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President U Thein Sein felicitates Sri Lankan counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2013, His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

MNA

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Sri Lankan Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2013, His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. D.M Jayarathne, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.—MNA

Consultative Meeting on Development of WHO Country Cooperation Strategy Myanmar 2013-2017 held



Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin delivers an address at Consultative Meeting on Development of WHO Country Cooperation Strategy Myanmar 2013-2017.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb— Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin at Con-

sultative Meeting on Development of WHO Country Cooperation Strategy

Myanmar 2013-2017 held at the Health Ministry here on 1 February called

on project managers and planners to adjust the cooperation strategies

to be compatible with national health care plan (2011-2016) envisaging the changes in coming five years.

The meeting was attended by directors-general from Health Ministry, the WHO resident representative and responsible persons, and project managers of the departments under the Health Ministry.

Accompanied by Yangon Region Minister

for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, the Union Minister inspected the prepared sites in Yangon for construction of extended hospital wards at the corner of Pyay Road and Minye Kyawswa Road in Ahlon Township and at the right side of Mingaladon-Htaukkyant Road in Htaukkyant of Mingaladon Township on 31 January.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (3-2-2013)

Loilem	2°C
Heho	3°C
Putao	4°C
Namhsam	4°C
Pinlaung	4°C

Preparations are in full swing for XXVII SEA Games and construction of stadiums and sports grounds are also among the preparations in addition to intensive training sessions of respective sports federations. Some stadiums have been nearly completed just waiting for finishing touches.

We, the news crew of Myanma Alinn have recently observed the progress in construction of Wunna Theikdhi Swimming Pool in Zabuthiri Township of the capital. The construction has been completed by 60 per cent according to an official from Sports Ministry.

The swimming pool building is being constructed on an area of 17.72 acres land. The

Article &
Photo: Maung
Maung Myint
Swe

building will be 85 feet in length and 315 feet in width and the swimming pool 168 feet in length and 82 feet in width and 10 feet in depth. It also has diving pool, training pool.

From a bird eye's view, the building looks like a boat. It has three levels with a basement, with over 80 rooms including press room, health care room. The swimming pool is targeted to be complete at the end of coming March.

Myanma Alinn:

3-2-2013

Trs: TKK

Wunna Theikdhi Swimming Pool nearing completion



Photo shows progress of Wunna Theikdhi Swimming Pool in Nay Pyi Taw.

Knowledge about danger of narcotic drugs shared to students

PYAPON, 3 Feb—Talks on danger of narcotic drugs and crime reduction were held at Basic Education High Schools in Kyonkadun and Thameinhaw villages in Pyapon Township of Ayeyawady Region on 20 January.

Chairman of Pyapon Township Narcotic Drug and Crime Reduction Association retired police captain Hla Toe made a speech. Secretary Anti-Narcotics Association Dr Than Htay gave talks on narcotic drugs and health.

SIP Aung Min Soe lectured dangers of narcotic drugs and legal affairs.

Vice-Chairman of the Township ANA retired headmaster of BEMSUKhin Nyo talked about matters related to narcotic drugs.

Myanma Alinn

15th Anniversary of University of Nursing (Mandalay) Sept 2013

MANDALAY, 3 Feb—Mandalay University of Nursing will celebrate the 15th Anniversary Ceremony in early September 2013.

The organizing committee held the coordination meeting at the

hall of the university on 22 January.

The meeting decided to invite old and former faculty members and old students to attend the ceremony and to publish the commemorative magazine.

Manuscripts are invited to the magazine and sent not later than last week of May. Those wishing to make cash and kind may contact University of Nursing (Mandalay).—Kyemon

Old bomb shell found in NyaungU Township



NYAUNGU, 3 Feb—In a landslide of a hillock, an old shell of bomb was found beside the way of bullock cart from Taw Village to Gangaw, three miles west of Taw Village, NyaungU Township, on 25 January.

The old shell is three feet and nine inches long and 38 inches in diameter.

The village administrator informed the Township Administrator, the Commander of Township Police Force and the commander of Bagan Police Station of finding the bomb shell.

Departmental officials handed over the shell to respective military unit.

Kyemon

Preparedness against natural disasters exercised in Pyapon

PYAPON, 3 Feb—The demonstration on preparedness against natural disaster was performed with the participation of members of Fire Services Department, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people in Pyapon on 25 January.

It was supervised by Staff Officer U Than Naing of District FSD and officials.

Participants in the demonstration carried out rescue works with the use of life jackets and other equipment in Pyapon River.—Myanma Alinn



Winners awarded in Pre-SEA Games Myanmar Traditional Chess Tournament

YANGON, 3 Feb—Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation jointly organized the Pre-SEA Games Myanmar Traditional Chess Tournament at the hall of Myanmar Chess Federation in Aung San Stadium, here, on 28 January.

On the occasion, U Thein Tun, handed over the championship shield secured by his father U Khin Swe in 1963 Myanmar Traditional Chess Tournament to President of MCF U Maung Maung Lwin who returned

the certificate of honour.

Afer that, the president extended greetings.

Next, U Thein Tun presented first, second and third prizes to Win Tun, Win Zaw Tun and Myint Han in the regular event and Vice-President U Win Aung, first, second and third prizes to Win Zaw Tun, Maung Maung Latt and Aung Myo Hlaing in the 25 minutes blitz event.

Later, the president awarded first, second and third prizes to Win Zaw Tun, Maung Maung Latt and Ohn Kyaw in the 10 minutes blitz event.

Myanma Alinn

Padaung nationals produce traditional works in Bagan region

BAGAN, 3 Feb—Bagan ancient cultural region is dotted with pagodas and stupas as well as Myanmar traditional works.

In addition, Padaung nationals from Kayah State residing in Myinkapa Village are producing traditional works to attract tourists and uplift tourism industry. Two female Padaung national women of about 70 years old, one 66 years old woman who acted for the Coffeemix commercial and 16 years old girl are making bags, shawls, clothes and silver wares.

Padaung national Ko Kar Che explained, “We thought that works for us in Bagan regions may be more convenient than our native region. So we resettle here. We have experience in the production of traditional



works in Inlay region for 10 years. We arrived here in 2010. In Bagan, job opportunity is not bad. We aim to introduce traditional works to the tourists.”

The Padaung national

old women perform entertainments to the guests at the receptions of hotels in the region in addition to weaving works by doing their businesses.

Myanma Alinn

Action speaks louder than words.

2013 66th Anniversary Union Day



Work proficiency course kicks off in Sittway

SITTWAY, 3 Feb—The ward and village-tract administrators work proficiency course No. 1/2013 was opened at the hall of Sittway Township General Administration Department in Rakhine State on 28 January.

It was attended by Sittway Township Administrator U Tin Myint, staff, instructors and trainees.

At first, the township administrator made a speech. Altogether 30 trainees are attending the four-week course.—Kyemon

Judicial, management matters discussed at Yangon Region High Court

YANGON, 3 Feb—Chief Justice of Yangon Region High Court U Win Swe on 27 January met with district and township judges and gave instructions on judicial and

management matters.

It was attended by Region High Court judges, district and township judges totalling 50.

Kyemon

Invitational Football Tournament kicks off in Ottwin Township

OTTWIN, 3 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the Kyeni Invitational Men's Open Football Tournament, sponsored by Kyeni Cheroot Family of Ottwin, was opened at the township sports ground in Ottwin on 20 January afternoon.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Kyaw Shwe made a speech. Dr Thu Lwin Tun (Kyeni Family) opened the tournament.

Altogether 16 football teams participated in the tournament.

Myanma Alinn

WORLD

Biden raises possibility of direct US, Iran talks



Sheikh Moaz Alkhatib, President of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces and US Vice-President Joe Biden (R) meet for bilateral talks during the 49th Conference on Security Policy in Munich on 2 Feb, 2013. Senior US, Russian and UN officials, along with the leader of the Syrian opposition, were all expected in Munich on Saturday, providing a rare opportunity for talks to revive efforts to end the civil war in Syria. —REUTERS

MUNICH, 3 Feb— The United States is ready for direct talks with Iran if it is serious about negotiations, Vice President Joe Biden said on Saturday, backing bilateral contact many see as crucial to easing a dispute over Teheran's nuclear programme.

Speaking at a security conference in Munich, Biden said Iran — which says it is enriching uranium for peaceful energy only — now faced “the most robust sanctions in history” meant to ensure it does not develop

nuclear weapons.

“But we have also made clear that Iran's leaders need not sentence their people to economic deprivation and international isolation,” Biden said. “There is still time, there is still space for diplomacy backed by pressure to succeed. The ball is in the government of Iran's court.”

To date, fitful talks on Iran's nuclear programme have been between Teheran and the EU's top diplomat representing six world powers including

Washington. But analysts have suggested that with his re-election behind him, President Barack Obama might have more leeway to take on direct negotiations with Iran. That makes the year ahead critical for chances of overcoming a stand-off which, if left to fester further, could see Iran approach nuclear weapons capability, possibly provoking military action by Israel that could inflame the Middle East.

Progress on Iran would also help ease regional tensions as the United States prepares to pull most combat troops out of Iran's neighbour Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

Asked whether Washington might consider direct talks with Iran to smooth the process, Biden said, “When the Iranian leadership, Supreme Leader (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei), is serious.”

“We have made it clear at the outset that we would be prepared to meet bilaterally with the Iranian leadership, we would not make it a secret that we were doing that, we would let our partners know if that occasion presented itself.”

Reuters

Israeli president tasks Netanyahu with forming new government

JERUSALEM, 3 Feb— Israeli President Shimon Peres tasked incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday evening with the task of forming a new government, amid the results of the 22 January national elections.

The two met at the presidential residence in Jerusalem on Saturday evening, after Peres received recommendations from 82 members of Knesset (parliament) who named Netanyahu the most suitable candidate for the task. “After receiving the recommendations of 82 elected members of the 19th Knesset, I have decided to task incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with forming the next government,” Peres said during a press conference on Saturday evening.

“The state of Israel needs diplomatic and financial stability in order to have the ability to make the required decisions regarding issues on the agenda like the deficit, the need to equalize the burden in the Israeli society and the need to renew the peace process with the

Palestinians,” Peres added. “Therefore, the state needs a new government as soon as possible, to start to roll up its sleeves and work in order to face these challenges,” Peres added.

Netanyahu thanked Peres and the Knesset members who recommended him for the task, acknowledging it as a “great privilege and responsibility” to be nominated to the task for the third time in Israel's history.

He added he will strive to build a strong and wide government to handle the financial and security challenges facing Israel at present time.

According to the Israeli law, Netanyahu has 28 days to create his future government. If he hits a dead-end he is eligible to receive an extra two-week extension. If he does not comply with the task by this time, a new election would be announced.

Xinhua



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) and Israeli President Shimon Peres shake hands at the conclusion of a brief ceremony in the president's Jerusalem residence, on 2 Feb, 2013. Israeli President Shimon Peres tasked incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday evening with the task of forming a new government, amid the results of the 22 January national elections. —XINHUA

Syrian opposition talks with Russia and Iran

MUNICH, 3 Feb— The Syrian opposition leader met the foreign ministers of Russia and Iran on Saturday, opening a window to a possible breakthrough in efforts to broker an end to Syria's civil war.

Russia and Iran have been the staunchest allies of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad throughout an armed uprising, and any understandings they might reach with Assad's foes could help overcome the two sides' refusal to negotiate.

At an annual international security conference in Munich, Syrian National Coalition leader Moaz Alkhatib had talks with Russia's Sergei Lavrov that may have been made possible by Alkhatib

signalling readiness to talk to Damascus.

“Russia has a certain vision but we welcome negotiations to alleviate the crisis and there are lots of details that need to be discussed,” Alkhatib said after the meeting.

After a 45-minute meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, Alkhatib told Reuters: “We agreed we have to find a solution to end the suffering of the Syrian people.”

He also met separately with US Vice President Joe Biden and UN special envoy for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi.

Alkhatib's purpose in his meetings was “to discuss finding a way to remove the regime with the



The Syrian national flag flutters atop a damaged building that was controlled by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Homs on 30 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

least possible bloodshed and loss of life,” he said.

Russia has blocked three UN Security Council resolutions aimed at pushing out Assad out or pressuring him to end the civil war, in which more than 60,000 people have died. But Moscow has also tried to distance itself from

Assad by saying it is not trying to prop him up and will not offer him asylum.

“The talks about Syria are intensifying and the Iranians have been drawn in. Let's see how it all ends,” one diplomatic source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Reuters

Four killed, including French man, in Senegal's Casamance

DAKAR, 3 Feb— Four people, including one French citizen, were killed in Senegal's southern Casamance region when suspected separatist rebels clashed

with government soldiers, a military source said on Saturday.

“There are four dead including a French man,” said the source.

He said it was not

clear whether the death of the French citizen was directly related to the rebels' long-running low-intensity bush war for independence in the mostly-Christian

southern region of predominantly Muslim Senegal.

The others killed in the attack late on Friday were Senegalese, the source said.—Reuters

Dynegy power plant blown up in southern California

CHULA VISTA, 3 Feb— Thousands of spectators turned out along San Diego Bay on Saturday to watch as demolition crews consigned an aging and decommissioned Dynegy Inc power plant to the dustbin of history. Forty rapid-fire blasts from strategically placed explosives toppled the 165-foot structure, as onlookers cheered and shock waves set off car alarms across a widespread area.

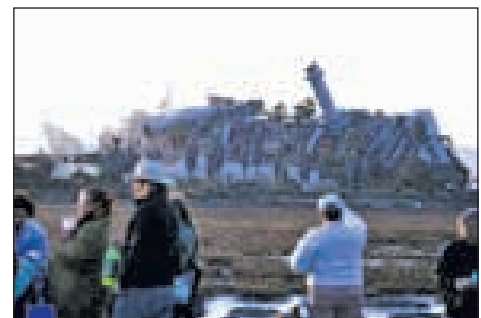
Most of the estimated 5,000 spectators gathered in Marina View Park in Chula Vista, about 1,000-foot north of the plant, for the early morning spectacle.

Often criticized by environmentalists as an eyesore, the plant was built in the late 1950s at the edge of an expanse of wetlands

adjacent to the bay.

Like other plants along the California Coast, it burned oil when it was first fired up in 1960. It later converted to natural gas, according to Laura Hunter of the Environmental Health Coalition. “This is a symbol of the past way of generating power which we know now is not sustainable,” Hunter said. “There's no better symbol for what we're learning about how to live on this planet than that where a power plant stood, a park and open space will be built,” she said.

It took several years of planning before officials could move ahead with the final demolition of the plant, according to Kristine Zortman, of the Unified Port of San Diego.—Reuters



Crowds look at the South Bay Power Plant after its implosion in Chula Vista, California, on 2 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Dell nears buyout that could top \$24 billion

NEW YORK, 3 Feb—Dell Inc is edging closer to an agreement to sell itself to a buyout consortium led by Michael Dell, its founder and chief executive, and private equity firm Silver Lake Partners in a deal that could top \$24 billion, people familiar with the matter said on Friday.

The buyout consortium is negotiating taking Dell private at \$13 to \$14 per share, two of the people said. This translates into an equity valuation for the Round Rock, Texas-based company of between \$22.6 billion and \$24.4 billion.

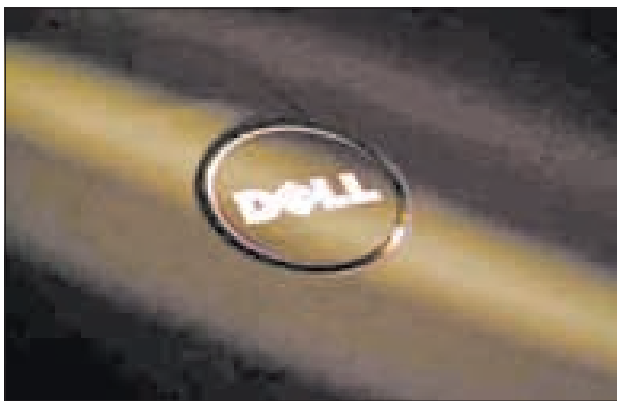
Dell shares were up 2.5 percent at \$13.57 in after-

noon trading.

Michael Dell is expected to take majority ownership of the world's third-largest personal computer maker while Silver Lake and Microsoft Corp would become minority investors, three of the people said.

The transaction is set to be finalized over the weekend and the timetable could still slip, the people cautioned, asking not to be named because the matter is not public.

The investment group, which held negotiations with Dell's camp in New York on Thursday, has secured up to \$15 billion of debt financing to take Dell



A company logo of Dell is seen on the cover of its laptop at a Dell outlet in Hong Kong.—REUTERS

private from four investment banks — Barclays, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse and RBC Capital, people familiar with the matter said.

Barclays is also advising Silver Lake on the transaction, along with Perella Weinberg Partners,

said two of the people. JP-Morgan Chase & Co is advising Dell.

Representatives for Dell, Microsoft, Silver Lake and Barclays declined to comment. Perella Weinberg could not be immediately reached for comment.

Reuters

Russian rocket falls into sea in failed launch

Moscow, 3 Feb—A rocket carrying a communications satellite suffered engine trouble and plunged into the Pacific Ocean shortly after launch on Friday, Russian news agencies reported.

The unsuccessful launch of the *Intelsat-27* satellite was one of several setbacks for Russia's space programme in recent years, including failed satellite launches and an unsuccessful mission to study the Mars moon Phobos.

The *Zenit-3SL* rocket carrying the satellite suffered engine failure shortly after liftoff, state-run *Itar-Tass* reported, citing a Rus-

sian space industry source. The rocket is a joint production of Ukrainian and Russian companies, it said.

Intelsat-27 was to provide services for media, government and other customers in the Americas and Europe, according to the website of Luxembourg-based Intelsat.

Russia is increasing space spending and plans to send a probe to the moon in 2015, but its celebrations in 2011 of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet achievement of putting the first man in space were marred by several botched satellite launches.

Reuters

Court rejects Oracle's bid for a quicker end to HP suit

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 Feb—A California appeals court on Thursday rejected an attempt by Oracle Corp to quickly end a bitter lawsuit brought by Hewlett-Packard Corp over Oracle's decision in 2011 to end support for HP's Itanium based servers.

HP accused Oracle of violating a contract when it decided it would no longer make new versions of its database software, which was

compatible with HP's high-end servers based on Intel Corp's Itanium chips. Oracle maintained it had no such contract with HP. The servers tend to be used by large corporations with rigorous computing needs.

After a trial last year, a state judge in San Jose, California ruled that a contract existed between HP and Oracle, and that Oracle was required to continue to offer

its product suite on HP's Itanium server platform. Oracle was required to port its products to HP's Itanium-based servers without charge to HP, the judge ruled.

Damages will be decided at a subsequent phase of trial.

In 2012, Oracle asked a California appeals court to reverse the contract ruling, which could have ended the case. However, California's 6th District Court of Appeal rejected the request late on Thursday, without further explanation.

Oracle must now wait until the trial is over to appeal all of the issues at once. Representatives for both companies declined to comment.

The case in the 6th Appellate District is Oracle Corporation vs Superior Court (Hewlett-Packard Company), number H038880.

Reuters

Coming soon to Facebook — more action, battle games

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 Feb—When nWay began a trial of its dark, sci-fi combat game "ChronoBlade" on Facebook last year, the San Francisco-based startup felt sure it had a hit on its hands.

"First of all, what comes is, 'Wow, I had no idea you could actually do a game of this quality on Facebook,'" said Dave Jones, Chief Creative Officer of nWay, who has worked on "Grand Theft Auto."

Then came some resistance: Jones admits some potential investors and partners questioned how an action-focused game with slick graphics can play to a Facebook audience more accustomed to "Farmville" and other less time-consuming casual games. Others wondered how the game — which launches this spring — would gain significant



The loading screen of the Facebook application on a mobile phone is seen in this photo illustration taken in Lavigny on 16 May, 2012.—REUTERS

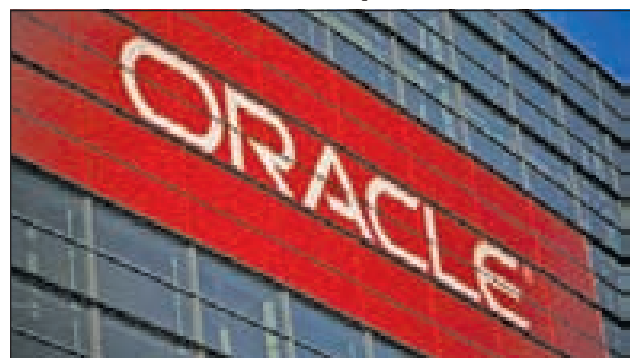
users and revenue on the social network.

But Facebook Inc is betting nWay and a clutch of other developers this year can extend console-style action games beyond Microsoft Corp's Xbox or Sony Corp's PlayStation onto the world's largest social network.

Facebook is spearheading the launch of 10 high-quality games created by third-party developers in 2013 that squarely target so-called hardcore gamers, an atypical audience overlooked thus far against the wealth of family-friendly offerings like Zynga Inc's "Farmville" that now dominate the social network's gaming landscape.

The effort, which began late last year but will accelerate in 2013, is part of Facebook's ongoing objective of making sure its 1 billion-plus users log in and spend more time on the network, which in turn boosts ad revenue. Facebook also takes a cut of its applications' revenue.

Facebook's push into action and battle games follows a meeting in January between companies that make games like "first-person shooters" and Vice President Joe Biden to look for ways to curb gun violence in the wake of the Connecticut school shootings.—Reuters



Oracle signage is seen outside Mocsone Centre during Oracle OpenWorld 2012 in San Francisco, California on 1 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Google moves closer to resolving EU investigation

BRUSSELS, 3 Feb—Google Inc has offered to change some of its business practices to appease European competition authorities and avoid billions of dollars in fines.

The European Commission said on Friday it had received detailed proposals from the world's most popular search engine, which has been under investigation for two years following complaints from more than a dozen companies, including Microsoft, that Google has used its market power to block rivals.

If the Commission accepts the proposals under

its settlement procedure, it would mean no fine and no finding of wrongdoing against Google.

Companies found to be in breach of EU rules can be fined as much as 10 percent of global turnover, which could mean up to \$4 billion if there is no resolution in Google's case.

EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia declined to give details of the proposal but told *Reuters*: "We are analyzing it".

Google spokesman Al Verney said the group continues to work cooperatively with the commission.

Google's offer includes

labeling its own services in search results to make them stand out from rival services and also imposing fewer restrictions on advertisers, according to people familiar with the matter, who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue.

They said the proposed deal does not mention the way Google enforces its patents against competitors as the company has already agreed with the US Federal Trade Commission that it would no longer seek sales bans when suing companies which infringe on key patents. The FTC ended its investigation last month



An illustration picture shows a Google logo with two one Euro coins, taken in Munich on 15 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

without any action, handing Google a major victory.

Google ranks first in Internet searching in Europe, with an 82 percent market share, versus 67 percent in the United States, according to research firm comScore. Lobbying group

ICOMP, whose members include complainants Microsoft, Foundem, Hot-map, Streetmap and Nextag, said any solution should include measures ensuring that rivals could compete on a level playing field with Google.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Jet Airways swings to profit ahead of potential Etihad deal



A Jet Airways passenger plane takes off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on 1 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 3 Feb—India's second biggest carrier Jet Airways (JET.NS), close to a tie-up with Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways, swung to a quarterly profit of 850 million rupees on Friday on lower costs and rising fares in an under-serviced market.

Jet shares have almost doubled in the past three months as Etihad's plans to pick up a stake in the airline have become clearer.

The Jet deal, if closed, will be the first since India relaxed ownership rules in September last year and

allowed foreign carriers to buy up to 49 percent in domestic carriers that are battling stiff competition and high operating costs.

Jet's earnings surprised analysts, who according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S, were expecting a profit of 278.5 million rupees. It was the third straight quarter it has exceeded estimates.

The October-December earnings were a sharp turn around from a 1.01 billion rupees loss from a year earlier.

Pricing power in the market has improved leading to a 17.1 percent

jump in yields — a measure of average revenue per passenger — and that is likely to continue, Jet said in a statement to the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Kingfisher Airlines, controlled by liquor baron Vijay Mallya and once India's No 2 carrier, has stopped flying since the start of October, allowing other carriers to raise fares on key routes.

Budget carrier SpiceJet (SPJT.BO), which is also in talks with foreign airlines to sell a stake, swung to a quarterly profit at the end of 2012, and said it would target a bigger slice of revenue from international flights in the future. Fiercely competitive Indian carriers are struggling under massive debt, as they have to sell tickets below-cost in a market marred by high taxes on fuel and high airport charges.

"We continue in our endeavour on cost cutting measures, exploring various avenues of ancillary revenues and process improvements across all segments of the business, which will help us improve

the business further," Chief Executive Nikos Kardassis said in a statement.

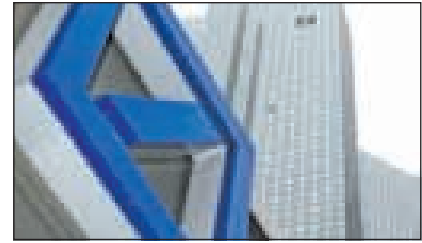
Jet has discontinued flying to many loss-making routes in the past few months, which sometimes meant aircraft getting grounded "in the short term," and that hurt revenue by 550 million rupees, Jet said.

Top executives from Gulf carrier Etihad and Jet met Indian civil aviation minister Ajit Singh and Trade minister Anand Sharma on Thursday, in a sign that a deal is likely to be announced soon.

"Pursuant to the announcement of liberalised FDI (foreign direct investment) policy permitting foreign investment in Indian airline, the company is in discussion with a reputed airline for a strategic investment in the company," Jet said on Friday. Jet expects to finalise a stake sale deal with Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways in a week or so, an executive at the airline, who declined to be named, said.

Reuters

Deutsche Bank to cap bonus payouts at 300,000 euros: source



A Deutsche Bank logo is pictured in front of the Deutsche Bank headquarters in Frankfurt on 24 Feb, 2011.

REUTERS

FRANKFURT, 3 Feb—Deutsche Bank AG (DBKGn.DE) will cap bonus payouts for 2012 at 300,000 euros per employee, a source familiar with the bank's thinking said on Friday.

However, total remuneration for 2012 will not be limited to 300,000 because the cap does not apply to deferred payouts, the source added. Employees are set to find out in the next couple of days what the extent of their remuneration will be for 2012.

Deutsche Bank unveiled a quarterly loss on Thursday after it took nearly \$4 billion in charges to try and draw a line under a slew of scandals.

The bank said its bonus pool for 2012 had been cut by 11 percent to 3.2 billion

euros. The number of employees in the Corporate Banking and Securities unit—the investment bank—has fallen 13 percent year-on-year. Average compensation for Deutsche investment bankers was 332,785 euros in 2011, down 12 percent on 2010 levels.

In September, the bank said it would alter remuneration to encourage its bankers to focus on "longer-term sustainable performance". Senior managers will have to wait five years to receive bonus share awards, rather than have them staggered over three years, the bank said at the time.

Overall, Deutsche Bank's headcount had fallen 2.7 percent year-on-year to 98,219 employees at the end of 2012.—Reuters

Revived search for a TB vaccine may be about to pay off

CHICAGO, 3 Feb—After nearly 100 years, researchers could be on the verge of finding a vaccine that would eradicate tuberculosis infections, a scourge that kills 1.4 million people a year.

Global health experts are eagerly awaiting clinical trial results, expected early next week, of the first new vaccine in 90 years designed to prevent tuberculosis infections. While it might not prove effective, it will bring scientists much closer to creating a new generation of TB vaccines.

Known as MVA85A, the vaccine is the farthest along of more than a dozen candidates being developed globally to stop the transmission of mycobacterium tuberculosis, which is quickly outsmarting the best antibiotic weapons used against it.

"In my own personal view, I will consider this (trial) to be a landmark or a watershed," said Peggy Johnston, senior program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle. "If it is negative,

it would be the first trial we can demonstrate that yes, we can conduct a clinical trial and get a solid answer. If it turns out to be at all positive, it will be a clear watershed for the field."

Although companies are making strides developing new drugs to fight TB, such as Johnson & Johnson's recently approved drug, bedaquiline, experts believe a vaccine ultimately will be the best tool to eradicate the ancient disease, which infects 9 million people a year.

"Drug development at the moment is lagging the rate at which drug resistance is emerging. We can't constantly be chasing after the next drug that becomes ineffective," said Christine Sizemore of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a part of the National Institutes of Health. Dr Ann Ginsberg of Rockville, Maryland-based Aeras, a non-profit biotech developing MVA85A said it is "the single tool that could have the greatest



A research nurse gives an infant a check-up as part of a clinical trial to develop new TB vaccines at the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative's clinical trial field site in Worcester, South Africa in this April 2012 handout photo obtained by Reuters on 1 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

potential impact on the TB epidemic." Ginsberg said better drugs will be useful to treat people who are already sick, but by the time a person with TB is diagnosed, they have already infected 10 to 15 people.

"A vaccine can stop transmission," she added.

A lot is riding on the trial's results, which will give the first solid clues about whether scientists are on the right track to create a new generation of TB vaccines. MVA85A is being developed by researchers at Britain's Oxford University with support from Aeras, the Wellcome Trust, the

European Commission and the Oxford-Emergent Tuberculosis Consortium, a joint venture between Oxford and Emergent Biosolutions Inc created to make the vaccine. It is one of 16 vaccines being studied in human clinical trials and the study results will inform the design of more than 50 vaccines being tested in preclinical trials in animals.

Most of the development has occurred in the last decade with the emergence of drug-resistant TB, which could affect as many as 2 million people by 2015, according to the World Health Organization.

Reuters

Religare Capital says tech error caused unusual trades

MUMBAI, 3 Feb—A technology glitch at Religare Capital Markets caused "unintended transactions", the brokerage said on Saturday, a day after deeply discounted sale of large blocks of shares in Tata Motors (TAMO.NS) and UltraTech Cement (ULTC.NS) hit the markets.

National Stock Exchange Ltd said on Friday it was investigating the block sales in two stocks, the latest in a series of unusual price movements to rattle the market. "Religare Capital Markets Limited uses third party software for execution of orders on stock exchanges. Due to some technical issue in the software, unintended transactions got executed," the brokerage said in a statement. "There was no broker error and no loss to any clients," it said, adding

the matter was being looked into by the software provider. It said there was no impact on client business and the brokerage would operate normally on Monday.

A total of 2.07 million shares in Tata Motors were sold in six blocks at an average price of 274.92 rupees in the afternoon on Friday, well below the roughly 292 rupee level at which the shares were trading at the time. Tata shares fell as low as 268.25 rupees before ending the session down 5.49 percent at 281.64 rupees.

Shares in UltraTech, a cement maker, ended down 3.4 percent after an earlier block sale of 41,863 shares took place at an average 1,853.80 rupees, also well below where shares were trading at the time. Both trades took place around the same time.—Reuters

A broker reacts while trading at a stock brokerage firm in Mumbai on 11 Nov, 2008.

REUTERS



WORLD

Mali hails “saviour” Hollande, he says fight not over

TIMBUKTU, 3 Feb—Cheering, grateful Malians mobbed French President Francois Hollande on Saturday as he visited French troops fighting Islamist jihadist rebels, and he pledged France would finish the job of restoring government control in the Sahel state.

In a one-day trip to Mali accompanied by his ministers for defence, foreign affairs and development, Hollande was hailed as a liberator in the ancient northern city of Timbuktu, which French and Malian forces retook from the rebels six days ago.

He also received a rapturous reception in the capital Bamako, where he said the Islamist fighters allied to al-Qaeda had suffered heavy losses in a three-week-old French intervention that he ordered last month at Mali's request.

Although the insur-

gents have been driven from Mali's main northern towns, Hollande cautioned that the task of France's military operation in Mali, codenamed Serval (Wildcat) and involving 3,500 soldiers on the ground, was not yet over.

“There is still a whole part of the north that remains unconquered ... There are terrorist elements concentrated in some areas of the country, others who are dispersed. There are risks of terrorism. So, we have not yet finished our mission,” he told a news conference at the French ambassador's residence.

He added France would withdraw its troops from Mali once the West African country had restored sovereignty over all its national territory and a UN-backed African military force, which is being deployed, could take over from the French.



France's President Francois Hollande (L) and Mali's interim president Dioncounda Traore (R), wave upon his arrival at the airport of Timbuktu during his one-day visit in Mali on 2 Feb, 2013. French President Hollande flew to Mali on Saturday to support French troops fighting Islamist rebels in the Sahel nation and he visited the famed ancient city of Timbuktu that was recaptured from al Qaeda-allied fighters six days ago.

REUTERS

“We do not foresee staying indefinitely,” he said, but he spelled out no specific time frame for the French mission.

Mali's interim President Dioncounda Traore thanked “our brother” Hol-

lande for launching the French intervention. It has cost the life of only one French serviceman so far and has driven the rebels into the mountains of north-east Mali.—Reuters

Indonesian president arrives Nigeria with trade delegation

ABUJA, 3 Feb—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Saturday arrived Abuja, Nigeria's capital city accompanied by 99 businessmen in a move to strengthen existing rela-

tions with the West African nation.

President Goodluck Jonathan and his wife, Dame Patience Jonathan, received the Indonesian leader and his wife, Ani Susilo.

The president and his delegation's visit to the country is to strengthen existing relations and for bilateral and multilateral trade discussions.

On arrival, Yudhoyono inspected a guard of honor mounted by the the Brigade of Guards, and also a 21 gun-salute in his honor.

The two leaders, members of the delegation, ministers and Nigerian top businessmen, thereafter, proceeded into a closed-door bilateral talks.

Yudhoyono is in Nigeria as part of state visit to three African countries, namely Liberia, Nigeria and Egypt, and some Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia.

The visit is part of the country's effort to strengthen bilateral and multilateral ties.

Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills one in Syrian capital

DAMASCUS, 3 Feb—One person was killed and another injured on Saturday when a roadside bomb ripped through the time-honored al-Hijaz area in the heart of Syrian capital Damascus, local media said.

The roadside bomb went off near a coffee shop at al-Naser Street, local media said, adding that the blast killed a member of

bomb squads who came to defuse it.

Also in Damascus on Saturday, an explosive device affixed under a car went off near al-Shagour area in central the city, injuring the driver and causing material damages, reports said.

Meanwhile, armed rebels using snipers and bomb shells attacked on Saturday the police sta-

tion of al-Qadam suburb of Damascus, killing a policeman and injuring other two, local media said, adding that many rebels were also killed in the assault.

Blasts and attacks have become daily routines in Syria that has been gripped by a 22-month-old crisis which left more than 60,000 people killed amid faltering efforts for peace.

Xinhua

Iran unveils new indigenous fighter jet

TEHERAN, 3 Feb—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad unveiled on Saturday a new home-made fighter jet, local media reported.

Iran's advancement in military sector does not aim at “expansionism and violating others' rights,” however, it will be utilized for “defensive and deterrence” purposes, Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying by semi-official ISNA news agency in a ceremony held here to disclose the Iranian military achievement.

The advanced fighter jet, named *Qaheer-313* (*Conqueror-313*), which has been designed and built by the Iranian experts, can fly at low altitudes, the Iranian Defence Minister, Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi, said on the sidelines

of the ceremony, according to semi-official *Mehr* news agency. The bomber can carry a payload of domestic weapons and ammunition and enjoys low radar-detecting surface, Vahidi was quoted as saying.

Another feature of this fighter is “advanced unique hydroelectric system,” said Vahidi on the occasion of the Daheyyeh Fajar (Ten-Day Dawn) celebrations marking the victory of 1979 Islamic revolution.

According to Press TV, the fighter jet is similar to the US-built *F/A-18*, although its appearance looks similar to *F-5E/F Tiger II*. The new single-seat bomber has the ability to track down enemy aircraft, engage in combat and target locations on the ground.

Xinhua

Over 2,000 IDPs flee conflicts between army, al-Qaeda in S Yemen

SANAA, 3 Feb—Fears of battles between the Yemeni army and al-Qaeda militants in the country's southern city of Radda in al-Bayda Province have forced at least 2,630 people to flee their home since last week, the official *Saba* news agency reported on Saturday.

The internally displaced people (IDPs) have been accommodated in houses of their relatives in several villages and towns of the neighbouring Province of Dhamar, the agency said, adding that more displaced families are expected in the following days.

The number of IDPs increased after last Monday's suicide bomb attacks on the military sites that killed at least 14 soldiers and injured more 17, according to the state media. The terrorist attacks happened as the Yemeni army advanced into mountains surrounding hideouts of al-Qaeda militants in the tribal villages of Gaifa on the outskirts of Radda.

The new IDPs from al-Bayda left their hometown a few months after about 100,000 people who had fled months-long conflicts between the army and al-Qaeda militants in the

southern province of Abyan returned home, according to recent statistics by the UN office in Yemen's southern port city of Aden.

The Defence Ministry said the planned offensive “aims at driving the militants out of residential regions to reinforce the government control.” About seven military units, backed by fighter jets, fought against al-Qaeda fighters for about 10 hours in al-Thalep Mountain on Monday night. The defense ministry said the al-Qaeda suffered heavy blow during the battle, but gave no specific number of casualties.

Xinhua

Abu Dhabi airport customs seizes 128 kg of narcotic drugs

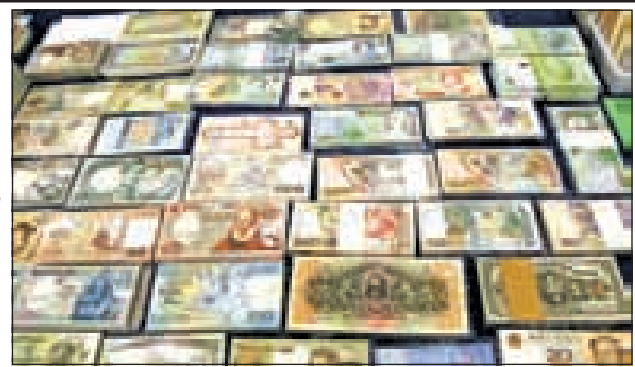
ABU DHABI, 3 Feb.—Custom inspectors at the Abu Dhabi International Airport have foiled the smuggle of huge quantities of narcotics when searching three passengers arriving from India to the capital of the United Arab Emirates,

local news agency WAM said on Saturday.

When inspecting the luggage of the three passengers, the airport's customs officers found 52 bags of narcotic poppy seeds, weighing 52 kg, from the first suspect.

In the bags of the second and third suspects, the officers found 35.1 kg and 41.1 kg of the same drugs respectively. The three passengers, all Indian nationals, were referred to a competent authority, said the report.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 2 Feb, 2013 shows banknotes of different countries and regions at the 42nd World Money Fair in Berlin, Germany. More than 300 exhibitors, including mints and central banks, from more than 50 countries and regions attended the three-day fair, opened on 1 Feb.—XINHUA



WORLD

Five accused plead not guilty to Delhi gang rape, murder

NEW DELHI, 3 Feb—Five men pleaded not guilty on Saturday to charges they raped and murdered an Indian trainee physiotherapist, in a case that led to a shake-up of laws against sexual crimes after protests about a rising number of attacks on women. Police say the gang lured the 23-year-old woman onto a bus in New Delhi, where they repeatedly raped and assaulted her with a metal bar before throwing her bleeding onto a highway. She died of internal injuries two weeks after the 16 December attack.

records, confessions and eye-witness statements.

Singh says Sharma was never on the bus and Thakur was hiding beneath a seat and never took part in the crime. The other men—brothers Ram and Mukesh Singh and Pawan Kumar—are represented by two other lawyers. Mukesh Singh has replaced a lawyer who claimed his client was tortured in police custody, and no longer claims mistreatment.

A sixth person police say was part of the gang that attacked the woman and her



A police van carrying five men accused of the gang rape and murder of an Indian student arrives at a court in New Delhi on 7 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

A Reuters witness saw the men file into the court room with their faces covered, where lawyers in the case said they were read thirteen charges including murder, which carries a maximum penalty of death. They left after 15 minutes. “After the judge read out the charges, the five pleaded not guilty and walked out” said AP Singh, a lawyer defending two of the accused, Vinay Sharma and Akshay Thakur.

Singh said the prosecution will call three witnesses to the next hearing on Tuesday, which is the formal start of the trial. The prosecution says it has strong evidence against the five men including blood stained clothing, DNA matches, mobile phone

friend is a juvenile and will be tried separately.

The brutality of the attack was shocking even to a nation inured to a rising wave of sexual crimes against women. Thousands of young protesters took to the streets in the weeks that followed. In response to the public outcry, on Friday the cabinet fast-tracked new, tougher penalties for sex crimes.

Under the new rules, due to be signed into law by the president in the coming days, gang rape that leads to death will be punishable by death while minimum penalties will be raised to 20 years for gang rape and rape of a minor. The laws must later be ratified by parliament.

Reuters

Biden reassures Europe on transatlantic ties

MUNICH, 3 Feb—In a bid to reassure Europe of the transatlantic ties, the Vice President of the United States Joe Biden reaffirmed on Saturday that Europe remains the closest allies of the US.

“Simply put, President (Barack) Obama and I continue to believe Europe is the cornerstone of our engagement with the rest of the world, and it’s the catalyst for our global co-operation,” Biden told the 49th Munich Security Conference here, adding that “it’s that basic, nothing has changed”.

Biden’s remarks came

at a time when concerns are voiced about the possible cooling down of transatlantic relations as the US is shifting its foreign policy emphasis toward Asia.

While stressing that the US and Europe have been cooperating well on various fronts, Biden said, “you remain our closest allies.”

Commenting on the latest development of Europe, Biden saw positive steps especially in terms of the handling of eurozone crisis. He mentioned the measures taken by the European Central Bank to ease the market tensions and called on eurozone govern-

ments to remain focused on growth and jobs.

“These may be fundamental European problems requiring European solutions, but the resolution has a tremendous impact on the United States of America and the global economy,” he said. With regard to the transatlantic trade and investment agreement, Biden said the regulations and standards differences continue to divide the US and Europe. But he believed the US and Europe can overcome the differences.

Biden pointed out that the mutual agenda of the US and Europe had shifted

Islamist threatens to attack Germany, Merkel

BERLIN, 3 Feb—A German Islamist has threatened to attack Berlin this summer and kill Chancellor Angela Merkel in a video posted on the Internet, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

A spokesman for Germany’s intelligence service, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, confirmed its agents had seen such a video. “This is an Islamist battle song. It is known to the security services and is being evaluated,” said the spokesman.

Die Welt newspaper reported that a three-minute video had surfaced on the Internet with a German Is-

lamist calling himself Abu Azzam, believed to be a radical Salafist who moved to Egypt last year.

“Looking back at an Arab spring, we are looking forward to a European summer,” said Abu Azzam in the video, according to the newspaper.

“Osama, wait for us... We want to see Obama and Merkel dead,” he was quoted as saying, adding that Germany’s Reichstag parliament building would be subject to attacks like those on New York’s World Trade Center in 2001. German authorities have stepped up surveillance of Salafist groups who



German Chancellor Angela Merkel speaks at a ceremonial act of the BDI German industry association in Berlin on 29 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

espouse a radical version of Islam. Germany is home to roughly 4,000 Salafists, a tiny proportion of the total Muslim population of about four million. Germany’s involvement in the NATO mission in Afghanistan has

led to fears of an attack on German soil. Berlin is also supplying military transport planes to fly West African troops to Mali to help French and Malian forces fighting Islamist rebels.

Reuters

Turkey says tests confirm leftist bombed US Embassy

ISTANBUL, 3 Feb—A member of a Turkish leftist group that accuses Washington of using Turkey as its “slave” carried out a suicide bomb attack on the US embassy, the Ankara governor’s office cited DNA tests as showing on Saturday.

Ecevit Sanli, a member of the leftist Revolutionary People’s Liberation Army-Front (DHKP-C), blew himself up in a perimeter gatehouse on Friday as he tried to enter the embassy, also killing a Turkish security guard.

The DHKP-C, virulently anti-American and listed as a terrorist organisation by the United States and Turkey, claimed responsibility in a statement on the Internet in which it said Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan was a US “puppet”.

“Murderer America! You will not run away from people’s rage,” the statement on “The People’s Cry” website said, next to

a picture of Sanli wearing a black beret and military-style clothes and with an explosives belt around his waist.

It warned Erdogan that he too was a target. Turkey is an important US ally in the Middle East with common interests

ranging from energy security to counter-terrorism. Leftist groups including the DHKP-C strongly oppose what they see as imperialist US influence over their nation.

DNA tests confirmed that Sanli was the bomber, the Ankara governor’s of-

and a military staff college in Istanbul, but his sentence was deferred after he fell sick during a hunger strike. He was never re-jailed.

Condemned to life in prison in 2002, he fled the country a year later, officials said. Interior Minister Muammer Guler said he had re-entered Turkey using false documents.

Erdogan, who said hours after the attack that the DHKP-C were responsible, met his interior and foreign ministers as well as the head of the army and state security service in Istanbul on Saturday to discuss the bombing.

Three people were detained in Istanbul and Ankara in connection with the attack, state broadcaster TRT said. The White House condemned the bombing as an “act of terror”, while the UN Security Council described it as a heinous act. US officials said on Friday the DHKP-C were the main suspects but did not exclude other possibilities.

Islamist radicals, extreme left-wing groups, ultra-nationalists and Kurdish militants have all carried out attacks in Turkey in the past.

Reuters



US Ambassador to Turkey Francis Ricciardone (L, with white hair) speaks to media outside of the US Embassy in Ankara on 1 Feb, 2013. A suicide bomber from a far-left group killed a Turkish security guard at the US Embassy in Ankara on Friday, blowing the door off a side entrance and sending smoke and debris flying into the street.—REUTERS

fice said. It said he had fled Turkey a decade ago and was wanted by the authorities.

Born in 1973 in the Black Sea port city of Ordu, Sanli was jailed in 1997 for attacks on a police station

Earthquake jolts north Japan, no tsunami—NHK

TOKYO, 3 Feb—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 jolted Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido on Saturday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

No tsunami was seen as a result of the quake and there were no reports of damage to local police as

of 11:30 pm (1430 GMT), about 10 minutes after the quake occurred, public broadcaster NHK said.

There were no abnormalities at Tohoku Electric Power Co’s Higashidori nuclear plant in northern Japan, NHK said, citing the utility.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 4 February, 2013

Good governance and democracy

The establishment of good governance in a society is a challenge for every nation. It can not be established overnight. It is easier said than done. Even a developed nation cannot establish the good governance cent per cent.

Inclusiveness of all the stakeholders is crucial for sustainable human development. Some individuals wrongly think it is just the matter of the government departments. The good governance is a must for sustainable development. Extents of social security of countries even with equal amount of natural resources and common social settings can not be the same. Poor governance slows down the development. Bribery, poor public administration and lack of accountability lead to human rights violations.

Measures should be taken to make the government departments and the public acquire democratic awareness. Only when it comes together with good governance, will the democratic process be successful. The entire people should put the emergence of the good governance in the fore.

The government mechanisms play a key role in discharging administrative duties of a country in transition. The administrative affairs influence daily life of the people. The quality of government system is decided upon the effect on daily life of the people.

The good governance should be applied in both government mechanism and private sector and in both enterprises and departments. Not only government enterprises but also institutions and organizations should practice the good governance. Information and communication technology development is the main driving force of the government reforms.

The good governance is an essential requirement for building a modern developed democratic nation. Measures should be taken to make democratic practices entrenched deeply in the society to ensure the good governance. The good governance, in turn, contributes to the flourishing of democracy.



Union Foreign Minister felicitates Sri Lankan counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2013, His Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Prof. G.L Peiris, M.P, Minister of External Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

MNA

U Paw Lwin Sein concurrently accredited as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Netherlands

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Paw Lwin Sein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Belgium, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.—MNA

Loans presented in Thaphan Village of Wundwin Township held

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb— Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan attended a ceremony to give small loan to small enterprises at Thaphan Village in Wundwin Township of Meiktila District in Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, The Union Minister said that cooperatives system is materialized according to the need of human beings. The first cooperative society in Myanmar was formed in Myinmu Township of Sagaing Region on 3 January 1905, he said. The Union Minister urged those present to apply cooperative system in accord with real situation of the people.

Thaphan Village runs tailoring service and distributes all sorts of clothes to all parts of Myanmar and to India through Tamu and per production value amount to K 1,000 million, he added.



Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan attends ceremony to disburse microfinance to members of tailoring cooperative society in Wundwin Township.—MNA

The purpose of disbursing loans and necessary capital for tailoring workers is to extend their businesses, he said. The Union Minister reaffirmed that microfinance bank will be established in townships in line with the law

to get low interest loans. He also urged those present to establish self-reliant libraries to broaden horizons of local people.

The Union Minister presented K 95.5 million for tailoring workers and

publications for village library. After that, the Union Minister looked round displaying clothes, disbursement of capital and running of tailoring works of the members.

MNA

A&I Ministry committed to success in mechanized farming system in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb — Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has a responsibility to make continuous efforts for achieving success in shifting from conventional farming to mechanized farming system

in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, said Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.

Nay Pyi Taw should be a model area for mechanized farming as it is the Union

territory, he added.

During his tour of inspection of a 100-acre corn plantation and a 50-acre sunflower plantation of the 3000-acre farmland in Dekkhinathiri Township, the Union Minister urged

the local farmers to pass knowledge on those engaged in mechanized farming which is currently benefitting the farmers.

He also visited the 10-acre groundnut research plantation at the village of Gyaing and viewed the harvest with the use of machinery.

MNA

Drugs and ammunition seized in Tamu

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb— Drugs and ammunition were seized in Tamu Township this morning. Members of the local military column, drug squads and Tamu Township Police

Force seized 100.8 kilograms of pseudo-ephedrine worth K 120,960,000, 96 assorted small arms, 60 assorted shells, 23 land mines, 7907 assorted rounds of ammunition, 195

assorted magazines and 250 bullets and 4 coils of wires used for explosion.

According to the investigation, U Soe Myint Win is associated with Assam national front force and said to have kept weapons and ammunition taking monthly fees for the front force after Colonel Thun Ba and

a member had asked him to do so in July 2010. He said he had to give out the weapons and ammunition when they asked. He was arrested while preparing to carry drugs to Mandalay for his close cousin. Measures are being taken to search out the accomplices.

MNA



ARTICLE

Township Sangha Nayaka Committees in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

In the history of Buddhism of Myanmar, the very First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders was successfully held in 1980 to carry out purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana throughout the world as well as to reconstruct the unity of the members of the Sangha all over the country. The unity of the members of the Sangha is very important because it was found in the history of Buddhism that, without the unity of the members of the Sangha, it was impossible to carry out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana (the Teachings of the Buddha). The Buddha Himself urged the members of the Sangha to unite in implementing the purification, perpetuation and propagation of His Teachings.

Over 2556 years ago, after the noble demise of the Buddha, altogether six Buddhist great synods were held in order to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Buddha Sanana (The Teachings of the Buddha). Although the six great Buddhist synods were successfully held, it was found that many different schisms and schools appeared in the Buddhist world, and they were really contradictory to and incompatible with the true Buddhism. They were unlawful views which absolutely endangered the noble teachings of the Buddha.

And also, in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, different schisms, schools and unlawful views which really endangered the Theravada Buddhism appeared within one hundred years. Hence, the Buddhist people, the members of the Sangha and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar worried about it. In reality, we all Buddhists want the true Buddhism which indeed benefits and provides the interest and peaceful mind of all beings and leads to the world peace. We firmly believe that the world peace exists forever if we all could follow and practice the teachings of the Buddha.

In order to purify,

perpetuate and propagate the Buddha Sanana and reconstruct the unity among members of Sangha and the unity of different schools and sects of Sangha Orders throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the very First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar unanimously supported and encouraged by members of the Sangha, the Buddhist people and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, was successfully held in 1980. The Congregation was attended by 1218 Sangha Samuti representatives of over five hundred thousand members of the Sangha throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The very first successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders could reconstruct the unity of the Sangha in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the first time within one hundred years. The successful Congregation approved and adopted the concrete resolutions regarding unity of the Sangha Orders and formation of different levels of Sangha Organizations throughout the country in order to carry out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana (the Teachings of the Buddha) at home and abroad.

According to the resolutions of the very first successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders for the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana, the officially recognized nine sects of Sangha Orders and the different levels of Sangha Organizations are as follows:-

Nine official Sects of Sangha Orders

1. Sudhamma Sect
2. Shwe Kyin Sect
3. Dhammanu Dhamma Mahadwara Nikaya Sect
4. Dhammanu loma mauladwara Nikaya Sect
5. Anaukchaung Dwara Sect
6. Veluvan Nikaya Sect
7. Catubommika Mahasatipathana Ngetwin Sect
8. Gannavimotti Kuto Sect

9. Dhammayotti Nikaya Mahayin Sect.

These different schools and sects of the Sangha unitedly carry out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of Buddha Sanana under the guidance of the different levels of the Sangha Organizations which have been formed throughout the country.

Different levels of the Sangha Organization:-

1. State Patron Committee of the Sangha
2. State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders
3. State Sanghamahanayaka Committee
2. Shall perform their duties leading to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana and the unity of the members of Sangha.
3. Shall make monks

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

4. State/Regional Sanghanayaka committees
5. Township Sanghanayaka Committees
6. Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka Committees

Township Sanghanayaka Committees

Over (542) Township Sanghanayaka Committees comprising over (3900) members of the Sangha have been formed throughout seven States and seven Regions in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. In accordance with the fundamental principles of Sangha Organizations, members of Township Sanghanayaka Committees shall be elected only by majority of Sangha Working Committee members of respective townships with their free consent. The main objectives of Township Sanghanayaka Committees are to carry out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana and other religious matters in their respective townships.

Functions and duties of Township Sanghanayaka Committees

1. Shall carry out their functions concerned in accordance with the fundamental principles approved and adopted by the Congregation of the Sangha of All Or-

ders and procedures of Sangha Organization, procedures of settlements of Vinayadhamma Kamma Adhikarana Disputes Act, other decisions and instructions approved and passed by the meeting of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders.

2. Shall perform their duties leading to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana and the unity of the members of Sangha.
3. Shall make monks

and novices (Samaneras) dwelling in their township to know and follow the instructions of the higher levels of Sangha Organizations.

4. Shall collect and prepare the final list of monk-hood/ novicehood of monks and novices in their township and send it to respective State/Regional Sanghanayaka Committees and State Sanghamahanayaka Committee.
5. Shall report their functions to respective State/Regional Sanghanayaka Committees occasionally.
6. May issue necessary instructions to Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka Committees in their townships.
7. According to the clause (93) sub clause (I) and (K), if submissions are made, it must be inquired and make appropriate decision and shall report it to respective State/Regional Sanghanayaka Committees.
8. Shall performed to issue new registration cards of Sanana members and amend, substitute, cancel or keep back

them as necessary in accordance with the instructions of higher levels of Sangha Organizations.

9. Shall perform to scrutinize the Sanana matters related to Pariyatti and Patipatti affairs.
10. Shall perform to form Sangha Vinicchaya Court to decide and settle disputes and cases arising in their township in accordance with special prescribed procedures and settlements of Vinayadhamma-kamma Adhikarana Disputes Act, and the court's decision shall be informed to respective township authorities concerned to carry out the decisions to be obeyed.
11. Shall conduct and supervise the election and limitation of Vinayadharas, Township Sangha Working Committee members and Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka committee members.
12. Shall give advice and admonitions occasionally to the monks and novices in their township without affecting management of respective monasteries and monastic institutes.
13. If it is a necessary, shall consult with

- Township authorities concerned regarding the Sanana affairs in connection with Township authorities concerned.
14. Out of the matters, the important ones which had been done within a year shall be submitted to the annual meeting of the Township Sangha Working Committee.
15. If any representative of Sangha Samutti or any member of Vinayadharas, Sangha Working Committee, Sanghanayaka Committee and Patron Committee falls vacant, it shall be informed to the respective State/Regional Sanghanayaka Committee and the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee within five days after vacancy has been learnt.

According to the functions and duties of the Township Sanghanayaka Committees, various matters and affairs in connection with the members of the Sangha or Sangha Organizations can only be decided and settled by members of the Sangha themselves. Matters, affairs or disputes in connection with the members of the Sangha cannot be decided and settled by any civil court or authorities concerned.

UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs urged to cooperate with regional authorities

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe called on UN Agencies, International Non-Governmental Organizations and NGOs working in the region to cooperate with the regional administrative bodies in implementing the regional development and poverty alleviation tasks.

During the meeting at Magway Region Government Office on 1 February, the chief minister, departmental officials of the ministries

which signed memoranda of understanding, responsible personnel from INGOs and NGOs discussed the tasks for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the challenges for the regional development and poverty alleviation.

There are altogether 31 UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs which have carried out regional development and poverty alleviation tasks in Magway Region in cooperation with Magway Region government.

MNA

WORLD

Boeing 787 investigation making progress—US NTSB

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—US officials on Friday said they are making progress in their investigation of a battery fire on a Boeing Co 787 Dreamliner in Boston this month, as the grounding of Boeing's entire fleet of 787s stretched into a third week.

All 50 Boeing 787s remain grounded as authorities in the United States, Japan and France investigate the Boston battery fire on 7 January and a separate battery failure that forced a second 787 to make an emergency landing in Japan a week later.

The US safety board said it continued to look at flight data recorded aboard the 787 aircraft involved in the 7 January event at Boston airport for any information about the performance of the lithium-ion battery that caught fire, and its charging system, which was built by Securaplane, a unit of Britain's Meggitt Plc.

"Our investigators are moving swiftly and we are

making progress," Kelly Nantel, a spokeswoman for the US National Transportation Safety Board, said after the US safety board issued a seventh update on



The burnt auxiliary power unit battery removed from a Japan Airlines Boeing 787 Dreamliner jet is seen in this picture provided by the US.—REUTERS

the investigation. She did not elaborate.

Boeing welcomed the news and said it continued to work closely with authorities in the United States and Japan.

The NTSB said an expert from the Department of Energy had joined the investigation, and an NTSB investigator would travel to

France on Sunday or Monday with a "battery contactor", which connects the battery to the planes' electrical systems, for further tests at the equipment's

manufacturer, Thales SA. The NTSB experts at the US Naval Surface Warfare Centre laboratories were continuing to look at a second, undamaged lithium-ion battery pulled from the same Japan Airlines plane. Both batteries were built by GS Yuasa, a Japanese company. Initial tests, including

infrared thermal imaging of each cell in the undamaged battery, found no anomalies, according to the NTSB update. It said the battery's eight cells were undergoing another scan to examine their internal condition.

US, Japanese and French safety inspectors—aided by industry officials—have been trying to determine what caused the battery fire on the 787 in Boston and a separate battery failure in Japan that involved smoke the following week.

The failure of investigators to identify the root cause of the incidents has sparked concerns that the 787 grounding will last longer, and hit Boeing and the airlines that operate the 787 harder than expected.

But Boeing's chief executive, Jim McNerney, told investors this week that the company planned to speed up production of the jet as planned, and had not seen any reason to question its use of lithium ion batteries on the 787.—Reuters

Thirty-five killed as militants attack Pakistan checkpoint

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, 3 Feb—Militants attacked an isolated army checkpoint in Pakistan's restive northwest on Saturday, with at least 35 people killed in the initial assault, subsequent crossfire and a rocket attack on a house, officials said.

The Pakistan Taliban claimed responsibility, saying the attack was in response to a US drone strike in neighbouring North Waziristan last month in which two commanders were killed. The Pakistani military and pro-government militias have since 2009 regained territory from the Pakistan Taliban, who once controlled land a few hours' drive from the capital of Islamabad.

The militants attacked the post at Lakki Marwat early on Saturday.

A security official said

12 militants and 13 soldiers were killed in the clash. Two bodies had suicide bomb belts on them.

"Cross-firing between militants and security officials continued for four hours," one source said.

The militants also targeted a house next to the camp with rockets, killing 10 members of one family, including three children, the official said.

"Pakistan has been cooperating with the US in its drone strikes that killed our two senior commanders, Faisal Khan and Toofani, and the attack on military camp was the revenge of their killing," the Taliban spokesman said. He said four suicide bombers attacked the camp and blew themselves up. He said more than a dozen soldiers were killed.—Reuters



Soldiers are seen at an isolated army checkpoint after it was attacked by militants at Lakki Marwat in the outskirts of Dera Ismail Khan on 2 February, 2013.

REUTERS

8 NATO service members die in Afghanistan in Jan

KABUL, 3 Feb—Up to eight soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) had been killed in Afghan war in January this year, the lowest casualty in a month over the past four years.

According to iCasualties, a website tracking the casualties of NATO-led troops in the US-led war on terror, eight soldiers had been killed in the militancy-hit country last month, three of whom are Americans.

A Polish soldier with the coalition was killed in a hostile fire incident on Jan. 23 in eastern Ghazni province, 100 km south of capital city of Kabul, according to the website.

Out of all deaths last month, four soldiers had been killed in home-made bomb or Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks

across the country.

The simple but difficult to be detected Taliban weapon used in making suicide vests and roadside bombs, has proved a challenge for Afghan and NATO-led forces in the central Asian country.

Three other service men were killed in separate small arms fire incidents in different part of the insurgency-hit country last month, including one British soldier who was shot and killed by an Afghan army soldier.

The incident took place on 7 Jan, as the Afghan soldier opened fire against coalition forces in a military base in Nahr-e Saraj district of southern Helmand province, 100 km south of Kabul, the latest in the so-called green-on-blue insider attacks.

Xinhua

US woman missing in Turkey found dead in Istanbul: report

ISTANBUL, 3 Feb—A US woman who had been missing in Turkey's Istanbul for days was found dead, local daily *Hurriyet* reported on Saturday.

The woman, identified as Sarai Sierra, a 33-year-old mother of two, went missing while vacationing alone in Istanbul. Her family last heard from her on 21 Jan, the day she was supposed to return.

The body, which was sent to hospital, was reportedly killed by knife. Private broadcaster NTV claimed that police found Sierra's driving license next to the body.

Senior police sources said that the woman may have died from a stab wound on her abdomen and confirmed that at least 10 people have been detained at the crime scene.—Xinhua

Heavy rains render 8,000 Bolivian families homeless

LAPAZ, 3 Feb—Hail storms, downpours and landslides have made 8,159 families across Bolivia homeless and damaged about 2,000 hectares of farmland, authorities said on Friday.

Vice Civil Defence Minister Oscar Cabrera said 48 towns in eight states have been affected, with the south sustaining the most severe damage, where three states will receive priority emer-

gency aid, particularly food aid. The government will devise a recovery plan to prevent refugee flows to Argentina, Cabrera added.

The Civil Defence Ministry has allocated some 2.5 million US dollars to cover nationwide emergency services such as buying blankets, food supplies and the machinery needed to carry out recovery work, he said.

Xinhua

FARC requests mediation to release three kidnapped officers

BOGOTA, 3 Feb—The Colombian FARC guerrilla said on Saturday it would only deliver three officers—two policemen and a soldier—held in its captivity to a Colombian civil society organization and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC).

"We will proceed to make arrangements of the case to release them through the civil society organization Colombians for Peace and the ICRC," said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) said in a statement.

The two policemen

were kidnapped on January 25 in a rural area of the Colombian southwestern Valle del Cauca Province. The government requested this week for their immediate release.

"We also inform that in the attack occurred on Tuesday in Policarpa (southwest) with official army troops (...) we captured a soldier, which we are able to also release simultaneously with the policemen," said the rebel group. "We inform to their relatives that they are in good conditions and treated with respect and dignity," it added.—Xinhua



A Yemeni weapons dealer shows a pistol at his shop in Jihana district in eastern Sanaa, Yemen, on 1 Feb, 2013. Yemen, which has a population of 24 million, is awash of 60 million pieces of weapons leading to the highest guns-per-capita ratio in the world.

XINHUA

REGIONAL

Two kidnapped hostages freed in S Philippines

ZANBOANGA City, 3 Feb — Gunmen of al-Qaeda-linked terrorist Abu Sayyaf group, released two Filipino television crews in the jungle of Jolo island on Saturday night, but still kept a Jordanian journalist, Philippine military said on Sunday.

The two Filipinos, Rolando Letrero and Ramelito Vela, were freed from the Abu Sayyaf camp in Patikul town at around 6 pm for still unspecified reason, said Philippine Army Spokesman Randolph Cabangbang.

Police sent them to a hospital for medical check-up and treatment, he added.

As for the whereabouts about the Jordanian journalist, Cabangbang said they had no information about it, as the released victims said they had not seen Atyani a week after they were seized. The police and marines were verifying the fate of the Jordanian captive.

Jordanian broadcast journalist Baker Atyani and two Filipino companions declared “missing” in Jolo, Sulu since 13 June of last

year. An Abu Sayyaf Group leader later claimed to have in custody the three victims.

The 380-strong Abu Sayyaf group (ASG), founded in the early 1990s, is a violent Muslim terrorist group operating in the southern Philippines. The ASG engages in kidnappings for ransom, bombings, beheadings, assassinations, and extortion. The group's stated goal is to promote an independent Islamic state in western Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago, areas in the southern Philippines.—Xinhua



People participate in a mini-marathon to celebrate Laos' ascension to WTO membership in Vientiane on 2 Feb, 2013. Laos has officially become the 158th member of the World Trade Organization(WTO) on Saturday, 15 years after the country started application of membership. People commemorated the occasion by celebrations in the country's capital city of Vientiane.—XINHUA

Eight students injured after van overturns in Japan's Hyogo Prefecture

OSAKA, 3 Feb—A total of eight high school students were injured, with one in critical condition, after a van they were aboard overturned on an expressway in Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan, on Saturday morning, local press reported.

The accident occurred at around 8 am local time when the van carrying nine female students from a tennis club of a high school in Matsuyama City, Ehime Prefecture, hit the central reservation on the expressway and overturned.

Local police arrested a 37-year-old teacher of the high school who drove the van for negligent driving. The driver told the police that he drove too fast and caused the overturn.

The students were heading for Kasai City in Hyogo Prefecture to take part in a tennis match, the reports said.

Xinhua

Xinhua



Injured passengers receive medical treatment in a hospital in Ningxian County of Qingyang City in north-west China's Gansu Province, on 2 Feb, 2013. An overloaded bus caught fire after falling into a ravine here on Friday. Eighteen people have been confirmed dead and 34 others injured in the accident after more bodies were recovered from the wreckage, government sources said on Saturday.—XINHUA

Philippine Coast Guard warns of possible vessel oil spill

MANILA, 3 Feb—The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) warned of possible oil spill by a passenger vessel, which partially sank near a port in northern Philippine province of Oriental Mindoro, if it is not immediately be removed from the area.

Oil sheen was sighted near waters of Calapan port where listing MV Baleno 168 was moored, the agency said, but added that oil sheen dissolved immediately.

“If the water condi-

tion at the incident area will change to heavy wave with strong winds and currents, subject vessel may possibly capsize and oil spill may occur,” the agency said.

The vessel was loaded with about 2,450 litres of diesel and 9, 125 litres of low sulfur fuel when it encountered trouble last Thursday and partially sank near the port. It was also loaded with 227 litres of lubricant oil.

Xinhua



Border policemen and bird lovers watch migratory birds through a telescope at Minjiang River Estuary Wetlands Park on the World Wetlands Day in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China's Fujian Province, on 2 Feb, 2013. World Wetlands Day is marked on 2 February every year.—XINHUA

China island resort alert to holiday overpricing

SANYA, 3 Feb—The mayor of Sanya on Sunday vowed tight monitoring of local tourism businesses to avoid a repeat of the overcharging allegations that dogged the renowned resort city last Spring Festival.

Authorities of Sanya, in China's island province of Hainan, will clamp down on illegal activities in the tourism industry during the upcoming holiday travel rush, said Wang Yong.

“Sanya will not pass the tests if any overcharging takes place again,” he said.

In the peak tourist sea-

son of Spring Festival in 2012, a series of overcharging scandals tainted the beach city's reputation as a paradise for tourists from home and abroad. Some visitors complained that they were overcharged “extremely irrationally.”

Government authorities will monitor and investigate hotels, restaurants and travel agencies based on guide prices suggested by the government, according to Wang.

The government will severely punish illegal tour guides, travel agents and

tourism sites, he added.

Especially in the management of seafood markets and bars, administrative departments will utilize an electronic order system that will allow them to keep tabs on pricing, the mayor said.

Wang also warned all businesses in Sanya to “keep their noses clean” or face tough penalties.

During last year's Spring Festival, Sanya, a city with a population of 700,000, received about 500,000 tourists drawn to its warm weather, sea and sand.

Xinhua

Sri Lanka rescues 138 people from sinking boat

COLOMBO, 3 Feb—The Sri Lankan Navy rescued over 100 people from a sinking boat off the country's eastern seas, a navy spokesman said on Sunday.

Navy spokesman Kosal Warnakulasuriya told Xinhua that navy boats were deployed the previous night after information was received about a stranded boat. When the navy reached the boat they found 138 people cramped into a small boat and their lives were in danger.

The navy immediately transferred the passengers onto the navy boats and brought them ashore, the navy spokesman said.

Xinhua

He said that most of them were suffering from dehydration and were admitted to a local hospital.

Among those on the boat were women and children and it was still not clear if they were heading to some country to seek asylum.

In recent times hundreds of Sri Lankans had been arrested while attempting to go by boat to Australia to seek asylum.

Sri Lankans, Bangladeshi nationals and Afghans often make the dangerous trip by boat despite many of them failing in their journey.



Photo taken on 2 Feb, 2013 shows the broken chimney after an explosion occurred in the Yongxing chemical plant in Boxing County, east China's Shandong Province. A chimney in the plant exploded on Saturday. No casualty has been reported yet. Rescue work is in progress.—XINHUA

Sinopec to sell cleaner gasoline in 2014

BEIJING, 3 Feb—Sinopec Corp, Asia's biggest oil refiner, has said it is upgrading desulphurization facilities and will supply cleaner oil products from 2014 over public concerns about oil quality. Sinopec said in statement on Friday that it will build upgraded desulphurization facilities in 12 refineries by the end of 2013 and will sell oil

products that meet the national 4 standard for pollutant emissions.

China has no country-wide standard on sulphur content in gasoline, and such standards currently vary by region. Beijing is the only city in China to have adopted the national 5 standard, equal to the Euro V vehicle emissions standard, which caps sulphur content below 10

ppm (parts per million).

China's developed regions, including Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang, use the national 4 standard, 50 ppm or below, while remaining regions have adopted the national 3 standard, which allows the sulphur content in fuel to be as high as 150 ppm.

But cleaner fuel may also mean higher prices. When Beijing and Shang-

hai switched from national 3 standard to the stricter national 4 years ago, gasoline prices rose by 0.2 to 0.3 yuan (0.03 to 0.05 US dollar) per litre.

Repeated bouts of smog this winter in China's central and eastern parts have given rise to public outcry over oil quality, which contributes to air pollution.

Xinhua

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10 killed in traffic accident in Turkey

ANKARA, 3 Feb—At least 10 people were killed and some others injured in a traffic accident in Adiyaman province in southeastern Turkey on Saturday, private Dogan news agency reported.

A minibus collided with a truck on the road to Pazarcik town of Adiyaman, leaving 10 people dead and three others injured, according to the report.—Xinhua

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An Afghan woman asks for alms from a shopkeeper during heavy snowfall in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 2 Feb, 2013. Over the past two weeks, at least 17 people, 11 of them children, have died because of cold-related diseases in Afghanistan's resettlement areas, according to media reports.

XINHUA

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Donate Blood

ENTERTAINMENT

Duncan Jones to direct "Warcraft" game movie



British filmmaker Duncan Jones

LONDON, 3 Feb—British filmmaker Duncan Jones has signed up to direct a movie based on the popular videogame World of Warcraft, according to a statement posted on its Facebook page.

The film, which industry estimates say will cost more than \$100 million to make, would be a major step

up for the director behind the acclaimed low-budget space drama "Moon" and sci-fi thriller "Source Code" starring Jake Gyllenhaal.

"We are pleased to announce that Duncan Jones ... has signed on with Legendary Pictures to direct the upcoming live-action film based on the Warcraft universe," the statement said.

In a post on his Twitter feed, 41-year-old Jones, who is singer David Bowie's son, added: "So the gauntlet was thrown down ages ago: Can you make a proper movie of a video game. I've always said it's possible. Got to DO it now!"

The script for the film, which is due to start production in 2013 and hit theatres in 2015, is being written by Charles Leavitt, who was behind the 2006 thriller "Blood Diamond". Warcraft is one of the world's most successful multi-player online role-play games.

Reuters

Actress Kerry Washington wins big at NAACP Image Awards

LOS ANGELES, 3 Feb—Actress Kerry Washington was the big winner at the NAACP Image Awards on Friday, picking up awards for her roles in the slavery-era Western film "Django Unchained" and television drama "Scandal," as well as a special honour for professional achievement and public service.

But on a night that celebrated the successes of artists of colour, actor and activist Harry Belafonte struck a somber note when he admonished the black community for failing to speak out in favour of gun control, saying "the group most devastated by America's obsession with

the gun is African-Americans." Washington received the best supporting actress in a movie award for her role as a slave in Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained" and best actress in a television drama for "Scandal," in which she plays a crisis-management expert.

"This award does not belong to me. It belongs to our ancestors," Washington said in accepting her award for "Django Unchained," which has received a mixed reaction from the black community for its portrayal of slavery and its violence.

Both Washington and

Actress Kerry Washington holds her award in the Press room at the 44th NAACP Image Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, on 1 Feb, 2013. REUTERS



"Django" co-star Jamie Foxx, who received the entertainer of the year award,

thanked Tarantino for making the film. "Django" was an absolute blessing of a movie," Foxx said. "Thank you Quentin Tarantino for having the courage to do it."—Reuters

Beyonce Knowles' family to cheer her at Super Bowl

LONDON, 3 Feb—Beyonce Knowles' family will be in New Orleans to cheer her on for her Super Bowl half time performance. The Halo hitmaker is set to take on the biggest challenge of her life on Sunday (03.02.13) and will be supported by her husband Jay-Z, sister Solange, mother Tina and daughter Blue Ivy.

A source told *The Huffington Post*: "This is a major moment in Beyonce's life. It's a once in a lifetime event and she wanted to share it with her family. They are an extremely close unit who spend a lot of time together. They have

each other's backs." Meanwhile, Beyonce will have a quiet night in on Saturday (02.02.13), even though her husband will be hosting a bash for his drinks brand D'usse Cognac.

The insider explained: "She will be home resting making sure her voice is in top shape for her performance.

When Madonna performed last year, she wasn't seen at any of the pre-Bowl events. Beyonce will not be different."

Beyonce, 31, previ-



Beyonce revealed she can't wait until her performance is over so that she can spend time with Jay-Z and daughter Blue Ivy. —PTI

ously revealed she can't wait until her performance is over so that she can spend time with her Jay-Z and their 12-month-old daughter Blue Ivy. She explained: "I can't

wait until it's all over, I'm gonna enjoy my daughter. I miss her so much and I keep saying 'mommy is so busy but I'll be done at 9 pm on Sunday.'—PTI

Kristen Stewart sends love letter to Robert Pattinson

LONDON, 3 Feb—Kristen Stewart has sent a "long love letter" to Robert Pattinson. The pair reportedly agreed to a trial separation while the British actor films *The Rover* in Australia, and despite agreeing to no contact while he is away, the 23-year-old actress—who cheated on her *Twilight* Saga co-star with married director Rupert Sanders last summer

—has penned her innermost feelings in a note to the hunky star in a bid to repair their fractured relationship.

It was previously claimed Kristen was planning to fly out to Australia in a desperate attempt to see Robert. PTI



A source told *HollywoodLife.com*: "Kristen wrote a long letter...explaining her love to Rob. Even if he can't forgive her, he should know that she is closer to him than anyone else could ever be." It was previously claimed Kristen was planning to fly out to Australia in a desperate attempt to see Robert, 26.

A source said recently: "Kristen is desperate to get out to Australia because she misses Rob. But he's being ambivalent about the whole thing. 'It seems like she's going to fly out there, despite the fact that he has cut their communication down a lot. He's barely picking up her calls [or] responding to her messages.' However, after being advised against making the trip, Kristen decided to write the letter instead.—PTI

Singer Frank Ocean wants peace, says no charges against Chris Brown

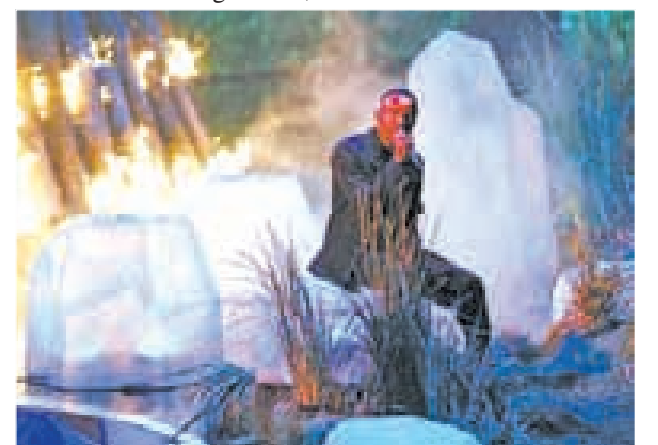
LOS ANGELES, 3 Feb—Rising R&B star Frank Ocean said on Saturday he will not press charges against singer Chris Brown, who he said had "jumped" him last week in a parking lot fracas. The encounter between Ocean and Brown still could derail Brown's efforts to remain in compliance with his probation stemming from his 2009 assault against singer Rihanna, his on-again, off-again girlfriend, a legal expert said. Earlier in the week, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said Ocean was "desirous of prosecution in this incident," which occurred on 27 January outside a recording studio in West Hollywood.

Representatives for Brown could not be reached for comment on Saturday. Sheriff's deputies had cited

witnesses as saying Grammy-winner Brown, 23, punched Ocean, 25, in the brief altercation. But Ocean on Saturday posted a message on *www.frankocean.com* saying he wanted to move past the incident. "I'll choose sanity," he wrote. "No criminal charges. No civil lawsuit. Forgiveness,

albeit difficult, is wisdom. Peace, albeit trite, is what I want in my short life. Peace." Brown and Ocean both are nominated in the best urban contemporary album category at the Grammys Awards, which will be announced on 10 February in Los Angeles.

Reuters



Frank Ocean is bathed in red light as he performs "Thinkin Bout You" during the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, on 6 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Gisele Bundchen new face of Chanel beauty

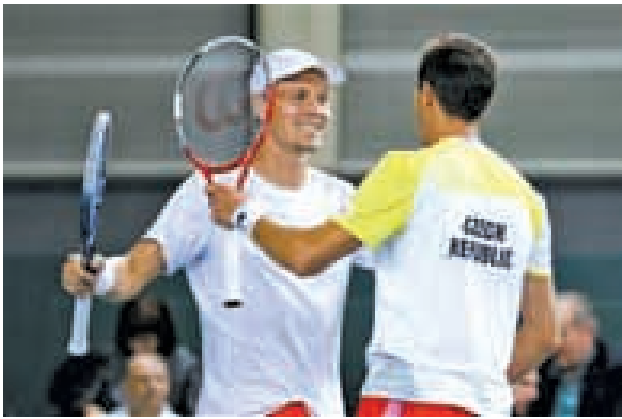
LONDON, 3 Feb—Supermodel Gisele Bundchen has been named the new face of Chanel Beauty and will star in the brand's campaign for its new Les Beiges makeup range. The Brazilian supermodel will appear in the French fashion house's advertising campaign, which is expected to be released on 15 March, reported *Femalefirst*.

PTI



SPORTS

Czechs set Davis Cup record as Serbia cruise



Tomas Berdych (R) of the Czech Republic returns to Stanislas Wawrinka and Marco Chiudinelli of Switzerland during his Davis Cup world group round 1 tennis doubles match with his team mate Lukas Rosol at Palexpo in Geneva on 3 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 3 Feb—Holders Czech Republic showed how tenaciously they will fight to retain the Davis Cup on Saturday, while five-times champions Spain avoided being knocked out in the first round for the first time since 2006 by winning their doubles rubber against Canada. Czechs Tomas Berdych and Lukas Rosol won a record-breaking dou-

bles match against Swiss duo Marco Chiudinelli and Stanislas Wawrinka.

Their seven hour two minute victory, including a 24-22 final set, put the Czechs 2-1 ahead in the tie in Geneva and they need to win only one of the two singles rubbers on Sunday. The Czechs needed 13 match points before the Swiss finally cracked

but for France and Serbia things were far more straightforward as they took unassailable 3-0 leads in their matches against Israel and Belgium respectively. Argentina also clinched a quarter-final berth by taking a 3-0 lead against Germany.

Top seeds Spain, missing top-15 players Rafa Nadal, David Ferrer and Nicolas Almagro and world number 24 Fernando Verdasco, gave themselves a chance of joining them after Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez produced a gritty five-set win. Trailing 2-0 after dropping both singles matches on Friday, the Spanish duo overcame Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil 4-6, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2 to stay alive in the tie. The Spaniards, however, face a tough task on Sunday with Canada's world number 15 Milos Raonic to play Granollers in the first match of the reverse singles.—Reuters

Balotelli set to debut against Udinese



AC Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri

MILAN, 3 Feb—AC Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri confirmed on Saturday that their new signing Mario Balotelli could make his debut against Udinese on Sunday.

As the 22-year-old former Manchester City striker is in form, demonstrated by the goal he scored in a friendly on Thursday, Allegri could not hesitate to put Balotelli straight into the starting line-up where he could feature alongside Giampaolo Pazzini.

"He joined on Thursday, and is in good shape physically," he told reporters. "I will decide today (Saturday) whether he'll start or be on the bench. It is not just a tactical choice, but also dictated by the situation.

"In my view he can be paired with Pazzini, who has done well so far this season."

Allegri said the signing has benefited AC Milan in several ways, pointing to the lift the transfer has given his side. "Balotelli's arrival is important for the club in media terms. He has brought a strong wave of enthusiasm, although we must remain detached from that," Allegri said.—Xinhua



ROME, 3 Feb — Napoli beat Catania 2-0 to move level on points with Serie A leaders Juventus

on Saturday. Midfielder Marek Hamsik took centre stage in this crucial win as he grabbed a 31st-minute opener, turning in Camilo Zuniga's wayward shot, and then set up with a low cross for Paolo Cannavaro to tap in just before half-time.

Catania vastly improved their performance after the break, and had a Gonzalo Bergessio header

Ronaldo own goal sees Real Madrid lose in Granada

MADRID, 3 Feb—Cristiano Ronaldo scored the only goal of the game, but unfortunately it was in his own net as Real Madrid lost 1-0 away to struggling Granada. Ronaldo flicked a corner past goalkeeper, Diego Lopez into the Madrid goal after 22 minutes in what was a stroke of bad luck, which gave Granada coach, Lucas Alcaraz a win on his debut as Malaga coach.

However, there was no luck in Granada's win as Real Madrid produced one of their worst displays in a long time and only rarely threatened the Granada goal. The Madrid midfield failed to string many passes together and when Karim Benzema finally had a good chance to score in the last five minutes, he side-footed wide of an open goal.

Madrid may have claimed some tiredness after their Copa del Rey game



Cristiano Ronaldo

at home to Barcelona on Wednesday night, but with the most expensive squad in Spain they have no excuse

for such a poor display and were lucky to end the game with 11 players on the pitch after referee Muniz Fernandez let Luka Modric off what should have been a second yellow card for a clear handball. The day kicked off with Osasuna climbing out of the relegation zone thanks to a narrow, but well-deserved 1-0 win at home to Celta Vigo.

Dani Armenteros' low shot early in the second half gave Osasuna the points, but the win would have been more comfortable had it not been for a fine display from Celta keeper, Javi Varas. Getafe came back from being a man and a goal down early in the game to defeat struggling Deportivo la Coruna 3-1. Deportivo went ahead after 11 minutes after goalkeeper, Miguel Angel Moya was sent off for bringing down Riki in the Getafe area.—Reuters

Wang Meng wins women's 500m in short-track World Cup

SOCHI, (Russia), 3 Feb —Four-time Olympic champion Wang Meng claimed her fifth World Cup win coming back from a ban when she won the 500 metres short track speedskating here on Saturday.

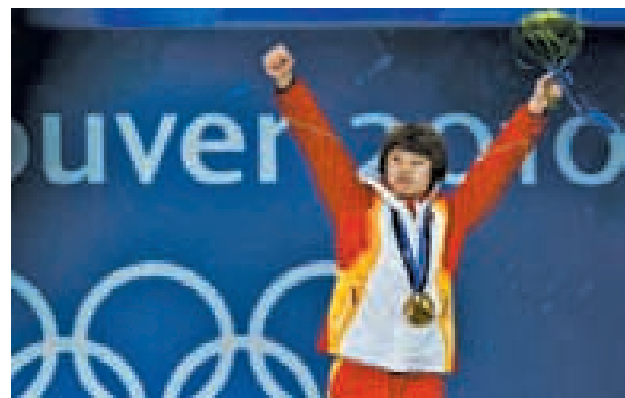
The Chinese 28-year-old took the title in 43.231 seconds ahead of Ariana Fontana of Italy and fellow teammate Liu QiuHong at the Iceberg arena, which will host the short-track and figure skating events during the Sochi Olympics next year.

Wang was banned for 13 months in 2011 as she broke the team curfew and drunkenly punched team manager in the following brawl. Her ban was lifted in September last year. In other events, Shim Suk-hee of South Korea continued her domination in the women's

1,500m, claiming her fifth victory of the season with a time of 2:26.338. Li Jianrou of China clocked 2:26.518 for second and Elise Christie of Britain came third in 2:26.696.

Double Olympic champion Charles Hamelin claimed his second short-track speedskating World Cup victory of the season by winning a men's 500m

race. The Canadian won in 41.092 and Wu Daiping of China clocked 41.095 for second, while Russia's Vladimir Grigorev was third in 41.165. Noh Jinkyu led a South Korean sweep of the podium in the men's 1,500m, recording 2:17.482 for his fourth win of the season. Kim Yun-Jae was second and Kwak Yoon-Gy third.—Xinhua



Four-time Olympic champion Wang Meng

Napoli beat Catania to move level on points with Juve

on Saturday. Midfielder Marek Hamsik took centre stage in this crucial win as he grabbed a 31st-minute opener, turning in Camilo Zuniga's wayward shot, and then set up with a low cross for Paolo Cannavaro to tap in just before half-time.

Catania vastly improved their performance after the break, and had a Gonzalo Bergessio header

ruled out for a foul, but the hosts held on to draw level with Juve ahead of the champions' trip to Chievo on Sunday lunchtime.

Napoli head coach Walter Mazzarri warned his side not to be distracted by their rise to the top. "I cannot change my attitude by looking at the table. Our results come from battles like the one we had today and we must not get dis-

tracted. We need to remember every game is a battle," he said.

"We did well not to panic during some moments under pressure today, though we still need to mature in those terms," he added.

In an earlier kick-off of the day, Torino drew 0-0 with Sampdoria at home to stretch their unbeaten run to seven matches.—Xinhua



Brazil duo on target for Fluminense

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 Jan — Brazil internationals Fred and Jean were both on target Saturday as Fluminense moved to the top of the Campeonato Carioca's Group B with a 3-0 victory over Quissama. Jean opened the scoring in Macae with a curling free-kick into the top corner before Wagner's first-time finish and a Fred penalty gave the reigning Brazilian top-flight champions their third victory from five games. Fred and Jean will travel to London on Sunday to join the rest of Luiz Felipe Scolari's Brazil squad ahead of Wednesday's international friendly against England at Wembley Stadium.

"It has been an amazing week," Jean said after Saturday's match. "It's a great feeling to have scored a goal and now I want to do the best I can for the national team." Jean, who is yet to make his international debut, was drafted into Scolari's squad on Friday to replace injured Lazio midfielder Hernanes.—Xinhua

GENERAL



CENSUS TAKING PROCESS EXPLAINED:
Township/ward/ census taking committees held a meeting at the hall of Thakayta Township Fire Services Department in Yangon Region on 1 February. Head of Yangon East District Immigration and National Registration Department U Win Hlaing explains process of taking census.
MYANMA ALINN

Author of “American Sniper” shot dead in Texas

HOUSTON, 3 Feb—The author of “American Sniper” has been shot dead in the US state of Texas, US media reported on Saturday.

Chris Kyle and another man were found dead at Rough Creek Lodge, an upscale hunting lodge in northern Texas, on Saturday afternoon, according to local TV channel ABC13. Investigators have not

released any details of the shooting.

Kyle, 38, was a former Navy SEAL and served four tours of duty in Iraq. In January 2012, Kyle’s best-selling autobiography “American Sniper” was released. A native Texan, Kyle claimed to have recorded the most career sniper kills in US military history, according to reports.—Xinhua



Visitors view flowers at a phalaenopsis exhibition in Taipei, southeast China’s Taipei, on 3 Feb, 2013. The eight-day exhibition was opened on 3 Feb to greet the upcoming Spring Festival, which falls on 10 Feb this year.—XINHUA

Brazilians upset Bryans to deny US Davis Cup sweep

JACKSONVILLE, (Florida) 3 Feb—Battling Brazilians Marcelo Melo and Bruno Soares upset the world’s top ranked doubles team of Bob and Mike Bryan on Saturday to deny the United States a sweep of their Davis Cup first round tie. After taking both opening singles on Friday, the Americans had looked poised to make it a clean sweep, sending out the Bryans to face the underdog Brazilians on the lightning quick Jacksonville, Florida hardcourts.

The Bryans entered the match with a sparkling 20-2 record together in Davis Cup competition, but could not put

away the feisty Brazilian duo falling 7-6, 6-7, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in three hours and 29 minutes. It marked the first Davis Cup loss for the 13 time Grand Slam winners since 2008. The United States will now need a victory from John Isner or Sam Querrey in Sunday’s reverse singles if they are to avoid the upset to Brazil, who are back playing in the world group for the first time in nine years.

Needing a win to extend the tie, Melo and Soares, who had lost only once in five ties, came out and took the opening set in a tie-break 8-6 but Bryans answered right back taking the second also in a tie-break 9-7.—Reuters



Brazil’s Bruno Soares (L) and Marcelo Melo (R) embrace as fans celebrate behind them after winning their Davis Cup tennis men’s double match against Bob and Mike Bryan of the US in Jacksonville, Florida on 2 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Bayern extends lead on top of German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 3 Feb—Unstoppable Bayern Munich continue their triumphal march as they cruised to a 3-0 win over Mainz whereas bottom side Greuther Furth flabbergasted Schalke 2-1 to wrap a last gasp win at the 20th round of Bundesliga on Saturday. Bundesliga front-runners Bayern Munich consolidate their title ambitions as they increased their point account to 51 points with great help of Mario Mandzukic who donated a brace within seven minutes.

Mainz staged a courageous performance on home soil to give the German record champion

a hard time. The hosts utilized a cleverly devised strategy, during the first half, when they isolated Bayern’s midfield with



Bastian Schweinsteiger and Javi Martinez. Thus Bayern did not manage to produce opportunities meanwhile Mainz came close twice through Shawn Parker. With four minutes remaining

in the first half, Bayern midfielder Thomas Mueller rounded Mainz goalkeeper Christian Wetklo to break the deadlock out of the blue following a pass into path by Toni Kroos.

Mainz situation worsened at the 50th minute, as Mario Mandzukic exploited a David Alaba pass into the box, to double the lead, and to score his 12th goal of the season. Mandzukic was not done with the scoring and so he made it three on scoreboards, seven minutes later, following a combination via Philipp Lahm to destroy Mainz hopes of a comeback.

Xinhua

Minnesota’s Peterson runs away with top awards for 2012



Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson accepts the NFL MVP award during the NFL Honors awards show in New Orleans, Louisiana on 2 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

NEW ORLEANS, 3 Feb—Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson carried off two top awards, including Most Valuable Player honors, at the National Football League awards show on Saturday. Peterson, who overcame a career-threatening injury to lead the Vikings into the playoffs, was also named Offensive Player of the Year after

coming within nine yards of setting a single season NFL rushing record.

While pleased to have won recognition for his performance, Peterson told reporters he was disappointed to have fallen short of his ultimate goal. “I was definitely hoping to get to the Super Bowl. That was my goal,” said the 27-year-old Peterson, whose 2011 season ended when he tore ligaments in his knee. “Come back, lead my team and help my team get to the Super Bowl. “Unfortunately, that didn’t happen. But I played my heart out every opportunity I had ... (and) I got a couple of good pieces of hardware to bring back and stack in my statue area. “So it feels good.”

The Houston Texans’ J J Watt won the Defensive Player of the Year award.

“I can get a lot better, I’m only 23,” Watt said. “I’m still growing as a human being, and as a person and as a player.” Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning denied Peterson a clean sweep of awards available to him by winning Comeback Player of the Year honors. Former Indianapolis Colts leader Manning missed the entire 2011 season after undergoing a series of neck surgeries and returned to the field with the Broncos, leading them to the playoffs as top seed in the American Football Conference.

“I really did not know what to expect,” Manning said about his return. “I had the double variables of coming off an injury, not playing for a year and joining a new team, a new system, new team mates.

Reuters

Parcells, six others make Pro Football Hall of Fame

NEW ORLEANS, 3 Feb—Former Super Bowl winning head coach Bill Parcells was among seven men voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday. Parcells was joined by six former players, including three first-time nominees, to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, the greatest individual honour in the sport. Offensive linemen Larry Allen and Jonathan Ogden and defensive tackle Warren Sapp all were elected in their first year of being nominated while wide receiver Cris Carter, defensive tackle Curley Culp and linebacker Dave Robinson were voted in after missing out previously.

The seven men will be enshrined into the Hall of Fame in August. They were selected by a group of 44 voters from a pool of 17 nominees. The panel spent more than eight hours



Tampa Bay Buccaneers player Warren Sapp (L), former Minnesota Vikings player Cris Carter (2nd L), former Baltimore Ravens player Jonathan Ogden (2nd R) and former Dallas Cowboys player Larry Allen (R) stand together after being named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame at the 2013 Class of Enshrinement show in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 2 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

to reach their decision and spent an hour alone debating whether to include Parcells, who led the New York Giants to two Super Bowl titles in a 19-year coaching career where he coached four teams, all to the playoffs.

“This is long overdue,” Giants co-owner John Mara said in a statement. “He’s one of the best coaches in NFL history. He turned our franchise around. We went through a long period in the 1960s and 70s when we were a laughing stock.—Reuters

Pyuchaung hydropower plant to generate 120 million kwh a year



inspection of Kunchaung hydropower plant about nine miles south-west of Pyu, he gave instructions on generating power at full capacity and maintenance of machinery.

Kunchaung hydro-power plant is equipped with three 20-megawatt generators, producing 190 million kilowatt-hours per year.

MNA

*Union Minister for Electric Power
U Khin Maung Soe views progress in
installation of machinery at Pyuchaung
Hydropower Plant in Pyu Township.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb— Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe inspected Pyuchaung and Kunchaung hydropower plants in Pyu Township, Bago Region, yesterday.

Pyu Creek Hydro-power plant across the Pyu Creek about seven miles west of Pyu would be equipped with generators with combined capacity of 40 megawatts and the plant is expected to generate about 120 million kilowatt-hour per year upon completion.

During his tour of



Myanmar undergoing training for tune-up against Philippines



Myanmar selected national football team has been undergoing training since 1 February, preparing for the qualifier matches to be hosted by Myanmar for AFC Challenge Cup.

The team has been formed with 26 tentatively selected players and begun preparation for tune-up against Philippine selected national team. Myanmar will play against Philippines at 5 pm at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre on 6 February after which training session will be stopped for a while for MNL League and resumed on 11 February.

Myanmar will then play against Malaysia U-23 at the same stadium on 22

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day

- For all the national races to perpetuate the Union and to cultivate the Union Spirit
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Myanmar-Japan Business Talks on 7 February

YANGON, 3 Feb— The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Japanese largest business organization KEIDANREN (Japan Business Federation) jointly organize Myanmar-

Japan Business Con-sultation at Sedona Hotel, here, on 7 February.

Myanmar entrepreneurs wishing to attend the meeting may contact International Relations Department of UMFCCI head office.

MNA

Byline & Photo: Soe Nyunt

February. The qualifier for AFC Challenge Cup will kick off on 2 March and Myanmar is in Group A with India, China (Taipei) and Guam.

The current line-up of Park Hsung-hua, the Myanmar's team boss is as follows: Goal-Thaiha Sithu (Yadanabon), Kyaw Zin Phyto (Magway), Pyae Phyto Aung (Southern); Defence-Zaw Min Tun, Yan Aung Win, Thet Naing, Ye Zaw Htet Aung (Yadanabon), Thein Than Win, Nyana Lwin (Kanbawza), Zaw Zaw Oo

(Ayeyawady), Aung Hein Kyaw (Zeya Shwemyay), Pyae Phyto Aung (Yangon), Nanda Kyaw (Magway); Midfielder-Maung Maung Soe, Htoo Htoo Aung (Magway), Phyto Ko Ko Thein, Nyi Nyi Min, Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit (Ayeyawady), Yazar Win Thein, Aung Moe, Yan Aung Kyaw, Sithu Aung (Yangon); Forward-Kyaw Ko Ko (Zeya Shwemyay), Kaung Sithu (Yadanabon), Kyaw Zeyar Win and Soe Min Oo (Kanbawza).

Myanma Alinn: 3-2-2013

Trs: TTK

MR plying Mandalay-Lashio route

Myanma Railways is regularly running Mandalay-Lashio route with 131 Up and 132 Down trains with full coaches.

Due to brake errors, an upper class coach was detached from the trains for a few days at the end of previous December and

then they were replaced with first class coaches. The suspended upper class coach BDUEZ-12738 was reattached on 23 January.

There are 27 railway stations on Mandalay-Lashio railroad section. The train stops over at major stations and providing

services to 600 passengers at once. A total of 250 foreign passengers took the ride of 131 Up train on 11 January alone. MR staff are providing satisfactory services to the passengers daily.

Kyemon: 3-2-2013

Trs: HKA

