement.

Vasu, who has been script-
ing the film for over two years, says it will be high on visual effects.

“Major visual ef-
facts are being considered. Animatron-
ics expert from France are being hired for the visual effects in the film, which will be shot in exotic lo-
cales of North Indian and some important portions in Cambodia,” he added. The film, to be shot simultane-
ously in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi, will be produced by K Ramesh of Global One Studios. Two top heroes are being considered for the male lead. The names will be announced soon.

Aishwarya was, how-
ever, yet to confirm her participation in the Vasu venture. Vasu, who will also be soon directing the Kannada remake of recent Malayalam blockbuster Drishyam, has directed over 50 titles in two decades. He had directed the Hindi film Hoji Pyaar Ki Jee. Mean-
while, Aishwarya, who has starred in southern films such as Jeans, Enthiran and Raavan, is reportedly also being considered for film-
maker Mani Ratnam’s next project.—PTI

London fashion shows draw inspiration from painting, sportswear

LONDON, 18 Feb — London’s fashion designers looked to painting and sportswear for inspiration as leading fashion editors, models and celebrities flocked to the capital’s big-
est runway shows on Mon-
day. British heritage brand Burberry sent models down the runway in long flowing dresses and scarves, daubed with brushstroke designs of flowers, leaves and autumnal abstract prints in shades of cornflower blue, lemon yellow and blush pink.

The show, which fea-
tured a live performance from musicians Paloma Faith, Ed Harcourt and Rhodies, was attended by actors Bradley Cooper and Naomie Harris, as well as US Vogue editor Anna Wintour and Harry Styles from boy band One Direc-
tion. Designer Christopher Bailey said he drew inspiri-
tion from artists in Lon-
don’s Bloomsbury Group of the early 20th century, which included painters Duncan Grant and Roger Fry. “What I wanted to do is try to capture that spirit in the collection — the col-
ours, embroideries, the fab-
rics — but also through all the hand painting on the bags and the coats and the shoes and the belts,” Bai-
ley, who is set to become the company’s chief ex-
ecutive soon, told reporters backstage.

Burberry’s signature trench coats featured hand-
painted designs and were cinched neatly at the waist, paired with knitted pencil skirts in shades of ochre, burnt orange, and russet reds. American designer Tom Ford dressed his mod-
els in velvet tunics, leather pencil skirts, brightly color-
ed for coats and sequined football jerseys embel-
lished with his name. Floor-
skimming skirts, cropped jackets and knitted dresses also featured in Ford’s collec-
tion in luxurious fabrics such as leopard fur, alliga-
tor leather and cashmere. “It was a pared-back, stream-
lined collection. It was a bit of a pullback but still very chic, very luxurious. It feels right to me,” he told Reu-
ters. Ford said he was con-
fident his label, which he founded in 2006 after leaving Gucci and YSL, was on the way to becoming one of the top international fashion brands in the world.

Earlier in the day, Georgian designer David Koma, who was hired by Thierry Mugler in De-
cember to become artistic director, kicked out his eponymous collection with sharply tailored outfits in a range of luxurious textures.

A model presents a crea-

New Light of Myanmar

Wednesday, 19 February, 2014
Zoueva coaches gold and silver winners

Sochi, (Russia), 18 Feb — Marina Zoueva faced the ultimate test of her loyalties at the Winter Olympics on Monday as, in a bitter-sweet twist for ice dancing’s supreme coach, she found her allegiances torn three ways. Born and raised in Russia, the spiritual heart and soul of ice dancing, a part of Zoueva’s heritage, was cast adrift in the host nation to win, but she had also been working tirelessly trying to get the United States or Canada to top the podium.

As the long-time coach of the American pairing of Meryl Davis and Charlie White and the Canadian duo of Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, it is a scenario that Zoueva has long had to live with. Four years ago, at the Vancouver Olympics, she coached the gold and silver medalists — with Virtue and Moir winning on home ice and Davis and White coming second.

On Monday, Zoueva did it again, but this time the placings were reversed with the Americans triumphing ahead of the Canadians. To top it all off, the Russian pair of Elena Ilinykh and Nikita Katsalapov finished third, giving her a part in all three medallists. “It was important for me to do a special programme for my mother land country,” Zoueva said. “I chose a Russian story for each programme. I wanted to touch the heart of the people.”

After the flower presentation, Zoueva coached gold and silver winners as the crowd applauded them all one by one.

Lopez recovers from slow start to beat Querrey

Los Angeles, 18 Feb — Feliciano Lopez has never shied away from a lengthy contest and the Spaniard prevailed 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 against American Sam Querrey in his latest test in the opening round of the Delray Beach Open on Monday. Lopez has had his share of marathon duels, including his epic 2009 Australian Open thriller against Gilles Muller that went four hours and 22 minutes.

Monday’s match lasted 94 minutes, but was a full three-set battle that saw Lopez recover from a slow start to triumph. The sixth seeded Spaniard had his service broken twice and fell behind in the first set, but he would not be broken on his service for the remainder of the match as he found form and put away Querrey.

To help his cause, Querrey went backwards during a contest that saw him lose five games on his service and commit four double faults. In earlier Delray action, Adrian Mannarino of France and Gilles Muller that went four hours and 22 minutes.

American make history on ice, fog forces delays in mountains

Sochi, (Russia), 18 Feb — Americans Meryl Davis and Charlie White skated into the history books at the Sochi Winter Olympics on Monday when they won the ice dance gold, but thick fog in the mountains forced the ice dance title with a spellbinding performance to the music of Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade.

While their dazzling display thrilled the crowd packed into the Iceberg Skating Palace, spectators in the mountains were disappointed by the postponement of the men’s biathlon 15km mass start and men’s snowboard cross competition until Tuesday. “We’re so excited we’re kind of in shock a little. I’m not sure what we’re feeling,” a beaming Davis told reporters after improving on their silver medal finish from four years ago. White added: “To come away with a gold medal is amazing... And 17 years of hard work was justified.”

Weather delays may extend further into the final week of the Games, officials have warned, with the women’s giant slalom possibly turning into a two-day affair. —Reuters

Japan captures bronze in team ski jumping in Sochi

Sochi, (Russia), 18 Feb — Japan won the bronze medal in the men’s team ski jumping final at the Sochi Games Monday, making its first Olympic podium finish the event since winning the competition on home soil at the 1998 Nagano Games. Anchored by 41-year-old veteran and Sochi local hero with silver medalist Noriaki Kasai, the Japanese team earned the bronze with a total of 1024.9 points and bettered its mark of fifth place at the 2010 Vancouver Games. Germany and two-time defending champion Austria took the gold and silver, respectively, with points of 1041.1 and 1038.4 at RusSki Gorki Jumping Centre.

Lippi turns down Evergrande’s offer for contract extension

Guangzhou, 18 Feb — Italian veteran coach Marcello Lippi has turned down an offer from Guangzhou Evergrande to extend his contract which will expire at the end of the 2014 season, the Chinese Super League champions said on Monday.

“We expressed our wish in December last year to extend his contract, but he (Lippi) did not give us a nod,” Liu Yongzhuo, the president of the Evergrande club, told a Press conference. According to Liu, Lippi was reluctant to stay at Evergrande beyond 2014 mainly because he was “tired.”

“We had an extreme long season in 2013. Our team started training in January and didn’t finish our obligation until four days before Christmas. So it was very stressful for the head coach,” said Liu. Lippi, 65, was also present at the Press conference but made no reply when asked about negotiations over a contract extension.

The World Cup-winning coach joined Evergrande in May 2012 and has led them to win two Chinese Super League, a Chinese FA Cup and the 2013 AFC champions league titles. There have been rumors that Lippi is likely to coach a national team once he completes his contract with Evergrande. —Xinhua

Members of the Japanese ski jumping team — (from L) Reruhi Shimizu, Taku Takeuchi, Daiki Ito and Noriaki Kasai celebrate after winning the bronze medal in the men’s team ski jumping competition at the Sochi Olympic Games in Russia on 17 Feb, 2014.—Kyodo News

Italian veteran coach Marcello Lippi
Israel bank chief blames poverty for low growth rates

JERUSALEM, 18 Feb — Israel’s central bank chief Karnit Flug blamed on Monday demographic trends, primarily among the aging and low-employment groups such as Arabs and Jewish ultra-Orthodox, for Israel’s declining growth rate.

Addressing a conference in Jerusalem, Flug said the unemployment particularly among Jewish ultra-Orthodox men and Arab women, as well as aging communities, is likely to cut 1.3 percent from the country’s annual growth rate. Calling for a proactive government policy to address the issue, Flug warned that in the absence of such policy, “not only will we not advance, but we will go backwards.”

Flug said Israel must increase its investment in education and professional training of Arabs and ultra-Orthodox. “Even if they join the workforce, unless the human capital gap is closed, we are talking about low-paid employment,” she said.

Ultra-Orthodox make up about 10 percent of Israel’s population of eight million, and Arabs constitute some 20 percent. Some 50 percent of these communities live in poverty, according to a recent report on Israel’s economy by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. —Xinhua

In memoriam

Family shares merits gained

Maha Thayay Sithu
Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us thirteen years ago, we family members have made donations and offered ‘soon’ and provisions to members of the Sangha today on 19-2-2014. We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife
- Daw Khin Than Nwe
- U Maung Maung Kyaw(BSI)
+ Daw Cho Leh Oo
- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo

Grandchildren
- Dr Myat Noe+Yin Mar Oo
- Tin Oo+ Khin Thida
- Tin Oo
- Hein Htet, Yin Myat Noe,
- Phu Ngon Kyaw,
- Thant Thi Han Zaw (Po Thila)

An exhibition of “Beautiful China” opens in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 17 Feb, 2014. Ministry of Culture and Confucius Institute of Trinidad and Tobago on Monday opened the photo exhibition of “Beautiful China” intending to introducing the developments in China in recent years and enhancing the relationship between the two countries. —Xinhua

Brazil official urges Cuiabá to ensure stadium ready for World Cup

São Paulo/Brasil, 18 Feb — Brazil’s government on Monday urged officials in the city of Cuiabá to do whatever necessary to get its stadium ready in time for this year’s World Cup soccer tournament, following a prosecutors’ report that an October fire at the venue caused far more damage than previously disclosed.

Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo downplayed the severity of the 25 October fire at Cuiabá’s Arena Pantanal, which he described as “small,” but he acknowledged that prosecutors in Mato Grosso state, where the stadium is located, have demanded a new, independent evaluation of its safety following the report of structural damage there.

The state government gave reporters a tour on Monday of the area where the fire hit, and no signs of damage were apparent. An independent consultant was also due to visit the Cuiabá stadium on Monday and report his findings back to Brazilian officials and FIFA, soccer’s governing body, which has said it was unaware of any structural damage caused by the fire. Prosecutors have said they will not allow games to be played at the stadium until they are certain it is structurally sound.

A test match between Brazilian soccer teams is slated for early April, while the first World Cup match to be played in Cuiabá is set for 13 June, between Chile and Australia.

“We recommended to the (stadium’s) owner, which is the state government, and the companies building it that they adopt all measures so that the stadium can be ready,” for the World Cup, Rebelo told reporters, without offering further details.

His comments, the first by a senior federal official since Reuters disclosed the contents of the prosecutors’ report on Saturday, came at a news conference in Brasília with FIFA’s secretary general, Jerome Valcke. Valcke deferred a question about the stadium to Rebelo. The questions over the Cuiabá stadium have added to Brazil’s struggles to get ready for the World Cup, which starts on June 12. Stadiums have been plagued by construction delays and accidents that have killed six workers.

FIFA is expected to announce this week whether another stadium, in the southern city of Curitiba, will be dropped from the tournament because of construction delays there.

The 18-page report on the Cuiabá stadium is slated for early April, and Monday urged the stadium is located, Mato Grosso state, where they are certain it is structurally sound. Prosecutors have said they are certain it is struc-
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives DPRK ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Ambassador of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea Mr. Kim Sok Chol at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

At the call, they focused on further cementing amity between the two countries and developments of the countries. Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw also attended the call.—MNA

Myanmar, Indonesia to bolster ties between the two nations, the two armed forces

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—His visit to Indonesia is to bolster bilateral ties between the two nations and the two armed forces, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing while holding talks with Mr. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia to bolster ties between the two nations and the two armed forces. This morning.

Presidential Palace, here, Mr. Joko Widodo, President of Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mr. Kim Sok Chol at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.—MNA

Fifth International Commemoration day in memory of the victims of the Holocaust

Annual international day of commemoration to honour the victims of Holocaust in progress.—NLM

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Following the United Nations Resolution 60/7 (1 November 2005) the Ministry of Education of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in collaboration with the United Nations, Embassies of Israel and Germany, with support from the Embassies of United States of America, France and the British Council Myanmar, organized the commemoration ceremony on 17 February.

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as the annual international day of commemoration to honour the victims of Holocaust. This date was chosen since it marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp in occupied Poland.

In his speech the Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar, Hagay Moshe Behar, emphasized that “the State of Israel is committed to preserving the memory and passing on the heritage left to us, by the holocaust survivors. We, the generation that came after, must never forget, since the history of the Holocaust is not just a lesson from the past... it is also a lesson for the future...”.

The main lecture was given by Dr. Joel Zisenwine from the Tel-Aviv University on behalf of “Yad Vashem” the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Jerusalem-Israel. Following the main event in the university, two more lectures on the subject were given in the Myanmar Peace Center and in the British Council.—NLM

Basic principles laid down for implementing work for amending constitution NEWS ON PAGE 9

Mr Quintana holds separate talks with UEC chairman, Union ministers

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—A delegation led by Mr Quintana who proposed Myanmar citizen’s rights paid separate calls to Union Election Committee Chairman U Tin Aye, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi, U Soe Thane, U Aung Min, Dr Daw Khin San Yi and Dr Pe Thein Khin, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizen’s Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo and Senior Legal Advisers to the President led by U Sit Aye.

They discussed election matters, potentials to by-election and activities of... (See page 9)

By Border Affairs Minister meets foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn received Head of Office of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Mark Edward Cutts and party and Regional Director Mr Michael Vatikiotis of Humanitarian Dialogue Centre at the ministry separately today.

They focused on further cooperation among the UN government, Rakhine State government and UN agencies in providing humanitarian aid for both communities in Rakhine State and durability of infrastructure and human resources development. More cooperation in solving community conflict not only in Myanmar but in various regions of the world, taking measures for regional peace and providing humanitarian assistance were also discussed.—MNA

Myanmar exports vegetables to ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Myanmar is making efforts to boost its agricultural produce for domestic consumption at home and to export value-added vegetables to abroad.

Under the supervision of Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry, Myanmar exported dried Chinese artichokes weighing 1560 kilos to the Republic of Korea by air and 3640 kilos of chive roots by container ship on 9 February.

Myanmar exported these kinds of vegetables to Pacific-Energy Co. Ltd. through Lim-SHING Co. Ltd. According to an official from Agriculture Department, plans are underway to promote export of other vegetables.

Ko Pauk (Okka Myay)