

President U Thein Sein receives Chairman of Tokyo-based KEIDENREN (Japan Business Federation) and party



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives a delegation led by Chairman Mr. Hiromasa YONEKURA of Tokyo-based KEIDENREN (Japan Business Federation).—MNA

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
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Appointment of Union Minister

Under the section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, U Hsan Hsint has been appointed as the Union Minister for Religious Affairs.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Business Federation) from Japan at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 3:30 pm today.

At the call, they cordially discussed human resource and infrastructural development in Myanmar, natural disaster prevention and environmental conservation, cooperation in technology, energy, agriculture, livestock breeding, mining, communications technology and foodstuff production, cooperation in electric power generation

through modern Japanese technology and cooperation in industrial sectors through long-term and short-term plans.

Present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Thant Kyaw and officials.—MNA

IMF thoroughly endorses Government's policies

NLM team interviewed IMF delegation led by Mr. Anoop Singh, Director of Asia Pacific Department, this afternoon at Myat Mingala Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. Mr. Anoop Singh and Mr. Matt Davies, Mission Chief to Myanmar, answered the questions while Ms Susan Creane, Technical Assistance Coordinator, and Ms Keiko Utsunomiya, External Relations Officer, played the supporting role.

NLM: Now, as international economic sanctions against Myanmar have been lifted and Myanmar is entering back into the international stage, may I know the agenda of IMF for Myanmar, in this period? What can Myanmar expect from IMF?

IMF: Discussions with the authorities on this visit focused on the importance of intensifying the already strong partnership the IMF has with the Government of

the Union of Myanmar. In addition to regular staff visits, the IMF will enhance its capacity building programme including through increased support from the regional technical assistance office. It also aims to open a resident representative office in Myanmar. In all of these areas we are working closely with other development partners.

The recent debt rescheduling agreements with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Paris Club demonstrate the international community's commitment to supporting the reform process. The IMF is closely assisting the Government of the Union of Myanmar develop and implement the policies to ensure macroeconomic stability and strengthen reforms under their SMP (Staff Monitored Programme).

NLM: Can you give us

your comment on the current situation of Myanmar's financial condition?

IMF: The government has made rapid strides over the last two years. The exchange rate regime has been changed from a peg to a managed float. The financial sector is being gradually modernized, starting with partial deposit rate liberalization and the relaxing of some restrictions on private banks. This year's fiscal



Mr. Anoop Singh.—MNA

budget was debated in Parliament for the first time, yielding increased spending in critical areas such as health, education, and infrastructure. Laws to support the development goals of the government have been passed, including on land reforms, microfinance, and foreign investment. Discussions on clearing Myanmar's external arrears are also progressing.

(See page 9)



Mr. Matt Davies.—MNA

Myanmar, FAO sign CPF to implement MDGs



Deputy Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi and FAO Representative Ms Bui Thi Lan exchange notes after signing the Country Programme Framework (2012-2016).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi and FAO Representative Ms Bui Thi Lan signed the Country Programme Framework (2012-2016) which will be implemented by the Government of Myanmar and FAO, at his office, here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Ohn Than, Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin and officials.

FAO implements the CPF with the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries and Forestry in order to assist the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Nos.1, 7 and 8.

MNA

Union I&P Minister attends opening of anti-corruption workshop



NAYPYI TAW, 5 Feb—The Ministry of Immigration and Population and Sustainable Development Initiatives Ltd (SDI) jointly organized the anti-corruption workshop at Tongha Puri Hotel here yesterday morning, with an opening address by Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi.

The Union Minister said that the government is striving to ensure clean government and good governance and fighting against corruption. The Nine-membered Action Committee Against

Corruption chaired by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham was formed on 8 January. The ministry had conducted two anti-corruption workshops in 2012 and 2013 for high ranking officials of the department and regions and states. He also urged those present to widely engage in anti-corruption and bribery preventive measures by combining the discussions from the workshop to promote the dignity of the

State.

Country Programme Director Mr. John Rennie of Myanmar-based SDI explained the purpose of holding the workshop to fight against corruption and to give suggestions for the ministry.

The Union Minister and party enjoyed news, article, cartoon and wallpapers on show. The five-day workshop sponsored by Aus-Aid lasts till 8 February.

MNA

Loans disbursed to trishaw drivers in Nyaunglebin

NYAUNGLEBIN, 5 Feb—With the aim of uplifting living standard of local people and alleviating poverty, a ceremony to disburse loans to trishaw drivers was held at Thiri Yadana Hall in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region at 2 pm on 30 January.

At the ceremony, acting Township Administrator U Khun Naung Oo, Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U M Hla Thauang, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major U Khin Maung Win and Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Khin Pe presented loans to trishaw drivers.—Kyemon

Fund handed over to Township Development Affairs Committee

YANGON, 5 Feb—Bahan Township Internal Revenue Department of Yangon Region handed over five per cent tax obtained from tax payers to the fund of second quarter for Township Development Affairs Committee in 2012-2013 fiscal year was held at the hall of the Township Development Affairs Committee on 31 January afternoon.

It was attended by Head of Township General Administration Department U Zaw Win Htay and staff.

Teaching tables opened for raising pass rate

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Than Htay attended the meeting with school heads, teachers and



Staff Officer of Township Internal Revenue Department U Min Naing Tun handed over K 161,379,000 as five per cent to Head of

Executive Officer Township Development Affairs Committee U Zaw Lwin Aung.

Myanma Alinn

members of School Board of Trustees from six Basic Education High Schools at the hall of Pobbathiri BEHS No 13 on 29 January.

Fire drill practised

YANGON, 5 Feb—The fire drill was practised at Store and Distribution Division of Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise in Hsipaw of Shan State (North) on 29 January.

It was attended by Acting Township Administrator U Moe Tun Win, Branch Manager U Tin Maung

Maung of MPPE, town selders and ward administrators.

Fire brigade members led by Head of Township Fire Services Department U Aung Kyi Tun and departmental officials performed fire drill with the use of fire extinguishers.

Kyemon

2013 66th Anniversary Union Day



Use of farming machinery demonstrated

MAWLAMYINE, 5 Feb—The driving demonstration of farming equipment was held at the central agricultural farm in Mudon Township of Mon State on 26 January with the aim of enabling the local farmers to apply the modern farming machinery skilfully.

Heads of Mon State Agricultural Mechanization Department, Mawlamyine District and Township

Agricultural Mechanization Departments and the head of No 54 Agricultural Mechanization Station explained advantages of farming equipment.

The department sold farming machinery to the local farmers through instalment and in cash systems and

banking services provided by Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.

Moreover, various items of farming equipment are available at the Agricultural Mechanization Stations in Mon State and Agricultural Mechanization Departments.

Myanma Alinn

Administrator course opened in Ponnagyun Township

PONNAGYUN, 5 Feb—The Ward/Village-tract Administrators' Work Proficiency Course 1/2013 was opened at the hall in Ponnagyun Township on 28 January morning.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Aung made an opening address. Altogether 35 trainees attending the course that will last four weeks.—Myanma Alinn

Thieves arrested with stolen motorcycles in Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 5 Feb—Police Inspector Khaing Than from Mawlamyine District Police Force (Special) Criminal Eradication Section, IP Hsan Win of Myoma Police Station, SIP Naing Naing Win, WO Nay Tun and Sgt Tin Lin Tun arrested two motorcycle thieves together with motorcycles stolen from the busy places in Mawlamyine and Ye of Mon State on 28 January.

The thieves were Nay Lin Htet, 27 of No 105 on

Zatika Street in Ware 54 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Region and Kyaw Min Naing (a) Tayokkyi of Zaybaing of Peinnegon Village in Kyaikmaraw Township.

According to their confessions, they stole eight motorcycles kept near football grounds, railway station, Shwehsandaw Pagoda, hospital and Asin market and Shwedaunggyar tea shop in December 2012, one more on the 3rd floor of Arrow Myanmar Building in Pabedan Ward of Mawlamyine and a busy place in Mawlamyine.

Of these motorcycles, 10 bikes could be seized from them.

Action was taken against them at Myoma Police Station of Mawlamyine under Section 380 of Penal Code and the remaining cases were handed over to Ye Police Station.—Kyemon



Beware of Fire

WORLD

Iran's Salehi says US is changing approach to Teheran



Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi delivers a speech at the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin on 4 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

BERLIN, 5 Feb—Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said on Monday he saw US Vice-President Joe Biden's offer this weekend of bilateral dialogue between their two countries as a sign of a change in approach to Teheran by Washington.

Iran is embroiled in a long stand-off with big powers over its nuclear programme. Teheran insists its atomic activity is for peaceful energy only while the United States and other powers suspect it of seeking the capability to build a nu-

clear weapon.

"As I have said yesterday, I am optimistic, I feel this new administration is really this time seeking to at least divert from its previous traditional approach vis-a-vis my country," Salehi told the German Council on Foreign Relations.

Salehi, who attended the Munich Security Conference at the weekend where Biden made the offer, said in Berlin that it was still very difficult for Teheran and Washington — more than 30 years after they severed relations — to

trust each other.

"How do we trust again this new gesture?" he said.

Salehi said he hoped Barack Obama would keep what he said was a promise by the US president to "walk away from wars ... and approaches that bring destruction, killings, bloodshed". He did not elaborate.

Negotiations between Iran and Russia, China, the United States, Britain, France and Germany over Teheran's nuclear activities have been deadlocked since a meeting last June.

Reuters

US, allies ready more anti-mine drills as Iran tensions simmer

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb —The US military announced on Monday an anti-mine exercise in "the Middle East's international waterways" in May with more than 20 nations participating, the latest show of global will to keep waterways open as tensions with Iran simmer.

The drill was characterized as defensive and a follow-up to the IMCMEX 12 exercise held last September, focused on keeping oil shipping lanes open by clearing mines that potentially Iran, or even guerrilla groups, might deploy to disrupt tanker traffic.

"This year's effort will reaffirm the ongoing, global cooperation that this mission enjoys with the international community's strong support for free trade," General James Mattie, commander of the US military's Central Command, said in a statement.

US officials have in the past sought to play down any link between the drills and ongoing tensions with Iran, which is pushing forward with a nuclear programme the West fears is aimed at giving it the capability to build an atomic bomb. Teheran says the program is peaceful.

But the anti-mine exercises are widely seen as a clear show of determination by a broad coalition of states to counter any attempt Iran might make to disrupt Gulf shipping in response to an Israeli or US strike on its nuclear facilities — a form of retaliation Iran has repeatedly threatened.

Central Command said the drill in May, IMCMEX 13, would focus on mine countermeasures, as well as maritime security operations and protecting maritime infrastructure. It did not provide further details.—Reuters

Russia to host G8 summit in Sochi

MOSCOW, 5 Feb — Russia will host the summit of the Group of Eight in the Russian city of Sochi in 2014, Kremlin announced on Monday.

It will be the second time for Russia to host such a high-level meeting. It also

played the host to the summit of the G8 in another Russian city of St Petersburg in 2006.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree which sets Sochi, a renowned resort on the Black Sea, as a venue of

the G8 events after Russia regained presidency in the group, said a document posted the website of the Kremlin.

Sochi will also be the venue of the Winter Olympics which is to take place in February 2014.—Xinhua

US Army to build soldier "resilience" to fight suicides, violence

TACOMA, 5 Feb— The US Army, grappling with a spike in military suicides, plans to take steps to improve soldiers' resilience to mental health problems to combat such deaths as well as depression, substance abuse, and violent behaviour, Army Secretary John McHugh said on Monday.

McHugh ordered Army officials to lay out detailed plans by 15 February to boost soldiers' "physical, emotional and psychological resilience," but did not reveal program specifics, such as estimated costs or goals.

"Interventions are not coming as soon as I would like to see them," McHugh told a news conference at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state. "Taking care of soldiers is one of our top priorities. It is not just a necessity but a moral imperative."

The announcement came after the US military acknowledged in January that suicides had hit a record last year, outpacing combat deaths, with 349 active-duty suicides — almost one per day.

McHugh said in the order he hopes to eliminate "any stigma or barriers



US Army soldiers with Charlie Company, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armoured Division head back to their vehicles at the end of a mission near Command Outpost Pa'in Kalay in Maiwand District, Kandahar Province, on 3 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

associated with seeking help," and later acknowledged that there was widespread confusion over the resources available to help soldiers and bureaucratic red-tape.

However, he did not reveal the findings of a year-long review of the Army's diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems going back to 2001.

Reuters

UN Security Council reform can no longer be postponed

ROME, 5 Feb—Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi on Monday said the reform of the United Nations Security Council can no longer be postponed so as to reinforce "the UN's credibility as a champion of international peace and security and in laying the solid foundations of a new architecture of collective security."

Terzi made the remarks at a Rome meet-

ing where United Nations members from over 60 countries met to foster political dialogue on the topic of UN Security Council reform, ahead of the resumption of discussions in New York over the coming weeks.

At the ministerial meeting, co-chaired by Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Gonzalo de Benito Secades, Terzi said the world needed a

Security Council "with which every UN member can identify" by expanding the number of members to make it more representative in consideration of states' contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security.

More than 70 member states have never taken part in the UN Security Council in 68 years, and almost 200 countries are represented by only 15 states, five of

which on a permanent basis with veto power.

Terzi said increasing the number of countries elected by all the UN members to a rotating seat on the Council would mean greater effectiveness, while an increase in permanent members would run the risk of "crystallizing situations that may not, over time, reflect the balance of international relations."

Xinhua

Three bodies found at Mexico Pemex blast site, toll reaches 36

MEXICO CITY, 5 Feb— Mexican rescue workers found three more bodies over the weekend amid the rubble of a deadly blast that tore through state oil firm Pemex's main office complex, the government said, as search efforts appeared to near a close.

The death toll from Thursday's explosion stands at 36, Pemex said via Twitter. Rescue workers had been digging through the last sections of the building's basement and could soon call off their search. One person was re-

ported still missing.

Attorney General Jesus Murillo said on Friday that it was too early to say if the explosion was due to an attack, an accident or negligence, but he promised results of an investigation in the coming days.

Murillo toured the site on Sunday, but did not publicly comment on the progress of the investigation. Officials have communicated details through social media about the disaster, which struck just before a long holiday weekend.

Reuters



Rescue workers carry a stretcher with the body of the 36th victim at the site of an explosion at the headquarters of state-owned oil giant Pemex in Mexico City on 3 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1,300-year-old tomb cluster discovered on Pamirs Plateau

URUMQI, 5 Feb—Chinese archaeologists have unearthed an unidentified cluster of 102 tombs, 40 percent of which were made for infants, on the Pamirs Plateau in the westernmost part of the country.

The tombs, found in Kezilesu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, contain wooden caskets with desiccated corpses, as well as stone-ware, pottery and copper ware believed to have been buried as sacrificial items, said Ai Tao from the Xinjiang Archaeological Institute.

"The cluster covers an

area of 1,500 square meters on a 20-metre-high cliff, an unusual location for tombs," Ai said.

He added that his team was also very surprised to find such a large number of infant corpses. "But further research is needed to determine why so many people from that tribe died young."

Archaeologists said they have also unearthed a large number of well-preserved utensils made from gourds, some of which were placed inside the caskets.

"The burial custom is the first of its kind to be found in Xinjiang," said Ai.

It is believed that the cluster dates back to the

Tang Dynasty (618-907). At that time, economic and cultural exchanges between China and the West flourished via the ancient Silk Road.

"The shape of the felt-covered caskets show that sinic culture had a great influence on the lives of local people's some 1,300 years ago," said Yu Zhiyong, head of the Xinjiang Archaeological Institute.

The tomb cluster was discovered amid the construction of a local hydro-power project last year.

Kezilesu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture was an important pass on the ancient Silk Road.—Xinhua

HTC sees Q1 revenue flat to 17 percent lower versus Q4



A person talks on a mobile phone in front of a HTC advertisement board in Taipei on 7 Jan 2013. REUTERS

TAIPEI, 5 Feb—Taiwanese smartphone maker HTC Corp expects revenue to be flat to 17 percent lower in the first quarter compared with the previous three months, worse than forecast, while margins are also seen holding steady or shrinking.

The former contract manufacturer's fortunes have been declining sharply since the second half of 2011, as the growing dominance of Apple Inc's iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd's Galaxy range quickly deflated the success of its own brand's rapid rise.

HTC said on Monday that it expects first-quarter revenue of T\$50 billion to T\$60 billion (\$1.69-2.03 billion). That compares with T\$60 billion in the fourth quarter and T\$65.75 billion a year ago.

Analysts have forecast HTC would earn revenue of T\$62.77 billion for the quarter, according to the average projection of 18 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

HTC also said it expects a first-quarter gross margin of about 21 to 23 percent, flat to lower from 23 percent in the prior quarter, and an operating margin of 0.5 to 1.0 percent, also flat to lower

from 1 percent.

The weaker-than-expected first-quarter revenue outlook follows a 91 percent year-on-year slide in the Taiwanese company's net profit in the fourth quarter that fell short of analyst forecasts. Analysts doubt that 2013 will be a turnaround year for HTC as the strength of its brand lags far behind Apple and Samsung. But some have said that the next version of its flagship smartphone, code-named "M7" and which they expect to be launched in the middle of this month in New York and London, could give the company a first-mover advantage of a few months on features such as higher-resolution cameras.

Samsung Electronics, the world's top smartphone maker, said last month that it expected the global smartphone market to shrink in the first quarter from the seasonally strong fourth quarter, while the overall handset market would see growth at a mid single-digit percentage rate this year from 2012, with the smartphone segment set to slow. Strong smartphone sales powered an 89 percent increase in operating profit at the Korean company in the October-December quarter to a record \$8.3 billion.

Reuters

Twitter client Carbon for Android now available for download



MUMBAI, 5 Feb—Carbon for Android is finally seeing the light of the day after being in development for almost a year. The Twitter client is now available as a free download in the Google Play store. Makers of the app, Dots & Lines, say that the differentiating feature of the client is that it gives users access to all of their Twitter content in one screen without the need to drill down to different screens. Carbon for Android offers the user's Timeline, Mentions, and Messages on the home screen, and Lists, Favorites, and Trends as an extended screen to the main

screen.

It's noteworthy that the app doesn't work on Android tablets, and the developers have said that they're working on a separate tablet app. It's worth pointing out that Twitter now restricts third party Twitter clients to a limit of 100,000 API tokens.

Dots & Lines said that they wanted to use all tokens for phone users who will be able to experience the full Carbon experience rather than offering an extended or tricked up experience of their phone app on tablets. The app does not support real-time updates at the moment.

The app offers a graphite background theme and sports features like the ability to refresh the Timeline by tilting the phone, Scrolling/Swiping up or down

Favourites and others, conversation view, background updates with quick actions for Jelly Bean (on the notification bar), and Filters for Hashtags, Users,



using Two fingers to jump to top or bottom of Timelines, rich Timeline view with full inline images and videos, Tap+Hold on individual tweets to get actions (reply, retweet, favourite) right on the Timeline, a QuickTimeline button on the home screen for access to Lists, Searches, Trends,

and Keywords.

Dots & Lines had previously developed Carbon for WebOS, Graphite for WebOS tablets and Carbon for Windows Phone Twitter clients. They've stopped development for all these apps and are presently focusing only on the Android version.—PTI

Dutch architect to build house with a 3D printer

NEW DELHI, 5 Feb—A Dutch architect has designed a house "with no beginning or end" to be built using the world's largest 3D printer, harnessing technology that may one day be used to print houses on the moon.

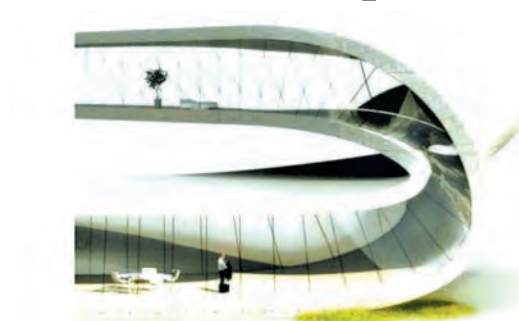
Janjaap Ruijsenaars, 39, of Universe Architecture in Amsterdam, wants to print a building resembling a giant mobius strip—a continuous loop with one side — with around 1,100 square metres (12,000 square feet) of floor space using the massive D-Shape printer.

The printer, designed by Italian Enrico Dini, can

print up to almost a six-metre-by-six-metre square (20-foot-by-20-foot), using a computer to add layers 5-10 mm (a quarter to half an inch) thick.

Ruijsenaars says the building could serve as a home or a museum and would have parts usually made from a concrete-like material printed using broken up rocks and an emulsion binding, while steel and glass would provide the facade.

"It's our ambition to have the first printed house, this printer has made art or objects for sea defences, but this is the first time to build something that can be



lived in," he told AFP.

Ruijsenaars said the plan was not initially to print the building but the hi-tech medium turned out to be the most appropriate.

"We started to ask the question if a building can be like the landscape, in order to make a building that would not harm the land-

scape, or at least learn from the landscape," he said.

"We analysed that the essence of landscape is that it has no beginning or ending, so it's continuous, not only the fact the world is round but also water goes into land, valleys into mountains, it's always continuous."—Reuters

Airtel launches voice-based portal for Value Added Services



NEW DELHI, 5 Feb—Bharti Airtel on Monday launched a voice-based solution portal for value added services that will provide information in local language on activities such as agriculture, devotion, job updates, entertainment, education and health.

'Apna Chaupal', designed for rural and semi-urban market, will enable mobile customers across the country to browse and subscribe value added services by dialling toll free number 58080, the company said in a statement.

"...We are happy to launch the Apna Chaupal service for our customers who can now easily avail all the relevant value added

services from a single portal at 58080 without having to memorise the individual dialling numbers of each of the service," Bharti Airtel CEO (Delhi/NCR) Rohit Gothi said.

The service will enable customers to access services like learning agricultural techniques, receive instant updates on 'mandi' rates and government jobs, access entertainment services like hello tunes, on their mobile phones with a voice call. For the latest technology news and reviews, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

Tags: Airtel, Apna Chaupal, Apna Chaupal service, Bharti Airtel, Telecom, value—PTI

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Swiss scientist wins US award for cancer research

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb—Swiss scientist Alex Matter has been awarded the eighth Szent-Gyorgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research for his contributions to the development of the first drug specifically targeting a molecular lesion in cancer, the US National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) announced on Tuesday.

The first targeted cancer therapy, imatinib mesylate, or Gleevec, contributed to a major breakthrough in the treatment of Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML), followed by its successful application to other malignant cancers by turning off the signal of the protein causing these cancers.

With Gleevec, the

outcome of treating CML went from the dismal and often deadly to a nearly 90 percent long-term survival with little or no side-effects.

Matter's pioneering research in probing the molecular anatomy of tumour cells in search of cancer-causing proteins represents the start of a new era in cancer treatment. Gleevec was the first drug that translated the insights of molecular cancer biology into a highly effective anti-cancer drug, which offered proof that molecular targeting works in treating cancer. The successful development of Gleevec led to a paradigm shift in new cancer treatments. The preclinical research led by Matter demonstrated that it is possible to counteract

cancer by specifically inhibiting the activity of key oncogenic molecules, while the impact of the research discoveries was nothing short of phenomenal. Matter's research made it possible to turn deadly cancers into treatable diseases.

"Alex Matter is the father of targeted cancer therapies," said Chinese Minister of Health Chen Zhu, who is also chair of the 2013 Prize Selection Committee. "Dr Matter's leadership in building the synergy between pharmaceutical companies, universities, and research hospitals changed both the way we treat CML and our approach to developing new anticancer drugs."

The NFCR is a leading charity dedicated to funding

cancer research and public education relating to cancer prevention, earlier diagnosis, better treatments and, ultimately, cures for cancer.

Since 1973, the NFCR has provided about 300 million US dollars in direct support to discovery-oriented cancer research focused on understanding how and why cells become cancerous, and on public education relating to cancer prevention, detection and treatment.

Chinese scientists Wang Zhenyi and Chen Zhu were granted the seventh Szent-Gyorgyi Prize in 2012 for their innovative research that led to a new therapeutic approach to acute promyelocytic leukemia.—Xinhua

Dow nears record high amid global stock rallies



TOKYO, 5 Feb—New York share prices are nearing record highs as stock markets rally around the world. Investors encouraged by monetary policy-easing measures in industrialized nations are seeking high returns.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended at 14,009 on Friday — just 200 points below its historic high, reached in 2007. The index has surged by almost 7 percent so far this year.

Hopes for a US economic recovery and easing concerns over Europe's debt problems are contrib-

uting factors.

Other markets are up as well. Share prices rose by around 7 percent this year in Tokyo, London, and Shanghai.

Analysts at the US research firm Lipper say investors bought heavily into stock-centered American mutual funds. That's a record high for January since 1996, when former US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan criticized the dot-com boom as "irrational exuberance."

Many observers are wondering if the current rallies represent a bubble waiting to burst.—NHK

Bank of Baroda falls on earnings disappointment

NEW DELHI, 5 Feb—Shares in Bank of Baroda (BOB.NS) fall as much as 8 percent after the bank's October-December earnings disappointed investors.

The bank said in a statement its December-quarter net profit fell to 10.12 billion rupees compared with 12.90 billion rupees a year earlier, while non-performing loans increased to 1.12 percent versus 0.51 percent a year earlier.

"The market was expecting better numbers," said Vaibhav Agrawal, a banking analyst at Angel Broking.

"Possibly, with the new management coming in, there has been higher NPA recognition than what would have earlier been expected."

In January, the central government appointed S S Mundra as chairman and managing director of the



A cashier (L) counts currency notes as customers wait inside a bank in Hyderabad on 22 March, 2010.

REUTERS

bank.

Bank of Baroda shares

were down 7.34 percent at 2:37 pm.—Reuters

BlackBerry searching high and low in India, Indonesia



Research in Motion Chief Executive Officer Thorsten Heins is silhouetted during the BlackBerry World event in Orlando, in this file picture taken on 1 May, 2012.

REUTERS

NEW DELHI/ JAKARTA, 5 Feb—Research in Motion Ltd must chart a tough course in its two key emerging markets of India and Indonesia: quickly launch cheaper handsets to woo lower-end subscribers while restoring its tattered brand among the countries' status-conscious.

The company, which is rebranding itself BlackBerry after its best-known smartphone, has won mil-

lions of followers in these two Asian countries, mostly by selling cheaper handsets and offering service packages as low as \$2 a month. So it's unlikely that the Z10 model introduced last week, which operators in India expect to sell for around \$750, will appeal to the users it must reach if it is to build market share.

"It's clear that not only are India and Indonesia among the largest

markets but in terms of future smartphone growth, they're amongst the ones with the most potential," said Melissa Chau, senior research manager at technology research group IDC in Singapore. "But the two devices that have been launched are not well aligned to the needs of these two markets."

While the company does not break down its sales by country, data from IDC shows that Indonesia was BlackBerry's biggest market outside the United States and Britain last year, while India was ninth.

ABI Research said that BlackBerry accounted for nearly half of Indonesia's smartphone shipments in 2012. Compare this with a global share of just 5.3 percent. In India, the world's second-largest mobile phone market, BlackBerry ranks third after Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Nokia.

In both countries, young people are drawn by low-cost handsets allowing them to communicate for free on the BlackBerry Messaging Service (BBM). Almost all carriers offer services for the device. Indonesia's XL Axiata Tbk PT, for example, saw a 45 percent jump in BlackBerry subscribers last financial year after offering packages for as little as 20 cents per day.

But this picture is changing rapidly.

The rise of messaging services such as WhatsApp that are not confined to any single operating system and the proliferation of cheap Android devices have diluted the BlackBerry's appeal.

Mickey Nayoan, a 32-year old product designer in Jakarta, swapped his BlackBerry for a Samsung phone six months ago and isn't missing it.

Reuters

10.1-inch Asus MeMO Pad ME301T goes on sale in Europe for Euro 349



MUMBAI, 5 Feb—The 10.1-inch tablet Asus MeMO Pad ME301T is official and looks to have gone on sale in some European countries for a price of Euro 349. However, there's no word from the company yet on if this is the official price of the tablet, or something that retailers have set before the tablet is officially unveiled.

The Asus MeMO Pad ME301T sports a 10.1-inch 1280x800 display and is powered by a NVIDIA Tegra 3 processor alongside 1GB of RAM. It comes with 16GB of internal storage and microSD card support. The tablet sports a 5-megapixel rear and 1.2-megapixel front camera. Connectivity options include Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, HDMI and Micro-USB ports.

At Euro 349, the tablet

seems a bit overpriced especially considering the rather underwhelming display. In fact, some reports have suggested that the tablet may retail for as little as Euro 299, a price that may find a few more takers. Asus had earlier unveiled the MeMO Pad ME172V tablet for \$149. Asus MeMO Pad ME172V comes with 7-inch screen that has a display resolution of just 1024X600 pixels. This tablet runs on Android 4.1 (Jelly Bean) and offers full support for Google Play. It is powered by VIA WM8950 processor clocked at 1GHz which is coupled with a Mali-400 GPU. There is a 1GB of RAM, and an option to choose between 8GB or 16GB of internal storage, which can be expanded to by up to 32GB via microSD.

PTI

WORLD

22 killed in UAE road collision

DUBAI, 5 Feb—At least 22 people were killed when a truck laden with gravel collided with a bus carrying 46 Asian migrant workers in the oasis town of al-Ain in the United Arab Emirates, police said on Monday.

The truck driver lost control of his vehicle, causing it to land on top of the bus and trap its passengers under the cargo of gravel, police said of Sunday's incident.

Twenty-four people were injured, at least five critically, officials from two hospitals in al-Ain said. The police did not disclose the nationalities of the dead, but Dubai-based *Gulf News daily* reported they were mostly from Bangladesh.

The per capita death toll on UAE roads is among the highest in the world, according to World Health Organization data. The UAE is a federation made up of seven emirates that include trade and tourism hub Dubai and oil-rich Abu Dhabi.

Reuters



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy address a news conference after talks in Berlin on 4 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Two Russian hostages, one Italian freed in Syria

Moscow, 5 Feb—Two Russians and an Italian have been freed in Syria in exchange for three captured rebels after being held hostage for nearly two months, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday. The ministry said Viktor Gorelov, Abdessattar Hassun and Mario Belluomo, who were taken hostage by rebel forces on 12 December, had been released on Sunday and were in good health.

"The Russians have already been brought to the Russian embassy in Damascus," the ministry said in a

statement on its website. "An Italian citizen who was kidnapped with them, M Belluomo, will be handed over to the Italian authorities through the Syrian Foreign Ministry."

It said the three had been seized by rebels on the way to the Syrian port of Tartus from the city of Homs. Italian media have said that Belluomo, who was 63 when kidnapped, had been working in Syria as an engineer at a steel plant near the port city of Latakia.

The Russian Foreign

Merkel tells Spain's Rajoy she has full trust in his government

BERLIN, 5 Feb—Angela Merkel told Spain's Prime Minister on Monday she had full confidence in his government's ability to push through reforms, brushing aside a growing corruption scandal in Spain which has prompted calls for Mariano Rajoy's resignation.

The scandal has hit just as 57-year-old Rajoy, who had a reputation for being boring but clean, appeared to make some headway in

tackling the country's deep financial crisis.

"We have a relation of full trust in the Spanish government," Merkel told a joint news conference with Rajoy in Berlin, adding she believed Madrid was fully focused on driving down unemployment and pushing through structural reforms.

"I am convinced that the Spanish government and Mariano Rajoy as prime minister will be able to sort out these problems and the

German government will support them with all of its powers."

Rajoy repeated his assertion made over the weekend that he not done anything wrong.

Media reports allege the former treasurers of his People's Party operated a slush fund with donations from construction industry executives that were then doled out to Rajoy and other party leaders.

Reuters

Iran's nuclear advance may be no empty boast



IAEA deputy director Olli Heinonen attends a joint media conference with Javad Vaedi, Iran's deputy nuclear negotiator, in Teheran in this on 21 Aug, 2007 file photo.

REUTERS

VIENNA, 5 Feb—Iran could be able to make thousands of next-generation uranium enrichment machines, according to a former chief UN inspector, adding credibility to Teheran's claims of technical advances in its disputed nuclear programme.

As Iran and world powers prepare to resume talks aimed at easing a dispute that has raised fears of a new Middle East war, Teheran announced late last month it planned to install the new machines at its main enrichment plant.

The move underlined Iran's defiance of international demands to scale back the uranium enrichment which Teheran says is for civilian purposes but which could also potentially be used to make material for atom bombs.

Olli Heinonen, until 2010 a Deputy Director General of the UN nuclear agency, said Iran had started purchasing special materials needed for manufacturing new centrifuges years ago when the sanctions on the country were not as strict as now. It was not clear how many of the upgraded centrifuges Iran

aimed to put in place at its enrichment Natanz plant, which is designed for tens of thousands of machines. But the wording of a note by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to member states last week implied it could be as many as 3,000. "There are reasons to believe that it (Iran) can manufacture those 3,000 IR-2s," Heinonen told *Reuters* in an email at the weekend, referring to a centrifuge which is estimated to refine uranium several times faster than those Iran operates today.

Iran has for years been trying to develop centrifuges more advanced than the erratic 1970s IR-1 model it now uses. But their introduction for full-scale production has been delayed by technical hurdles, experts and diplomats say.

They say UN and Western sanctions have limited Iran's access to special steel, carbon fibre and other components needed to make sophisticated centrifuges in larger numbers. Iran, which denies Western allegations of a nuclear weapons agenda, says it is able to manufacture them domestically.—*Reuters*

Alabama hostage standoff ends with child safe, gunman dead



FBI Special Agent in Charge Steve Richardson addresses the media near Midland City, Alabama, on 4 Feb, 2013 in this image courtesy of NBC. Authorities killed a gunman holding a 5-year-old boy hostage in an underground bunker in rural Alabama on Monday and plucked the child to safety without injury, a local law enforcement official said.—REUTERS

MIDLAND CITY, 5 Feb—US authorities stormed an underground bunker in rural Alabama on Monday, safely rescuing a 5-year-old boy held hostage for nearly a week and leaving his kidnapper dead.

After a standoff of more than six days, FBI agents entered the bunker when they feared the child was in "imminent danger" at the hands of his abductor, who had killed a school bus driver, said

Steve Richardson, special agent in charge in Mobile, Alabama.

The suspected kidnaper, identified as 65-year-old Jimmy Lee Dykes, had previously allowed authorities to deliver medication, colouring books and toys to the kindergarten student, who is due to celebrate his birthday on Wednesday.

But negotiations deteriorated in the 24 hours before agents entered the bunker, Richardson told a

news conference.

"Mr Dykes was observed holding a gun," the FBI agent said.

It was not immediately clear how Dykes died.

The standoff gripped a rural corner of southeast Alabama with dread, shuttering local schools and prompting prayers and vigils for the boy identified only as Ethan.

By all accounts, Dykes had taken him from the bus at random, reinforcing concerns that have been raised about US school safety and gun violence since the December shooting deaths of 20 children and six adults at a Connecticut elementary school.

"It just shows you how close it can come," one of Dykes' neighbours, 42-year-old Angie Adams, said of the violence, adding she now plans one day to home school her 2-year-old daughter.

"We waited 10 years to have her and we would be devastated" if something happened, Adams said.

Reuters

Two US schools on lockdown after high school student commits suicide with firearm

HOUSTON, 5 Feb—Two public schools in the US state of Oklahoma were placed on lockdown on Monday after a high school student killed himself with a firearm, local media reported.

Police confirmed that Coweta High School and Coweta Intermediate High School, in a suburb of the Oklahoma city of Tulsa, were on lockdown after a nine-grader committed suicide in a bathroom in the Intermediate High School, according to CBS affiliate KOTV.

The 15-year-old was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after police received a report of shots fired, according to the report.

Police received the initial call at 8:35 am, reported the FOX affiliate, Fox23.com.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

Venezuela's Chavez improving after tough cancer fight

HAVANA, 5 Feb—Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro said Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is getting “much better” as he recovers from cancer surgery almost two months ago in Havana, Communist Party newspaper *Granma* reported on Monday.

Castro, 86, spoke to reporters as he voted on Sunday in Cuba's parliamentary elections in one of his increasingly rare public appearances.

He said he gets daily reports on the condition of Chavez, who is Cuba's top socialist ally and benefactor.

“He is much better, recovering. It has been a tough fight but he is improving,” the frail, white-

bearded Castro was quoted as saying.

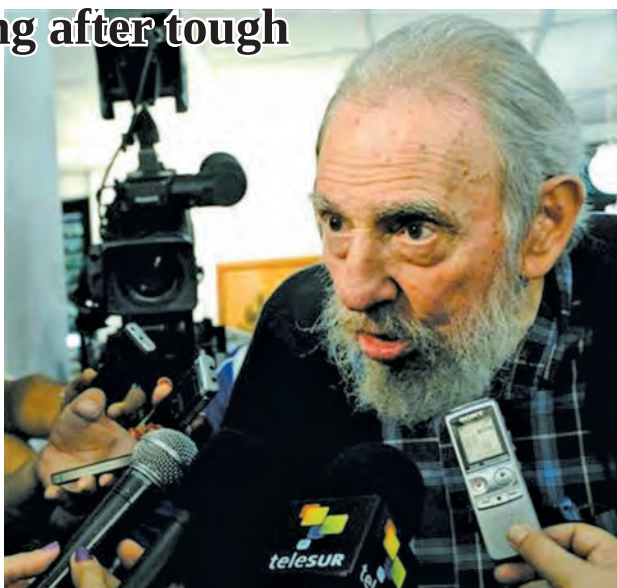
“We have to cure him. Chavez is very important for his country and for Latin America,” he said.

Chavez, 58, is battling cancer in the pelvic region discovered in June 2011 by Cuban doctors.

He has undergone four cancer-related surgeries on the communist island, the last a six-hour operation on 11 December in Havana.

Castro's description of Chavez's condition matches increasingly positive public statements from Venezuelan officials, but the Venezuelan leader has not been seen nor heard from publicly since the surgery.

He was unable to re-



Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro speaks to reporters at a polling station in Havana on 3 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

turn to Venezuela on 10 January to be sworn in for a new term in office, which he won in an October election. Castro, who ruled Cuba for 49 years after tak-

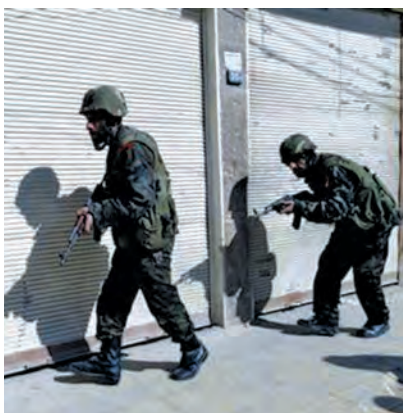
ing power in a 1959 revolution, has been battling his own health problems since undergoing emergency surgery for intestinal bleeding in July 2006.—Reuters

Syrian opposition chief says offers Assad peaceful exit

BEIRUT, 5 Feb—Syrian opposition leader Moaz Alkhatib urged Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government on Monday to start talks for its departure from power and save the country from greater ruin after almost two years of bloodshed.

Seeking to step up pressure on Assad to respond to his offer of talks — which dismayed some

Members of forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad walk with their weapons at Darya near Damascus in this handout photograph distributed by Syria's national news agency SANA on 4 February.



in his own opposition coalition, Alkhatib said he would be ready to meet the president's deputy.

“I ask the regime to send Farouq al-Shara — if it accepts the idea - and we can sit with him,” he said, referring

to Syria's vice president who has implicitly distanced himself from Assad's crackdown on mass unrest that became an armed revolt.

Speaking after meeting senior Russian, US and Iranian officials, Alkhatib said none of them had an answer to the 22-month-old crisis and Syrians must solve it themselves. “The issue is now in the state's court...to accept negotiations for de-

parture, with fewer losses,” the Syrian National Coalition leader told Al Arabiya television.

The moderate Islamist preacher announced last week he was prepared to talk to Assad's representa-

tives. Although he set several conditions, the move broke a taboo on opposition contacts with Damascus and angered many in its ranks who insist on Assad's departure as a precondition for negotiation. Alkhatib said it was not “treachery” to seek dialogue to end a conflict in which more than 60,000 people have been killed, 700,000 have been driven from their country and millions more are homeless and hungry.

“The regime must take a clear stand (on dialogue) and we say we will extend our hand for the interest of people and to help the regime leave peacefully,” he said in separate comments to Al Jazeera television.

Assad announced last month what he said were plans for reconciliation talks to end the violence but — in a speech described by UN Syria envoy Lakhdar Brahimi as narrow and uncompromising — he said there would be no dialogue with people he called traitors or “puppets made by the West”.—Reuters

Belarus blames West for human rights abuses

MINSK, 5 Feb—Belarusian Foreign Ministry has prepared a human rights report on some western countries that traditionally represent themselves as “developed democracies,” according to the ministry's website on Monday.

The report, entitled “Human Rights Violations in Certain Countries in 2012,” illustrated by facts

those country's failure to comply with international legal obligations, Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei wrote in the introduction.

The report cited human rights abuses in 23 European countries, including Poland, Austria, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Germany, France, Britain, and also the United States and Canada. The report is based on data

provided by the Belarusian embassies and media. The report showed instances of racial discrimination, torture, political reprisals against former officials and journalists, violations of the rights of migrants and refugees, abuses of the freedom of movement, assembly and media, and also violations of the right to citizenship, and of economic and social rights.—Xinhua

Mali Tuaregs seize two fleeing Islamist leaders

KIDAL, 5 Feb—Tuareg rebels in northern Mali said on Monday they had captured two senior Islamist insurgents fleeing French air strikes toward the Algerian border and France pressed ahead with its bombing campaign against al Qaeda's Saharan desert camps.

Pro-autonomy Tuareg MNLA rebels said one of their patrols seized Mohamed Moussa Ag Mohamed, an Islamist leader who imposed harsh sharia (Islamic law) in the desert town of Timbuktu, and Oumeini Ould Baba Akhmed, thought to be responsible for the kidnapping of a French hostage by al Qaeda splinter group MUJWA.

“We chased an Islamist convoy close to the fron-

now due to gradually hand over to a UN-backed African force of some 8,000 troops, known as AFISMA, of which around 3,800 have already been deployed.

Paris and its international partners want to prevent the Islamists from using Mali's vast desert north as a base to launch attacks on neighbouring African countries and the West.

After meeting French President Francois Hollande in Paris, US Vice President Joe Biden praised the “decisiveness and incredible competence” of France's operations. He backed France's call for UN peacekeepers to be deployed in Mali. “We agreed on the need to, as quickly as reasonably possible, estab-

Car collision kills at least 3 in Ukraine

KIEV, 5 Feb—Three youngsters were killed and two other people were injured in a car collision in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, the authorities said on Monday.

The three victims, all aged 19, died on the spot after the car they were traveling in rammed into an oncoming car at 2.30 pm local time (1230 GMT) Sunday, the State Service for Emergencies said.

Two people in the oncoming vehicle were severely injured and were sent to a local hospital, it said. Roads have become dangerous in Ukraine, with thousands of people killed in accidents every year. According to official statistics, 258 people have lost their lives in over 1,200 traffic accidents so far this year.

Xinhua

Israeli airstrike on Syrian research centre occurs in cooperation with rebels

DAMASCUS, 5 Feb—Syria's Defence Minister Gen Fahd Jassem al-Frej said on Monday that the Israeli airstrike targeting a military research centre in Damascus' suburb last week occurred in cooperation with the armed rebels fighting against the government on ground.

In an interview with the state-TV aired late Monday, al-Frej said the research center in Damascus' northwestern suburb of Jumraya had been repeatedly targeted by the rebels,

who failed to destroy it before the Israeli air raid.

He said the “armed terrorist groups” have been recently targeting Syria's air-defense systems nationwide on the behest of Israel in order to render those systems out of service. Last Wednesday, Israeli war jets sneaked into Syria and hit the center in Jumraya. Western officials said the airstrike targeted a convoy carrying weaponries from Syria to Lebanon as well as the centre from which the convoy set off.

Israeli Defence Minis-

ter Ehud Barak confirmed on Sunday that his country carried out the air raid inside Syria, adding that “We don't think it should be allowed to bring advanced weapons systems into Lebanon.” The airstrike has drawn condemnation by some regional and international countries. Meanwhile, al-Frej said the Syrian army will do its utmost to protect the country's institutions from armed rebels, calling on citizens to cooperate with the authorities to uncover the hideouts of gunmen.—Xinhua



A map of Mali is seen at the French military base camp at Timbuktu's Airport on 3 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

tier and arrested the two men the day before yesterday,” Ibrahim Ag Assaleh, spokesman for the MNLA, told Reuters from Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. “They have been questioned and sent to Kidal.”

France has deployed nearly 4,000 ground troops, as well as warplanes and armoured vehicles in its three-week-old Operation Serval that has broken the Islamist militants' 10-month grip on northern towns. It is

lish an African-led mission to Mali and, as quickly as is prudent, transition that mission to the United Nations,” Biden said, flanked by Hollande.

Paris believes that deploying UN peacekeepers to Mali could eliminate problems over funding the African mission and fears of ethnic reprisals by Malian troops against light-skinned Tuaregs and Arabs associated with the Islamists.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 6 February, 2013

Find a new path with creativity and far vision

Myanmar has focused its efforts on knocking into shape an education system realizing that promotion of education is like making investments for the future. But the education system we are promoting must be in accordance with the new economic system already in place. The new system completely depends on science and technology as knowledge without common sense counts for little. We must find a new path with creativity and far vision.

Recognizing the magnitude of education in national development drive, we are reforming the higher education sector so that it gets up to all sorts of antics. Like much of others, we have introduced a student-centred approach in transforming the basic education sector comprehensively through inclusive negotiations. More immediately, we would bring together law enforcement, teachers and others to study how to best introduce a new education system.

As education is now at the top of the agenda, changes have been made in legal system for the emergence of private schools encouraging the private sector participation. A package of concrete measures is being taken to towards this end.

Now is the moment for Myanmar to step into a truly global role which means this is a time for possibilities. What seemed impossible before is now possible under the President's leadership and courage. Prospects are bright for educationally and socially underprivileged groups to complete primary education. As we have seen more substantive democratic changes in the country, it is our belief that the change in education system will surely meet with success as it triggers a new wave of thought for the future of society.

MWAFF donates school toilets in Lawe township

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—A ceremony to donate two four-apartment toilets by Myanmar Women Affairs Federation to Basic Education High School took place at the school in Tha dawgyi Village in Lawe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area today. The President of MWAFF explained the purpose of

donation.

After that, the president handed over the documents related to the facilities through the school head. It was built at a cost of K 6.6 million. MWAFF is actively participating in education and health care tasks and implementing environmental conservation.

MNA

1st Myanmar Health Expo-2013 from 22 to 24 Feb

YANGON, 5 Feb—First Myanmar Health Expo-2013 will be held from 22 to 24 February at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here.

The exhibition is organized by Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Medical

Association-MMA and Myanmar Private Hospitals Association (MPHA).

A total of 130 booths will be set up at the exhibition, showcasing medicines and medical equipment and health care services. Educative talks on health care knowledge will be part of the 3-day exhibition.

NLM

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Japan focus on further cooperation in investment and economic sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Chairman Mr Hiromasa YONEKURA of KEIDENREN (Japan Business Federation) of Japan at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 2.15 pm today.

Also present at the call were Chairmen of Hluttaw Committees U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Swe, U Hla Myint Oo, U Htay Myint and Secretary U Kyi

Tha, Committee members Dr Win Myint, U Win Oo, U Win Than and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

The Japanese delegation was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador Mr Mikio NUMATA.

At the call, they focused on further cementing friendly ties between Japan and Myanmar, development of human resources and further cooperation in investment and economic sectors.

MNA



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Chairman Mr Hiromasa YONEKURA.—MNA

Union Border Affairs Minister receives UNDP resident representative



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay holding talks with UNDP resident representative Mr Ashok Nigam.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay met a delegation led by UN Coordinator and UNDP

resident representative Mr Ashok Nigam, at the ministry, here, this morning.

Both sides discussed relief and rehabilitation of

affected two communities in Rakhine State, holding of second national level sustainable development workshop, holding of

IMF to help with crucial policies for macroeconomic stability

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Can Myanmar really create an economic miracle and become the next tiger of Asia?

When she regained independence in 1948, Myanmar was expected to become the fastest-growing economy of Asia, but the result was the reverse.

But again Myanmar is at a turning point along with drastic reforms put in place by the civilian government with opportunities and challenges awaiting us to be taken and tackled.

"Myanmar has embarked on a historic set of reforms to modernize and open up its economy. Manage well these reforms will facilitate strong and inclusive growth that reduces poverty", remarks

the IMF Mission Chief Meral Karasulu at the conclusion of his visit in last November.

Anoop Singh, Director of IMF Asia and Pacific Department as he met the press at Myat Mingala Hotel in the capital this noon, says, "We'll help with crucial policies to make sure macroeconomic stability."

Economics seems to be a closed book to most of the

young journalists there who asked only a few questions about information in the media handout and most of the questions not much differ from each other.

It has recommended granting the Central Bank of Myanmar autonomy and price stability and decreased deficit monetization, improving the public financial management and reforming exchange rate

system and the Myanmar government has adjusted the exchange rate in particular, says the IMF. IMF will also help with capacity building of government officials from financial sector and share the best practices from global countries. Myanmar has great potential to become the next economic engine of the region, but still has a long way to go, says IMF.

NLM

Union EP Minister, Vice President and CEO of IFC discuss cooperation in development of electric power

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe received a delegation led by Executive Vice President and CEO Mr Jin Yong Cai

of International Finance Corporation (IFC) of World Bank at his office, here yesterday and discussed cooperation in development of electric power sector.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Myint Zaw and U Aung Than Oo, departmental heads and officials.—MNA

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Thai Supreme Commander, D-G of Israeli Ministry of Defence



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, at Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning.

They took the salute of the Guard of Honour at the welcoming ceremony.

They held talks at the Zeyarthiri Beikman at 11 am.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and senior military officers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the military attaché of Thailand to Myanmar, deputy supreme commanders of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and senior military officers.

During the meeting,

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed thanks for inviting Myanmar

Tatmadaw to observe the Cobra Gold joint military exercises and expressed his

delight for tranquility in borders areas as result of the cooperation between the two armed forces.

He also expressed his hope for enhancing the relations between the two armed forces to a highest level as the two sides were preparing to hold HLC meeting.

He also invited the Royal Thai Armed Forces to help Myanmar Tatmadaw in fighting the narcotic drugs and poppy cultivation while Myanmar Tatmadaw was making efforts for elimination of narcotic drugs. The elimination of narcotic drug could not be carried out by one country and Myanmar Tatmadaw needs cooperation from Thailand towards this end, he said.

Supreme Commander General Tanasak Patimapragorn pledged their cooperation with Myanmar Tatmadaw to ward off drug problems which trigger troubles for the peoples of both countries.

After the meeting, Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosted a luncheon in honour of the Thai military delegation.

At 8 am today, Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Major-General Ehud Shani (Schonwetter), Director-General of the Ministry of Defence of Israel at the same venue. At the call, they focused on cooperation in political, defence, security and training and technology between Myanmar and Israel.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party pose for documentary photo with Major-General Ehud Shani (Schonwetter), Director-General of the Ministry of Defence of Israel.—MNA



Four dead, four injured in tanker fire in Hline Township



Photo shows outbreak of fire at oil tankers in Hline River in Hline Township.—MNA

YANGON, 5 Feb—Two oil tankers caught fire and one sank in the Hline River in Hline Township here yesterday evening, leaving four dead and four injured.

The fire started at tanker KaKa-005 at 5.05 pm while oil was taking out of it. The accident happened while the tanker was docked

at Myawady Trading Jetty in the Hline River in Hline Township along with other three tankers Aungthuhka Ayeyar, Myawady-003 and Thann-556.

The fire spread to Aung Thuhka Ayeyar and it was engulfed while floating downstream.

Thirty-eight fire

IMF thoroughly endorses...

(from page 1)

These reforms are already bearing fruit. Growth is expected to accelerate to around 6¼ percent in FY2012/13, bolstered by foreign investment in natural resources and exports of commodities. Inflation has declined rapidly and should remain moderate at around 6 percent next year. Meanwhile, the exchange rate has been stable in recent months, with international reserves increasing to US\$4 billion.

NLM: How do you see engines and seven command vehicles from Myanmar Fire Brigade struggled to control the fire which was put out at 6.20 pm.

The injured were sent to Yangon General Hospital.

MNA

the Myanmar Government's undertakings on its financial sector?

IMF: The IMF thoroughly endorses the Government's policies and, in coordination with other development partners, is supporting the Government in implementing them. This support will include hands-on technical advice from experts based in Myanmar and training and advice from experts based in our regional technical assistance office based in Bangkok.

NLM: IMF is assisting some countries to get out of its monetary crisis. How can Myanmar avoid this kind of crisis and what are the measures that Myanmar should undertake to get constant financial stability?

IMF: A key element

of maintaining financial stability is ensuring that policies are credible and enjoy the confidence of the population. A clear vision that is clearly communicated provides confidence to the domestic and international private sector and builds credibility of reforms. Reforms therefore need to be designed in a structured and sequenced manner. They

also need to be transparently communicated to a wide range of stakeholders who should be given the opportunity to contribute to policy development. Finally, open monitoring of progress is needed so that the public and the private sector can observe successes and adjust to any slippages in the reform process.

NLM



Ms. Susan Creane.
MNA



Ms. Keiko Utsunomiya.—MNA

Pirates hijack French tanker off Cote d'Ivoire

ABIDJAN, 5 Feb—A French tanker with 17 crew members on board was hijacked off Cote d'Ivoire, adding to reports of increasing piracy in the oil-rich Guinea Gulf, according to information reaching here on Monday.

The Luxembourg-flagged vessel went missing on Sunday, sparking fears of the same ordeal experienced by many other vessels ending in the hands of pirates being active off the West African coastline.

The France-based SEA Tankers identified the missing ship as the *M/T Gasconne*, saying the company is contacting to ensure the safety of both the vessel and its crew.

Cote d'Ivoire's port authority said it held an emergency meeting to discuss how to deal with the "hijacking."

The incident was among the latest reported in the past week, during which at least three other attacks hit the headlines.

Piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea, running from Guinea on Africa's northwestern tip to Angola in the south, have been increasing in recent years, with Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer, recording 293 cases of sea robbery and pirate attacks between 2003 and 2008.

Xinhua

Despite eastern rise, Europe, Arab world need each other

DUBAI, 5 Feb—Whilst the economic rise of East Asian nations, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries shall not neglect each other as they face similar economic challenges, experts said at a MENA forum on Monday.

At the two-day MENA Economic Forum which ended on Monday at the American University of Sharjah, a lively debate erupted among experts from east and west on challenges and opportunities in the aftermath of the Arab unrest. Ardavan Aslani, a French lecturer and attorney specialized on MENA, said the US government's interest in Europe was declining in favor of East Asian geopolitics. The United States is poised to overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's larg-



Police work at the site of the traffic accident on State Highway 38 near Yucaipa, approximately 130 km east of downtown Los Angeles, in south-eastern California, the United States, on 4 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA

Yemen sentences 17 Somali pirates to 10 years in prison

SANAA, 5 Feb—A Yemeni court in the south-eastern coastal city of Mukalla on Monday sentenced 16 Somalis to 10 years in prison after convicting them of piracy in Yemen's territorial waters, the state-run *Saba* news agency reported.

Another Somali received five-year term in jail over the same charge.

The defendants were convicted of hijacking a Yemeni fishing boat along with its crew in the Yemeni territorial waters in the Gulf of Aden.

Saba did not provide details on the date of their arrest.

The Yemeni authorities have arrested dozens of Somalis over charges of piracy throughout the past

two years.

In May 2012, Yemen said it captured 14 Somali pirates off the country's island of Socotra in the Gulf of Aden.

About 25,000 ships pass through the Gulf of Aden every year. The water off the northern coast of Somalia is ranked as the highest risk area of piracy in the world.—Xinhua

Weekend bomb explosion kills one person, injures five in central Uganda

KAMPALA, 5 Feb—A bomb explosion over the weekend killed one person and injured five others near a military installation in Kaweweta in the central Ugandan District of Nakaseke, a police spokesman said here on Monday.

Lamec Kigozi, police spokesperson for central Uganda, told *Xinhua* by telephone that the device, suspected to be a bomb exploded on Saturday night as six men were burning charcoal.

"The six were burning charcoal. They were

shocked when the device went off due to excessive heat. The device exploded killing one person on spot and injuring five others," said Kigozi.

"The five were rushed to Nakaseke Hospital in critical condition," he said.

He added, "We have launched the investigations to establish the device. It's highly suspected to be a bomb which was left behind during the bush days."

Nakaseke was the epicenter of the war in the 1980s that brought the country's current Presi-

dent Yoweri Museveni into power after launching a five year war.

During that time a lot of ammunition were buried by the rebels as they moved place to place fighting government troops.

The police said the Saturday explosion is not linked to the terror threats faced by the country from the Somali militants, Al-Shabaab.

Over 80 people were killed in twin bomb explosions that rocked Kampala, Uganda's capital in July 2010.—Xinhua

Obama says assault weapons ban deserves a vote in Congress

MINNEAPOLIS, 5 Feb—President Barack Obama pressed Congress on Monday to at least hold a vote on banning assault weapons, the most contentious part of his plan to curb gun violence in the United States. Obama's comments

suggested a realization in the White House that it will be difficult to get such a ban passed by lawmakers, despite consistent public support for the measure.

Opposition is high in Congress, including among some Democrats, and by

UN starts delivery of safe water supplies for 10 million people in Syria

UNITED NATIONS, 5 Feb—A large-scale operation is under way in Syria to secure safe water supplies for more than 10 million people—close to half the population, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Monday.

The UNICEF announcement came amid reports that the quality and quantity of water is continuing to deteriorate with negative impacts for children's health.

"This shipment is very timely as supplies of chlorine in Syria have fallen dangerously low, making access to safe water challenging for many families," said Youssouf Abdel-Jelil, the UNICEF representative in Syria.

"This puts the population—and children especially—at high risk of contracting diarrhea and other water-

borne diseases," he said. The first four trucks carrying 80 tons of sodium hypochlorite water chlorination supplies crossed the Jordanian border into Syria on Sunday, heading for Aleppo, Hama, Idleb and Homs.

About 420,000 people—half of them children—need urgent humanitarian aid in Homs, UNICEF said last week, following a recent inter-agency mission to the Middle East country, which suffered from a political crisis and subsequent violence since March 2011.

Over the coming weeks, UNICEF, in coordination with the technical department of the Syrian Ministry of Water Resources and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, will deliver 1,000 tons of chlorine to cities and communities across all 14 governorates in Syria.

Xinhua



People walk on a snow-covered road in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 4 Feb, 2013. A heaviest snow hit Moscow Sunday, causes several flight delays in Moscow Airport.—XINHUA



A police officer's gun sits in its holster as US President Barack Obama speaks about ways to reduce gun violence during a visit to the Minneapolis Police Department Special Operations Centre in Minneapolis, Minnesota on 4 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

calling simply for a vote, Obama seemed to acknowledge that even getting that far—let alone having an assault weapons ban approved—would be a struggle.

"We should restore the ban on military style assault weapons and a 10-round limit for magazines. And that deserves a vote in Congress, because weapons of war have no place on our streets," Obama said as uniformed law enforcement officers stood behind him at the Minneapolis Police Department's Special Operation Centre.

It was Obama's first trip outside Washington to promote gun control since he announced a package that includes calls for universal background checks and 10-round limits on ammunition magazines.

"No law or set of laws can keep our children completely safe. But if there's

even one thing we can do, if there's just one life we can save, we've got an obligation to try," Obama said.

With a busy agenda that includes immigration reform and climate change, Obama hopes to move quickly on gun control before memories fade of December's shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, that killed 20 children and six adults.

A vote in Congress on the assault weapons ban might be held separately from other gun control measures.

Senator Dianne Feinstein has said Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid promised that even if the ban is left out of a broader package to curb gun violence, she will have the opportunity to offer it as an amendment on the Senate floor.

Reuters

REGIONAL

Thai PM visits Cambodia to attend Sihanouk's cremation ceremony



Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra

PHNOM PENH, 5 Feb—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday met with Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra as she visited Cambodia to take part in the royal cremation ceremony of the late Cambodian King Father Noro-

dom Sihanouk.

The meeting was held at the capital's Peace Palace. On behalf of the Government of Thailand and Thai people, Yingluck extended her condolences to Hun Sen over the demise of former King Sihanouk.

She also expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Hun Sen for asking Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni to grant a royal pardon to a Thai "yellow-shirt" activist Ratre Pipatanapaboon and to reduce jail term by six months for another Thai Patriots Network activist Veera Somkwamkid.

Cambodia released Ratre and reduced the jail term for Veera last Friday to mark Sihanouk's funeral.

The duo was sentenced by Cambodian court to six years and eight years in prison respectively for un-

lawful entry into military base and espionage.

During the meeting, Hun Sen thanked Yingluck for her visit to Cambodia to attend Sihanouk's cremation ceremony, which will be held this Monday evening.

Sihanouk ruled Cambodia from 1941 to 1955 and again from 1993 until his voluntary abdication on 7 October, 2004 in favor 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.

The late monarch suffered from various forms of cancer, diabetes and hypertension and had been treated by Chinese doctors in Beijing for years before his death.—Xinhua

Cambodian PM meets Lao, Vietnamese counterparts and Japanese prince

PHNOM PENH, 5 Feb—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday met separately with Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung as they came to Cambodia to attend the cremation ceremony of Cambodia's late former King Norodom Sihanouk.

The meetings were held at the capital's Peace Palace. On behalf of the Lao government, Thongsing Thammavong extended condolences over the demise of the King Father, saying that the death of Sihanouk was the

loss of "the father of peace and national unification" for Cambodia.

He said it was also a loss for Laotians because the King Father had actively contributed to developing bilateral ties between Laos and Cambodia. In a separate meeting, Nguyen Tan Dung, on behalf of the Vietnamese government and its people, extended his deep sorrows to Prime Minister Hun Sen over Sihanouk's death.

On Monday, Hun Sen also met with Japan's Prince Akishino who came to attend Sihanouk's cremation ceremony.

COTABATO, 5 Feb—Five people were wounded in a bomb blast outside a restaurant on Monday in the southern Philippine Province of Lanao del Norte, local official said. A homemade explosive hid-

den at the compartment of a motorcycle went off around 11:00 am local time in front of Ismael Restaurant in the township of Tubod in Lanao del Norte, Northern Mindanao regional police spokesman Ronnie Francis

Cariaga said. Five civilians who were about to enter the restaurant were injured with one in critical condition. Investigations are ongoing to determine the nature of the incident.—Xinhua

Philippine gov't vows to go after private armed groups

MANILA, 5 Feb—The Philippine government assured on Monday that it would go after politicians who maintain private armed groups as the country prepares for the mid-term election this May.

The campaign of the Philippine National Police (PNP) to dismantle private armed groups and account for all loose firearms continues to make the upcoming election safe and orderly, Philippine Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said at a Press briefing on Monday.

"We are going to go after all those individuals who are holding loose or unlicensed firearms. Dismantling private armed groups is part of the directive of the President," he said.

Lacierda said that the PNP will strengthen the security in areas where private armies and the proliferation of unlicensed guns continue to exist.

It is prevalent that key politicians have their private armed teams, which are behind many violent cases during the election periods.

Xinhua



Tourists take photos with the statue made of flowers on the Sentosa Island, Singapore, on 4 Feb, 2013. The flower show on the Sentosa Island to celebrate the Spring Festival opens from 9 to 17 February.

XINHUA



Overseas students learn tricks of magic in an activity to celebrate the Chinese New Year at the Nanjing Agricultural University in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 4 Feb, 2013. More than 50 overseas students from over 20 countries and regions experienced Chinese traditional cultural activities with local students. —XINHUA

Survey shows Singapore 6th most expensive city to live in

SINGAPORE, 5 Feb—Singapore now ranks the sixth most expensive city to live in among all cities in the world, up 3 places compared with the previous ranking, a survey conducted by The Economist Intelligence Unit showed on Monday.

The top five cities are Japan's Tokyo, Osaka, Australia's Sydney, Norway's Oslo and Australia's Melbourne, almost all cities in Asian countries or Australia. The survey said "one of the features of the cost-of-living ranking over the last few years has been the rise of many Asian cities offsetting traditionally

more costly European locations."

Australian cities ranks high mainly due to its inflation and currency swings to make them more costly, the survey added.

According to the survey, there are now 11 Asian cities and eight European cities among the world's 20 most expensive cities, while a decade ago "this was six Asian vs 10 European cities, with four cities from the US"

Singapore's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation in 2012 registered at 4.6 percent, while at the same time its currency also saw appreciation last

year, which together make the city-state more expensive to live in. Local media Channel NewsAsia said China's cities like Shanghai and Shenzhen have seen the cost of living continue to rise, due to the wage inflation, increasing demand for consumer goods and strict currency controls. In contrast, Pakistan's Karachi was at the bottom of the list and ranked as the cheapest city among the 131 cities surveyed.

The survey, carried out twice annually and for more than 30 years, collects over 400 individual prices across 160 products and services.

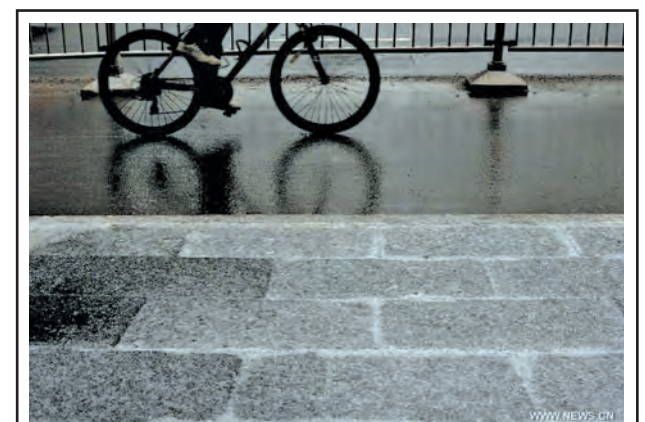
Xinhua

5.1-magnitude quake hits Izu Islands, Japan region

HONG KONG, 5 Feb—An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted Izu Islands, Japan region at 23:04:18 GMT on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 48.80 km, was initially determined to be at 29.3302 degrees north latitude and 141.8019 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua



A local resident rides a bike on a road covered with graupel, or snow pellets, in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 5 Feb, 2013. Graupel, a 2-5-millimeter ball of rime, is formed when super-cooled droplets of water are collected and freeze on a falling snowflake. —XINHUA

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(For. KPS IP Consultants Ltd.
Thailand)

Dated 06 February, 2013.

Four killed, 11 injured in car accident in Egypt

CAIRO, 5 Feb—At least
four people were killed and
11 injured Monday in a car
accident in Upper Egypt's
Minia governorate, about
220 km away from the
capital Cairo, official news
agency MENA reported.

The accident took place
when a vehicle loaded with
black oil overturned on a
desert sub-road, causing
a microbus to turn over as
its driver lost control of the
wheel due to the spilt oil.

The accident killed the
microbus driver and three
passengers and injured
eleven, who were all taken
to the nearest hospital.

On Saturday, three
were killed and 11 others
injured in a car accident in
Qalyubiya governorate in
northeastern Egypt, when a
overspeed microbus collided
with a van. On the same
day, two others were killed
in similar car accidents in
Fayoum and Hurghada, re-
spectively.—Xinhua

Invitation

Textile Industries, Ministry of Industry is producing yam, grey
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- (e) No. (3) Textile Factory (Sagaing)
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Fax : 95 (67) 408185

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*Members of the China Central Chinese Orchestra
perform during a Spring Festival celebration concert
in Pasadena, Los Angeles, the United States,
on 4 Feb, 2013.*

XINHUA

Archaeologists find body of English king in car park

LONDON, 5 Feb—Ar-
chaeologists in the English
Midlands city of Leicester
on Monday announced they
found the remains of King
Richard III, the last English
king to die in battle and the
inspiration for one of Wil-
liam Shakespeare's most fa-
mous plays.

Archaeologists from
the University of Leicester
said the skeleton of a man
found beneath a car park in
the center of the city was
Richard III, one of England's
most notorious monarchs.

Xinhua spoke to the lead
archaeologist on the Rich-
ard III excavation, Richard
Buckley.

Buckley, of the Univer-
sity of Leicester Archaeolog-
ical Services, said, "Finding
the body was lucky, it was
like finding a needle in a hay-
stack."

Richard III reigned for
just two years from 1483-
85, but he remains one of
the most famous of English

king for several reasons.

He was the last monarch
to die fighting, at the battle of
Bosworth Field near Leices-
ter in 1485, but he is princi-
pally remembered as the king
who probably murdered his
two young nephews in order
to claim the English throne,
and as the central figure of
Shakespeare's "Richard III"
which portrays him as noble,
heroic, tragic and evil.

Buckley said, "There
was a record by an histo-
rian of Richard's body being
brought back to Leicester
slung over a horse and he
was buried in Grey Friars, a
Franciscan Friary (a type of
monastery) in the center of
Leicester."

The nearly intact skel-
eton had several severe
wounds on it. From the evi-
dence on the skeleton archae-
ologists now say Richard
was killed by a sword blow
to the back of his head which
removed part of the skull.

Xinhua

Announcement

Under the auspicious of Myanmar Sea-
men's Federation (MSF), Teatime Table
Talk on "Job opportunity for Myanmar
Seamen" will be held at Yuzana Hotel on
17th February 2013 (Sunday) from 9:00AM
to 11:00 AM. Captain Dr. Tin Hlaing will
act as moderator.

All seamen are invited to participate in
the discussion.

Refreshments will be served.

Myanmar Seamen's Federation

Four civilians killed in N Afghan blast

MAIMANA, 5 Feb—Up-
to four Afghan civilians
were killed and 10 civilians
were wounded on Tuesday
in an explosion in the coun-
try's northern province of
Faryab, police said.

"Four people includ-
ing a former Jihadi leader
named Mohammad Nadir
were killed and 10 civilians
were wounded when an Im-
provised Explosive Device
(IED) went off in a tea stall
in Juma Bazaar area of Kh-
waja Sabz Posh district at
around 10:30 am local time
on Tuesday," provincial
police chief Nabi Jan Mul-
lahkhil told Xinhua.

The injured were shift-
ed to hospital in the district
in the province 425 km
northwest of capital Kabul,
he said.

The obvious target of
the attack was Mohammad,
who was also a local elder,
the police official said, add-
ing two suspected men were
detained in connection with
the attack.

No group has claimed
responsibility for the attack
so far.

Afghan officials and
pro-government figures
have repeatedly been tar-
geted by the militants over
the past years as the Tale-

ban insurgents intensified
activities against govern-
ment interest across the
country.

In January, a district
police chief and an admin-
istrative district chief had
been killed in two separate
attacks in the country's Ka-
pisa and Farah provinces.

In the conflict-ridden
Afghanistan, civilians have
mostly borne the brunt of
conflict over the past three
decades of instability as
more than 3,400 civilians
lost their lives in conflicts
in 2012 in central Asian
country, according to Af-
ghan officials.—Xinhua

Gunmen kill police officer in northern Kenya

GARISSA, 5 Feb —Un-
known assailants on Mon-
day evening shot dead a
police officer in the lat-
est incident in the restive
northern Kenyan town of
Garissa.

Divisional police com-
mander George Losku
confirmed the 7:30 p.m.
(1630GMT) incident, say-
ing the slain Administration
Police officer who is a Ser-
geant and based in Dadaab
town was ambushed by the
militants just after he had
alighted from Nairobi and
was going back at his work
place.

"The gunmen fled im-
mediately after shooting
dead the officer who had
alighted at around 7 pm
(1600GMT) from Nairobi
and was going back to his

work place," Losku told
Xinhua by telephone.

"As of now, we have
not made any arrest. We
also don't know the mo-
tive behind the shooting but
we have launched investi-
gations and also mounted
massive security operation
to arrest those behind this
heinous act," Losku added.

More than 30 security
officers and scores of civil-
ians have been killed, many
maimed and property worth
millions were destroyed in
Mandera, Wajir, Garissa,
Nairobi and Mombasa since
the Kenyan soldiers entered
Somalia in October 2011
in a bid to forestall dangers
facing from threats of Al-
Qaeda linked Somali group,
Al-Shabaab.

The latest incident

caused anxiety in the busy
restive Garissa town as
residents who feared for
their lives retreated to their
houses early in the evening.

The incident also
forced business to close
amid fears of an impend-
ing security operation in the
area.

Security forces at the
border points with Somalia
are grappling with threats
posed by the insurgents
who have been also been
laying landmines mainly
targeting police and sol-
diers patrolling the Somalia
border.

The East African na-
tion blames the group for
a string of attacks and kid-
nappings in Kenya, includ-
ing those of four Europe-
ans.—Xinhua



*A shop-
ping street
is decorated
with lanterns
for the com-
ing Spring
Festival in
Fuzhou,
southeast
China's Fu-
jian Province,
on 4 Feb,
2013.*
XINHUA



*A Disneyland float which
will attend the 2013 Ca-
thay Pacific International
Chinese New Year Night
Parade is displayed at a
press preview in south
China's Hong Kong,
on 4 Feb, 2013.— XINHUA*

ENTERTAINMENT

Robert De Niro cements place in Hollywood movies

LOS ANGELES, 5 Feb — Double Oscar winner Robert De Niro cemented his place in acting history on Monday by placing his hands and feet in concrete in front of Hollywood's historic Chinese Theatre. De Niro, 69, gave a short thank you speech with a few punchlines of his own. "(Actor) Joe Pesci always said I'd end up with my feet in cement. I don't think this is what he had in mind," said De Niro, referring to the many gangster movies he

has filmed over his 40-year career.

"They say everyone in the film industry has three homes — the home where they live, the home where their first wife lives, and Hollywood. I love New York, and I'm proud to be a citizen of Hollywood. Thank you for this honor and thank you for making me feel at home here," he said. De Niro, who founded the Tribeca Film Festival in 2002 in a bid to revive low-

er Manhattan after the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks, is in the running for a third Oscar this month for his supporting role in comedy "Silver Linings Playbook."

Billy Crystal, who played therapist to De Niro's insecure mob boss in the 1999 film "Analyze This," praised the New York actor for his ability to bridge comedies like "Meet the Parents" and dramas such as "GoodFellas" and "Taxi Driver." —Reuters



Actor Robert De Niro, nominated for best supporting actor for his role in "Silver Linings Playbook", attends the 85th Academy Awards nominees luncheon in Beverly Hills, California on 4 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

SRK to perform in Muscat on Valentine's Day eve

MUMBAI, 5 Feb—Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is set to entertain his fans in Muscat with a performance on the eve of Valentine's Day.

The 47-year-old actor will perform to an audience of nearly 25,000 on 13 February, a statement said.

In the nearly three-hour event titled 'Temptations Reloaded', SRK will be accompanied by Bollywood beauties Katrina Kaif, Preity Zinta and Anushka



Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan. PTI

Dandekar along with singer-actor Ali Zafar.

PTI

Bradley Cooper thinks his life is getting "crazier"

Bradley recently insisted that despite his celebrity status, he lives a very "normal" life.—PTI



NEW DELHI, 5 Feb—Silver Linings Playbook actor Bradley Cooper—who is nominated for a Best Actor Oscar—feels that

his life is getting eventful and admits he just trying to enjoy living in the moment during the run up to the prestigious awards ceremony on 24 February. He told People.com: "It just gets crazier and crazier."

The 38-year-old heartthrob also insisted that he isn't heart-broken after allegedly being dumped by model Laura Simpson recently because he was obsessed by her feet, and that he was only in contact with her through his co-star Jennifer Lawrence.

He said: "It's been quite a week. Apparently I'm shirtless while Soul Cycling and then high-flying after being heart-broken by a model who I send pictures of my

feet, or she sends pictures of her feet to me. It's just unbelievable."

She is a friend of Jen's and we'd done the app Draw Something. We did a couple of Draw Somethings, a half a year ago, that's it." Bradley recently insisted that despite his celebrity status, he lives a very "normal" life and still enjoys the same pastimes he did before finding fame. He said: "One of the things I love doing is to go to a theatre and watch a movie by myself. My life's very normal."

The actor participated in a talk with military veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington on Thursday (31.01.13) and was overwhelmed by the response he received.

PTI

Oscar night to have something for everyone, producers say

BEVERLY HILLS, 5 Feb—With a high five from 9-year-old actress Quvenzhané Wallis, and a pledge that Oscar night will have something for everyone, the Academy Awards kicked into high gear on Monday at a luncheon for more than 160 nominees.

Jennifer Lawrence, Steven Spielberg, Jessica Chastain, Naomi Watts, Joaquin Phoenix, Kathryn Bigelow, Anne Hathaway and Denzel Washington were among the Oscar-nominated actors, directors and producers who mingled over cocktails and lunch at a Beverly Hills hotel before gathering for the traditional group photo of the Academy Award class of 2012.

"Beasts of the Southern Wild" newcomer Wallis, the youngest actress ever

to be nominated in the lead actress category, slapped hands with Academy of Motion Picture Arts and



Jennifer Lawrence, nominated for best actress for her role in "Silver Linings Playbook", poses at the 85th Academy Awards nominees luncheon in Beverly Hills, California on 4 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Sciences President Hawk Koch as her name was called to join her peers for the annual photo ahead of the 24 February ceremony.

"Argo" producer-director Ben Affleck, riding high after his Iran hostage thriller took its third major award at the weekend, shrugged off being overlooked in the Best Director Oscar shortlist.

"I feel honoured to be here. It's a big party," Affleck told reporters, adding, "I've had many, many nights watching (the Oscars) from home."

Craig Zadan and Neil Meron - who will be producing the three-hour Academy Award telecast for the first time—said performances by Barbra Streisand, Adele and Norah Jones, along with special tributes to Hollywood musicals and 50 years of James Bond movies, should give the ceremony wide appeal.

Reuters

Akimoto wins Annie Award for music for "Wreck-It Ralph"

LOS ANGELES, 5 Feb—Japanese lyricist Yasushi Akimoto on Saturday was among the six recipients of an Annie Award for music for Disney's "Wreck-It Ralph," which was named the best animated film for 2012.

Akimoto, also a record producer and creator of some of Japan's top idol groups including the AKB48 franchise, wrote Japanese lyrics to be sung by AKB48 when the film hits Japanese screens on 23 March. The five other winners of the music prize were Henry Jackman, Skrillex, Adam Young, Matthew Thiessen and Jamie Houston.

Rich Moore was named best director for the animated comedy, in which a video game villain dreams of being a hero, while Alan Tudyk won the Annie for voice acting.

Phil Johnston and Jennifer Lee won the screenplay award. The Annies have been presented by the Los Angeles branch of the International Animated Film Association, ASIFA-Hollywood since 1972.

Kyodo News



File photo shows Japanese lyricist Yasushi Akimoto. Akimoto on 2 Feb, 2013, was among the six recipients of an Annie Award for music for Disney's "Wreck-It Ralph," which was named the best animated film for 2012.

KYODO NEWS

Did Justin Timberlake mean Britney Spears when he slammed ex-girlfriend on stage?

NEW DELHI, 5 Feb — Justin Timberlake allegedly called Britney Spears a "b***h" on stage on Saturday night (02.02.13). The 32-year-old singer—who married his girlfriend of four years Jessica Biel in Italy in October—reportedly blasted his ex-girlfriend for cheating on him in 2002 before singing his hit Cry Me A River, which was written about her, on stage at pre-Super Bowl bash in New Orleans in aid of a children's charity.

Before performing the Grammy Award-winning track, Justin told the crowd: "Sometimes in life, you think you found the one. But then one day you find out, that she is just some b***h", according to HollywoodLife.com. Justin ended his three-year romance with Britney, 31,

after she allegedly cheated on him with her then choreographer Wade Robson and the song is about their high profile break-up. Justin was later joined on stage by Jay-Z at the concert, which was his first full show in five years and helped to benefit the Shriners Hospitals For Children and was hosted by

cable company DirectTV at the DTV Superfan Stadium.

Guests at the star-studded invite-only event included Paul McCartney and his third wife, Nancy Shevell, Twilight Saga star Peter Facinelli, Modern Family actress Sofia Vergara, Nashville star Hayden Panettiere and David Ar-

quette. It is not known whether Justin's Total Recall star wife Jessica attended the bash. Britney, who has two children Sean Preston, seven, and Jayden James, six, from her previous marriage to Kevin Federline, recently broke off her engagement to Jason Trawick.—PTI



Justin ended his three-year romance with Britney, 31, after she allegedly cheated on him with her then choreographer Wade Robson. PTI

SPORTS



Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal is assisted with his knee bandage as he talks to his uncle and coach Toni Nadal (L) before a training session at country club Las Salinas in Vina del Mar City, about 121 km (75 miles) northwest of Santiago, on 4 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Rafa's aura may take time to return, says Murray

LONDON, 5 Feb — The aura Rafa Nadal usually carries on court may take a while to return when the Spaniard finally begins his comeback in Chile this week, according to world number three Andy Murray. Injury-hit Nadal has not played a match since a shock defeat by outsider Lukas Rosol at Wimbledon last June but will test his suspect knee in Vina del Mar on Wednesday when he takes on Argentine Guido Pella or a qualifier in the claycourt event.

World No 92 Pella is the kind of player usually trampled into the dirt by the 11-times grand slam champion but Murray believes Nadal could be vulnerable

until he gets up to speed. "He might not have the same (aura) straight away and you would expect people in the first few months while he is not back to his highest level and think they could possibly upset him," Murray told reporters at London's Queen's Club. "But over time, and if Rafa wins his first three tournaments back that changes everything and people will be worrying about him again. People fearing you comes winning and confidence.

Despite just returning from a knee injury which still causes him pain, the public will be expecting Spamiard Nadal to get back in the groove quickly.

Reuters

Ravens' Super Bowl win a boon for Vegas profit

TORONTO, 5 Feb — Super Bowl gambling in Nevada rose to a record \$98.9 million and the state's sports books cashed in when the Baltimore Ravens upset the San Francisco 49ers in the National Football League's (NFL) title game. The value of bets place in Nevada's 183 sports books was 5 percent higher than the \$93.9 million wagered on last year's Super Bowl between the New York Giants and New England Patriots, according to the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

Nevada sports books kept a combined \$7.2 million from Super Bowl bets, or 7.3 percent of the total wagers placed, unaudited figures showed. That was up from the \$5 million they kept last year and the highest since pocketing nearly \$13 million in 2007. Casinos in Las Vegas were initially hoping for the 49ers, who entered Sunday's game as 3



Baltimore Ravens inside linebacker Ray Lewis hoists the Vince Lombardi Trophy as he celebrates victory over the San Francisco 49ers in their NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 3 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

1/2-point favorites, to prevail with a combined score of less than 47 1/2 points.

The Ravens won 34-31. Every year, the NFL championship game creates a gambling frenzy in Nevada that is considered by some to be a bellwether for

the broader US economy. The previous Nevada record for Super Bowl bets was set in 2006 when the game between the Seattle Seahawks and eventual champion Pittsburgh Steelers drew \$94.5 million in wagers. — Reuters

Flacco confident of new deal after Super Bowl triumph

NEW ORLEANS, 5 Feb — Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Joe Flacco heads into new contract negotiations with the Baltimore Ravens in the strongest position of all — as a Super Bowl winner.

Flacco has just completed the last of his five-year rookie deal with the Ravens but, after leading his team to victory over the San Francisco 49ers, says he expects a new deal to be reached. "I'm pretty optimistic but who knows? There are all kinds of crazy things that can happen with these contracts that we have all seen before but this is a great organization," he told a news conference on Monday.

Murray calls for more blood testing

LONDON, 5 Feb — Olympic champion Andy Murray is demanding more blood testing in tennis to avoid the kind of damaging doping scandals that continue to plague cycling. World number three Murray, runner-up at last month's Australian Open to Novak Djokovic, feels the sport's authorities need to invest more heavily in anti-doping programmes, even if it means siphoning funds from players' prize money.

"I've been asked a lot lately if tennis is clean or not but I don't know how you



Baltimore Ravens Quarterback Joe Flacco is presented with a 2014 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray for being named Super Bowl XLVII MVP in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 4 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

"I love being in Baltimore, a great city, so I don't really anticipate any problems." Under National Football League rules, if a new long-term deal is not struck with the quarterback, the Ravens could secure Flacco for an additional

year by placing a franchise tag on him.

That is reported to be around \$14.6 million for the season or around \$20 million for an "exclusive" tag which would stop teams from bidding for his services.

But Flacco's outstanding post-season form makes it hard to imagine the Ravens ownership would not come up with a long term contract and probably one which would make him among the best paid in the league.—Reuters

judge if a sport is clean," Murray told reporters on Monday at Queen's Club in west London. "If one in 100 players is doping, in my eyes that isn't a clean sport.

We need to do everything we can to ensure that everyone competing at the highest level and below is clean. "That comes with biological passports and more blood testing. I know the training that I do and I know what goes in and out of my body and I know from my side that I'm clean and I hope that's the same for all tennis players." Doping in sport

has come under close scrutiny following the Lance Armstrong scandal. The American cyclist was stripped of all seven of his Tour de France titles last year following an investigation by the United States Anti-Doping Agency.—Reuters



Andy Murray

Mallorca sack coach Joaquin Caparros after dreadful run of results

MADRID, 5 Feb — Spanish BBVA Primera Liga club, FC Mallorca this Monday decided to sack coach Joaquin Caparros following a disastrous run of results. Sunday's 3-0 defeat away to Real Sociedad means that Mallorca have won just one of their last 17 matches, taking just six points from a possible 51. Caparros leaves Mallorca with the club second from bottom of the BBVA Primera Liga with just 17 points from 21 games and four points from safety.

The most worrying thing for Mallorca is that the club had enjoyed a positive start to the campaign and was in the top-four with 11 points from their first five games of the campaign. The club were then hit by a series of injuries, but with the majority of the squad available results have failed to

improve and the club confirmed the decision to sack Caparros, who replaced Michael Laudrup last season, making him the sixth Prim-

runo) onto the list of out of work coaches.

Speaking after his dismissal, Caparros said he was confident his now former club would avoid relegation and spoke of his close relationship with the board of Directors, before blaming the injury crisis for the current situation. "We have had seven players with serious injuries and that ruined all of our plans. The team was well planned, but the numbers are all there," he commented.

Former Getafe and Real Madrid coach, Berndt Schuster is among the early favorites to replace Caparros as Mallorca boss and maximum shareholder Llorenç Serra Ferrer confirmed Caparros' replacement would be named by Tuesday.

Xinhua



Joaquin Caparros

GENERAL

Members of Fire Station of Mann Oil Refinery (Thanbayagan) I Minhla exercise fire drill on 3 February under the supervision of Minhla Township Fire Preventive Supervisory Committee in Thayet District in Magway Region.

KYEMON



Melo criticizes Isner after US Davis Cup win

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Feb — Brazilian doubles specialist Marcelo Melo has accused world No 16 John Isner of “unprofessionalism” after the United States defeated Brazil 3-2 in a tense Davis Cup first round tie in Jacksonville, United States, on Sunday.

Isner, who lost his reverse singles match on Sunday to Brazil’s Thomaz Bellucci 4-6, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3, complained during and after the match of the opposition fans’ vocal support and use of a tambourine. “Isner should stop crying. Our fans did nothing untoward and supported us like any other fans would,” Melo said on Twitter on Monday.

“This isn’t the sort of behavior of a professional. Our fans were doing what they should do, encouraging us from the beginning until the end.”

His comments came after Isner said the visiting supporters had not shown the players the respect they deserved. “I don’t appreciate their fans at all.

I think they are very rude,” he said after the match.

The United States advanced to the quarterfinals when Sam Querrey recovered from a set down to defeat Thiago Alves 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3) in Sunday’s final rubber.

Xinhua

Kagawa to use Latvia as springboard to spark United career

KOBE, 5 Feb — Manchester United midfielder Shinji Kagawa will aim to get his club career going by making his first appearance for Japan on Wednesday since October.

Kagawa, who was absent for the Asian champions’ 2-1 away win over Oman in November with a left-knee injury, came home on Monday for the friendly against Latvia at Home’s Stadium after remaining on the bench in United’s 1-0 victory over Fulham at Craven Cottage on Saturday.

Since returning from the injury on 29 December, Kagawa has played for Alex Ferguson but has not scored. The Japanese international also has yet to put in a full shift for United who are running away in the Premier League title race.

Kyodo News



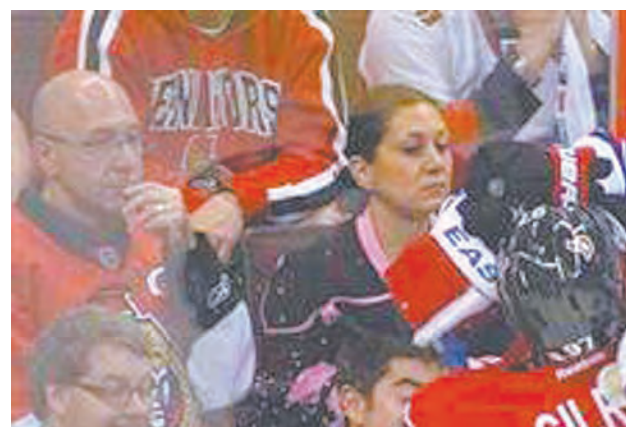
Manchester United midfielder Shinji Kagawa arrives at Kansai airport near Osaka on 4 Feb, 2013, to play for Japan’s national team in a friendly against Latvia in Kobe on 6 February, his first appearance for Japan since October 2012.

KYODO NEWS

Minnesota Wild acquire Rupp in trade with New York Rangers

TORONTO, 5 Feb — The Minnesota Wild added some leadership and grit to their lineup by acquiring veteran forward Mike

Rupp from the New York Rangers, the National Hockey League team said on Monday. The Wild, who made a major splash in the



Ottawa Senators’ Matt Gilroy (L) is checked into the boards by New York Rangers’ Mike Rupp during the first period in Game 3 of the NHL Eastern Conference quarter-final hockey playoff in Ottawa on 6 April, 2012. —REUTERS

At least one killed, five injured in car bombing in northern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 5 Feb — At least one was killed and five wounded in a suicide car bomb explosion targeting the Iraqi police near a prison north of Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

The attack occurred around midday when a suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car near a police patrol outside the entrance of al-Hot prison in Taji area, some 25 km north of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The toll could rise as ambulances and police vehicles are evacuating the victims, as the Iraqi security forces sealed off the area to secure the scene, the source said.—Xinhua

Brazilian state fines builders over World Cup stadium faults

SAO PAULO, 5 Feb — The company in charge of preparing the Mineirao stadium for the 2014 World Cup was fined one million Brazilian reais (\$502,900) on Monday for a series of serious shortcomings which became apparent when the stadium was reopened last weekend. The stadium in the state capital Belo Horizonte, also a



venue for this year’s Confederations Cup, hosted the Cruzeiro-Atletico Mineiro derby on Sunday but problems were identified with access points, car parks, bars and water supply.

“We were able to identify some faults that are normal, like the issue of access, parking,” state government official Tiago Lacerda said in a statement. “They are faults that easily corrected, but we had grave faults in relation to the bars, lack of water. For this reason we are going to hand down a fine of one million reais,” Lacerda, head of the state’s special secretariat for the World Cup (Secopa-MG), said.

State governor Antonio Anastasia told the consortium to take steps to ensure everything worked properly for the next scheduled matches, starting with Cruzeiro’s state championship

meeting with America on Wednesday.

“Unfortunately, there were serious operational errors, defects in the stadium,” Anastasia said, adding his government would go by the letter of the contract with the consortium to guarantee it functioned properly. The Mineirao was the second stadium to be ready for the Confederations Cup, a mini World Cup dress rehearsal to be played in six Brazilian venues in June. The first, the Castelao in the northern city of Fortaleza, held its inaugural games last month. World soccer’s governing body FIFA has set a final deadline of mid-April, four months behind schedule, for the stadiums in Brasilia, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador to be handed over to the tournament organizers. (\$1 = 1.9884 Brazilian reais) —Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(6-2-2013, Wednesday)

7:00 am	4:50 pm
1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw - Uppatathandi Paritta	13. International Science News
7:25 am	5:05 pm
2. To Be Healthy Exercise	14. ASEAN “Programmes”
7:30 am	5:15 pm
3. Morning News	15. Sing & Enjoy
7:40 am	6:15 pm
4. International News	16. Weather Report
7:45 am	7:10 pm
5. Nice & Sweet Song	17. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
8:00 am	7:25 pm
6. Teleplay (Health)	18. Documentary
8:10 am	8:00 pm
7. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme	19. News
8:20 am	20. International News
8. Documentary	21. Weather Report
8:35 am	22. “SEA GAMES Quiz Show”
9. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme	23. Alinka Kyaw Swar Myoe Ma Nyein Music Troupe
4:00 pm	24. TV Drama Series
10. Opening Song	10:00 pm
4:05 pm	25. News
11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit	26. Myanmar Movies
4:10 pm	
12. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme	

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 5/2013)**

**10th Waning of Pyatho, 1374 ME
(5th February, 2013)**

**Appointment of member of
Union Civil Services Board**

Under the Section 246 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 16 (b) (12) of the Union Government Law, U Than Tun has been appointed as member of the Union Civil Services Board.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 6/2013)**

**10th Waning of Pyatho, 1374 ME
(5th February, 2013)**

Appointment of deputy ministers

In accordance with the Sub-section (a) and Sub-section (d) of Section 234 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and paragraph (9), Sub-section (b) of the Section 16 of the Union Government Law, following persons have been appointed as deputy ministers of the ministries shown against them.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| (1) U Aung Htoo | Ministry of Energy |
| (2) U Than Tun Aung | Ministry of Mines |
| (3) Daw Win Maw Tun | Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security |
| (4) Dr Zaw Min Aung | Ministry of Science and Technology |
| (5) Dr Tin Shwe | Ministry of Hotels and Tourism |

Sd/Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Pyithu Hluttaw approves Bill Amending the Penal Code

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—**The Bill Amending the Penal Code** submitted by the Supreme Court of the Union was approved without amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw today.

The bill has amended the usages and situation which are not in conformity with the current age and increased the fines up to 100 folds, said Daw Khin Thandar, a representative from TadaU constituency.

During today's meeting, Daw Khin Htay Kywe, a member of the bill committee of Pyithu Hluttaw, submitted a report on **the bill revoking the emergency provisions**



**U Ye Tun of Hsipaw
Constituency asking
questions.**

MNA
and interests limitation act.
The Act was enacted in

1950, and the act number 19 includes 4 sections. As it is not in conformity with the current age, the act is considered to be revoked.

On behalf of U Ye Tun of Hsipaw constituency, U Sai Thein Aung of Tachilek constituency asked **why some people were arrested at the play ground which was legally opened at Sanmarlar Garden in the municipal area of Hsipaw township.**

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied: U Tun Yi, In-charge of the game station opened at the



**Deputy Minister for
Home Affairs Chief
of Myanmar Police
Force Brig-Gen Kyaw
Kyaw Tun replies to
questions.—MNA**

playground was summoned for two times and warned not to allow gambling at the game station.

Acting on tip-off which says the game station continued to allow computerized-system of gambling attracting students and governmental employees, Shan State Police Force sent a special squad there on 17 December and arrested eight gamblers playing at six game machines, out of 21, and the manager of the station along with K 210,800.

Hsipaw Township Development Affairs Committee has granted

permission to set up the playground for public recreation.

However, the gambling at the game station of the playground is not illegal, hindering the development of the country and causing poverty and damaging the morality of the people, he said.

The 14-day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw comprised 10 agendas, and six questions were answered, one report submitted and one bill approved during today's session. The meeting will continue tomorrow.

MNA

Proposal on setting up the Ayeyawady River Commission (ARC) approved

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Amyotha Hluttaw continued for its 14th day session today. Regarding the question of Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8 on **if there is any analysis on the tapping of natural**



**U Soe Myint of Magway
Region Constituency
taking part in
discussion.**

MNA

resources before the green light is given, Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung replied that under 50-

acre mine explorations are allowed by the Ministry and over-50-acre by Myanmar Investment Commission and the government.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker submitted Civil Servants Bill and Employment and Skills Development Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendment.

Six representatives held discussions on the proposal on urging the Union government **to form the Ayeyawady River Commission (ARC)** submitted by U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No.6.

With respect to that proposal, U Soe Myint of Magway Region Constituency No.6 said, "No need to set up ARC because a total of 17 departments and divisions under the Ministries are carrying out Ayeyawady River conservation with 19 laws and rules.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein said, "Ayeyawady River



**Union Minister for
Mines Dr Myint Aung
answering questions.**

MNA

is the lifeblood, and its basin is crucial for socio-economic development of the country. There should be water utilization policies and laws pertaining to basin development tasks. It needs a basin management commission like ARC for effective utilizations of water resource and basin conservation. I seconded that proposal.

And the Ministry will make cooperation in respective role if the commission is set up."

Hluttaw approved that proposal. U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.6 said, "Eleven Ministries and eight Regions and States are doing their tasks to meet their set targets with the use of Ayeyawady River



**Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon
Region Constituency
asking questions.**

MNA



**Deputy Minister for
Transport U Han Sein
replies to questions.**

MNA

water. River conservation is being undertaken by Water Resources Utilization and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport alone under the limitations such as fund allotments, heavy machinery and technology. In the long run, it is impossible to guarantee the sustainable development."

As stated in that proposal, State-level commission should be formed for conservation and multi-purpose development with special fund, cooperation of all departments and projects, he added.

MNA

Region Hluttaw members visit Pyithu, Amyotha Hluttaws

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—A 15-representative team of Mandalay Region Hluttaw led by the Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw observed the sixth regular session of

the First Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws at 10 am today.

After visiting the buildings, they left the Hluttaw Complex.

MNA