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President U Thein Sein receives Executive Vice-President and CEO of International Finance Corporation (IFC) from World Bank

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a delegation led by Executive Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Jin-Yong Cai of International Finance Corporation (IFC) from World Bank at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 11 am today.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thane and U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials.

At the call, both sides cordially discussed matters related to Myanmar's agriculture, health, education, electric power sectors and sharing of experience in public finance and rural area development.

MNA

President U Thein Sein and Union Ministers together with International Finance Corporation (IFC) delegation pose for documentary photo.—MNA

Union Level Peace Making Committee holds peace talks with KIO

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Peace talks between Union Level Peace Making Committee and KIO was held at Shweli today.

It was attended by a six-member team led by Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Ohn Myint from Union Level Peace-Making Committee and a five-member team led by U Sung Lyut Gam and General Gwan Maw from KIO, a two-member team led by Ambassador Mr Luo Zhaohui from Foreign Affairs Ministry of the People's Republic of China, KNU General Saw Mutu Sae Poe and General Secretary Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, three led by Brig-Gen Sai Lu of RCSS/SSA, U Han Nyaung Wai and Victor Biak Lian.

Both sides issued a five-point joint statement at the talks. The following is the translation of the joint statement:

Joint statement

1. Talks between a delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Union Level Peace-Making Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and KIO negotiation team, was held in Shweli of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China from 9 am to 16:15 pm today.
2. Ambassador Mr Luo Zhaohui of Foreign Affairs Ministry of the PRC, KNU Chairman General Saw Mutu Sae Poe, General Secretary Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and one member, Brig-Gen Sai Lu of RCSS/SSA and two members, U Han Nyaung Wai and U Victor Biak Lian, have attended the talks as witnesses.
3. Talks focused on establishing communication channels, reducing military tension, preparing for next talks and the invitation of observers and organizations as witnesses in the next meeting.
4. KIO has agreed to hold the next talks before the end of February after making coordination with UNFC and to continue holding the political talks between the government and KIO.
5. Both sides have agreed to continue to hold talks for emergence of a surveillance system in the conflict-affected areas for achieving ceasefire swiftly between the government and KIO.

4 February, 2013 Shweli

ATR Co hands over ATR 72-600 flight to Air KBZ

By Soe Nyunt

ATR Company handed over one of two ATR 72-600 planes to Air KBZ airlines, at ATR manufacturing workshop in Toulouse, France on 29 January. The handing over ceremony was attended by CEO of ATR Company Mr Filippo Bagnato and officials, Chairperson Daw Nan Lai Kham of Air KBZ Airlines and officials. ATR CEO and the Air KBZ Chairman delivered speeches and then met press. "This is the first order placed in the Southeast Asia," ATR Company's CEO said.

Currently, Air KBZ is operating flight schedules to Yangon, Mandalay, NyaungU, Heho, Kengtung, Tachilek, Lashio, Myeik, Dawei, Kawthoung, Kalay, Myitkyina, Thandwe and Sittway with four ATR 72-500 airplanes. Flight schedules will be extended to Nay Pyi Taw, Bhamo, Putao, Kyaukpyu, Monywa and Homalin in addition to current schedules when two new flights arrive.

Myanma Alinn: 4-2-2013
Trs: MT

LOCAL NEWS

Rural people in Patheingyi Township enjoy electricity on self-reliant basis

MANDALAY, 4 Feb—Since early 2013, Hsinywagyi, Nyeinchanthazan, Yeyinzara, Natsein and Khemabaya villages of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region have been enjoying fruits of supplying electricity on a self-reliant basis.

Among 140 villages in Patheingyi Township, six villages are being supplied electricity with the use of diesel engines under the arrangement of the region government and 65 villages on a self-reliant basis. At present, 13 villages are trying to supply electricity to local people.

On 31 December 2012, a ceremony to launch supply of electricity was held at the hall of Hsinywagyi Village.

The power supply committee tried hard to switch on the lamp posts by the July 2012 and installed electric meters at the houses for supply of electricity round the clock the end of 2012.—*Kyemon*

Fire destroys five houses in Hainggyigyun Sub-Township

PATHEIN, 4 Feb—A fire broke out at the house of U Tin Tun on Thida Street in Southern part of Pyinkhayaing Village in Hainggyigyun Sub-Township on 28 January.

Thanks of concerted efforts of members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade, policemen and local people, the fire could be put out within 30 minutes.

Five houses were blazed in the fire.—*Kyemon*

Development undertakings inspected in Pyapon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin inspected medical treatment given by specialists to local people in Thameinhtaw Village of Pyapon Township of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region on 28 January morning.

After that, the Union Minister donated fishing nets, clothes, slippers for the people and robes, solar lamps and alms to monasteries.

At Thiri Annawa Hall in Pyapon on 29 January, the Union minister met members of Non-Governental Organizations and INGOs, departmental personnel and students.

At the ceremony to disburse loans to the local people for ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation, the Union Minister made a speech.

On the occasion, U Aung Zaw Myint-Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin donated K 1.5 million, Myanmar Red Cross Society (Central) K 10 million, Health Age International K 2 million, Action Aid K 1 million, Good Neighbours International K 500,000 and Maries Stopes K 300,000, amounting to K 15.3 million.

The Union Minister also attended the opening of the vocational training school in Pyapon and donated cash to the fund for construction of the bus stop and a toilet in Dedaye.

MNA

Narcotic drugs seized at Mandalay Railway Station

MANDALAY, 4 Feb—Members of Railway Police Force searched two suspected polyethylene bags of two passengers namely Min Aung, 40 of Shwegyingon Village in Mohnyin Township and Ma Aye Aye Win, 45 of Thayetgon Village in Mohnyin Township who would take seat numbers 39 and 40 of ordinary coach No 5 at 55-up Mandalay-Myitkyina train, at platform No 1 of Mandalay Railway Station on 16 January.

A total of 64 ledger books were kept in the bags, and six packets which were suspected as raw opium hidden in the books. Six packets weighed 7.184 kilos and another eight packets, 17.142 kilos.

Mandalay Railway Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against them under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Kyemon

Stimulant tablets seized

MAWLAMYINE, 4 Feb—According to the information given by a dutiful people, a team comprising IP Khaing Than, SIP Kyaw Ni Tun, Sgt Tin Lin Tun of Mawlamyine District Special Anti-Drug Squad and SIP Sithu Kyaw of Crime Combating Unit and SIP Tun Tun Oo of Zeyathiri Police Station together with witness searched the pockets of Kyaw Shwe (a) Rajin, 31 of trousers from No. 863 from Thayettaw Street in Ngantay Ward, at Lawun Restaurant in Mawlamyine Township on 3 January.

The authorities seized 180 WY brand stimulant tablets worth over K 900,000 and one motorcycle.

Zeyathiri Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against him.—*Kyemon*

Tube-wells sunk in Kyaukpadaung Township

KYAUKPADAUNG, 4 Feb—Kyaukpadaung Township of Myingyan District in Mandalay Region received 13 inches of rainfall lesser than 35 inches ordinary one in 2012. Due to scarcity of water, the local people faced difficulties in various sectors. Thanks to the director-general of Water Resources Utilization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the department plans to sink tube-wells in the township with the use of machinery.

On 11 January, the department sank a tube-well in Kanbauk Village. Moreover, the plans are underway to sink more tube-wells in Paukthit and Nabedan villages for enabling the local people to overcome scarcity of water in the township.

Myanma Alinn

Inter-Village Football Tournament commences in Amarapura Township

AMARAPURA, 4 Feb—The Village Sports and Physical Education Committee Shield Football Tournament was held at the sports ground in Setkwa Village-tract in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region on 25 January afternoon.

Local authorities formally opened the football tournament.

Chairman of Upper Myanmar Selected Football Association Committee U Zaw Win donated track suit and footballs to the football teams.

Upper Myanmar Selected Footballers Team played against Myobyingyi Village team and the Upper Myanmar team beat the later 3-1.

After that, the football tournament followed. In the debut, Myobyingyi Village team routed Myaukkaing Village team with a 3-2 result.

A total of 35 football teams are taking part in the football tournament.

Myanma Alinn

AFC (C) Licence Coaching Course 5-18 Feb

YANGON, 4 Feb—Jointly conducted by Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Myanmar Football Federation (AFF), the AFC (C) Certificate Coaching Course 2013 will be opened at MFF Head Office from 5 to 18 February.

A total of 26 trainees including former star players Soe Myat Min, Min Thu and Nay Thu Hlaing enlisted at the training course.

Those wishing to attend the course may contact the technical section of MFF, not later than 4 February.

The federation will open the course for the trainees free of charge.

Kyemon

Donate Blood

Iran hedges on nuclear talks with six powers or US

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi arrives at the 49th Conference on Security Policy in Munich on 3 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

MUNICH, 4 Feb—Iran said on Sunday it was open to a US offer of direct talks on its nuclear programme and that six world powers had suggested a new round of nuclear negotiations this month, but without committing itself to either proposal.

Diplomatic efforts to resolve a dispute over Iran's nuclear programme, which Teheran says is peaceful but the West suspects is intended to give Iran the capability to build a nuclear bomb, have been all but deadlocked for years, while Iran has continued to announce advances in the programme.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said a suggestion on Saturday by US Vice President Joe Biden that Washington was ready for direct talks with Iran if Teheran was serious about negotiations was a "step forward".

"We take these statements with positive consideration. I think this is a step forward but ... each time we have come and negotiated it was the other side unfortunately who did not heed ... its commitment," Salehi said at the Munich Security Conference where Biden made his overture a day earlier.

He also complained to Iran's English-language Press TV of "other contradictory signals", pointing to the rhetoric of "keeping all options on the table" used by US officials to indicate they are willing to use force to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

"This does not go along with this gesture (of talks) so we will have to wait a little bit longer and see if they are really faithful this time," Salehi said.

Iran is under a tightening web of sanctions. Israel has also hinted it may strike if diplomacy and international sanctions fail to curb Iran's nuclear drive.

In Washington, Army General Martin Dempsey, the top US military officer, said in an interview broadcast on Sunday that the United States has the capability to stop any Iranian effort to build nuclear weapons, but Iranian "intentions have to be influenced through other means."

Reuters

Over 100 flights canceled as snow sweeps Beijing

BEIJING, 4 Feb—More than 100 flights were canceled on Sunday by Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA), the world's second-busiest airport by passenger volume, as snow hit China's capital.

Altogether, 115 flights scheduled to depart from or arrive at the airport on Sunday were canceled as of 7 pm, including 14 international flights, according to flight status information on BCIA's website. Some of the cancellations were due to foul weather in other cities, as many parts of China were influenced by a new cold snap.

The airport had mobilized more than 800 workers and 230 automobiles to remove ice and snow from planes, runways and parking aprons as of 3 pm on Sunday, a BCIA official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More than 1,500 planes would have flown around 114,000 passengers from the airport on Sunday as planned originally, the official said.

Light to moderate snow and sleet will fall on northeast and north China from Sunday to Tuesday while heavy rain will sweep central and east China, the China Meteorological Administration has forecasted.

BCIA saw passenger volumes grow 4.2 percent year on year in 2012 to reach 81.8 million people, a number second only to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in the United States.—*Xinhua*

Attackers kill 33 at police HQ in disputed Iraqi city

KIRKUK, 4 Feb At least 33 people were killed in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk on Sunday when a suicide bomber detonated a truck packed with explosives outside a police headquarters and gunmen disguised as officers tried to storm the compound.

Iraqi security personnel are seen at the site of a suicide bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on 3 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

The blast was the third major attack in weeks in or near the multiethnic city of Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen, at the heart of a dispute between Iraq's central government and the autonomous Kurdistan region. Police said the bomber triggered the huge blast near a side entrance to the police building, demolishing part of a government office nearby.

"A suicide bomber driving a vehicle packed with explosives hit the entrance of the headquarters and after the blast gunmen in explosive vests attacked with AK47s and grenades, but the guards killed them," a police official said.

Guards and emergency workers dragged bloodied survivors onto stretchers amid the wreckage of the blast, which left a large crater in the street.

Police said 33 were killed, including 12 employees at the government office. But a health official said only 16 bodies were at a hospital morgue and more than 90 were wounded.

Reuters

Rescuers work near the debris of the helicopter that transported former army chief and presidential candidate Lino Cesar Oviedo, near Puerto Antequera, Paraguay, on 3 Feb, 2013. Paraguayan presidential candidate Lino Cesar Oviedo was killed when a helicopter carrying him crashed in northern Paraguay on late Saturday, said reports from Asuncion on Sunday.—XINHUA

Bus crashes into Boston overpass, injuring 34 people

BOSTON, 4 Feb —A bus carrying 42 passengers travelling from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Pennsylvania crashed into a Boston overpass on Saturday night, injuring 34 people, according to emergency officials.

First responders assist injured passengers from a charter bus that crashed in Boston, Massachusettes on 2 Feb, 2013.— REUTERS

The crash happened about 7:30 pm EST on Soldiers Field Road in Boston, according to Boston Emergency Medical Services spokeswoman Jennifer Mehigan.

Medical workers transported 34 people to four area hospitals —30 with minor injuries, three serious, and one life-threatening, Mehigan said. Some people had to be removed through the bus roof, strapped onto backboards, according to the Boston Fire Department's Twitter feed.

Mehigan said the injured included teenagers and adults.

"A number of patients were trapped at some point during the incident," Mehigan said. All the victims had been removed from the bus by about 9:30 pm She said the fire department had to remove part of the roof of the private Calvary Coach charter bus to perform the rescues.—*Reuters*

Change of int'l climate revives hope for political resolution to Syrian crisis

DAMASCUS, 4 Feb A sudden change in the international climate revived hope that a political resolution for Syria's long-standing conflict is still possible, particularly after the head of the main opposition abroad announced his acceptance for talks with representatives from the Syrian government.

The head of the main opposition coalition, Moaz al Khatib, has repea ted previous surprising statement that he is ready to embark on talks with Assad's administration while setting release of detainees among others as conditions.

His remarks came during a late night panel talks on Friday with UN-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi at the Munich Security Conference on Friday.

He first declared his controversial statement on his Facebook page last Wednesday.

On Saturday, al-Khatib, for the first time, met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who invited him to come to Moscow for more talks, and met with Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi on the sideline of Munich conference.

Al-Khatib reportedly said that his talks with Salehi have focused on the need to politically end the crisis, as Russia's Lavrov reportedly said that al-Khatib appeared interested in having more understanding of the Russian stance.

Al Khatib's surprising step has also been welcomed by the United States, whose Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called the opposition leader's step "not only courageous but smart."

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Central bank issues commemorative coins for navigation system

BEIJING, 4 Feb— China's central bank has issued a set of two commemorative coins marking the official launch of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) last December.

The set includes one gold and one silver coin, both of which are fiat money of the People's Republic of China (PRC), according to the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

The coins both feature a variety of decorative elements, including the national emblem, images of satellites and binary codes.

The PBOC will issue 30,000 gold coins with a face value of 150 yuan (24.08 US dollars) and 60,000 silver coins with a face value of 10 yuan.

The BDS was developed by the government in order to take a share of the GPS-dominated domestic navigation market. The first BDS satellite was launched in 2000. The system went into official use on 27 Dec, 2012 following a trial period that began in 2003.

Xinhua

A man looks at the PENTAX Q10 camera during the CP plus Camera and Photo Imaging Show 2013 in Yokohama, Japan, on 31 Jan, 2013. Around 96 companies are participating in the exhibition.—XINHUA

Google to pay 60 million euros into French media fund

The Google signage is seen at the company's headquarters in New York on 8 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

PARIS, 4 Feb— Google is to pay 60 million euros (S82 million) into a special fund to help French media develop their presence on the Internet under a top-level deal signed on Friday, but will not pay them for posting links to their content.

French publishers had been pushing for Google to pay them licensing fees for listing headlines and snippets of articles in its search engine results.

The agreement, signed by President Francois Hollande and Google's executive chairman Eric Schmidt, follows months of talks between local media companies and the Internet search giant which were brokered by a government appointed mediator.

Google settled a similar case with Belgian publishers in December by helping them boost online revenue, but still faces a dispute with publishers in Germany.

Schmidt said in a Google blog post on Friday's deal in France that in addition to paying into the fund Google would help publishers increase their revenue using its advertising technology.

Hollande had threatened to draft legislation to force Google to pay media for posting links to their content if no deal was signed, and during the talks Google was hit with a tax audit over its practice of charging French advertisers via its European headquarters in Ireland.

In November satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaine had said the government had demanded 1 billion euros (S1.28 billion) in back taxes from the company. ($1=0.7301 euros).

Reuters

FTC issues guidelines for mobile applications

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb— The Federal Trade Commission has issued a wide-reaching set of new guidelines for makers of mobile platforms and developers of applications for mobile telephones and tablets to safeguard users' privacy.

The non-binding guidelines, published in a report on Friday, include the recommendation that companies should obtain consumers' consent before including location tracking in software and applications, consider developing icons to depict the transmission of user data, and consider offering a "Do Not Track" mechanism for smartphone users.

The report also recommended that application developers have an easily accessible privacy policy, obtain consent before collecting and sharing sensitive information and consider participating in self-regulatory programmes.

The FTC has been heightening its scrutiny of mobile devices, which are now the primary source of communication and Internet access for many users.

Among the companies who could be affected by the report are firms like Apple Inc, Amazon.com Inc and Microsoft Corp.—*Reuters*

Chipmaker Intel faces long march to mobile salvation

NEW YORK, 4 Feb—Intel Corp, the world's biggest chipmaker, opened a new front on Thursday in a long and stuttering campaign to get its processors into mobile phones, although it appears to still have a long way to go.

It joined PC maker Acer Inc in Bangkok to unveil the Liquid C1 smartphone, a $330 device running Google Inc's Android operating system, which will be launched first in Thailand and then rolled out across Southeast Asia, one of the fastest growing markets for mobile phones.

"We've made a conscious effort to go after these fast-growing markets as our first foray into the business," Mike Bell, who heads Intel's mobile division said in a telephone interview.

The company's ninth such device in nine months, the Liquid C1 represents how far Intel has come in convincing bigger name manufacturers to take a chance with its mobile chips as the sales of personal computers and laptops plunge. But analysts say it also shows how far it still has to go to get a foothold in a market dominated by the likes of Qualcomm Inc and Nvidia Corp.

"First and foremost they have to prove they can play in this space at all," said Scott Bicheno, senior analyst at Strategy Analytics. "There's no obvious technical fault with Intel's chips. It's just that the incumbents are very well established."

Intel has little choice but to get into mobile. It saw revenue fall 3 percent in the last quarter on weak sales of PCs, part of a steady decline in revenue growth since 2009.

It has also watched as devices like Apple Inc's iPad cannibalize sales of PCs. So, in the past year, the company has launched phones with Intel chips in Europe, Africa, Latin America, Russia, India and China.

Some were effectively designed and built by Intel as what it calls "calling cards", convincing carriers like Orange to brand and offer the phones on their own networks in France and the United Kingdom. Last year, it persuaded Chinese hardware manufacturers like ZTE Corp and Lenovo Group Ltd to build their own phones with Intel chips.—*Reuters*

Intel processors are displayed at a store in Seoul on 21 June, 2012. —REUTERS

MTN says probe dismisses corruption allegations

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Feb— An external committee appointed by African mobile phone group MTN to investigate claims by rival Turkcell of corrupt dealings in Iran has dismissed the allegations as "a fabric of lies, distortions and inventions".

The committee, chaired by retired British judge Lord Hoffmann, also found nothing to support claims that MTN had promised to get the South African government to supply Iran with defense equipment in exchange for a telecoms operating license.

MTN and its local partners won a lucrative license in 2005 to launch a new Iranian mobile-phone carrier, but the deal became embroiled in controversy when Turkcell filed a $4.2 billion lawsuit in the United States last year. "Following a critical examination of the evidence, the Hoffmann Committee found that Turkcell's allegations are 'a fabric of lies, distortions and inventions'," MTN said in a filing to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on Friday.

Turkcell declined to comment. The Turkish telecoms company's allegations come against the backdrop of the Western world's forceful economic sanctions designed to deter Iran from pursuing its nuclear development programme.

Turkcell claims that MTN won the Iran contract by offering to use its influence in Pretoria to help Teheran to obtain military hardware and sway South Africa's votes at the International Atomic Energy Agency. Backed by a collection of alleged MTN internal documents including emails, invoices, memos and presentations, Turkcell's lawsuit accuses the South African company of a "staggeringly brazen orchestra of corruption".—*Reuters*

The logo of South Africa's MTN Group is seen on signage outside the company's headquarters in Johannesburg, on 27 May, 2008. —REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Workers assemble cars inside the Hyundai Motor India Ltd plant at Kancheepuram district in Tamil Nadu on 4 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Hyundai Motor's India unit raises vehicle prices

MUMBAI, 4 Feb — Hyundai Motor Co's(005380.KS) India unit, the country's second biggest carmaker, said it raised vehicle prices by up to 20,878 rupees due to an increase in input costs and currency fluctuations.

Many companies in India, including No 1 carmaker Maruti Suzuki Ltd (MRTI.NS) and the local unit of General Motors Co(GM.N), have hiked prices in recent months despite a slowdown in car sales, as rising costs threaten margins.

Hyundai India had also raised vehicle prices in November.—*Reuters*

KPN's debt-cutting solution could be a new share issue

BRUSSELS, 4 Feb — Dutch telecoms group KPN is widely expected to announce steps to cut debt when announcing full-year results next week, with some analysts bracing for a share issue.

KPN, which will report 2012 results on 5 February, breached its own debt target of 2.0 2.5 times debt to core profit (EBITDA) in the second quarter. The ratio hit 2.7 in the third quarter.

Although it sold off assets, notably Dutch and German mobile phone towers, KPN had to pay an above-forecast 1.35 billion euros ($1.83 billion) at a mobile frequency auction which finished in December. As a response, the group, in which Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim's America Movil took a near 28 percent stake in 2012, cut its dividend for 2013 to 0.03 euros per share from a previous guidance of 0.35 euros. Analysts believe that will not be enough.

"We estimate that KPN may need to strengthen its balance sheet by up to 2 billion euros to remain on the safe side, which means a significant risk of share dilution," Rabobank analyst Frank Claassen wrote in a note to clients.

Issuing new shares is not an attractive proposition to shareholders given KPN's share price has plummeted by almost 50 percent over the past year.

A large-scale rights issue would also require backing from KPN's shareholders, including Slim, who controls America Movil. KPN could avoid a rights issue if it follows in the steps of Telekom Austria, also partially owned by Slim's America Movil, which last week issued a 600 million euro hybrid bond to address its debt.

Companies generally have to pay higher interest on hybrid bonds, but credit rating agencies treat them as partially helping to improve debt ratios.

KPN is currently ranked one notch above the lowest investment grade rating by Moody's and Standard & Poor's who also have a negative outlook on KPN's debt.

Fitch has already cut its credit rating to "BBB-", the lowest rating at which many pension and investment funds are allowed to invest in the group's bonds.

Nomura wrote that KPN still had access to debt markets, but not addressing its debt problems could leave it a forced seller of assets in future. *Reuters*

The logo of Dutch telecoms group KPN is seen in Haarlem on 31 May, 2012. —REUTERS

India's Satyam Computer third-quarter profit before one-off loss tops estimates

BANGALORE, 4 Feb— India's Satyam Computer Services Ltd handily beat expectations with a 20.6 percent rise in third quarter profit before a one-off loss, joining larger rivals like Infosys in signaling a pickup in outsourcing spend.

The company, now called Mahindra Satyam, is in the last lap of a merger with parent Tech Mahindra Ltd. Profits for the December quarter rose to 3.74 billion rupees ($70.3 million) from 3.10 billion rupees a year earlier, the company said on Thursday. That compares with analysts' estimate of 2.81 billion rupees, according to *Thomson Reuters* I/B/E/S.

Profit after the one-off loss of 2.94 billion rupees was 800 million rupees, Satyam said.

Satyam paid $68 million to Aberdeen Global and 22 funds to fully settle claims related to an accounting fraud that led to the sale of the Hyderabad based company to Tech Mahindra, the company had said on 13 December.

Satyam was sold in a government-backed auction in 2009 after its founder and former chairman admitted to one of the country's biggest accounting frauds.

A surprise increase by second-ranked Infosys in revenue forecast for the current fiscal year and strong earnings at top-ranked Tata Consultancy Services earlier this month prompted speculation of a pickup in outsourcing spending in the sector's biggest market, the United States.—*Reuters*

Employees of Satyam Computer Services Ltd., enter their head office in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad on 13 April, 2009.—REUTERS

J&J metal hip failed because of toxic debris — expert at trial

LOS ANGELES, 4 Feb Toxicity caused by debris from a metal-on-metal hip implant meant that the device had to be removed from a 66-year-old man who is suing manufacturer Johnson & Johnson, according to expert testimony heard at the trial on Friday.

"I concluded that his hip failed because of the toxic exposure," said Robert Harrison, an occupational medicine specialist at the University of California, San Francisco, who was not involved in treating plaintiff Loren Kransky but did review the medical records.

The testimony was heard in Los Angeles Superior Court in the first lawsuit to go to trial involving all metal hips made by J&J's DePuy unit. More than 10,000 US lawsuits have been filed since the hips were recalled from the market in 2010.

As many as 500,000 Americans are estimated to have received metal-on-metal hip replacements.

Lawyers for Kransky argue that J&J was aware of the defects in the ASR hip implants, including the risk of poisoning from cobalt and chromium metal debris, even before it started selling the devices in 2004.

Kransky's blood tests showed that his levels of cobalt and chromium reached as much as seven times normal after he received the ASR hip.

The Food and Drug Administration last month proposed that companies making all-metal hip replacements provide additional information proving they are safe and effective before being allowed to continue selling them.

The agency said it was not recommending a specific level of metals in the blood as a trigger for revision surgery because there was not enough evidence to demonstrate a correlation between those levels and patient outcomes.

J&J attorney Alex Calfo said the amount of cobalt measured in Kransky was not enough to cause any adverse systemic health effects. Trial testimony earlier in the week included DePuy executives explaining that the ASR hip was tested in the laboratory at a single angle of implantation. Plaintiffs' lawyers contend that they should have tested it using multiple angles.—*Reuters*

US, Mexico reach tomato deal to avert trade war

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb — The US government and Mexican tomato growers reached a tentative agreement on Saturday that reduces the threat of a costly trade war stemming from a US decision last year to pull out of a 1996 bilateral tomato trade pact.

"I am pleased that we were able to come to an agreement on fresh tomato imports from Mexico that restores stability and confidence to the US tomato market and meets the requirements of US law," US Commerce Under Secretary for International Trade Francisco Sanchez said in a statement.

The draft agreement substantially raises the minimum "reference" price at which Mexican plum, cherry and other tomatoes can be sold in the United States and accounts for changes that have occurred in the tomato market since the original agreement, Sanchez said.

For some Mexican tomatoes, the new reference price is more than double the current such price, Sanchez said. The deal is expected to take effect on 4 March, after a public comment period, he said.

Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said the deal guaranteed Mexican farmers access to the US market under conditions that were "fair and competitive."

"We worked hand in hand with Mexican producers on this agreement to avoid damage to the sector," he said.

The US Commerce Department made a preliminary decision in September to terminate the 1996 tomato agreement after Florida growers complained that the arrangement no longer protected them against Mexican tomatoes sold below the cost of production.

That angered Mexican growers, who argued the pact had benefited US consumers and brought stability to the North American market. *Reuters*

Tomatoes are displayed at a vegetable stall in La Merced market, downtown Mexico City on 31 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

WORLD

New US Secretary of State Kerry speaks to Netanyahu, Abbas about peace

US Senator John Kerry (D-MA) testifies during his Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing to be secretary of state, on Capitol Hill in Washington, on 24 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb—US Secretary of State John Kerry stressed his commitment to promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace on Sunday in telephone calls to the leaders of both sides, the State Department said.

In separate conversations, Kerry, who took over as the top US diplomat from Hillary Clinton on Friday, spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

"Turning to Middle East peace, the secretary underscored his personal commitment and that of President (Barack) Obama to support Israel's security and to pursue a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians." State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said of Kerry's conversation with Netanyahu. A spokesman for the Israeli prime minister confirmed that the call took place but provided no details. Netanyahu assumed the responsibility on Saturday of forming a new Israeli government following the 22 January election in which his rightist Likud Beitenu lost ground but still emerged as the biggest party, with 31 seats in the 120-seat Israeli parliament.

His new government is expected to include a new centrist party headed by former TV personality Yair Lapid, which with 19 seats is the second largest party in parliament, and the 12-seat far-right pro-settler Bayit Yehudi. *Reuters*

Seven killed, 28 injured in bus accident in Egypt's South Sinai

CAIRO, 4 Feb—At least seven people were killed and another 28 injured on Sunday in a tourist bus accident on the Sharm al-Shaiekh international highway in Egypt's South Sinai, security source told *Xinhua*.

"The bus overturned 60 kilometres away from Ras Sedr City during its trip to Sharm al-Shaiekh. The bus ran over another car, in which all the people are predicted to be dead as well," the security source told *Xinhua*.

According to the head of the South Sinai ambulance authority Khaled Abu Hashem, the Ambulance Authority sent a private plane to transfer the injured people to hospital in Cairo.

"The ambulance authority sent a plane to transfer the injured people to Maadi military hospital," Abu Hashem said, adding that most of the injured were in critical condition.—*Xinhua*

Deadly Pemex blast tests Mexico's new president

Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto (C) holds a meeting with Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong (L), Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam (R), Pemex Director Emilio Lozoya (2nd R) and military personnel at the headquarters of state-owned oil giant Pemex in Mexico City on 3 Feb, 2013 .
REUTERS

MEXICO CITY, 4 Feb—A deadly blast at Mexican state oil firm Pemex's headquarters is the first key test of new President Pena Nieto's promise that his party has broken with a past of shady cover-ups, and if handled properly, could help him overhaul the lumbering giant.

The disaster on Thursday struck two months into Pena Nieto's presidency, just as Congress was preparing to discuss his plans to open up the state-run energy industry to more private investment.

The government has said it is still too early to say if the explosion that killed at least 34 people at Pemex's main offices in Mexico City was due to an attack, an accident or negligence.

If it was an accident that points to insufficient investment in Pemex, it could convince more Mexicans that something has to be done to make the monopoly more efficient and safer.

"The opportunity here is to make everybody aware that unless Pemex does something about this, things are only going to get worse," said a recently retired senior Pemex executive, asking not to be named.

"I think these are very savvy politicians and they will look for arguments based on this in favour of opening up the industry."

However, if the government fails to deliver a transparent investigation and the Pemex explosion turns into a scandal, Pena Nieto may have a much tougher sell.

In one apparent early misstep, Pena Nieto faced criticism on social media after local media reported he was vacationing on Saturday. He returned to the scene of the blast at night, said he was overseeing rescue efforts and announced that one more body had been found. Three more remain missing, he said.

Leading lawmakers told *Reuters* on Saturday that they would continue to push for changes to the oil industry while still keeping Pemex under state control.

"We are going to back a reform that strengthens Pemex and helps it secure the capital it needs," said Juan Bueno Torio, a former Pemex executive and a lawmaker for the opposition National Action Party (PAN) in the lower house's energy committee.— *Reuters*

Pakistan army battles legacy of mistrust in Taleban heartland

CHAGMALAI, 4 Feb—In a Pakistan army base high in the mountains on the Afghan frontier, a general explains a strategy for fighting the Taleban he calls simply "WHAM".

The name has a distinctly bellicose ring. But the soldiers are learning to fight a new kind of war in a region US President Barack Obama has called the most dangerous on Earth.

"WHAM winning hearts and minds," explains the straight-talking General Nazir Butt, in charge of converting the army's gains on the battlefield into durable security. "The plan is to turn militant sanctuaries into safe havens for the people."

The term WHAM has been used before, but the focus this time is South Waziristan, an enclave on the Afghan border once the epicentre of a spreading Pakistan Taleban insurgency that shocked the country with its challenge to the authority of the nuclear-armed state.

According to the army narrative, the campaign includes winning over the region's ethnic Pashtun tribes through dialogue, creating commercial opportunities and providing education in new schools and colleges.

During a three day trip with the army, *Reuters* got a rare glimpse not just into the scale of the army's state-building project in South Waziristan, but also the challenges that lurk in the inhospitable territory.

However well-meaning the new approach, there are problems that won't go away—threats of retaliation by the al Qaeda linked militants, a lack of effective civilian administration and endemic corruption.

And the campaign to win hearts and minds has an ignoble track record in other conflict zones which serve as a reality check for even the most optimistic Pakistani officials.

Reuters

Soldiers drive through a road near Wana, the main town in Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal region bordering Afghanistan on 27 Nov, 2012.
REUTERS

Georgian delegation starts Moscow visit to discuss wine issue

TBILISI, 4 Feb—A seven-member Georgian delegation left here on Sunday for Moscow to start the country's first official visit to its northern neighbour — the Russian Federation —since August 2008.

Levan Davitashvili, head of the delegation, told the press at the Tbilisi International Airport that the delegation would present Georgian wines in Moscow.

"We'll hold presentations about the (quality) control mechanism of the food and wines in Georgia ... how the product is controlled in Georgia; how the export is certified ... and then it will be discussed what further steps should be taken to return Georgian products to the Russian market," said Davitashvili.

"Apart from wines, mineral water exports will also be discussed and on the next step fruits and vegetables," Davitashvili added.

Tengiz Kalandadze, deputy chief of the Georgian state food agency, told the Press that the Georgians would be ready to talk with Russia's chief sanitary doctor Genady Onishenko.

Members of the Moscow bound Georgian delegation also include Davit Grigolia, chief advisor for the Georgian state wine agency, officials from the phyto-sanitary department of the Georgian state food agency, as well as representatives from the country's wine and food industry.

Xinhua

One still missing in China mine flood

HEFEI, 4 Feb—Rescuers have pulled most of the miners trapped in a flooded coal mine in east China's Anhui Province to safety and are searching for the last missing worker, said a mine manager late on Sunday.

The flooding occurred at 0:20 am on Sunday, when 444 miners were working underground at the Taoyuan Mine in Suzhou City. As of 10 pm, 443 of them have been rescued.

"The 443 people who have been pulled out of the mine have no serious health problems and have returned home for rest," said Xu Huali, the mine's boss.

The mine's work data showed a total of 444 miners were working underground when the flooding occurred, said Zhang Xianyi, another mine official. He added rescuers were searching for the last missing person.

The mine has suspended production.

Xinhua

WORLD

Egypt takes delivery of US fighter jets

CAIRO, 4 Feb The United States has delivered four *F-16* fighter jets to Egypt, Egypt's military and a US military delegation said on Sunday, highlighting military links between the two countries despite Egypt's political upheaval.

A statement from the American Embassy in Cairo said a US delegation and Egypt held a joint ceremony on Sunday to mark the arrival of the jets, the latest of 224 *F-16s* delivered to Egypt.

US aid, which has brought criticism in the US Congress, has given the United States leverage over Egypt for decades and given its warships preferential access to the Suez Canal.

The US delegation also discussed preparations for October's Bright Star joint training exercises, the largest of their kind in the region, an Egyptian military source said.

Bright Star, held every two years, was scrapped in 2011 following the political upheaval that saw the ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak and the instalment of the military council as interim leaders until Mohamed Mursi was elected president in June of last year.

Reuters

An Egyptian Air Force F-16 fighter jet flies low over thousands of anti-government protesters gathered at Tahrir square in Cairo on 30 Jan, 2011.
REUTERS

Bosnian PM calls for regional cooperation, talks

SARAJEVO, 4 Feb—Vjekoslav Bevanda, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), on Sunday called for regional cooperation before he left for Serbia for an official visit.

Bevanda noted he will talk with his Serbian counterpart to pave the way for future bilateral cooperation, saying good relations with neighboring countries are important to BiH.

"We are neighbours. As in our life, neighbours are very important," he said, adding that warming ties and cooperation between countries of the Western Balkans will make Bosnia stronger.

He said neighbouring countries should solve problems through talks.

"When we talk, we can get rid of some problems.....If we do not talk, they will remain unresolved and we will in the next 20 years continue to talk about unresolved issues."

Bevanda is to meet Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic on Monday, with main topics on trade, European integration and refugees.—*Xinhua*

Pakistani girl shot by Taleban has successful skull surgery

***Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousufzai (C) waves with nurses as she is discharged from The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham in this handout photograph released on 4 Jan, 2013.*—REUTERS**

LONDON, 4 Feb—A Pakistani schoolgirl shot in the head by the Taleban for advocating girls' education has undergone successful surgery at a British hospital to reconstruct her skull and help restore lost hearing.

A team of doctors carried out a five-hour operation on Saturday on 15-year-old Malala Yousufzai, who was shot in October and brought to Britain for treatment.

The procedures carried out were cranial reconstruction, aimed at mending parts of her skull with a titanium plate, and a cochlear implant designed to restore hearing on her left side, which was damaged in the attack.

"Both operations were a success and Malala is now recovering in hospital," said a statement on Sunday from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, central England, where she is being treated.

The girl's condition was described as stable and the statement said her medical team were very pleased with the progress she has made. "She is awake and talking to staff and members of her family," it added.

The attack on Yousufzai, who was shot in the head at point blank range as she left school in the Swat valley, drew widespread international condemnation.

She has become an international symbol of resistance to the Taleban's efforts to deny women education and other rights, and more than 250,000 people have signed online petitions calling for her to be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Yousufzai will now continue recuperating at the Queen Elizabeth hospital, which has a specialist unit where doctors have treated hundreds of soldiers wounded in conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the hospital statement said.

Reuters

UAE minister urges Arab world to "stop blaming others"

DUBAI, 4 Feb — The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Anwar Gargash, said on Sunday the Arab world shall increase economic integration in order to overcome the fallout of the Arab turmoil. Speaking at the inauguration session of the two-day Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Forum in Sharjah, Gargash said the ongoing turmoil in some Arab countries was triggered by a lack of opportunity felt by the young generation, with no light at the end of the tunnel being visible.

"But the age of colonialization has finished many decades ago and we Arabs should stop finger pointing at other countries when looking for the cause of our problems," said Gargash. The UAE proofed that an Arab country, with friendly economic atmosphere, over 30 free zones and the region's biggest ports and airports, can attract capital and provide political stability at the same time.Gargash pointed out that despite some progress, economic integration in the MENA was still poor. "We lag behind the European Union and behind the North American free trade deal NAFTA. "However, the minister affirmed that oil-importing countries in the MENA region were not able to manage the economic turnaround alone.—*Xinhua*

Syrian troops repel rebels' attack on gunship

DAMASCUS, 4 Feb—Armed rebels tried on Sunday to attack a Syrian helicopter gunship in the northeastern Province of al-Raqqa when its crew members responded and killed many of the assailants, a pro-government TV said.

The helicopter had to land 15 km away from the al-Thawra military airport in that area due to a malfunction, al-Ekhbaria TV said, adding that the gunmen tried to attack the gunship but they were repelled by the troops.

The TV also reported clashes between the armed rebels and government troops in the vicinity of the central prison of the eastern Province of Deir al-Zour on Sunday, adding that many armed men were killed during the clashes.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a London- based activists' group, said that the local councilor of the city of Aleppo, Ibrahim Azooz, was killed on Saturday by rebel fighters along with his wife and daughter.

The Observatory on Sunday posted on its Facebook a video footage purporting to show Azooz lying dead in an alley in the Sheik Saeed District.

It also posted a video showing the rebels executing four young men on charges of having connections with the Syrian security forces and the killing of a rebel fighter.

Another video posted by the Observatory showed bodies being pulled out from a destroyed building in what the network said was a result of a bombardment by the Syrian army on al-Ansari al- Sharqi District in Aleppo.

However, pro-Syrian government online news websites said the building was destroyed when armed rebels tried to target a Syrian war jet with a rocket that missed the target and slammed the building at al-Ansari and killed many of its residents. Yet, neither report could be independently verified.

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

French planes pound Islamist camps in north Mali desert

PARIS, 4 Feb—French warplanes pounded Islamist rebel camps in the far north of Mali on Sunday, military sources said, a day after French President Francois Hollande was hailed as a savior during a visit to the West African country.

Thierry Burkhard, spokesman for the French army in Paris, said the overnight raids targeted logistics bases and training camps used by the al-Qaeda-linked rebels near the town of Tessalit, close to the Algerian border.

"These were important air strikes," Burkhard told *Reuters*. Tessalit, some 200 km (125 miles) north of the regional capital Kidal, is one of the main gateways into the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains where the rebels have sought refuge after fleeing major towns.

France says the rebels are also holding hostage in these mountains seven of its citizens, seized in recent years in the Sahara region.

Malian soldiers stand guard before the arrival of France's President Francois Hollande at Independence Plaza in Bamako, Mali on 2 Feb, 2013.
REUTERS

Malian military sources said French and Chadian troops had clashed with members of the Ansar Dine militant group in the region around Kidal on Saturday.

French attack helicopters and transport planes carrying special forces left the city of Gao to reinforce the French and Chadian contingent stationed at the airport in Kidal.

The town of Kidal itself is under the control of the pro-autonomy MNLA Tuareg rebel group, which occupied it after Ansar Dine fighters fled six days ago.

France has deployed 3,500 ground troops, fighter jets and armored vehicles in the three-week-old Operation Serval (Wildcat) which has broken the Islamists' 10-month grip on the towns of northern Mali, where they violently imposed sharia law.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 5 February, 2013

No mountain too high

Since the very start of human civilization mankind has been overcoming difficulties and challenges while opening more and more ways for greater progress. So, mankind has the power to handle any kind of issue for its survival and advancement. That is why man is the smartest creature on Earth.

Truly, we in Myanmar too have difficulties and challenges we are dealing with in our democratization process. Some of these difficulties and challenges may linger till in the future as there is not a single problem-free country in this world. At the same time our present prospects and opportunities are brighter than ever before. We should not fail to grasp them.

But the question here is how are we going to surmount all our challenges and difficulties, and how are we going to make our dreams come true. In fact, we need a force powerful enough to settle all disputes, solve all problems, overcome all challenges and endure all kinds of hardships. This powerful force will make headway in every facet and for our perpetuation.

Yes we do have this kind of powerful force, and it is no other than the internal strength or in other words the united strength of the whole Union. As a heterogeneous society, our first priority is the unity of all the nationalities of the Union. We may have some disputes or disagreements among our brethren. But this does not mean that we lack unity, as we are finding all possible means, enlisting all available forces and employing all helpful ways in our efforts for national integration because unity is the greatest strength and asset for the Union in braving challenges and advancing with might and main.

So, it is crystal clear how important national unity is. With national unity we have no mountain too high and no country too far.

Union Minister leaves for Cambodia to attend former Cambodian King's funeral

YANGON, 4 Feb— Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein left here for Cambodia yesterday noon to attend funeral of former Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk.

MNA

Fire breaks out in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 4 Feb—A fire broke out at private filling station in Hsinbogon Village of Mohnyin Township at about 2 pm on 28 January. Due to the fire, a house including fuel containers were blazed. Two fire engines and fifteen fire brigade members, Tatmadawmen and police members participated in fighting the fire. Mohnyin police station opened a file against the station owner.

Similarly, a fire broke out at U Kha Maung's house in Aungnan Ward in Hopin Sub-Township on 28 January. The fire started from electric wire shock and a two-storey house was destroyed. The fire brigade members and police members controlled the fire with the use of one fire engine.

In a separate incident, a fire broke out at house No 156 in Kyunpintha ward in Myitkyina Township due to negligence of candle fire at about 11:30 pm on 19 January. The fire rendered 64 people homeless and engulfed six houses and one truck. Myitkyina No (2) police station filed a lawsuit against house owner Ma Win Thandar Htay.

NLM-001

ARTICLE

Pyatho, the month of royal equestrian tourney

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Regatta and Equestrian Tournament were the two non-religious royal festivals held by Myanmar kings in the months of Tawthalin (September) and Pyatho (January) respectively. These two festivals displayed Myanmar kings' military might and main. Myanmar traditional military organizations followed the model of those of Buddha Jataka stories. Being a massic land entity with a long coastal line, Myanmar kept both land and water forces for her security and defence. "Yey ar" (ရေအား) "Kyi ar" (ကျည်းအား) (ခို်တက်) (march) (march with water and land forces) frequently appeared in Myanmar chronology and history. Water forces included all kinds of water crafts—from simple mobile war canoe to heavy sea galleons and mid and big sized ships with well trained and well armed naval fighters. Yearly display, exercise and recruitment of water forces took place in the water bodies of the country –lakes, rivers and shallow seas with the ceremonial and active participation of the king and all male members of his court in September when the weather was fine and favourable. This Festival was known as "Yey Khin Taw" (Royal Regatta Festival).

Royal equestrian Tourney yearly took place in Pyatho (January) the chilly month of Myanmar cold season. Myanmar land forces consisted of four main elements, namely Elephantry, Cavalry, Chariotry and Infantry. Elephantry was an army of well-trained fighter elephants, with at least seven men soldiers on each elephant. Cavalry compared of well-trained horsemen. Chariotry with not more than three soldiers on each chariot trained for speed and lightning attack. Infantry had regiments of foot soldiers—swordsmen, spearmen, lancers, archers, gunners and artillery men including speedy messengers. This festival was known as "Myin Khin Taw". Just as in the case of Royal Regatta Festival, Royal Equestrian Tourney was held to display, exercise and recruit, in the spacious open ground facing the Palace or the Hluttaw (Royal Privy Council) Building, within the palace city.

The month Pyatho is most befitting for this festival. Pyatho is Makara (Capricorn) in astrology. The zodiac sign of this month is Makan [a mythical sea monster resembling a crocodile with a prehensile snout]. The northerly cold breeze turns the entire environment misty and chilly. Khwa Nyo (a creepang plant flower Clementis), Thazin (orchid) and Gamone (aromatic herbal plant] bloom and send out their fragrances. The right azure firmament is sprayed with myriads of constellations.

In such a pleasant season, the equestrian Tourney which required bravery, skill and physical exertion was held in the courtyard or open ground within the palace city.

Evidences of this festival were found in visual and performing arts, history and literature. The Ka songs and dances of Pinya Period (1298-1364 A.D) depicted and described equestrian tourney of the time.

Broadly speaking traditional equestrian festival had two programmes-display and contest. In display, 37 different styles of horsemanship and 37 different modes of throwing lances (swords, spears and other hand weapons also) were demonstrated by select equestrian soldiers. Besides archers, and single combats on war elephant, horse or chariot took part in the display.

Court bards and rhyme sters of different history periods versified these displays in different poetic forms. Maha Dhamma Thingyan, a royal adviser Minister to King Bagyitaw [1819-37 A.D] composed 37 Loota Verses, 37 music and songs describing 37 modes of horsemanship and 37 ways of playing and performing with lances. For easy memmorisatic the also composed them in 37 Thanbauk couplets.

In contest or Tournament programme, 17 ways of horse-riding used in war and on battle ground in Myanmar traditional martial arts were competed such as equestrian combat on horse, elephant and chariot, horse race, elephant race and chariot race, skill in using weapons. In some literatures equestrian Tourney was named "Set Thwin Pwe" or "Set Hto Pwe" because equestrians contested in lance throwing to hit the centre of the circular target on poles of different heights placed at different distances. Winners in the contest were honoured with awards of title, gifts, cash and kind by their Majesties. Every participant received a scarf with Thazin or Khwa Nyo flower.

King Thibaw [1878-1885 A.D] the last Myanmar King held the equestrian festival in 1878 which was probably the last festival of its kind. It was fully recorded in the chronicle "Konbaung Set Maha Yazawun Taw Gyi " Vol 3, as follows:-

"In the year 1240 M.E, second waning day of Pyatho to make preparation for equestrian festival and Tourney in accordance with the traditional display of cavalry elephantry, chariotry, archery, and demonstration of princely martial arts as staged by previous kings of the past, five circular target posts were set up in straight line in the courtyard of the left side of Myey Nan Palace Buildings. The heights of five circular target posts ranged from 5 cubits, 20 cubits, 25 cubits, 30 cubits to 50 cubits. To the north side of the royal Thetkadan stair case in royal position was built. It was decorated with royal emblems and was ready for the events."

"On the 3rd waning day of Pyatho, princes, ministers, Minister of the interior, Commander of Palace Guards, Knights, commanders and all army officers dressed in their respective military uniform rode caparisoned steeds. Each by turn with 10 lances participated in the contest. Riding the horse at high speed, each by turn threw a lance at a time, to hit the circular targets on the high post, until all ten had been thrown: Princes dressed in the army uniform of their rank also contested. His Majesty wearing priceless military uniform and gem studded helmet, and chief Queen, and the entire court appeared in the royal pavilion from where they watched the equestrian tourney, Their majesties awarded the winners each a scarf woven with gold or silver threads and a bunch of Thazin orchid for every lance that hit the centre of the circular target.

When the tournament was over, officers of Cassay Horse [Manipuri Regiment] and Akabat Horse [Assamer Regiment] of cavalry and their equerries gave demonstration of their skill in weaponry and horsemanship, such as cutting banana stems, halving lime fruit and water pot in one stoke with swords, spears or lance, while riding at high speed, and different techniques of horse-riding in war and on the battle field, After viewing them their Majesties and the court entered the Palace…"

One princely game contested at the equestrian Tourney was "Gu-Lee". It was in fact a Polo game. But in Myanmar history and literature it was mention as "gu.lee". In the days of Myanmar monarchy this game was one of the favourite games Myanmar royalty, nobility and aristocracy played any time of the year. It in an equestrian game requiring skill in horse-riding and so it was included in the programme of Equestrian Tourney. Its origin was claimed by all countries with horse tradition such as Mongolia, China, Persia, Tibet and central Asiatic countries. They had their version of Gu-Lee (Polo) game.

How and when Gu-Lee game came to Myanmar need research. Form what cultural anthropologists and historians say, we may make some surmises. Ethnically Myanmars are of Mongoloid stock. They still have cultural traits, not dis similar to those of the Mongols. The earliest time when their forefathers migrated gradually from central Asia, riding horses and driving caravans in guest of new green pasture in Myanmar,

(See page 9)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives guests from World Bank

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received Executive Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Jin-Yong Cai of International Finance Corporation (IFC) from World Bank at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex here this noon.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Executive Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Jin-Yong Cai of International Finance Corporation (IFC) from World Bank.
MNA

At the meeting, they exchanged views on close cooperation between Myanmar and World Bank, rural poverty alleviation, development of agriculture and livestock breeding and financial and investment matters.

Together with Pyithu Hluttaw speaker, Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Aung Thaung, U Maung Maung Thein, U Thurein Zaw and U Htay Myint, Secretary U Maung Toe, commission members and officials from the Hluttaw Office were present at the meeting. The World Bank delegation was accompanied by Country Manager Mr. Kanthan Shankar.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Allen & Overy team

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a delegation led by Partner Mr Simon Black of Allen & Overy from Tokyo at the meeting room No. 1 of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee, here, this afternoon.

At the call, they cordially discussed legal consultation conducted by Allen & Overy Organization, ways of assistance for legal affairs in Myanmar, and plans on paper-reading sessions and workshops.

Also present were Chairman of Bill Committee U T Khun Myat, members of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee U Mya Thein, Daw Than Than Yi, U Tin Win, U Aung Myint Tun, U Htin Zaw and official concerned of Hluttaw office.

MNA

Drugs and ammunition seized in Tachilek

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— Drugs, rounds of ammunition and sniper were seized in Tachilek Township this morning. The members of local military column, anti-drug squads and Tachilek Township police members seized 9000 WY brand pink stimulants, 150 grams of heroin, 200 grams of brown opium, 150 grams of caffeine worth K 27,661,250 and Baht 1,011,000 and 14 ticals of jewellery, five small assorted weapons, 180 bullets, six magazines and one sniper's telescope at Akharsaykhan village in Lwetawkham village-tract of Tachilek Township, according to the Ministry of Defence.—*MNA*

Union Minister meets Union Day delegates from regions and states

Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt makes a speech in meeting with Union Day delegates from regions and states.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb — Chairman of 66th Anniversary Union Day Observance Management Committee Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt met the cultural delegates from regions and states who are in Nay Pyi Taw to attend 66th Anniversary Union Day for 2013 at No. 7 Transit Centre (Ywadaw) here this evening.

Present at the meeting were subcommittee chairmen deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials and cultural delegate groups from regions and states.

The Union Minister clarified the objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day and cordially greeted the delegates.

Union Minister U Thein Nyunt and party inspected openings of subcommittee office rooms, library and provision of healthcare service to them.

MNA

Myanmar women to contribute to nation-building endeavours

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation-2012 marked its anniversary at the MWAF office in Dekkhinathiri Township, here this morning.

President Daw Mya Mya in her remarks said that Myanmar women are to broaden their horizon and are to contribute to nation-building endeavours. Myanmar women play an important role when preserving tradition and customs of our country. As foreign culture is penetrating deeply into the country now, Myanmar women should be aware of preserving tradition and customs.

The President then looked the booths. The secretary general read out the proposal presented by the federation. The president responded to the reports of the members of states/region women's affairs organizations.

MNA

Pyatho, the month of royal...

(from page 8)

their Mongoloid tradition and custom including equestrian game like gu.lee were brought into Myanmar. Historians say that Gu-Lee game was mentioned in Myanmar chronicles and literature only in the 15th century. Form Toungoo Period [1486-1599 A.D] to the end of Konbaung Period [1752-1885 A.D] Gu-Lee was the popular game among ruling class. Court bards composed different forms of verse describing this game in association with equestrian festival. The virtuoso ratu-poem composer of Toungoo Period Viceroy King Nat Shin Naung composed more than 100 ratu-poems about Gu-Lee games he played with his princely mates. In Myanmar traditional performing arts Gu-Lee game was sung, and mimed in dance. Thirty seven songs of propitiation for thirty seven nat-spirits have description of Gu-Lee game. In the dance styles of a female inaugural dancer in Myanmar dramatic performance are mimetic movements of horse-riding and playing Gu-Lee game. In Inwa Period of Myanmar history, at the court of King Shwe Nan Kyaw Shin, there was a high-ranking knight named Shwe Nawrahta who was an excellent Gu-Lee Player. Legend has it that when he became Nat spirit after his violent death, songs were sung in praise of his mastery of Gu-Lee game. His statues have a Gu-Lee stick in one hand and a Gu-Lee ball in the other. These evidences show that Myanmar already had Gu-lee game long before the British introduced it as polo game to Myanmar.

Royal regalta and equestrian tourney ceased in the colonial period though boat races were held at local pagoda festivals. The British introduced their horse races, building race courses at Yangon and Mandalay for revenue and fund raising many Myanmar wealthy men were ruined due to belting at horse races. New generations of Myanmar people learn about these festivals only from school textbooks.

Joint efforts of the Government and the public how revived these traditional monthly festivals to maintain Myanmar cultural heritage. In Mandalay such festivals are held occasionally on local scale. On 23rd October 1993, the Equestrian Festival made its debut in Yangon after decades of its disappearance. At the Aung San Sports Stadium, downtown Yangon, a week long display and contest of Equestrian Tourney were held on a state level, providing a golden opportunity for every Myanmar and foreign visitor and resident to view the long forgotten royal pageant and colourful and exciting events.

Saudi Arabia expects 2000 housekeeping workers from Philippines

RIYADH, 4 Feb—Philippine government has approved the recruitment of more than 2,000 housekeeping workers who will work in Saudi Arabia, according to Saudi *Al Eqtisadiya* newspaper on Sunday.

The workers are expected to arrive soon after the recruitment agencies complete all necessary procedures, Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ezzedin Tago told the newspaper.

Saudi families have been waiting for the arrival of their housekeepers since October when the Philippine government lifted its ban on housekeeping workers.

The ambassador said earlier that no workers from the Philippines would be allowed to come to Saudi Arabia without approved working contracts with their employers. He said that the new contract protects the rights of both Saudi families and their workers.

Xinhua

A girl in flamboyant costumes sings and dances during the grand procession of the 13th Berliner Fasching Parade in Berlin on 3 Feb, 2013. Berliner carnival revelers took part in the grand fasching parade on Sunday, with the colourful floats and groups on foot, under the slogan of "Berlin Heijo—We take off!."
XINHUA

Chavez approves Venezuela's oil industry strengthening plan

CARACAS, 4 Feb—Venzuelan President Hugo Chavez, still in Cuba recovering from a Decenber. 11 surgery, has approved a plan to strengthen the state-run oil company Petroleum of Venezuela (PDVSA), the country's Vice President Nicolas Maduro said on Sunday.

At a ceremony marking the 218th birth anniversary of national hero Antonio Jose de Sucre, Maduro revealed that over the past days, Chavez has been analyzing the situation of PDVSA, a main industrial pillar of Venezuela.

"Commander Chavez approved the plan of PDVSA's strengthening process," said Maduro in a speech broadcast by the official television channel VTV.

The plan aims to strengthen PDVSA's operations to tap the oil reserves in the northwest region of Zulia, noted the vice president.

Rafael Ramirez, Venezuelan oil and mining minister and president of PDVSA, presented this plan to Chavez for his consideration, Maduro added.

Maduro displayed the approval document signed by Chavez before TV cameras. The document was said to have been brought back by the president of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, who returned from Havana on early Sunday morning.

"We have a president who is ruling and together with him we are a Revolution holding the political power," stressed Maduro.—*Xinhua*

Cuba elects new national, local parliaments

HAVANA, 4 Feb—Over 8.5 million Cubans on Sunday started to cast their votes for the picking of nearly 1,900 members of the country's new national and provincial legislatures.

They are expected to elect 612 National Assembly members from an equal number of candidates, and select nearly 1,270 delegates to the 15 provincial people's power assemblies, or the local legislatures, for a five-year term.

A total of 29,942 polling stations were set up across the island nation and are running from 7 am (1200 GMT) to 6 pm (2300 GMT) on Sunday. The elections involve 14,737 electoral commissions of various constituencies and over 225,000 election officials, with some 150,000 working in the polling stations.

According to Alina Balseiro, president of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), voters have received necessary training to ensure a smooth voting process, and the voting system was fully tested in a trial run conducted last Sunday. Official statistics showed that some 67 percent of the new National Assembly's members are expected to be new faces, and nearly half of its members will be female. Mariela Castro, daughter of Cuban President Raul Castro and Director of the National Centre for Sexual Education (CENESEX), is running for the first time for the national legislature.

According to the Cuban constitution, candidates for the national and provincial legislatures must gain more than 50 percent of all valid votes to get elected.

Cuba's Electoral Act also stipulates that within 45 days after the National Assembly election, the new Assembly should hold an inaugural meeting and appoint a 31-member Council of State, including its president, for a term of five years.

Incumbent President Raul Castro is expected to secure a second term at the upcoming meeting. But it would also be his last due to a 10-year limit for anyone to hold government offices introduced in 2011 by the ruling Cuban Communist Party.

Raul Castro, 81, is running for the new National Assembly as a candidate representing the municipality of "Second Front" in the eastern province of Santiago de Cuba. His elder brother and former president Fidel Castro, now 86 and retired since 2006, represents the district of Santiago de Cuba city.

Xinhua

Cuban former leader Fidel Castro (R) receives interview after casting his vote during the second phase of the general elections from 2012 to 2013, at the Revolution Square in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 3 Feb, 2013.
XINHUA

A girl and her mother walks at the Beijing train station in Beijing, capital of China, on 3 Feb, 2013. Many children travel with their families during the 40-day Spring Festival travel rush which started on 26 January. The Spring Festival, which falls on 10 February this year, is traditionally the most important holiday of the Chinese people. Public transportation is expected to accommodate about 3.41 billion travelers nationwide during the holiday, including 225 million railway passengers.—XINHUA

South Africa, Russia to enhance cooperation

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Feb—South Africa's International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane on Sunday met with Russia's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Sergey Donskoy in Pretoria to explore ways of enhancing cooperation in various fields.

Donskoy is in South Africa to attend a meeting of South Africa-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), according to the South African Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

The ITEC is a bilateral cooperation mechanism between South Africa and Russia that meets annually in order to strengthen mutually beneficial economic, commercial and social relations as well as technical cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting presents an opportunity for the ministers to follow- up on decisions taken during the 11th ITEC meeting held in Moscow in November last year.

The ministers are also expected to finalize priority projects and agreements that will be concluded during President Vladimir Putin's official visit to South Africa in March.

The agreements under consideration are in the fields of agriculture, education, energy, fisheries, justice, minerals resources, science and technology, and transport.

Donskoy's visit came as Russia is showing growing interest in the continent's mining industry. Russian mining companies will take part in this year's Investing in African Mining Indaba (conference) scheduled for February. 4 to 7 February in Cape Town, organizers said.

Xinhua

US to give PHL 100,000 dollars for coral damaged by grounded Navy ship

MANILA, 4 Feb—The United States committed on Sunday to give 4.1 million pesos (about 0.1 million US dollars) for the coral restoration efforts of the Philippines following the recent grounding of the *USS Guardian* at the Tubbataha Reef in Sulu Sea. "In view of damage caused by the *USS Guardian* accident at Tubbataha Reef, the United States has expressed its regrets and is prepared to provide appropriate compensation to the Republic of the Philippines," a statement released on Sunday by the US Embassy in Manila.

According to the latest assessment by the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park, over 4,000 square metres of the coral in the park was damaged by the *Guardian*, which belongs to the Seventh Fleet of US Navy. "Through USAid's (US Agency for International Development) Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP), 4.1 million pesos (100, 000 US dollars) will be granted to a Philippine university to support coral restoration research at Tubbataha Reef," the embassy said. It is said that the amount will cover a study to develop a technical plan for coral reef rehabilitation. At the same time, the US government also planned to offer to fund a site survey for proposed improvements to the existing ranger station on Tubbataha Reef.

"In addition to compensation, the US government is planning a number of other activities which will underscore its commitment to Tubbataha's recovery and the protection of the marine resources of the Philippines," it added.

The *USS Guardian* ran aground at the Tubbataha Reef, a Unesco World Heritage Site, on 17 January, after a port call at the Subic Bay in northern part of the Philippines.—*Xinhua*

REGIONAL

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (R) meets with French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault (L) at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, on 3 Feb, 2013. Ayrault arrived here on Sunday morning to attend the royal cremation ceremony of the late Cambodian former King Norodom Sihanouk, which will be held on Monday.—XINHUA

Four Taleban insurgents killed in Afghan raids

KABUL, 4 Feb—Up to four armed Taleban insurgents have been killed and 10 others detained in different operations within the last 24 hours, the Afghan Interior Ministry confirmed on Sunday. During the operations, carried out by Afghan police supporting by army and the NATO-led coalition forces in eastern Kabul and western Herat Province, the joint forces also found weapons, the statement added.

The Taleban insurgent group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, has yet to make comments.

Afghan forces and some 100,000 NATO-led coalition troops have intensified cleanup operations against Taleban and other militant groups recently but the insurgents responded by carrying out armed attacks and roadside bombings.

On Saturday, four members of a family and a driver were killed when a vehicle touched off a roadside planted bomb in southern Helmand Province.—*Xinhua*

Sri Lanka accuses international bar of violating visa rules

COLOMBO, 4 Feb — The Sri Lankan government on Sunday accused four members of the International Bar Association (IBA) of attempting to violate the visa rules of the island nation.

A statement by the External Affairs Ministry said that following the detection of inaccurate information contained in the visa applications of the four member delegation representing IBA, which had unilaterally scheduled a visit to Sri Lanka, the government was constrained to withdraw visas for the four applicants.

In a statement issued on Friday, IBA said it was forced to postpone a visit to Sri Lanka after the visas of its members had been revoked.

The visit was to investigate the impeachment and subsequent removal of former Sri Lankan Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake.

"It may be noted that the Business Visa category which had been applied for in the case of 3 persons were issued on the basis of the purpose of the visit being reflected as Conferences, Workshops and Seminars, while the 4th person had been issued a gratis visa and the purpose of the visit being cited as Private. However it came to light that the stated purpose for the visit in the applications was not in conformity with the actual nature of the visit," the Sri Lankan External Affair Ministry said.

Considering the prestigious reputation of the IBA, the External Affairs Ministry said it would be expected that the organization would scrupulously adhere to the rules and regulations governing a country's visa regime.

The External Affairs Ministry said that in keeping with the Government of Sri Lanka's interest in transparency, bona-fide applications for visits of this nature are processed with objectivity.

However, it said that in keeping with universal practice, appropriate action would be taken in the event there is a misrepresentation of information by a visa applicant.

Xinhua

Singapore sends delegation for Cambodian former king's cremation ceremony

SINGAPORE, 4 Feb — Singapore is scheduled to send a delegation leading by Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam to attend the Royal Cremation Ceremony of the late King-Father of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk, on Monday.

The city-state's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Sunday that during his stay in Phnom Penh, the deputy prime minister will also meet with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hor Namhong and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Keat Chhon.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong had earlier visited Phnom Penh in last October to pay tribute to the late King-Father after his body returned home.—*Xinhua*

People gather around the site of a fire accident in a slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 3 Feb, 2013. About 100 shanties were destroyed in the accident, official said.
XINHUA

Rescuers search for victims in the debris at the accident site of a suspected boiler explosion in Cixi, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 3 Feb, 2013. Two people were killed and six others injured on Sunday morning when a three-story building of a flour products plant collapsed in Cixi's Shishan Village.
XINHUA

Cambodian PM meets senior officials from Philippines, S Korea

PHNOM PENH, 4 Feb— Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Sunday afternoon met with Vice President of the Philippines Jejomar C. Binay as he visited Cambodia to take part in the cremation ceremony of the late Cambodian King Father Norodom Sihanouk.

The meeting was made at the capital's Peace Palace. Binay expressed deep sympathy over the death of the King Father; he conveyed deep regret from the Government and the people of the Philippines to Hun Sen.

In a separate meeting with Hun Sen, South Korea's Presidential Chief of Staff Ha Kum-Loul also expressed condolences over Sihanouk's death, saying the demise of the King Father was a great loss not only for Cambodia, but also for South Korea and the region.

Hun Sen thanked them for their participation in the cremation ceremony of the King Father, which will be held on Monday evening.

Born on 31 October, 1922, Cambodia's most revered monarch ruled the country from 1941 to 1955 and again from 1993 until his voluntary abdication in 2004 in favour of his son, the current King Norodom Sihamoni. He died naturally and peacefully at the age of 90 in China's capital of Beijing on 15 October last year.—*Xinhua*

India proposes major developing countries be labelled "re-emerging powers"

NEW DELHI, 4 Feb— India has proposed that the India, China and other major developing nations be labelled "re-emerging powers" rather than "emerging powers, taking into consideration of their historical role they played in the past, according to local daily *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Indian National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon told the Munich Security Conference on Saturday that the Western construct of labeling India, China and other developing countries as emerging nations" did not do justice to their history, according to the newspaper.

Speaking at the first-ever special session on "rising powers and global governance" at the Munich conference, Menon felt he was not sure if this label fitted the description of newly rising economic powers like China and India.

He said some people feel these countries are in the process of restoring the historical norm in the international power structure.

"Re-emerging powers would be less condescending," he suggested.

He said the notion was largely inspired by Western history that the re-emergence of these countries on the global stage would lead to conflict and dissonance in the global order.

Such concepts were a result of the European experience since the Treaty of Westphalia, as four out of five instances of reordering of the balance of power had involved conflicts of massive proportions. This led to the assumption that the rest of the world will follow a similar course, he said.

Xinhua

Workers prepare baskets in the making of the sweet cake "dodol", a traditional delicacy served during Chinese New Year celebrations, in Tangerang, Indonesia, on 3 Feb, 2013. Chinese communities in Indonesia prepare to celebrate the Year of Snake on 10 Feb, 2013.
XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (032)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (032) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4 2 2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (333)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (333) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EISHUN VOY NO (97)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EISHUN VOY NO (97) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE PTE LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ALAW VOY NO (12)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ALAW VOY NO (12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE PTE LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DELIGHT VOY NO (163)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELIGHT VOY NO (163) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 256916/256919

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HR RECOGNITION VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HR RECOGNITION VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BBC CHARTERING & LOGISTIC GMBH & CO. KG, GERMANY

Phone No: 256924/256914

Change Telephone Numbers
Inya Lake Hotel

Dear Customers,

Our telephone numbers are going to be changed and please dial '9' and follow the Inya Lake Hotel numbers starting from 1st February, 2013.

37 Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon, Myanmar.
New tel-95 1-9662866, 9662857-59
New fax—95 1 9665537

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Dated 05 February,2013.

Nine dead in SW China auto collision

KUNMING, 4 Feb—Nine people were killed after three vehicles crashed into each other early Sunday morning in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, according to government sources.

At 2:15 am, a truck collided with a passenger coach and a tractor on a road section near an expressway, said the press office with the Kunming municipal government.

Nine people on board the bus died at the site, and three other vehicles were also damaged.

No people have been reported injured in the accident.

The cause of the collision is being further investigated.

Xinhua

HK formula hotline receives 3800 calls within 2 days

HONG KONG, 4 Feb—Hong Kong's hotline for milk formula, which was set up nearly two days ago to assist local parents who have infants and young children to order milk formula, has received more than 3,800 calls and been operating effectively, Secretary for Food and Health Ko Wing-man said on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters, Ko said some calls were for enquiries only, and the total number of calls from local parents referred to infant formula suppliers for further processing was around 2,000.

"We will continue to closely monitor the situation of the overall supply and functioning of the retail chain in the next few days, hopefully could ensure that all these families in Hong Kong will receive the formula products they need before the Lunar New Year," he said.

There has been a severe shortage of some popular brands of baby formula in the Hong Kong retail market recently due to the surging demand of buyers from the mainland. h The government on Friday announced a string of measures to ease up milk powder shortage which included limiting the amount of baby formula taken away from Hong Kong to two tins per person.—*Xinhua*

China to accelerate modernization, boost developmental vitality in rural areas

BEIJING, 4 Feb—China will focus on accelerating agricultural modernization and boosting developmental vitality of rural areas, China's first policy document said.

The document pointed out that ensuring grain security and supplies of major farm produce will always be the country's top priority in development of modern agriculture.

The document, issued by the central committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council at the beginning of every year, is also known as the "No1 central document."

This is the 10th consecutive year that the theme of the document has been rural issues.

China will set up a system to guarantee the effective supply of important agricultural products, increase income of the rural population and improve their well-beings, as well as push forward reforms in rural areas, it said.—*Xinhua*

You get the best out of others when you give the best yourself.

ENTERTAINMENT

Year of the Snake may smile on Psy, but health woes could bite

South Korean rapper Psy performs during a concert in Bangkok on 28 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

TAIPEI, 4 Feb—The coming lunar Year of the Snake is likely to smile on South Korean rapper Psy with increased prosperity, but he will need to leave Korea to make money and could risk exhaustion. As Chinese communities around the globe prepare for the lunar New Year on 1 February, which ushers in the Year of the Snake, a Taiwanese fortune teller predicted a mixed bag of luck for famous "snake" people around the world.

Psy, who shot to global fame last year with "Gangnam Style" and was born in 1977, is likely to make even more money this year if he continues to travel around the world, though he also faces a few challenges, said fortune teller Chan Wei-chung. "First, he must take care of his health. Second, he must make good judgments. Third, his career will be helped by people of prominence—but most importantly, he will need to leave Korea and run around the world," Chan told *Reuters*.

"He will work and receive rewards, but he must be careful not to exhaust himself and become ill, because it could bring disaster to his year of the snake."

Reuters

Demi Moore's dinner date with Lindsay Lohan's ex-boyfriend

NEW DELHI, 4 Feb — Demi Moore enjoyed a late dinner date with her rumoured new love interest on Friday night (01.02.13). The 50-year-old actress—who has three daughters Rumer, 24, Scout, 21, and Tallulah, 18 with her ex-husband Bruce Willis—was spotted dining in West Hollywood with Lindsay Lohan's ex-boyfriend Harry Morton, 31, despite recently insisting they are just friends.

A source told USMagazine.com: "She looked really very happy," as she enjoyed a romantic meal with the restaurant owner—who dated Lindsay in 2006—in the back of the restaurant. Demi reportedly looked flawless in a skin-tight dress and high heels, and seemed relaxed as she greeted other people in the club before leaving with Harry at around 10 pm. The dinner date is the latest of several outings for the rumoured new couple recently and it was previously revealed Demi is really enjoying getting to know Harry.

Demi Moore reportedly looked flawless in a skin-tight dress and high heels, and seemed relaxed as she greeted other people in the club before leaving with Harry at around 10 pm.
PTI

A source said: "They are just getting to know one another... (Demi is) in a really good place at the moment and is hopeful about the future." Demi's new romance comes just weeks after she split from her toyboy lover Vito Schnabel. The 26-year-old art dealer broke off their relationship last month after he became concerned that the attention surrounding their relationship would distract from his career. Harry was also previously linked to Jennifer Aniston, whom he reportedly dated briefly in 2010.—*PTI*

Pitt, Jolie learning Mandarin

LONDON, 4 Feb—Hollywood couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have developed an interest in China and are planning to learn Mandarin.

The language could come in handy as friends of Jolie say the actress wants to adopt yet another child and this time it could come from China, reported Sun online.

Brangelina have also enrolled their six kids for classes in the language as well as Jolie's father John Voight, so he can help with the homework.

PTI

Affleck wins directors award as 'Argo' hurtles to Oscars

Ben Affleck poses for photographers with the Feature Film Award at the 65th annual Directors Guild of America Awards in Los Angeles, on 2 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 Feb —Actor-turned-filmmaker Ben Affleck won the top honour from his peers at the Directors Guild of America on Saturday for the movie "Argo", cementing the Iran hostage drama's frontrunner status for the Oscars. The Hollywood directors' recognition for Affleck, however, is an awkward result for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, which failed to nominate him for Best Director in what is considered one of the biggest snubs of this year's Oscars.

Since 1948, there have been only six occasions when the Directors Guild of America (DGA) winner has not gone on to win the Oscar for Best Director. "I have nothing but respect for the Academy," Affleck said after collecting his first DGA award. The Hollywood star, a producer of "Argo", said he was thrilled the film was nominated for the Oscars' Best Picture award. "You are not entitled to win anything," he said.

"Argo" has picked up the three top awards from the industry's guilds, whose members are also often members of the Academy. Last weekend, the film was the victor at both the Producers Guild and the Screen Actors Guild awards, leaving Steven Spielberg's Civil War-era epic "Lincoln" in its wake. Affleck also won Best Director at the Golden Globes while "Argo" won Best Drama. The Oscars will be held on 24 February.

On Saturday, Affleck bested four directors who had all previously won the top DGA honour and gone on to win the Best Director Oscar. It has been a particularly tough awards season for Spielberg, nominated by the DGA for the 11th time with "Lincoln" and a two-time winner for "Schindler's List" in 1994 and "Saving Private Ryan" in 1999. "What an incredible year for movies," said Spielberg. "Maybe I've had moments when I wished it wasn't such an incredible year." — *Reuters*

Beyonce sings, reunites Destiny's Child at Super Bowl half-time show

NEW ORLEANS, 4 Feb —Singer Beyonce strutted and shimmied her way through football's Super Bowl half-time show and thrilled fans by reuniting with her former Destiny's Child bandmates on Sunday in New Orleans.

Beyonce, wearing a revealing black leather jacket and miniskirt combination, was surrounded by bursts of fire, smoke and silhouettes as she performed at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. More than 100 million television viewers were tuned in to the NFL championship game between the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens.

The singer called out to the crowd several times during her first songs, "Love on Top," "Crazy in Love," "End of Time" and "Baby Boy," to emphasize that she was singing live. On Thursday, Beyonce admitted she sang along with a pre-recorded track of the national anthem at President Barack Obama's inauguration last month.

The lip-synching controversy threatened to derail the pop singer's crafted comeback after giving birth to her first child with rapper and husband Jay-Z in January 2012. Beyonce will also premiere her self-directed documentary, "Life is But a Dream," on HBO on 16 February.

During Sunday's half-time show, the 31-year-old singer stomped and shook her hips and torso while video of Beyonce dancing was projected alongside her to give the appearance of a choreographed routine.

Reuters

Beyonce (C) and Destiny's Child perform during the half-time show of the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 3 Feb, 2013.
REUTERS

SPORTS

Ski jumping: Takanashi 5th in Sapporo World Cup jump

SAPPORO, 4 Feb — Japanese teenager Sara Takanashi finished fifth in Sunday's World Cup women's ski jumping event at Miyamori hill in Hokkaido.

The 16-year-old local product landed a pair of 86-metre jumps to amass 225.4 points as she missed a World Cup podium finish for the second straight day and the third time this season.

"There may have been something strange with my jumps," Takanashi said. "I want to review the video until I figure it out."

Kyodo News

Photo shows the first jump of Austria's Jacqueline Seifriedsberger at a World Cup women's ski jumping event at Miyanomori hill in Hokkaido on 3 Feb, 2013. Seifriedsberger took her first World Cup gold medal with 245.7 points from jumps of 94 and 93 metres.— KYODO NEWS

Jeev slips on final day, finishes 10th in Dubai Classic

DUBAI, 4 Feb — Jeev Milkha Singh slipped on the final day as he frittered away a good start to manage only an even par 72 that saw him finish tied 10th after being in a position to challenge for the Dubai Classic title here yesterday.

Jeev Milkha Singh

Jeev stayed where he was after three days, at 14-under par, while Stephen Gallacher ended his nine-year wait for a second European Tour title in stunning fashion. — *PTI*

Tomas Berdych (L) of the Czech Republic and his team mate Lukas Rosol (2nd L) shake hands with Stanislas Wawrinka (2R) and Marco Chiudinelli (R) of Switzerland after winning their Davis Cup world group round 1 tennis doubles match at Palexpo in Geneva on 2 Feb, 2013. With a duration of seven hours and one minute, the match was the longest in Davis Cup history. REUTERS

Spain crash out, Czechs through in Davis Cup

LONDON, 4 Feb —Top seeds Spain crashed out of the first round of the Davis Cup for the first time since 2006 when Milos Raonic beat Guillermo Garcia-Lopez to give Canada an unassailable 3-1 lead in their world group tie on Sunday. The under strength five-times champions had struggled from the start of the tie in Vancouver and Raonic killed them off with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over Garcia-Lopez to secure Canada's first ever triumph at this level of the men's team competition.

Holders Czech Republic earlier moved into the quarter-finals with Tomas Berdych outlasting Swiss opponent Stanislas Wawrinka a day after the pair emerged from a marathon doubles encounter. Berdych enjoyed a comparatively easy 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 victory over Wawrinka, to give the Czechs an insurmountable 3-1 lead, a day after he and Lukas Rosol edged a punishing seven-hour clash with Wawrinka and Marco Chiudinelli 24-22 in the final set.

Reuters

Canada's Milos Raonic celebrates his win over Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez with teammates during the final round of the Davis Cup tennis tie in Vancouver, British Columbia on 3 Feb, 2013.— REUTERS

New Orleans in party mode in lead up to Super Bowl

NEW ORLEANS, 4 Feb — New Orleans was transformed into one massive party on Sunday as the city prepared to host the 47th Super Bowl between the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens. The city's French Quarter was packed with visiting fans soaking up the atmosphere before the biggest game in American professional sports was due to start at 6:30 ET. Across the country, millions of people were having their own Super Bowl parties in preparation for a game that has all the ingredients of a classic.

Baltimore Ravens fans cheer in front of the Superdome before the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game against the San Francisco 49ers in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 3 Feb, 2013.
REUTERS

The two teams left their hotels in the early afternoon and took a short bus ride through the crowded streets to the Superdome, which will be packed with more than 70,000 spectators. For the first time in the 47 years of the Super Bowl, two brothers will go head-to-head for the National Football League championship.—*Reuters*

Barca take point from tricky Valencia trip

MADRID, 4 Feb — FC Barcelona dropped just their sixth and seventh points of the season as they were held to a 1-1 draw in Valencia on Sunday night. Although some may be disappointed by the result the fact is that Barca did well to take a valuable point in one of their most difficult games remaining this season, which came on the back of a draining match in midweek. Either side could have won in a game where both keepers made a series of good saves to stop the final score bring higher.

Barcelona had the best of the early exchanges in the first half, but were unable to create clear-cut chances, with defender, Gerard Pique going closer. In a fast and furious 45 minute period, Valencia took the lead after 33 minutes through Ever Banega who drilled home a loose ball from the edge of the Barcelona area. The Argentinean had been criticized for arriving late at training at the end of the week, but was in the right place at the right time to fire past Victor Valdes after Barca failed to clear a cross into the area.

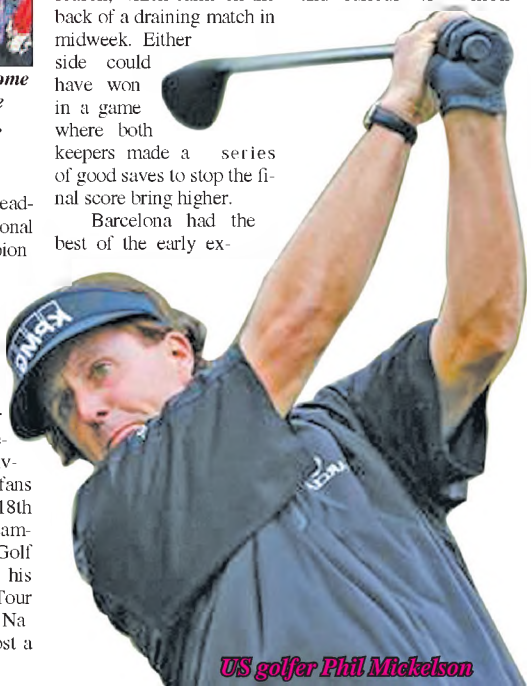
Leo Messi equalized from the penalty spot just six minutes later after Joao Pereira clearly caught Pedro Rodriguez. Messi drilled the ball into the top corner of the net to give Guaita no chance. As the half drew to a conclusion, Valdes saved well from Jose Guardado, who tried his luck from distance. Barca had the first chance in the second half as Messi worked his magic to set up Cesc Fabrigas, who was unlucky to see his shot hit the base of the Valencia post. Barca had played a tough Copa del Rey semi-final first leg away to Real Madrid on Wednesday night and were not at their fluid best and struggled to break down a packed Valencia midfield, although Messi put a dangerous low cross into the Valencia area just after the hour.

Xinhua

Mickelson wins Phoenix Open by four shots

SCOTTSDALE, 4 Feb — Phil Mickelson held off a last-day charge by fellow American and playing partner Brandt Snedeker to end a week of scintillating golf with a four-shot triumph at the Phoenix Open in Scottsdale, Arizona on Sunday. Left-hander Mickelson birdied three of the last six holes to close with a four-under-par 67 at the TPC Scottsdale, completing a wire-to-wire victory with a record-tying 28-under total of 256 to clinch his 41st PGA Tour title.

The 42-year-old Californian, who never relinquished his grip after taking control of the tournament with a stunning first-round 60, joined Arnold Palmer, Gene Littler and Mark Calcavecchia as triple winners of the Phoenix Open. Mickelson sank a 14-footer at the 17th for his fifth birdie of the day, then safely two-putted for par at the last before removing his cap and giving a thumbs-up to the fans crammed around the 18th green. "It's tough," a beaming Mickelson told Golf Channel after sealing his first win on the PGA Tour since the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am 12 almost a year ago.—*Reuters*



US golfer Phil Mickelson

GENERAL

Use of farming machinery demonstrated in Taikkyi Township

YANGON, 4 Feb—A demonstration on use of machinery equipment was held at 18-acre farmland of U Myint Swe in Thitsu Village in Taikkyi Township on 31 January.

Head of Yangon Region Agricultural Mechanization Department U Ko Ko, Head of Yangon North District AMD U Naing Min Thu and Head of Township AMD U Tun Tun Oo gave talks on advantage of using farming equipment and demonstrated use of machinery. *Kyemon*

Italy's Alitalia suspends Carpatair flights after accident

ROME, 4 Feb—Italy's flagship air carrier Alitalia suspended its flights operated by Romanian airline Carpatair after 16 people were injured at Rome's international Fiumicino airport on Saturday night when a turboprop plane went off the runway during landing in strong winds.

"Alitalia immediately launched an investigation and at the same time suspended all flights operated by Carpatair on behalf of it from Pisa and Bologna to Rome," the airline company said in a statement.

On Saturday night, an *ATR 72* aircraft operated by Carpatair from the Tuscan city of Pisa failed its attempt to land, rolled off and tilted to the right wing with 46 passengers and four crew members onboard. According to *Corriere della Sera* national newspaper, the airport was hit by strong winds late on Saturday, with only one runway operational, but the precise cause of the accident was unclear. Two of the injured, including one 30-year-old Romanian hostess, were reportedly in serious conditions though not in danger of life.—*Xinhua*

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(5-2-13 09:30 am ~ 6-2-13 09:30 am) MST

- News
- 2013 ILBC Art & Science Fair
- News
- Evergreen Classical Music (Part-10)
- News
- The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress
- King of all fruits
- News
- Myanmar Martial Art (Episode I) (Bando)
- News
- Topic On Journal "HIV AIDS Discussion"
- Hlintha Kahan Phar Si Than
- News
- Sentiment & Myanma Donation" 28 Buddha Images Pujaniya Festival
- News
- Commemorative Ceremony of Martyrs and 115th Anniversary of U Razak
- Artist Hla Tun Aung's Milestone
- News
- Equitable Educational Opportunities (Part-1)
- Myanmar Movies "Sallal"

MYANMAR TV

(5-2-2013, Tuesday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. Health Programme

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:40 am
4. International News

7:45 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song

7:55 am
6. Documentary

8:10 am
7. Songs of Yester Year

8:25 am
8. Dance of National Races

8:35 am
9. 66th Anniversary Union Day Programme

8:45 am
10. "Road to 27th SEA GAMES" (Wushu)

4:00 pm
11. Opening Song

4:05 pm
12. Musical Programme

4:15 pm
13. Teleplay (Health)

5:00 pm
14. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:05 pm
15. Documentary

5:25 pm
16. Sweet Melody

6:00 pm
17. Evening News

6:15 pm
18. Weather Report

6:20 pm
19. Sing A Song

6:50 pm
20. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
21. News

7:15 pm
22. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
23. News
24. International News
25. Weather Report
26. Bakery World
27. Documentary
28. Teleplay

10:00 pm
29. News
30. India Drama Series

OBITUARY

AL-HAJ EBRAHIM ISMAIL ARIFF

(75 years)

Al-Haj Ebrahim Ismail Ariff (Padauk Myaing Cafe) only son of Late Al-Haj Ismail Ebrahim Ariff & Hajiyani Sara Bi Bi E.Esmail of No. 234 Shwebontha Street, Pabedan township, Yangon; elder brother of late Hajiyani Amina Bi (a) Majaan Bi; beloved husband of Hajiyani Farida Bi Azam Esmail; father of Hajiyani Khatija Bi Ariff-Molvi Hafiz Ismail Bham; Hajiyani Fatima Bi Ariff; Hajiyani Sara Bi Ariff-Al-Haj Hafiz Hashim Bham; Hajiyani Hafiza Hajra Bi Ariff; Al-Haj Molvi Hafiz Qari Mohamed Ariff (ASADI) (Shwe Padauk Printing); Haji Hafiz Ismail Ariff; grandfather of Amina Bi & Mohamed Ebrahim; expired on Thursday the 31st January 2013 at 9:10 PM at his residence and buried on Friday 1st February 2013 after Jumma Prayers at Yayway Sunni Garden Cemetery, Yangon.

Bereaved family

Juve move three points clear at top of Serie A

ROME, 4 Feb— Juventus beat Chievo 2-1 to move three points clear at the top of the Serie A table on Sunday. Alessandro Matri put the visitors ahead in the 10th minute, followed by a second just before the break from Stephan Lichtsteiner. Cyril Thereau reduced the arrears for Chievo early in the second half.

Thereau had a chance to level the scores shortly after, but in truth it was a victory the league leaders deserved with Antonio Conte's side missing chances to extend their lead late on. Juve are now three points clear of Napoli at the top of the Serie A table. *Xinhua*

Ravens survive 49ers rally, power outage to win Super Bowl

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree (15) can't reach a pass while being covered by Baltimore Ravens cornerback Jimmy Smith (22) and Ed Reed during the fourth quarter in the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 3 Feb, 2013.— REUTERS

NEW ORLEANS, 4 Feb —The Baltimore Ravens survived a furious second-half rally by San Francisco and a momentum sapping power outage at the Superdome to defeat the scrappy 49ers 34-31 in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

A Super Bowl record 108-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Jacoby Jones gave the Ravens a 28 6 lead early in the third quarter but the 49ers scored 17 straight points after a 35-minute power outage and nearly pulled off a stunning comeback.

Trailing 34-29, the 49ers marched down to the Ravens' seven but failed to score on four tries, surrendering the ball on downs at the five with less than two minutes remaining.

Baltimore used up the clock and on fourth down, punter Sam Koch ran out of bounds in the end zone for a safety with four seconds left. *Reuters*

Seedorf dedicates hat-trick to late grandfather

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 Jan — Veteran Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf scored a hat-trick on Sunday as Botafogo defeated Macae 3-1 in Brazil's Campeonato Carioca. The 36-year-old canceled out Jones' opener by sliding in from close range at the Moacyrzao Stadium in Macae before adding two second half penalties.

After the match the former AC Milan and Real Madrid star dedicated the performance to his late grandfather, who died last month. "I want to dedicate this victory to him and to my whole family," a tearful Seedorf said.

"I am happy because we maintained our composure and have managed to get a very important win for this club." The result lifted Botafogo above Vasco da Gama to the top of Group A with 11 points from five games. *Xinhua*

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The New Light of Myanmar

Tuesday, 5 February, 2013

Pyithu Hluttaw approves Disaster Management Bill

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann chairs 13th-day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— The **Disaster Management Bill** which had been sent back from Amyotha Hluttaw was approved by Pyithu Hluttaw today at its 13th day Session.

Before the bill was approved, amended paragraphs and sub-paragraphs of the bill were discussed by Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, two representatives, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe.

The bill has approved to set up a national committee and regional organizations to mobilize the entire people to actively participate in cooperation with INGOs and NGOs at home and abroad in disaster preparedness tasks, rescue and rehabilitation, environmental conservation tasks in the aftermath of disasters.

U Soe Paing of Wuntho constituency asked three questions: **if there were any gold or precious mineral mining by fraud though application for the mining are mentioned to extract low-tax minerals, if there any plan, inspection or directives to be able to avoid such kinds of frauds, and if there any plan to allow manageable-level gold panning.**

Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung replied that Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department of the ministry carried out laboratory tests for the minerals exploration and the ministry granted permission for mining according to the report on the exploration and possibility.

The ministry held joint-management committee meeting every four month and supervised the mining companies and those who closely supervised the mines had to report on the inspection of the mines to do away with the frauds. The ministry could allow manageable-level gold panning in accordance with the Section 10 of the Myanmar Mining Law, he said.

However, the ministry had banned the manageable-level gold panning as small and medium machinery were used in the manageable-level gold panning, destroying the environment and without supplying gold to the State, he added.

There were a total of 2539 blocks of manageable-level gold panning across the country.

The ministry decided to ban the manageable-level gold mining on 15 February, 2012, in order to carry out gold mining in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Myanmar Mining Law, to encourage the environmental conservation and to save the river system, to get correct figures for gold extraction, to reduce hazardous impacts from gold mining, to control use of machinery in gold mining and to control the labour problems.

Still, the ministry has not yet allowed the manageable-level gold mining in the country.

During today's meeting, six questions were answered and one bill was approved.

MNA

Proposal on urging the Union government to cultivate democratic practices in Youth-centered BEHSs approved

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— Six regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for 13th day today. With regard to the question of Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8 on **if there are policies and laws for migrant workers**, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint replied that the existing Overseas Employment Law (1999) is being amended for Myanmar migrant workers so as to have equal rights as domestic workers.

Plans are under way to approve Migrant Working Policy (draft). Five-year National Level Migrant Working Policy Plan (draft) is being formulated. Skill development of Myanmar workers are being carried out for protecting the interests of workers. Alien Worker Law is also being drafted for systematic acceptance of foreign workers.

Chairman of Public Complaints and Appeal Committee U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No. 2 submitted the proposal on **urging the Union government to ensure officials from every level of administrative bodies follow rules and regulations for emergence of clean government and good governance and to take stern actions against law breakers and to scrutinize the lack of complaints by the government staff for expulsion from their jobs**. Hluttaw decided to record Union government's undertakings regarding above proposals.

U Khet Htein Nan of Kachin State Constituency No. 2 said, "Ensuring of officials from every level of administrative bodies abide by law, taking stern actions against law breakers and expulsion of staff without any complaint are very important basic factors".

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives attending 13th-day meeting of Amyotha Hluttaw. MNA

Five representatives held discussions on the proposal on **urging the Union government to nurture democratic practices in Youth-centered Basic Education High Schools** submitted by U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency No.5.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu also discussed that proposal and Hluttaw approved it. The meeting continues tomorrow.

MNA

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills opened

YANGON, 4 Feb—The inauguration ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (30/2013) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzinminyarzar Hall of the Ministry at 10:00 am today, with an opening address delivered by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin.

Also present on the occasion were Directors-General and responsible officials of the Department under the Ministry, retired Myanmar Ambassadors, senior diplomats, professors and instructors as well as trainees.

The 12-week Course covers contemporary international affairs, holding and attending of international conferences, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills.

MNA

Dagon, PKNU universities broaden horizon of their scopes

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Dagon University in Yangon and Pukyong National University (PKNU) in Busan of the Republic of Korea signed an MoU on cooperation in education between the two universities at the meeting hall of Dagon University this morning.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Ba Shwe delivered a speech and Chairman of PKNU Dr Yong Seup Kim extended greetings. Rector of Dagon University Dr Hla Htay and Chairman of PKNU Dr Yong Seup Kim signed the MoU.

The MoU covers cooperation in teaching and research works, exchanging scholars and researchers, cooperation in some areas in which both universities are interested, exchanging students, academic information and pu-blication, making field trip which will benefit both universities.

MNA

Slight earthquake hits Andaman Islands

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Andaman Islands, India Region), about 420 miles southwest of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 7 hrs 49 min 24 sec M.S.T today, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA