As Myanmar belongs to the Common Law Legal System family, Myanmar Judicial System is deeply rooted with legal maxims, judicial customs and precedents which are enshrined with International Legal Principles that are utilized by successive judges all over the world.

This seminar is envisioned to show the path to promoting the rule of law in Myanmar as she ventures into implementing the rule of law in accordance with the policy guided by the President. This occasion is an auspicious one as it is the first seminar of its kind in Myanmar and the very first historic seminar organized by EU in collaboration with UAGO in Myanmar. The principle of rule of law also contains independence, morality impartiality, integrity, propriety and equality. The seven components of the rule of law is the most useful one for a politically stable and free society. These components are, in a nutshell, firstly, no person can be punished without a due process of law. Secondly, without undue delay. Sixthly, discretion in interpreting the law whether by officials of government or judges should be limited by law. Seventhly, doctrine that every person is subject to ordinary law within the jurisdiction.

As Myanmar belongs to the Common Law Legal System family, Myanmar Judicial System is deeply rooted in legal maxims, judicial customs and precedents which are enshrined with International Legal Principles that are applied by successive judges all over the world. One of these is “Justice must only be done, but also be seen to be done” Law and justice is inseparable twin sisters. Needless to say a fair law is the vehicle of justice. It is unarguable that rule of law is one of the elements to meet the ends of justice. When the rule of law prevails in society, there is stability, prosperity and democracy. In his mission statement, President U Thein Sein underscored the importance of good governance and clean government. Good governance means that the responsible persons must respect the law, retain good moral character and refrain from corruption. The rule of law involves myriad of ambitions in transition to democracy.

Likewise, rule of law has the meaning that involves the development of fundamental rights of citizens, already enshrined in Chapter VIII of the Constitution. Mechanism to protect the violation of fundamental rights of citizens is also provided in the Constitution. Practically it shows that whenever there is breach of a fundamental right, citizens are protected with five Writs prescribed in the Constitution; i.e Writ of Habeas Corpus, Writ of Mandamus, Writ of Prohibition, Writ of Quo Warrato and Writ of Certiorari. As seen, there is political will to eradicate and combat corruption. If there be corruption, rule of law will not prevail.

As part of efforts for the emergence of good governance and clean government after the government took office, as Action Committee against Corruption; the very first Seminar of its kind in Myanmar was organized by EU in collaboration with Union Attorney-General’s Office (UAGO). The opening of the seminar on the Rule of Law in Myanmar; Perspectives and Prospects which is jointly organized by EU and the Union Attorney-General’s Office (UAGO) in Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone this morning.

It was attended by Deputy Minister Chief of Staff Dr Tun Shin, at the opening of the seminar on “the Rule of Law in Myanmar; Perspectives and Prospects” which is jointly organized by EU and the Union Attorney-General’s Office (UAGO) in Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone this morning.

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Illegal sawn timber seized in Thandwe, Bago Townships

THANDWE, 9 Feb—A staff-team led by Thandwe Township Forest Department and policemen on 25 January seized a truck with the load of 118 pieces of sawn teak timber weighing 9.57 tons at four places near the road to Kodukwe Dam, northwest of the mile post 49 of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Salu Forest Reserve in Bago Township. Bawngyi Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against those who illegally extracted timber.

Myanna Alinn

Cargo terminals to be moved to Amarapura Township

MANDALAY, 9 Feb—The commodity terminals in Mandalay will be moved to Pyigyi Mingala cargo terminal in Amarapura Township from 5 to 15 February. Mandalay City Development Committee built 150 RC two-storey structures at Pyigyi Mingala terminal and sold one apartment for K 135 million each. The committee leased one room per K 70,000. Cargo brokerages bought 12 rooms and the companies and private entrepreneurs, the remaining rooms.

According to those wishing to buy the cargo apartments and hire the rooms, the committee built 139 more cargo terminals and will sell them for K 70 million each and lease K 300,000 per month.—Kyemon

Kyaukdaga Market loses 10 shops in Fire

KYAUKDAGA, 9 Feb—A fire broke out at a shop of Development Affairs Market that started from electric wire short-circuit at 3.30 am on 1 February. The local people and firemen managed to control the fire at 4.35 am and put it out at 5.10 am.

A total of 10 shops including the market office were blazed in the fire. Eight fire engines and two water tankers from Kyaukdaga Township Development Affairs Committee, Kyaukdaga, Peikwgon, Paung, Peinza, Nyaungsebin, Pyindaza, Kanyutkwin and Pyu were engaged in fighting fire.

Kyemon

Plan underway to purchase reserve rice worth K 25 billion

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—Reserve rice worth K 25 billion will be purchased for the State, according to an official of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Federation recently.

“Although a plan was set to purchase rice worth K 10 billion for the State, the plan was amended to increase purchase of rice due to demand,” he said.

While purchasing reserve rice for the State, plan is underway to rise export of rice to meet the target of 100,000 tons in 2013, disclosed a responsible person from the federation. Myanmar exports 2000 tons of rice monthly to Russia and sends quality rice abroad. At present, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Federation is trying to buy reserve rice meeting the target.

Myanna Alinn

Fire drill practised at Thabyegon Market

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—A talk on danger of fire was held in conjunction with the fire drill at Thabyegon Market on 29 January afternoon.

It was organized by Nay Pyi Taw Fire Services Department.

Assistant Director U Win Kyemon explained fire preventive measures and replied to questions. Later, members of Fire Brigade practised fire drill.

Myanna Alinn

Stake driven for construction of hospital building

Mandalay, 9 Feb—A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of a six-storey medical ward was held at Mandalay General Hospital, here, on 14 January.

Chairman of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint accepted the cash donations on the occasion.

For the construction task, Daw San San, U Maung Maung Swe, Daw Khin San Yi and Daw Khin Si Nyunt of China Town in Mandalay donated K 800 million and wellwishers K 1959.3 million.

It was facilitated with a car park and two lifts.—Kyemon

Upper Myanmar selected footballers meet

MANDALAY, 9 Feb—The annual meeting of former-selected footballers association of Upper Myanmar was held at the grand stand of Bahtoo Stadium, here, on 28 January afternoon.

Chairman of the association U Zaw Win explained the tasks of the association.

Treasurer of the association U Soe Soe read the financial report.

At the meeting, members of the association elected U Zaw Win as Chairman of the association, U Kyaw Than as secretary and 14 executives.

Myanna Alinn

Sagaing Region IPRD focuses on public service media

SWEBO, 9 Feb—Deputy Director U Tin Than of Sagaing Region Information and Public Relations Department held a meeting with staff of Shwebo District IPRD and sends quality rice abroad. At present, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Federation is trying to buy reserve rice meeting the target.

The heads of township IPRDs reported on progress of realizing the public service media.

Myanna Alinn

The staff officer of Shwebo District IPRD gave a supplementary report.

The head of Region Information and Public Relations Department urged the staff members to more cooperate with the local people in their tasks for giving the public service media and serving the public interest.

Myanna Alinn

Nature of the Naga traditional New Year was observed in Mobaingluk Sub-Township of Leshi Township in Naga Self-Administered Zone of Sagaing Region on 15 January morning.

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Naga celebrate New Year

MandaLay—The 66th Anniversary Union Day was celebrated in Myanmar Alinn

2013

66th Anniversary Union Day

Sunday, 10 February, 2013

New Light of Myanmar

LOCAL NEWS

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SweBo, 9 Feb—Deputy Director U Tin Than of Sagaing Region Information and Public Relations Department held a meeting with staff of Shwebo District IPRD in Shwebo on 27 January afternoon.

Heads of township IPRDs reported on progress of realizing the public service media.

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Baghdad, 9 Feb—Five car bombs killed at least 34 people in Shi’ite areas of Iraq on Friday, police and medics said, as sectarian and ethnic tensions intensify ahead of provincial elections in April.

Two car bombs were detonated simultaneously at a bus stop near a Friday street market selling birds and other pets in the Shi’ite district of Kadhimiya in Baghdad, killing at least 16 people and wounding another 44, police and hospital sources said. Footage of the scene showed dozens of buses and taxis destroyed by the explosion and blood on the ground.

Ongoing violence following the withdrawal of US troops in late 2011 is stoking fears of a return to the sectarian strife that killed tens of thousands of Iraqis in 2006 and 2007. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shi’ite, is facing mass protests by disenfranchised Sunni Muslims and is at loggerheads with ethnic Kurds who run their northern region autonomously from Baghdad.

The prospect of the election is hardening the divisions as political leaders appeal to their constituencies with often hostile rhetoric that rejects compromise.

In the Shi’ite city of Hillah, 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad, 15 people were killed in two car bomb explosions at a vegetable market.

“I was shopping when I first exploded. I was scared and tried to reach my car to run away but before I got in the second explosion went off,” said Habib al-Murshidi who was at the scene.

“I saw many people, women and old men lying on the ground which was covered with blood and scattered fruit and vegetables”.

Another three people were killed by a parked car bomb in Kerbala, 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Baghdad, police said.

Thousands of Sunni Muslims have taken to the streets since late December in protest at what they see as the marginalization of their sect since the fall of Saddam Hussein and the empowerment of Iraq’s Shi’ite majority through the ballot box. The demonstrations in the Sunni heartland of Anbar are also coming at a time that war in neighbouring Syria, where Sunni rebels are fighting to topple a leader backed by Shi’ite Iran, could further upset Iraq’s own delicate sectarian and ethnic balance. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks on Friday.

Iraq is home to several Sunni insurgent groups that have carried out at least one high-casualty attack a month since the US withdrawal. They include a local branch of al-Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq, which often targets Shi’ites, seeking to reignite sectarian strife.

Reuters

Over 100 primary school pupils fall victim to food poisoning in Mauritius

Port-Louis, 9 Feb—A total of 105 primary school pupils in a Priority Education Zone (PEZ) in the West of the Mauritius island were victims of food poisoning on Thursday.

Among them 25 who were considered in very serious condition, were still admitted at a regional hospital.

An official at the Bambous governmental school said that the children were taken ill after their lunch. They had consumed rice accompanied with dry grains (dhal), a local salad known as chochou.

and eggs. The children then started vomiting and complained of stomach pains. Among them 96 were transported to Victoria hospital in the Central region of the island while 9 of them were rushed to Jetteo hospital in the capital, Port-Louis, for proper medication.

An official at the Victoria hospital said that the children were out of danger. “Everything is under control and their health status is stable,” the official said when he spoke on a local radio station.

However, the parents who rushed to Victoria hospital were not surprised. A mother to one of the children said a day earlier, she had alerted the authorities, through a private radio station, about the poor quality of food that is served at Bambous school.

Mauritius Education Minister Vasant Bunwaree affirmed, through a press statement, that everything was under control and there was no need to panic.

He said an investigation had been launched to shed more light on the food poisoning incident.

Xinhua

EU condemns kidnapping of two Germans in Colombia

Brussels, 9 Feb — The foreign policy chief of the European Union Catherine Ashton on Friday condemned the kidnapping of two German citizens by the rebel National Liberation Army (ELN) of Colombia.

Ashton called upon the group to free them immediately and unconditionally and to end its activities, according to a statement issued by her spokesperson.

She also welcomed and commended the efforts of the Colombian government to obtain a peaceful liberation of the hostages.

Two male German nationals, identified as Uwe Broyer and Gunter Otto Broyer in their 70s, were seized when they were traveling in northeastern Colombia on Tuesday.

Broyer and Gunter Otto Broyer, Colombia’s second largest guerrilla group after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), accused the two Germans of spying as they could not explain their presence in the area bordering Venezuela.

Xinhua

Car bombs in Shi’ite areas of Iraq kill 34

Baghdad residents gather at the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad’s Kadhimiya district on 8 Feb, 2013. [Reuters]

Six injured in collision between tanker, seabus in Istanbul’s Bosphorus Strait

Istanbul, 9 Feb—At least six people were injured in collision between a tanker and a seabus in Bosphorus Strait of Istanbul on Friday.

Eyewitness told Xinhua that the accident happened off the shore of Kabats during evening rush-hour traffic in the Bosphorus Strait.

Private NTV reports that at least six people were injured in the accident, two of them are reported to be in serious condition.

Xinhua

Blizzard wallops Northeast, closes roads

A crossing guard helps students at an intersection after schools closed early ahead of bad weather in Pelham, New York on 8 Feb, 2013. [Reuters]

A cross guard helps students at an intersection after schools closed early ahead of bad weather in Pelham, New York on 8 Feb, 2013. A blizzard blew into the northeastern United States on Friday, bringing whiteout conditions to some parts of New England and threatening to drop record amounts of snow around Boston. [Reuters]

Driving conditions were treacherous. Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick took the rare step of announcing a ban on most car travel starting Friday afternoon, while Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy closed the state’s highways to all but emergency vehicles.

As the evening wore on and the snow piled up, mass transit was also affected.

In New York City, transit officials said "suspensions in service remain a strong possibility," and Metro-North Railroad suspended some of its commuter rail service at 10 pm The Long Island Rail Road partially suspended service on its Montauk branch.

The blizzard left about 10,000 customers along the East Coast without power, and 1,500 flights were canceled.

"We’re seeing heavier snow overspread the region from south to north," said Lance Franch, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts, outside Boston. “As the snow picks up in intensity, we’re expecting it to fall at a rate of upwards of two to three inches per hour.”

Early Friday evening, officials warned that the storm was just ramping up to full strength, and that heavy snow and high winds would continue through midday on Saturday. The governors of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and Maine declared states of emergency and urged people to stay indoors.

In many cases, authorities ordered non-essential government workers to stay home, urged private employers to do the same, told people to prepare for power outages and encouraged them to check on elderly or disabled neighbours.

People appeared to take the warnings seriously. Traffic on streets and sidewalks on public transportation was significantly lighter than usual on Friday. [Reuters]
New Delhi, 9 Feb — Text and voice messaging app WeChat has received an update that lets you make radio-style voice calls. The update bumps the app to version 4.5 and allows you to use it for live voice chat, use QR codes for sharing group chats, and back up your chat history.

The ‘Live Voice Chat’ feature enables you to chat with a group of friends in a radio-like fashion. You can hold conversations with a group of friends using a single one-touch action. Tencent, the Chinese company behind WeChat, reveals that the app now functions quite like a walkie-talkie: only one person can speak at a time, but everyone can hear.

The Group Chat feature, WeChat’s USP, has also received a shot in the arm. You can generate a QR code unique to groups chats, which can then be shared. This QR code can also be used to invite new members, says Tencent.

The back-up and restore feature, which is an old feature in rival apps like WhatsApp, has finally made its way to WeChat. The app now lets you back up your chat with a single touch, making it easy to restore your chat history in case you reset your device or get a new one.

Additionally, iOS users can even restore your chat history in case you reset your device. BlackBerry users stored malicious programs called “drive-by downloads” can be downgraded, hold-to-talk voice messaging, broadcast messages, photo/video sharing, location sharing and contact information exchange. WeChat is supposed to be a secure and fast-performing app and comes with social friend-discovery features and an option to stream photo feeds from friends’ personal photo albums.

It is the first application in the communication space to offer a ‘Hold-to-Talk’ voice messaging service, which enables users to send voice messages at the touch of a button. ‘Moments’ is another key differentiating feature of WeChat using which users can post images or text and share content with their selected friends in a secure way. Location-based social (LBS) features like ‘Shake’, and ‘Drift Bottle’ enable users from any part of the world to build new connections.—Reuters

China threatened by overseas hackers

Beijing, 9 Feb — Recently foreign media have been hyping up “cyber attack from China” and the talk of a “Chinese hacking threat” is in the air. It is true that China is actually the real victim of cyber attacks, Xinhua reported, citing statistics from the National Computer Network Emergency Response Coordination Centre of China (CNCERT/CC). The number of Internet users on the Chinese mainland keeps rising sharply, but Chinese users don’t take net safety protection as seriously as do most western users. Hence China has become the biggest victim of Internet hacking.

China suffers from three kinds of cyber attacks. One is from Trojans and Zombie vices overseas. In 2012, according to CNCERT, 73,286 overseas IPs were involved in hacking China’s 14.19 million IPs, among which 10.5 million received Attacks from US-based servers, 780,000 from South Korea and 778,000 from Germany.

The second means to spread the malicious codes via domain names registered overseas. In 2012, among all the CNCERT-detected IPs in which attackers stored malicious programs, about 65.5 percent were found to be registered overseas, posing a serious security threat to Chinese web users.

The third way is attacking China’s Internet through domestic zombie computers compromised by overseas hackers. According to the report, the United States ranks top in the number of overseas hacking attack-tackers, as up to 7,370 US-based IPs (about 22.9% of all attacking IPs) controlled 10,037 websites in China.

WeChat update turns your phone into a walkie-talkie

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Japan study reveals greater tsunami risks for New Zealand, Pacific: scientist

Wellington, 9 Feb — New Zealand needs to prepare for a tsunami like the one that devastated Japan in 2011, a New Zealand geologist warned on Friday, after an international project found the seafloor plates on the fault line near Japan were weaker than expected.

University of Otago scientist Dr Virginia Toy represented an Australia-New Zealand ocean drilling consortium in the Japan project, which drilled into the subduction fault that slipped in 2011, generating a magnitude 9 earthquake and a tsunami that hit the Sendai coast.

The aim was to sample the fault materials and make measurements related to the frictional strength of the fault surface, to help understand why there was such a large displacement, Toy said in a statement. The researchers found there was near total release of the crust in the wedge materials above the fault plane when the 2011 earthquake occurred.

“This is significant because most earthquake faults only release a small portion (typically 10 percent) of the stress in the crust around them, with nearly 100 percent in this case,” she said.

“Also, such a high proportion of stress was probably released because the fault materials were particularly frictionally weak or slippery.”

The results suggested that subduction zone faults in other locations, including around New Zealand, needed to be more carefully examined. New Zealand had so much of its coastline exposed to the Pacific Ocean, which was ringed by subduction zones, such as the Tonga-Kermadec, Hikurangi and Chile zones.

“If the materials in the fault planes are similar to those in the Japan Trench, it is likely they will also be very frictionally weak and therefore that we can also expect very large seafloor displacements when they slip,” she said. “Hence, we should be prepared for other similar subduction zones to generate very large tsunami.” —Xinhua

Bangalore, 9 Feb — BlackBerry will stop selling smartphones in Japan partly because the company cannot justify the cost of modifying its operating system to accommodate the Japanese language, the Nikkei business daily reported.

BlackBerry’s market share in Japan has shrunk to 0.3 percent from 5 percent, the daily said.

BlackBerry could not be immediately reached for comment.

The company, which changed its name from Research In Motion when it launched its new BlackBerry 10 smartphone a week ago, will continue to offer support to existing users, the Nikkei said.—PTI

Drive-by downloads most dangerous online threat

BERLIN, 9 Feb — Computer experts from Germany have warned people to be more careful while surfing the Internet as malicious programs called “drive-by downloads” can be downloaded unintentionally when users visit “manipulated websites”.

Currently the biggest threat was the so-called “drive-by downloads”, according to the German Federal Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media or Bitkom.

“Cyber criminals are operating in increasingly sophisticated ways,” said Bitkom president Dieter Kempf.

Just a visit to a manipulated website is sufficient to make a personal computer vulnerable to attack.—PTI

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China threatened by overseas hackers

Beijing, 9 Feb — Recently foreign media have been hyping up “cyber attack from China” and the talk of a “Chinese hacking threat” is in the air. It is true that China is actually the real victim of cyber attacks, Xinhua reported, citing statistics from the National Computer Network Emergency Response Coordination Centre of China (CNCERT/CC). The number of Internet users on the Chinese mainland keeps rising sharply, but Chinese users don’t take net safety protection as seriously as do most western users. Hence China has become the biggest victim of Internet hacking.

China suffers from three kinds of cyber attacks. One is from Trojans and Zombie viruses overseas. In 2012, according to CNCERT, 73,286 overseas IPs were involved in hacking China’s 14.19 million IPs, among which 10.5 million received attacks from US-based servers, 780,000 from South Korea and 778,000 from Germany.

The second means to spread the malicious codes via domain names registered overseas. In 2012, among all the CNCERT-detected IPs in which attackers stored malicious programs, about 65.5 percent were found to be registered overseas, posing a serious security threat to Chinese web users.

The third way is attacking China’s Internet through domestic zombie computers compromised by overseas hackers. According to the report, the United States ranks top in the number of overseas hacking attack-tackers, as up to 7,370 US-based IPs (about 22.9% of all attacking IPs) controlled 10,037 websites in China.

Xinhua

BlackBerry cannot justify the cost of modifying its operating system to accommodate the Japanese language.—PTI
Ireland announces ECB deal over bank rescue

Dublin, 9 Feb—Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny said late Thursday that his country has reached a deal with the European Central Bank (ECB) over the bailout of two Irish banks.

“I am pleased to announce today that Ireland has reached a conclusion in its discussions with the European Central Bank,” Kenny said in an address at the parliament, adding that the deal will lead to a substantial improvement in Ireland’s debt position over time.

“This is our historic moment and our historic deal. We have won a historic deal and there will be no more bailouts,” Kenny said.

The agreement, lasting until 2038 and the last payment will be made in 2053, will clear the path for Ireland to exit the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), the eurozone’s bailout fund.

It will allow Ireland to avoid the bailout for another 15 years, avoiding an estimated €40 billion ($52 billion) in interest payments, which will allow the country to save €3.5 billion ($4.4 billion) annually.

The deal will also ease Ireland’s creditworthiness, allowing the country to return to the capital markets and reduce its refinancing costs by up to 25 basis points.

ICBC appoints as yuan clearing bank in Singapore

Singapore, 9 Feb—The People’s Bank of China has designated the Singapore branch of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) as its yuan-clearing bank in Singapore, it said on Friday.

Singapore is also the first regional financial centre outside China to have a yuan clearing bank. In China’s Hong Kong and Taiwan, local units of the Bank of China had been picked to clear yuan transactions in 2004 and 2012, respectively.

ICBC, which has a market capitalisation of $68 billion and is one of the world’s five largest banks, has an office in Singapore to handle clearing and other economic activities in the region, said Ravi Menon, managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

“China and Singapore have a close-and expanding双边 relationship, and I welcome the announcement on Friday, which marks a key milestone in our bilateral financial cooperation between the two countries. It will enable Singapore’s financial centre to play a useful role in facilitating greater use of the RMB for trade, investment and other economic activities in the region,” he said.

On Wednesday, the People’s Bank of China and the Monetary Authority of Singapore signed a memorandum of understanding on deepening cooperation in the financial sector.

BMW posts record group sales in January, up 9.9 percent

FRANKFURT, 9 Feb—BMW (BMW.EG), the world’s largest premium carmaker, said group sales in January rose by 9.9 percent to 123,276 vehicles, a record for that month.

Growth was lifted once again by its largest market, China, where sales of its BMW, Mini and Rolls-Royce brands gained 14.7 percent to 30,397 vehicles last month.

“Sales are strong and further growth in BMW Group worldwide sales in 2013 and are targeting a new all-time high for the year. This is the 22nd consecutive month of record sales,” said Dr Harald Krüger, president and chief executive officer of BMW.

BMW said sales of BMW brand vehicles in January were up 9.9 percent while deliveries of Mini brand vehicles edged up 0.6 percent, both achieving new record sales for that month.

Bottles of the weight-loss drug Qsymia produced by Vivus Inc are shown in this undated handout photo.

REUTERS

New York, 9 Feb—Vivus Inc, vying to create the world’s first billion-dollar weight-loss pill, is taking a cautious approach to marketing in an attempt to overcome the skepticism, lawsuits and safety concerns that have dogged the diet drug industry.

The company has lost nearly half of its market value since its shares tumbled in the September launch of the first new weight-loss pill in the United States for two years. Two of its largest shareholders have questioned the company’s strategy.

“Slim and healthy is a slower launch that allows people some time to try and use the drug, and make sure the effects they are seeing are good and any risks are more modest,” said Kurt Kessler of ZS Associates, which consults on pharmaceutical marketing.

Reinholdt: Thomson Reuters Pharma estimates sales of Qsymia will reach $1.2 billion by 2017, up from $128 million in 2013, making it the largest weight-loss pill on the market. A drug with annual sales of $1 billion is known as a “blockbuster” in the industry.

That potential goldmine has analysts rating the stock of Mountain View, California-based Vivus highly.

Six of 12 analysts recommend buying Vivus stock and none has a “sell” recommendation, according to Thomson Reuters StarMine. Their mean price target for the stock is $20.30, more than 50 percent above its Wednesday close of $13.45 on the Nasdaq.

More than one-third of Americans are obese, a condition that can lead to problems such as heart disease and diabetes. A September 2012 report by lobby group Trust for America’s Health estimated the annual burden on the U.S. healthcare system from obesity at between $147 billion and $210 billion.

Longer span between mammograms okay for older women

New York, 9 Feb—Screening women over 65 each year for breast cancer doesn’t catch any more early tumors—but it does lead to more false positives—than screening every other year, according to a study published Friday.

The findings are based on more than 140,000 older women included in five mammography registries across the United States.

“This study clearly tells us that screening every two years may be more appropriate than screening women every year,” said Dr Otis Brawley, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society (ACS).

However, he noted, there are other studies that contradict that finding and do suggest annual mammograms are the way to go, even among older women. One in eight US women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in her life. Mammography guidelines from the ACS call for women to be screened for breast cancer every year they are in good health, starting at age 40.

The US Preventive Services Task Force, on the other hand, recommends biennial screening for women ages 50 to 74, saying there’s not enough evidence to recommend for or against mammograms for those aged 75 and older.

For the new study, Dejana Braithwaite from the University of California, San Francisco and her colleagues followed women ages 66 through 89 for seven years. During that time, about 3,000 were diagnosed with breast cancer and 138,000 remained cancer-free.

Among women with breast cancer, a similar proportion had invasive or advanced stage tumors, regardless of whether they had been screened every year or every other year leading up to their diagnosis. About two-thirds of those women were screened annually.

However, between 47 and 50 percent of women who were screened annually had a false positive mammogram at some point during the study period, compared to 26 to 30 percent of those screened biennially, according to the findings published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

“Just having a false positive result means having the potential anxiety and inconvenience of having to undergo additional procedures,” Brawley told Reuters Health.

In older women in particular, biopsies and other procedures may exacerbate underlying health conditions, she added.
People ride bikes in the snow in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 8 Feb, 2013. Hangzhou witnessed heavy snowfall on Friday afternoon. Zhejiang provincial meteorological observatory issued an orange alert against the icy road. -Xinhua

UNICEF warns of increased health risks for Syrian children

Geneva, 9 Feb — Syrian children are at increased risks of disease as water, hygiene and sanitation have been severely disrupted by the nearly two-year conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday.

A UNICEF-led nation-wide assessment in Syria found that in areas affected by conflict, water supplies are only available at one-third of pre-crisis levels. In Deir al-Zour, an eastern Syrian city, water pumping dropped by up to 90 percent, while in Damascus it has fallen by 20 percent.

Power cuts, fuel shortages, lack of maintenance due to insecurity and damage to infrastructure are the main reasons behind the worsening water shortages, said the UNICEF.

It also found that the treatment of sewage water has decreased from 70 percent before the crisis to 35 percent now. Collection and safe disposal of domestic waste is also highly disrupted. Access to basic water, toilets and soap in schools and health facilities is very poor.

A Syrian national production of water treatment chemicals almost ceased because of conflict, increasing the risk that tap water is contaminated.

The UNICEF warned that children, who make up half of the four million people who urgently need assistance, are at increased risk of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases.

Marixa Mercado, the UNICEF spokesperson, told reporters that the agency started to ship one million litres of chlorine in February to provide safe water for more than 10 million people for three months. —Xinhua

Blow near mosque kills 16 in Pakistan’s northwest

Parachinar, 9 Feb — A bomb blast killed 16 people and wounded 27 in Pakistan on Friday, government officials said, in an area that authorities said they had cleared of Taliban fighters.

“Most of the dead and injured were returning from Friday prayers at a mosque,” said Mehmood Akhtar, a government official in the area.

The blast took place near a shop in Kalaya, the capital of the semi-autonomous Orakzai region in the ethnic Pashtun belt that runs through northwestern mountains along the Afghan border. No group claimed responsibility.

Argentina accuses Britain of pursuing oil in disputed islands

Buenos Aires, 9 Feb — Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timerman said on Thursday that oil is behind Britain’s interest in the Malvinas Islands, known to the Britons as the Falklands. “What I sense in Britain’s position is a strong smell of oil,” Timerman told Radio del Plata.

The remarks came after Jan Cheek, a leading political figure on the disputed islands, said last Wednesday that Timerman’s assertion that the islands would be Argentina’s in 20 years “smelled like desperation.”

Argentines have criticized Britain’s decision to step up its search for oil in island waters, warning that it will denounce the companies that finance the explorations. “The British government uses the British citizens who live on the islands to justify its own intransigence. We want to dialogue, we want to fulfill the United Nations resolutions,” said Timerman.

Timerman returned on Thursday from a 72-hour visit to London, where he met with intellectuals from 18 European countries who support the renewal of dialogue between Britain and Argentina on the disputed islands, located just off Argentina’s south coast.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague and Timerman were supposed to meet in London, but the meeting was canceled as Buenos Aires rejected the participation of parliamentarians from the islands.

A referendum will be held on the islands in March, so residents can decide whether to preserve their current political status as a British overseas territory. —Xinhua

French charge north in Mali, Bamako shooting kills two

Bamako, 9 Feb — French forces hunting Islamist rebels in northern Mali parachuted into a strategic town and took control on Friday, but a suicide bombing further south and the killing of two civilians by soldiers in the capital Bamako raised fresh security fears.

In their hot pursuit of al-Qaeda-allied militants in Mali’s remote northern northeast, French special forces seized the town and airfield of Tessalit, about 50 km (30 miles) from the Algerian border.

It was the northernmost town secured so far by French and Chadian troops, treating jihadist insurgents out of their hideouts in the Ardrar des Ifoghas mountains, where they are believed to hold French hostages.

In a four-day-long military intervention launched by Paris on 11 January, some 4,000 French troops backed by warplanes and helicopters have driven Islamist rebels out of the main urban centers of northern Mali into the mountains and desert.

But the speed of the offensive has opened up a potential security vacuum behind the fast-moving French forces, where liberated towns and areas are meant to be secured by the Malian army and a larger African force that is still deploying.

In an ominous sign of vulnerability, Mali’s first reported suicide bombing since the arrival of French forces left a Malian soldier injured on Friday on the outskirts of Gao, recently retaken from French and Malian troops from the Islamists.

A soldier who witnessed the attack said a man on a motorbike approached a checkpoint from the town of Bourem. Ignoring orders to stop, he pulled up his shirt and there was a large blast.

The charred, twisted remains of the motorbike could be seen by the side of the road and shrapnel scarred a nearby wall.

The attack followed the expulsion by French-led forces of Islamists rebels from their desert stronghold of Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal. Since the recapture of Gao, at least two landmine explosions on a main route to the town have killed several Malian soldiers.

Blast near mosque kills 16 in Pakistan’s northwest

Parachinar, 9 Feb — A bomb blast killed 16 people and wounded 27 in Pakistan on Friday, government officials said, in an area that authorities said they had cleared of Taliban fighters.

“Most of the dead and injured were returning from Friday prayers at a mosque,” said Mehmood Akhtar, a government official in the area.

The blast took place near a shop in Kalaya, the capital of the semi-autonomous Orakzai region in the ethnic Pashtun belt that runs through northwestern mountains along the Afghan border. No group claimed responsibility.

A Pakistani journalist who was injured in the blast said at least 15 bodies were pulled out of a mosque, which was demolished by a suicide bomber, he said.

“We heard a very loud explosion at about 10:30, it seemed like a car bomb,” the journalist added.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The military says several hundred Taliban fighters have been killed in Orakzai since March 2010 to push out insurgents fleeing a military offensive in the nearby South Waziristan region on the Afghan border. Orakzai was previously seen as a stronghold of Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud.

The military says several hundred Taliban fighters have been killed in Orakzai since 2010 and the area is under control. But despite losses, the militants have since carried out several bomb and gun attacks in the area.

Clearing out militant sanctuaries near the Afghan border is seen as crucial to US efforts to bring stability to Afghanistan, particularly in the run-up to the end of the US-led combat mission in 2014.
**Abu Dhabi oil giant to get three bln USD loan from Japan**

**ABU DHABI, 9 Feb** — The Japanese ministry of trade said on Friday it will grant a loan of 3 billion US dollars to Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) in order to support the firm’s upstream business and to spur relations between Tokyo and Abu Dhabi, Gulf news reported.

Japanese Trade Minister Toshimitsu Motegi will sign the deal on Sunday in Abu Dhabi when the minister visits the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, said the report. Adnoc will get the loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Tokyo already granted a loan of the same amount to Adnoc twice in 2007 and 2010, in order to ensure Adnoc’s oil exports to Japan which relies 99 percent on foreign oil.

The UAE provides 25 percent of Japan’s oil needs. In 2011, bilateral trade between the two countries surged 37 percent to hit 50.38 billion US dollars.

*Xinhua*

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**France pays ransom to free hostages in Niger**

**PARIS, 9 Feb** — France had paid millions of US dollars in a bid to release four nationals kidnapped in Niger by an Islamist group more than two years ago, a local media reported on Friday.

In an interview with the news channel D’tele, former US Ambassador to Mali, Vicki J Huddleston unveiled that French officials gave about 17 million US dollars to free the four French captives, who are believed to be hidden in Mali, by al-Qaeda militants in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

“Like all the others ransoms, it was paid indirectly. It finished in the hands of the Malian government and at least a part of it returned to the Salafists,” the ex-American diplomat added.

Four French hostages were abducted on 16 Sept, 2010, at Arlit region in Niger, close to Algerian borders, along with other four colleagues working for French nuclear group Areva and its sub-contractor, Vinci Satom.

**BAMAKO, 9 Feb** — Mali’s ex-foreign minister and the chairman of PARENA party, Tiibele Drame, said on Thursday that he supported the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali.

Drame who is an expert on security matters in the Sahel, affirmed “that he totally supports the idea of deploying a UN peacekeeping mission in Mali to the African- Franco-African coalition ends its mission of dismantling the logistical bases and weapons of the Islamists.”

On Monday, after a meeting between the French President Francois Hollande and the US vice-president Joe Biden at the Elysee, France and the US agreed on the need to quickly put in place a UN peace keeping mission in Mali.

According to Drame, given the gravity of the situation, only funding from the regular UN budget and its logistical support will help the country to overcome the instability that it will be confronted with in the near future.

“A new UN resolution will be welcome to place all the African troops under the UN flag,” he said.

During a Press conference on Thursday, the public relations officer of the Malian army, Souleymama Maiga said that the idea of “deployment of a UN peace keeping mission to Mali had not yet been raised to the Malian military authorities.”

His deputy, Souleymama Dembele, said that the deployment of a UN peace keeping mission to Mali “is a political intention,” and added that there is always “a gap between the political intentions and their execution.”

*Xinhua*

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**Gunmen kidnap three cargo ship crew in Gulf of Guinea**

**LONDON, 9 Feb** — Pirates have attacked a British-owned cargo ship in the Gulf of Guinea, taking three crew members hostage, the vessel’s owner said. The UK-flagged ship Esther C was boarded on Thursday by pirates who stole some property, took the scamen then left, said Isle of Wight-based Carisbrooke Shipping in a statement.

Russia’s foreign ministry said two of its citizens were among the hostages taken between the Cameroonian port of Douala and the port of Malabo in Equatorial Guinea.

Armed hijackings have been on the rise in West Africa’s Gulf of Guinea, an increasingly important source of oil, cocoa and metals for world markets. Armed gangs have typically targeted oil tankers and attacks on cargo ships are rarer.

Carisbrooke said the remaining nine crew members on board were safe and well and the ship had continued its journey.

Earlier this week a Luxembourg-flagged, French-owned petroleum products tanker hijacked off Ivory Coast was released with its crew of 17 safe.

Many Gulf of Guinea pirate groups are offshoots of militant organisations that once operated in Nigeria’s oil-rich Niger Delta but have since signed an amnesty agreement with the government.

*Reuters*

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**Pirates kidnap three cargo ship crew in Gulf of Guinea**

**Indian Prime Minister Mammonnan Singh (R) meets with his Bhutanese counterpart Jigme Thinley at the former’s residence in New Delhi, India, on 8 Feb, 2013. —XINHUA**

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**Gunmen kill nine polio health workers in Nigeria**

**KANO, 9 Feb** — Gunmen on motorbikes shot dead nine health workers who were administering polio vaccinations in two separate attacks in Nigeria’s main northern city of Kano on Friday, police said.

No one claimed responsibility but Islamist militants, particularly the Al-Qaeda-aligned Islamist Movement in Nigeria (AQIM), are seen as increasingly important source of polio; a virus that can cause irreversible paralysis within hours of infection.

It is the second time this year that polio workers have come under attack by Islamist militants after gunmen killed aid workers tackling the disease in Pakistan last month.

“Gunmen on bikes opened fire on a health centre in the Horoto district killing seven, while an attack on Zarra Road area of the city claimed two lives,” said police spokesman Magaji Musa.

“They were working for the state government giving out polio vaccinations, saying it is a conspiracy against Muslim children,” Musa added.

The attacks will hit efforts by global health organisations to clear Nigeria’s mostly-Muslim north of polio, a virus that can cause irreversible paralysis within hours of infection.

Several influential Muslim leaders in Kano openly opposed polio vaccination, saying it is a conspiracy against Muslim children.

The attacks will hit global health organisations in Kano’s mostly-Muslim north of the country’s most prominent leaders, was nearly killed when gunmen attacked his convoy, killing four of his aides.

Kano residents said soldiers had cordoned off the area of the attack and movement was being restricted in the city.

Boko Haram killed hundreds of soldiers as part of its campaign to impose Islamic law, or sharia, on a country of 160 million split roughly equally between Christians and Muslims.

The group is seen as the most serious threat to the stability of Africa’s top energy producer, and Western governments fear the country could become a base for operations of al-Qaeda-linked Islamist groups in the Sahel, near the Sahara Desert.

*Reuters*
As Myanmar belongs to the Common Law Legal System... (from page 1) Corruption headed by a Vice-President is formed and work of the committee have commenced to fight corruption and bribery. The Legislation Committee, formed in August 2012, formed the Committee on Rule of Law and Tranquility

EU Chairman and Ambassador David Lipman participates in meeting.—MNA

Professor Sir Jeffery Jowell QC participates in meeting.—MNA maintain the rule of law and wider reforms in Myanmar. We are committed to engage with the government of new Myanmar to make the rule of law work”. Lipman said. He went on to say that the rule of law was at the heart of EU and UN and should assist and protect every person on this planet. “We must empower those most vulnerable in society, especially the women and the children, Lipman told the meeting.

In her speech, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her keynote speech, expressed pleasure to join all participants in the unprecedented seminar on the rule of law in Myanmar.

Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Chairman Daw Aung San Suu Kyi takes part in discussion.—MNA close to her heart, and very important one, the need for rule of law went beyond much further, she noted. She pointed out the need to have English official translation of the law if the aim was something like to attract foreign investment, adding the unofficial translation of dubious quality left foreign investors and advisors guessing at the actual content and meaning of the law. She saw no problem with the laws and judgments that were purely domestic in scope. Myanmar people did not and everybody not to be crowded so much in the same place at the same time of the year.

Tourist arrival hit a record high in Myanmar, reaching over one million in 2012. As the demand is higher than supply, the hotel industry struggled to cope with the high number of tourists. Hotel rooms are not enough for the tourists and prices for a room in one four-star hotel in Yangon has increased from US$70 in 2011 to US$250, though the quality and service of local hotels are not good enough.

The rapid tourism boom has caused challenges for the industry. Anyway, it is obvious that tourists enhance the development of hotels and shopping facilities, which in turn creates jobs for local people. However, the mass tourism can make challenges and do harm our environment and cultural identities of the local people.

Therefore, we should take the pros and cons of the tourism in consideration and how we can best prevent side effects from the rapid booming tourism, including pollution. Thousands of people visiting an area would cause more environmental pollution. Tourism is one of the main reasons that improve economic returns and cause pollution. Thus, some actions need to be taken to protect our ecological system. We firmly believe that tourism should be developed harmoniously with environmental conservation.

We should try to set fair and strong policies that can manage the tens of thousands of tourists arrivals not to be crowded so much in the same place at the same time of the year.

New Light of Myanmar

NATIONAL

High-ranking officials meet in Myanmar’s Future: Economic Growth, Knowledge, and Regional Cooperation

YANGON, 9 Feb—“Infrastructural development is vital for facilitating trade and investment for economic growth of Myanmar,” said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe addressing the importance of Thilawa Special Economic Zone and SMEs development for job creation.

The region chief minister speaking at high-ranking officials’ meeting on Myanmar future, economic growth, knowledge and regional cooperation jointly organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Development Bank Institute (ADD) at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon yesterday noon called international assistance for boosting competitiveness of SMEs ahead of the emergence of ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. President of ADB Mr Haruhiko Kuroda discussed the topic of Myanmar future, economic growth, knowledge and regional cooperation and he personnel responded to queries of those present.

Development undertakings of Pakokku, Gangaw districts inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe of Magway Region presented gifts to specialists and nurses and optical glasses to patients who have already received free eye surgical operations organized by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunalankara and Magway Region Development Foundation in Kanma Village of Pakokku Township on 5 February morning.

The specialist team provided surgical operations to 140 patients, optical glasses to 324 patients and medicines to 263 patients, totalling 727.

On 6 February, the Chief Minister heard reports on progress of Shwechaung Bridge in Pakokku and inspected construction of Thatetchaung Dam in Kabubu Village of Pauk Township, extension of Monywa-Pale-Gangaw Haka Road and a RC bridge at mile posts 93/4 and 93/5 on Hsaymintaw-Tawma-Yemyetni road section of Monywa-Pale-Gangaw-Hapa Road.

MNA

Syed Raza Ali
Hailing 66th Anniversary Union Day: All are making efforts for media development...

The guardians
* On a mountain town, Panglong
* Nationalities in unity
  * Blood thicker than water
  * The essence is the Union
* Amity and goodwill in core
  * All in harmony and love
* And with resolve we march
  * Towards a peaceful country
* Driving away enemies
  * Unity as strength
  * And gallantry added
  * Crushing the destructive
* Through thick and thin
  * Ever in cohesion
  * Long live the Union
We are the guardians

Maung Hte Wa-Pyawbwe (Trs)

Union Day delegates go sightseeing in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Feb—The cultural delegates of regions and states who will attend the ceremony to mark the 66th Anniversary Union Day 2013, accompanied by officials, visited Uppatasanti Pagoda, white elephants shed, Hluttaw增加了新内容：U Ko Ko from Yangon Media Group replies to questions.

Mohnyin Degree College playground put into service

At the ceremony, Principal Dr Aung Min Win opened the ground. Football tournament was held annually in township sport ground since Mohnyin Degree College was opened in 2004. After Mohnyin Degree College has built its own sport ground this year, the football mach is held there for the first time. A total of 16 teams—eight men and seven women—participated in the competition.

Coord meeting on construction of concrete bridge held

Bagan, 9 Feb—A coordination meeting on upgrading of Bailey bridge to concrete one was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Kyaukkyi on 11 January. The bridge will be 270 feet long. The Township Administrator made a speech at the meeting. The Senior Engineer of Special Project Group and party held a discussion with the local people for undertaking development of the town and uplift of socio-economic life.

Selected players picked out in traditional cane-ball for XXVII SEA Games

Yangon, 9 Feb—The sports trials for the tentatively selected players of Myanmar Traditional Cane-ball Team that will take part in the XXVII SEA Games was held at the Aung San Gymnasium, here, on February morning.

A total of 55 men players and 31 women players participated in the sports trials at the basic level. The second level of the sports trials was held on 3 February.

New Light of Myanmar

NATIONAL

Mandaly, 9 Feb—Mandalay Region Agricultural Mechanization Department organized the Mandalay and PyinOoLwin District Agricultural Machinery Exhibition at the hall of Pathoeingyi Township Agricultural Mechanization Department on 31 January.

Four farmers bought farming equipment exhibited

Mandalay, 9 Feb—With the aim of uplifting education standard of the local people in Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region, GGA of Japanese Embassy donated K 78.5 million for construction of school building.

At present, a school building to admit 180 students is under construction, according to Headmaster U Khin Maung Shwe.

Transformer arrives at Bhamo Power Station


The facility will be used to supply electricity to the local people in Bhamo, Momauk (Myothit), Mansi and Dawphonyan of Bhamo District on completion of repairing Tapein Hydro-power Plant.

Moreover, ACSR 795 MCM cables arrived at Bhamo Power Station to install 66 KV power lines.

Myanma Alinn

Sunday, 10 February, 2013
Study finds European cars are less green than claimed

BRUSSELS, 9 Feb—European car manufacturers are exploiting test loopholes to exaggerate their vehicles’ green credentials, an official European Commission study has found.

The report, which is likely to stoke already heated debate on carbon standards, found that cars are more polluting and not as fuel-efficient as their makers tell us.

Simulations used to test new cars have never perfectly reflected actual emissions. However, the EC-commissioned analysis by three consulting firms found “flexibilities: squeezed consumers, benefited manufacturers and jeopardised European Union environment goals.”

Test techniques such as using tyres with extra traction or driving on an unrealistically smooth road surface could account for about a third of the recorded drop in average carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions across the European Union between 2002 and 2010, it said. “Frankly, people should be absolutely outraged. This is just taking money out of people’s pockets.”

The industry is running rings around this process, one EU source told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

CO2 emissions were 167.2 grams per kilometre (g/km) in 2002 and 140.4 g/km by 2010, figures in the report showed, giving a total average reduction across new EU cars of 26.8 g/km. The study attributed 9.1 g/km, or roughly a third, to the way testing was performed, rather than improved technology.

“This means that vehicles do not deliver end-users the promised fuel cost reductions, leading to consumer misinformation,” said the report carried out by the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), British-based AEA Ricardo and IHS Global Insight, of the United States.

Pepco says power restored to Washington, DC customers

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—Pepco, a unit of Pepco Holdings Inc, has restored service to about 50,000 Washington, DC homes and businesses that lost power earlier on Friday after a tree hit a transmission line, according to the power company’s website.

Postal Service loss narrows to $1.3 billion in October-December

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—The Postal Service cut its losses by more than half in its first quarter as mail tied to the November elections, its first quarter as mail tied to consumer misinforma-

ISPO pollsters showed reports in a survey for Corriere della Sera newspaper.

SWG pollsters also showed a Senate projection in which Bersani would win 146 seats, a clear majority, with Monti taking 21. Such a result is considered almost certain to push Ber-

In Moscow, 9 Feb—Washington has agreed to cooperate with Moscow to investigate cases involving abuse of adopted Russian children in US families, Russian Investigative Committee (IC) said on Friday.

“IC representatives forwarded earlier this week a letter from (IC head) Alexander Bastrykin to the representatives of the US Justice Ministry,” said the committee’s spokesman Vladimir Markin. The letter was already delivered to the US Attorney General Eric Holder, he added.

Bastrykin invited Holder for talks in Moscow over the abuse of the Russian-born children in US foster families.

“Russian IC has been investigating 13 relevant child abuse cases,” the Interfax news agency quoted Markin as saying. At least 19 Russian children have died due to their US adoptive parents’ fault since 1996, according to Russian President’s ombudsman for children rights Pavel Astakhov.

The working group for Russia-US law enforcement interaction was created by Russian Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika and Eric Holder in May, but any alliance is strongly opposed by an existing member of the centre-left coalition, the Left Ecology and Freedom party (SEL). Monti has called on Bersani to dump SEL or risk spooking markets.
Sunken ferry salvaged in Bangladesh, death toll rises to 12

DHAKA, 9 Feb—At least 12 passengers were drowned in the ferry accident on Friday on the Meghna river in southern Munshiganj district, some 27 km southeast of capital Dhaka, police said on Saturday.

Police chief of Munshiganj district Habibur Rahman told Xinhua by phone that the ferry ML Sarash was lifted by salvage ship Hanma in the early hours on Saturday and the rescuers picked up ten more bodies from inside the ferry, raising the death toll to 12.

The victims included five men, two women and five children, he said, adding that there were still some missing people but he could not give the exact figure. The ferry carrying about 100 passengers was going to Matlab of southern Chandpur district from Narayangong port town, 16 km east of Dhaka, when the accident occurred at around 7 am local time on Friday.

Ferry and boat disasters are common in Bangladesh, which is crisscrossed by about 250 rivers. Ferry is still a key means of transport in the country. Most of them are often overcrowded—Xinhua

New Zealand, Australia to expand economic integration, share refugee burden

WELLINGTON, 9 Feb—The leaders of New Zealand and Australia on Saturday announced a series of new measures to more closely align their two economies, and to tackle regional health and refugee issues.

The prime ministers of the two countries are meeting in the South Island ski resort of Queenstown for the annual Australia-New Zealand Leaders meeting, which takes on extra significance this year as the 30th anniversary of the trans-Tasman Closer Economic Relations (CER) free trade agreement.

The new package of measures, announced by New Zealand Prime Minister John Key and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, included a CER investment protocol to come into force next month and new retirement savings portability between the two countries from July.

They also announced new technologies to fast-track travel between the two countries and joint action to tackle the high cost of trans-Tasman cellphone roaming rates.

“These measures underpin our on-going commitment to further integration of the Australian and New Zealand economies, which will boost economic growth, and help retain and create new, well paying jobs for Australians and New Zealanders,” Key said in a statement. Key also announced that New Zealand had agreed to resettle 150 refugees, who were subject to Australia’s offshore processing legislation on Manus Island and Nauru.

“People smuggling has tragic consequences. It requires regional cooperation,” he said. “These 150 refugees will form part of the quota of 750 refugees New Zealand already takes as part of its commitment to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).”—Xinhua

Six killed in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 9 Feb—At least six people were killed and two others injured on Friday evening as a US drone attacked a house in the northwestern tribal region of Pakistan, local media reported.

Local Urdu TV channel Express News reported that the unmanned aircraft targeted a house in the Babar Ghar village that lies at the border of North Waziristan and South Waziristan, Pakistan’s two volatile tribal regions bordering Afghanistan.

According to the reports, the drone fired two missiles at the house and killed six people inside besides injuring two others. The house was completely destroyed in the attack.

Local people rushed to the site and pulled out the bodies and injured from the rubble.

Friday’s attack is the 8th of its kind in Pakistan’s northwestern tribal areas since the start of the current year. So far this year at least 53 people have been killed in such strikes.—Xinhua

Japanese investors eye investment opportunities in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 9 Feb—Business executives from 60 conglomerates in Japan has visited Cambodia to study the country’s potential sector investment laws and business environment before making investment in the future.

The group of Japan’s top business leaders, led by Hiromasa Yonekura, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, met with Cambodian Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh and Cambodian business people on Friday morning in order to seek business opportunities. In a presentation to those potential investors, Prasidh said that Cambodia now is full of political stability and its macro-economic situation is stable.

“Laws related to investment are sound, transparent and predictable. Moreover, products manufactured in Cambodia can get access to key world markets through trade preferences or duty-free because Cambodia is one of the least developed countries,” he said.

The minister added that the country is strongly encouraging activities in agriculture and agro-industry, transport and telecommunication infrastructure, energy and electricity, labor intensive industries and export-oriented processing and manufacturing, tourism-related industries, human resources development, processing industry, oil and gas and mining. The Japanese business people are mainly engaged in industries of automotive, petroleum, energy, banking and finance, transportation, brewery, food and beverage, steel and airlines, Yasuikyo Honouchi, senior manager in charge of public relations bureau at the Japan Business Federation, told reporters.

Among them were representatives from Toyota Motor Corporation, Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corporation, Hitachi, Panasonic Corporation, Asahi Group Holding and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, he said.—Xinhua

India hangs Parliament attack’s main conspirator

NEW DELHI, 9 Feb—Indian parliament attack convict Mohammed Afzal Guru was hanged Saturday in New Delhi, said an Indian news channel Aaj Tak. Guru was executed on early Saturday morning at the high profile Tihar jail in the national capital barely a fortnight after Indian President Pranab Mukherjee rejected his clemency plea on the advise of the Home Ministry, the sources said.

Guru was convicted by Indian authorities for his role in the December 2001 attack on India’s Parliament house, which killed several Indian security personnel and five attackers. He was sentenced to death in 2004 by the country’s Supreme Court. The sentence was supposed to have been carried out on 20 Oct, 2006. However, the sentence was stayed after Guru’s wife filed a mercy petition.

Guru’s execution came less than three months after India had hanged till death Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, the only militant caught alive in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks which claimed the lives of over 170 people.

This is the third execution since 1995, the first being a man in the eastern city of Kolkata in 2004 for raping and killing a school girl—Xinhua
Indonesia to see sugar surplus this year

JAKARTA, 9 Feb — A senior Indonesian official said on Friday that the country will see enormous surplus of sugar for house- holds this year at 1.36 million tons.

However, despite the abundance of household sugar supply, certain areas could not receive sugar supply properly due to poor distribution, said Bachrul Chairi, foreign trade director general with the trade ministry.

He said that the poor sugar distribution is still affecting remote and border areas that made people living in those areas had to pay more for sugar.

To overcome such a condition, he said that the government would possibly allow importers to import sugar in order to secure sugar supply to remote and border areas.

Those importers would only be permitted to distribute sugar to those regions, not to somewhere else, he said.

“This policy was intended to make people living in those regions paying the appropriate price for sugar like those in other areas,” he said.

People select red lanterns for the coming Spring Festival in Qingzhou City, east China’s Shandong Province, on 8 Feb. 2013. The Spring Festival, the most important occasion for the family reunion for the Chinese people, falls on the first day of the first month of the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, or 10 February this year.—Xinhua

French, Moroccan companies to build Africa’s largest wind farm

RABAT, 9 Feb—French utility giant GDF Suez and Morocco’s Nareva Holding will build and operate Africa’s largest wind farm in the Tarfaya desert area of southern Morocco, GDF said in a statement on Friday.

A total of 400 million euros will be invested in this project, which is due to enter service at the end of 2013. The Tarfaya site will be Africa’s largest electricity project with an output of 300 megawatts, nearly two-fifths of Morocco’s total wind energy.

Morocco seeks to generate 2,000 megawatts of wind energy by 2020 in a bid to cut its dependence on fuel and energy imports.

GDF Suez and Nareva signed a 20-year agreement under which the Tarfaya wind power will be sold to the Moroccan government.—Xinhua

Ministry of Information

Invitation to open tender for purchasing machines for Myanmar Radio and Television

1. Open tender documents are invited to purchase the following machines for Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information—

(a) Studio Lighting System
(b) 6.6 KV VCB Panel

2. Open tender forms are available at Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon), from (9:30 to 16:30) hours as of 9-2-2013.

3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of Tender Board of Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon), from (9:30 to 16:30) hours on 13-2-2013. Overdue tender forms will not be accepted.

4. Tender form rules, lists of equipments and detailed information are available at the following address.

5. Price scrutiny will be made at 9:00 am on 14-2-2013 at Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw.

Machine procurement Committee
Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon),
Ministry of Information.
Ph: 067-79411, 067-79135

Bank Holiday
All Banks will be closed on 12th February (Tuesday) 2013, Union Day, being public holiday Under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Thai government will build the largest wind farm in the country

BANGKOK, 9 Feb—Hotels rooms in Thailand’s southern tourist haven of Hat Yai are at full occupancy, mostly by tourists for the Chinese New Year this weekend, the Thai News Agency reported on Friday.

Somchart Pinthanaporn, president of the Hat Yai-Songkhla Hotel Association, said Hat Yai’s business district is lively and the city has been festooned with Chinese-style decorations ahead of the city’s Chinese New Year 2013.

He said all the city’s hotel rooms are fully booked for the 10-16 February festival, with an increased inflow of both domestic and international tourists feeling confident about the government’s security measures.

He said combined forces of police, soldiers and civilians have been deployed across the city round the clock and checkpoints have been set up to ensure safety for local residents and tourists as part of the stiff security measures to prevent any untoward incident by insurgent groups.

About 6.7 million US dollars is expected to be circulated during the upcoming festivities, said the association president.

The Cadillac ELR, an electric hybrid car, is presented at the Chicago Auto Show in the McCormick Place, on 7 Feb, 2013. The auto show kicked off its first of two media preview days on Thursday and will continue with a public show 8-19 February.—Xinhua

Chicago hosts annual auto show

CHICAGO, 9 Feb—Chicago Auto Show, the largest consumer auto show in North America, boasts many popular vehicles around the world, including Audi, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Volvo, Toyota, and all the US-made brands.

From passengers cars, trucks, sport-utility vehicles, minivans and concept cars, nearly 1,000 vehicles will be shown to the public in the spacious exhibition hall at the McCormick Place.

On the first two days specially opened to media, a concept car from Toyota draws attention.

“Fun-Vii stands for fun vehicle interactive, internet,” said Omar, a Toyota representative. “It’s essentially a smart phone on wheels. It allows you to use a lot of the applications in our day-to-day life except that they are actually integrated into our vehicle,” Omar said.

The Fun-Vii, an electric vehicle with three seats, is conducted on an electric pad. No need to plug in, and one can check the battery and the functions of the vehicle from remote. Using an app, one can change the image of the vehicle as easily as if downloading a phone app, according to Toyota.

Another vehicle from Toyota that stands out is the Tundra, a pickup.

“It’s bigger, more aggressive looking, and has more industrious corners on the vehicle,” said Matt Troyer, product specialist Toyota.—Xinhua

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Xinhua

Xinhua
Taylor Swift wants Selena Gomez to cut all ties with Justin Bieber

NEW DELHI, 9 Feb — I Knew You Were Troubled singer Taylor Swift, who is single following her split from One Direction star Harry Styles in December, wants Selena Gomez to boycott Justin Bieber completely. Taylor Swift is encouraging her best friend to move on because she doesn’t think the 18-year-old Canadian pop-star is right for her.

A source close to Taylor told HollywoodLife.com: “Taylor would rather Selena break everything off with Justin and believes that will happen in the very near future. Taylor isn’t a Justin fan at all. There is just a process that Selena has to go through to have that finally happen and Taylor understands that. Taylor is very spiritual and superstitious and believes in the saying, ’It takes half the time of a relationship you had with someone to get over the relationship you had with that person.’ If Taylor can speed things up a little bit by being there for Selena and showing her the fun she can have, then she will gladly do it.”

Australian singer Kylie Minogue joins Jay-Z’s music label

New York, 9 Feb — With Valentine’s Day just a week away, singer Whitney Houston’s classic ballad “I Will Always Love You” has been voted the most popular love song in a US poll. The signature song of the Grammy-award winning singer, who died suddenly a year ago, scored 38 percent of the vote among all adults in the Harris Interactive survey, and was the top pick among all divorced, separated or widowed Americans. Houston’s hit from her 1992 movie, “The Bodyguard” was a cover of a 1974 song written and recorded by country singer Dolly Parton.

The Righteous Brothers’ “Unchained Melody,” Percy Sledge’s “When a Man Loves a Woman,” Joe Cocker’s “You Are So Beautiful,” and the Bee Gees’ “How Deep Is Your Love” rounded out the top five songs. “Romance is about making an emotional appeal to the senses, and to the heart,” Aaron Levine, of Sony Electronics Home Audio, which commissioned the poll, said in a statement announcing the results. “So, turn down the lights and turn up the sound.” More than 2,000 adults who voted in the online poll were asked to pick their favorite love songs from a list of more than 40 tunes spanning several decades.

Aerosmith’s “I Don’t Want to Miss a Thing” came in sixth, followed by Patsy Cline’s “Crazy,” Foreigner’s “I Want to Know What Love Is,” Bryan Adams’ “(Everything I Do) I Do It for You” and “Let’s Get It On” by Marvin Gaye.

PTI

Whitney Houston’s hit voted best love song in US poll

Kraftwerk mixes art with music in sell-out shows

LONDON, 9 Feb — German electronic music pioneers Kraftwerk have always aimed to combine music and art so performing at London’s Tate Modern was the ideal venue for them after three years of planning.

Kraftwerk took over the 800-capacity Turbine Hall at the art gallery on Wednesday to play the first of eight consecutive shows, each focused on a different album, starting with “Autobahn” from 1974 and ending with “Tour de France” from 2003.

The sight of four middle-aged men in skintight neon suits standing almost motionless on stage behind a line of consoles backed by 3D images may look bizarre to the uninitiated but to the group’s devoted following it all seems to make sense.

When tickets went on sale in December, priced at 60 pounds ($95) each, the demand crashed the gallery’s website.

Two similar eight night runs at New York’s Museum of Modern Art and in Kraftwerk’s home town of Dusseldorf were also sold out with massive demand to see the group hailed by some as one of the most influential in pop history.

Catherine Wood, curator of contemporary art and performance at the Tate Modern, said it made sense for Kraftwerk to perform in an art gallery, and particularly at the Tate Modern which was once a power station — the English translation of Kraftwerk.

Reuters

German electronic band Kraftwerk perform with a 3D stage set at the Tate Modern in London on 6 Feb, 2013. Reuters

I don’t care about wrinkles: Cameron Diaz

LONDON, 9 Feb — ‘Charlie’s Angels’ star Cameron Diaz says she has a better body now than when she was in her 20s and has no ageing woes. The 40-year-old can see the benefits of her healthy eating and fitness regime every time she looks in the mirror, reported Femalefirst online.

“She is in fantastic condition and looks like she was 20. Please take a look at her now and you will see that she has no idea of how much better she is.”

Diaz said. PTI
**SPORTS**

**76ers’ Richardson out for season with knee injury**

Philadelphia 76ers guard Jason Richardson (23) drives on the Denver Nuggets guard Andre Miller (R) during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Phila-
delphia, Pennsylvania, on 31 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

**Arsenal defender Santos in Brazil transfer talks**

The club is in a race against time to secure the 29-year-old ahead of the 12 February deadline to submit Copa Libertadores team squads. “Andre San-
tos is one of our interests. We talked with Arsenal, but there is nothing certain. It is a very difficult negoti-
ation,” Gremio president Fabio Koff told Zero Hora. Santos has made just 23 first-team appearances for the Gunners since his 2011 move from Turkey’s Fenerbahce. Gremio coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo is seeking a backup to injured former Liver-
pool and Valencia left-back Fabio Aurelio, following the club’s failure to sign Argentina international Emil-
tiano Insua last month.—Xinhua

**Cuba optimistic for returning to Davis Cup**

The America 3 group will hold matches from 18 to 27 June in La Paz, Bo-
lima, and includes Cuba, Bahamas, Bermuda, Bo-
lima, Costa Rica and Hon-
duras. Pino said the return of Cuba to the competition represents a great opportu-
nity, after an absence of five years. “It is a fact that this return gives us pres-
tage before the International Tennis Federation (ITF), motivates the players and gives us the opportunity to develop our sport,” he said.—Xinhua

**Sizzling Snedeker in tie for Pebble Beach lead**

Los Angeles, 9 Feb—FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker, the hot-
test player on the PGA Tour this year, took advantage of ideal scoring conditions by charging into a share of the second-round lead at the Pebble Beach National Pro-
Am on Friday. The fast-
talking American fired a flawless four-under-par 68 on a glorious sun-splashed afternoon at Spyglass Hill, one of three venues for this week’s pro-am celebrity event, to post an eight-under-
der total of 134. America’s Snedeker, who has re-
corded three top-three fin-
ishes in his first four starts on the 2013 PGA Tour, collected two birdsies on each nine to end the day level with compatriot Ted Potter Jr, who carded a three-under 67 at Monterey Peninsula Country Club. “I didn’t make a lot of putts today but I look forward to going into the weekend,” Snedeker, 32, told reporters after sinking nothing longer than a five-footer for his four birdies on the toughest of the three courses being used this week.

“My confidence is very high and, after last week, I feel like my game is where I want it to be. Two good days to go, it should be a lot of fun,” said Snedeker, a four-
times winner on the PGA Tour, has finished second in his last two events — four shots behind Tiger Woods at the Farmers Insurance Open and then four be-
hind Phil Mickelson at last week’s Phoenix Open.

“That’s how you win out here, you keep putting yourself in position, and the more times you do that, the more success you’re going to have,” said Snedeker, who is widely regarded as one of the best putters in the game.—Reuters

**Figure skating: Hanyu leads, Takahashi trails at Four Cont’s**

Yuzuru Hanyu

Osaka, 9 Feb—Newly
crowned Japanese cham-
pion Yuzuru Hanyu up-
staged world silver me-
dalist Daisuke Takahashi to take the lead after the men’s short programme at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships on Friday. Hanyu collected 87.65 points to lead after the first day followed by China’s Yan Han in second with 85.08, and American Richard Dornbush in third at 83.01.

The 26-year-old Taka-
hashi, who has announced he will retire after the Sochi Winter Olympics, was fourth on 82.62 after a shoddy performance to Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata.” Hanyu was nearly flawless in a spellbinding performance to “Parisian Walkways” by Gary Moore — his only mistake com-
ing when he popped out of a triple Lutz-triple toe loop combination.

“I don’t know why I popped out of my Lutz,” said Hanyu. “I am doing very well condition-wise, so going into tomorrow, I feel reassured that I am in first place but at the same time I have lots of regrets. I’m in a good position to work harder.”

Dornbush was elated to even be here after receiving the call a few days ago,” because I had just received the news. We talked with Arsenal, team squads. “Andre Santos for the club’s—Brazil’s Gremio has—Reuters

**Judo: International chief receives Japan apology over abuse scandal**

Paris, 9 Feb — Mari-
ius Vizer, the president of the International Judo Federation, revealed on Friday that he has received an apology from the head of Japan’s federation.

Vizer was at a Press conference at the Paris Grand Slam, where he said All Japan Judo Federation chairman Haruki Uemura had apologized regarding an abuse scandal that has rocked sports in Japan. A complaint from 15 women judo athletes that alleged physical and ver-
al abuse within the Japan national team has led to the unprecedented apo-
logy and the resignations of the national women’s coach, an assistant coach and the All Japan Judo Federation’s head of de-
velopment.—Kyodo News

**New Light of Myanmar**

watches his drive

Sunday, 10 February, 2013

**Havana , 9 Feb—The**

Cuban tennis commissioner and one of the best players in the island’s history, Juan Antonio Pino, on Friday expressed his optimism on the return of locals to Da-
vis Cup as part of the group America 3. “We have short-
listed a group of talented young players, who have improved in their daily work and we are optimistic, as we have seen they have been perfecting their game,” Pino was quoted as saying by official daily “Graamna”.

The America 3 group will hold matches from 18 to 27 June in La Paz, Bo-
lima, and includes Cuba, Bahamas, Bermuda, Bo-
lima, Costa Rica and Hon-
duras. Pino said the return of Cuba to the competition represents a great opportu-
nity, after an absence of five years. “It is a fact that this return gives us pres-
tage before the International Tennis Federation (ITF), motivates the players and gives us the opportunity to develop our sport,” he said.—Xinhua
Wellwishers donate nutrition to school children

YANGON, 9 Feb — Wellwishers donated nutrition to school children from the Basic Education Primary School No. 15 and Alalchuang Monastic Education School on 28 January. U Kyaw Thu Zaw, District Administrator of Yangon West District General Administration Department and wife also donated K100,000 to repair desks and benches of the BEPS No. 15 and 100 dozens of exercise books for 1230 school children from both schools.

Kenya plans more friendlies ahead of World Cup qualifier

The international players looking forward to do good preparations before Kenya plans more friendlies ahead of the FIFA World Cup qualifier. The planned friendlies on Nyamweya, announced President, Sam Nyamweya.

The morale was good and the players were looking forward to do something. They know they can change our football. The international players worked so well with ours in a 4-3-3 formation.

Joint leader Fisher goes slowly but surely at Joburg Open

JOHANNESBURG, 9 Feb— Trevor Fisher Jar, chasing his first European Tour win, shot a scintillating nine-under 62 to earn a share of the lead with fellow South African Richard Sterne after the Joburg Open second round on Friday. The 33-year-old Fisher strung together seven birdies and an eagle on the less challenging West Course at the Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club to finish on 15-under 128 alongside joint overnight leader Sterne (65).

It was a great day,” Fisher told reporters. “Everything just happened for me and I sank the putts I needed to sink. “I was patient ... I walked slowly and did everything slowly.” Fisher and Sterne were three shots ahead of third-placed South African George Coetzee (64) who is also looking for his maiden European Tour victory after a string of near misses. World number 18 Chad Schwartzel, the highest-ranked player in the tournament, burst through the field with a 65 as he

US captain of ‘Miracle on Ice’ hockey team selling his jersey

CAMBRIDGE, (Massachusetts) 9 Feb—The captain of the US Olympic hockey team, known for its “Miracle on Ice” victory over the Soviet Union in 1980, plans to auction off the jersey he wore in the game along with other items from the Games.Mike Eruzione also plans to sell the stick he used to score the game-winning goal and the gloves he wore throughout the tournament at an auction in New York on 23 February, said Chris Ivy, director of sports at Heritage Auctions in Dallas.

The team’s 4-3 victory over the formidable Soviet team at the Olympic Games in Lake Placid, New York, was a David-and-Goliath story, Ivy said on Friday. “This (hockey) stick is the stick that Dave used to launch the rock that caused the victory,” he said. Eruzione decided to sell the items to raise money for his foundation, which supports charitable causes in his hometown of Winthrop, Massachusetts, and for his children and grandchildren, the auction house said in a statement. The jersey emblazoned with Eruzione’s name and the number 21 was expected to fetch about $1 million, the auction house said, and was among 22 items offered for sale. Eruzione also put up for sale a David-and-Goliath story, Ivy said on Friday. “This (hockey) stick is the stick that Dave used to launch the rock that caused the victory,” he said. Eruzione decided to sell the items to raise money for his foundation, which supports charitable causes in his hometown of Winthrop, Massachusetts, and for his children and grandchildren, the auction house said in a statement. The jersey emblazoned with Eruzione’s name and the number 21 was expected to fetch about $1 million, the auction house said, and was among 22 items offered for sale. Eruzione also put up for sale a
All are making efforts for media development in Myanmar

Interviewed by MNA

The Myanmar News Agency interviewed Mr Raman R Tuazon, Chief Media Development Specialist from UNESCO (Myanmar). Regarding the press freedom in Myanmar, Mr Raman R Tuazon said, “I think it’s very important because many organizations are coming and they are very much willing to help in media reforms in Myanmar and we need to coordinate the efforts of different organizations in Myanmar. The efforts of these organizations are to be complementary, so in this thematic working group and the Ministry of Information is very timely and very important, so a good set up. UNESCO is very happy and we are working with the Ministry of Information in the creation of this thematic working group.”

Regarding today’s event, U Ko Ko of Yangon Media Group said, “We begin to have greater press freedom along with democratization process. Myanmar’s media reforms are dramatic and unexpected ones. It is important that media industry develops along with greater press freedom, and we might need systematic plans and road maps for this. The government has given green light to private newspapers and it is a positive sign for democratization. And they are also the feature of democratic society.”

As regards the question on media reforms, he said, “I think one of the main features is the creation of the Public Service Media-PSM in Myanmar. We hope the transformation will be soon and independent, freedom and autonomy of the public service media to be established. Regarding today’s event, U Ko Ko of Yangon Media Group said, “We begin to have greater press freedom along with democratization process. Myanmar’s media reforms are dramatic and unexpected ones. It is important that media industry develops along with greater press freedom, and we might need systematic plans and road maps for this. The government has given green light to private newspapers and it is a positive sign for democratization. And they are also the feature of democratic society.”

Myanmar, Malaysia sign MoU on science and technology cooperation

NAV PI TAW, 9 Feb—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and Malaysian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili signed MoU on science and technology cooperation on 5 February. The areas of cooperation range from exchange of scientists, experts and scholars in implementing joint projects, joint designing, holding joint conferences, seminars and trainings, courses and exchange of research findings, to science and technology information and documents.

The Union minister held a discussion on bilateral cooperation with the Malaysian minister and personnel of Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), and research departments of Biotech Corp and MIMOS.

Union Day delegates at Hluttaws

NAV PI TAW, 9 Feb.—A total of 235 cultural troupe members from Kayin, Mon, Shan and Shan (North) States and Taninthayi Region who will attend the 66th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony observed by Hluttaw buildings this noon.

Kyaukpyu of Rakhine State to be supplied with more electricity

By Ko Naing

Kyaukpyu is a beautiful sea port in Rakhine State. It is made up of ten wards which are home to 12365 population of 4467 households. From 1954 to 2012, it was supplied electricity by a 55-kilowatt generator. In 2012, it was complete with one 1000 KVA generator and one 500 KVA generator. In this case, the department spent fuel cost for two hours and the power supply committee, 17 hours.

Since early February 2013, one Welt Man brand 1000 KVA generator, one 400/11000 volt 1000 KVA transformer and machinery have been installed. Additionally, it was equipped with the 19.82 miles long 11 KVA power lines, the 14.77 miles long 400 volt power line and 16 transformers while the old power lines was substituted with new ones.

To supply electricity to Kyaukpyu, tower foundations are under construction as of January 2013 in the building of the Okshitpin-Taungup-Kyaukpyu 230 KV power lines.

A 230/66/11 KV 100 MVA sub-power station is being built on 54 acres of land, 5.6 miles southwest to Kyaukpyu to link the national grid. Arrangements are being made to transfer electricity to 66/11 KV 20 MVA sub-power station in the compound of the Kyaukpyu Township Electrical Engineer Office and install 5.6 miles long 66 KV power lines. Meanwhile, a 50-megawatt gas power plant will be built in the 230/66/11 KV power station yard for generating electricity by using natural gas from the Shwe natural gas project. On completion, the gas power plant will supply electricity not only to Kyaukpyu but also to its surrounding towns of Rakhine State.

The construction of power plant, sub-power station and installation of power lines are expected to be completed at the end of 2014. It is also projected to supply electricity to the whole town beginning the early March of 2013. After 2014 when electricity can be generated from the power stations and gas power plants across the nation, those facilities will be able to supply electricity at full capacity to Rakhine State.