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Proposal on promulgating a special law to protect citizens in order that actions can be taken against those who abuse the power regarding movable properties and immovable properties recorded

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Six questions were replied and one proposal and one bill submitted at 15th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

Regarding the question of U Win Swe of Nyaungshwe Constituency on **if there is any plan to build a waste recycle factory for greening of Inlay Lake**, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung said that at present, there is no any plan to build a waste recycle factory because of technology and high expenditures. It needs to conduct feasibility study before building the recycle factory there. Green light will be given for the construction of factory to those who can manage the factory to have minimum environmental impacts, he added.

U Win Swe said, "The

reason why I asked that question is that it may face fund difficulties if we build it on a self-reliant basis. In my opinion, it would be more convenient if Development Affairs Committee builds an incinerator."

Hluttaw recorded the proposal on urging the Union government to **prescribe a special law that can protect the citizens in order that actions can be taken against those who abuse the power regarding movable properties and immovable properties to fully enjoy the rights described in the Constitution** submitted by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo discussed



15th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

that proposal.

Member of Bill

Committee U Khin Maung Shwe read out Chemicals and

Precursors Bill submitted by the deputy minister

for Industry. The meeting continues tomorrow.—MNA

Government to continue assisting IDPs

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—The Union Peace-making Work Committee and KIO held negotiation at Shweli on 4 February.

They agreed to hold further negotiation for

reaching lasting truce and emergence of a monitoring system for conflict regions.

In the aftermath of armed conflicts in Kachin State, the government is

arranging to reconstruct houses, reopen schools and hospitals and let enter humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons.

MNA

Pyithu, Amyotha Hluttaws receive visitors

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—A 15-representative team of Mandalay Region Hluttaw led by the deputy speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw, 66 trainees and supervisors from journalism and correspondents training

course No 1 of the Public Relations Section of Union Solidarity and Development Party led by the course instructor and 112 members of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation led by the Deputy Speaker of the

Region Hluttaw observed progress of the 15-day sixth regular session of the First Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws at 10 am today.

After visiting the buildings, they left the Hluttaw Complex.—MNA

Vietnam-invested hotel project on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road



The world countries are showing their interests in making investments in Myanmar. Tourism industry is one of them. Vietnam starts implementing a project including international-standard hotel, business center, offices and high-rise apartments.

"That project includes international-standard hotel and housings. That is an essential infrastructures for fast-growing world tourism industry," said an official from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Contracts on construction and land lease have been signed by The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Hoang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar Co., Ltd, in the last December.

The hotel construction project which is the direct investment of Vietnam, is

located at No.192, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road (at the plot of former Ministry of Industry). The construction project will start soon. The project with 414 hotel rooms, is being built on 18.131 acres of land. It also includes two commercial center office buildings and four service apartments.

"Efforts are being made for the massive influx of investments so as to have more hotel rooms that can boost Myanmar's tourism industry. And continued efforts are being made for the construction of buildings in which international-level meetings, shows and exhibitions can be held," he added.

Myanmar has over 782 hotels with 27968 rooms. Of

them, twenty-one with 3770 rooms are foreign-invested hotels and advanced housings. The project is implemented with Vietnam's direct investment of as much as US\$ 300 million by Hoang Anh Construction & Development House Joint Stock Company of Vietnam.

Earth work is being carried out now. And the construction will start in 2013-2014. Hoang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar Co., Ltd (HAGL) will build the project. Myanmar's neighbouring countries like Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia see tourism industry development. Soon Myanmar would see tourism industry development.

Myanma Alinn: 4-2-2013
Translation: MT

Byline: Maung Maung Myint Swe

2013 66th Anniversary Union Day



Workshop on scorecard for Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community held

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—A workshop on scorecard for meeting set targets of prioritized matters for holding of ASEAN meetings in Myanmar in 2014, took place at the Ministry of Culture on 4 February morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu.

General of ASEAN Secretariat Ms Alicia Dela Rosa Bala extended greetings. The workshop covered completion of prioritized tasks, indexes and implementation of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council, human resources development, social justices and equal rights and conservation of natural environments.

It was also attended by deputy ministers from Myanmar Wushu athletes bag one gold, two silver and three bronze

Myanmar Wushu athletes bag one gold, two silver and three bronze

YANGON, 6 Feb—The Myanmar Taekwondo Team led by Joint Secretary of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Phyo Zaw Aung (Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry together with Chief Coach Mr Yu Ung Cho (Korea) and Coach Daw Soe Soe Thin secured six gold, silver and bronze medals in the First International Taekwondo

Championship 2013 held in Pukhet of Thailand on 26 and 27 January 2013.

Min Hein Khant secured one gold and one bronze medals, Saw Tet Lu and Aye Chan Myat Phyo one silver, Naw April Shee one silver, and Lin Le Shwe Yi and Aye Chan Myat Phyo one bronze medal each in the championship.

Myanma Alinn



A truck with 33 tons of cement bags on its way from Kyangin Cement Plant to Nay Pyi Taw turns over on Pyinmana-Taungnyo concrete road near Maulay Village of Mingon Village-tract near Ottarathiri Township on 29 January.—MYANMA ALINN

Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council members, departmental heads and high-ranking officials from ASEAN Secretariat.

Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) will host ASEAN meetings in cooperation with Ministry of Culture and ASEAN Secretariat.

MNA

Harmful commodities seized on Muse-Mandalay Route

MANDALAY, 6 Feb—Two groups from the Mobile Team under the Ministry of Trade performed educative works for the illegal commodities on Muse-Mandalay route and Myawady-Yangon route from 1 November to 31 December 2012 and action taking period as of 1 January 2013.

In the period of educative works, personnel of the mobile teams issued 74 export/import licence for temporary seized commodity worth US\$ 287,099.28, 578,616 yuans and K 26,431,146 to the entrepreneurs. Imported chicken, pork, chicken sausage and other foodstuff without FDA permission were seized for five times and incinerated. Moreover, jade worth K 87.8 million, mineral powder worth K 5.96 million, beer worth K 7.083 million, orchid worth K 2.427 million, timber worth K 457,164, muntjac leather worth K 145,600, shark fins worth K 702,000, dried beef, frozen beef and innards worth K 5,313,150 were confiscated.

The personnel from the team on Muse-Mandalay

Old teachers get care, assistance of pupils

MANDALAY, 6 Feb—Basic Education High School No. 16 in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay held the 15th ceremony to pay respects to old teachers at the hall of the school on 27

January.

The students paid respects to four heads and 189 old teachers and donated K 17.8 million and gifts.

The old students set up the fund worth K 2 million

and medical fund.

On the occasion, old teachers and students donated K 1.3 million to build a meditation hall of Sayagyi U Than's centre.

Myanma Alinn

MR upgrading Mogaung Station

MOHNYIN, 6 Feb—Civil Engineering Department of Myanmar Railways is upgrading Mogaung railway station in Kachin State with the fund of 2012-2013 fiscal year. The project

covers upgrading of railway platform, roof replacement and decoration.

“Mogaung station has no public toilet. So, it will be more convenient if the authority arrange to construct

a public toilet” said a local. Mogaung is situated at lower part where Mogaung creek flows into Ayeyawady River. The whole town including the station is under flood in the rainy season.—NLM001

Dawbon provides old-age care

YANGON, 6 Feb—Health care services of diabetes, cardiac and hypertension are being provided to older persons of 60 years at Dawbon Township Health Department in line with the motto let's care older persons.

At 9.30 am, Township Medical Officer Dr Moh Moh Aung and matron Daw Thi Thu Naing and nurses gave talks on health knowledge and feed refreshments to older persons. Then they provided health care services and medicines to the older persons.

Refreshment is served to the older persons by the



township medical officers and staff in addition to other wellwishers weekly.

On 30 January, the

dental section of Yangon East General Hospital fed the older persons

Kyemon

Fire breaks out in Nathmaw Village of Chaungzon Township

MAWLAMYINE, 6 Feb—A fire broke out at the shop in Nathmaw Village of Chaungzon Township of Mon State at 6 pm on 20 January while siphoning the fuel into the bucket.

Five houses and nine shops worth K 1.4 million were destroyed in 45 minutes

blaze, leaving 27 people from seven households homeless. They are under care of Township General Administration Department.

Chaungzon Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against U Thein Soe for outbreak of fire from his house.—Myanma Alinn

Out of control BM bus hits cyclist, walls of housing on Pyidaungsu Overpass

YANGON, 6 Feb—A BM bus driven by Zaw Naing Oo of South Dagon Township from No. 252 Kyongyi-

Tamway-South Dagon bus line dodged a vehicle near flower market at the down road of Pyidaungsu Overpass

leading to South Dagon and then hit cyclist Ange Lay, 20 of Kyisu Ywathitlay in Dagon Seikkan Township who carried chicken from poultry market, due to out of control of break at 5.20 pm on 30 January.

After that, the BM hit again the walls of Pinlon Yeikmon Housing near Basic Education Primary School.

In the incident, cyclist Ange Lay was injured and some passengers on board the BM injured. They were sent to Thingangyun Sanpya general Hospital.

The car accident is under investigation at Thuwunna Police Station.—Kyemon



WORLD

Obama urges government spending cuts delay despite mounting debt



US President Barack Obama briefs press at the White House in Washington DC on 5 Feb, 2013. Obama on Tuesday urged Congress to delay massive government spending cuts in the near term, saying government budget policies will have effects on US economic growth.
XINHUA

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb —US President Barack Obama on Tuesday urged Congress to delay massive government spending cuts in the near term to boost economic growth despite the spiking government debt, adding twists to the government's debt reduction efforts.

Government budget decisions have "real and lasting" impacts on the strength of US economic recovery, while drastic

government spending cuts will cost jobs to be created and slow down the economic growth pace, Obama said at a White House Press conference on Tuesday.

Obama asked Congress to postpone the government outlays cuts starting on 1 March and stressed the importance of a balanced government fiscal policy to bolster economic recovery.

Roughly 85 billion US dollars of spending cuts

were set to hit various US governmental departments this year starting on 1 March, as agreed by Democrats and Republicans in January to resolve the so-called "fiscal cliff."

"This doesn't have to happen," Obama told reporters, referring to the across-the-board cuts poised to kick in next month. US Congress is working on the government's budget for 2014 fiscal year starting on 1 Oct this year, which might not be achieved by 1 March. Obama urged lawmakers to pass a modest bill to soften the impact of the government spending reductions for several months to allow more time to produce a broader package to tackle mounting government deficit.

A "fiscal cliff" deal shifted about 24 billion dollars of the first two months of spending cuts into future government appropriations bills, but the last-minute deal still left 85 billion dollars in government outlays cuts to begin in March.

Xinhua

Stabbing at Ecuador campaign rally not politically motivated

QUITO, 6 Feb—A knife attack in Ecuador that killed two government supporters was perpetrated by a man under the influence of drugs and alcohol and was not politically motivated, President Rafael Correa said on Tuesday.

The man killed two Correa supporters and injured five more at a campaign rally on Monday, about two weeks before a presidential election that the leftist leader is expected to win comfortably.

"There is no indication

that this attack may have been politically motivated. It was a person who was temporarily insane and stabbed the people that he found in his way," Correa said at a Press conference in Quito.

"This person was under the influence of drugs and alcohol." A 40-year-old man with a criminal record who had spent time at a drug rehab centre was detained shortly after the attack and is in police custody.

Correa said that five people were injured, one

more than the number previously given by authorities. Such incidents are exceedingly rare in Ecuadorian political campaigns despite historically volatile politics in which presidents have been toppled during street protests.

It was the first significant act of violence in a presidential race that officially started on 4 January. In a chilling video broadcast on local TV networks, a man could be seen breaking through a rally of a few hundred Correa sympathizers and attacking them with a large knife. Dozens ran for their lives while some men tried to stop the attacker.

Correa said police at the event were caught off guard. He said the attack lasted less than 20 seconds.

The incident occurred ahead of a campaign rally in Quinde, a town in the western Esmeraldas Province. The event was canceled following the attack and Correa suspended his campaign on Tuesday in solidarity with the victims.—Reuters



Ecuador's President Rafael Correa addresses the media during a bilateral summit in Cuenca on 23 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

Bulgaria blames Hezbollah in bomb attack on Israeli tourists

SOFIA, 6 Feb—Bulgaria accused Lebanese militant movement Hezbollah on Tuesday of carrying out a bomb attack on a bus in the Black Sea city of Burgas that killed five Israeli tourists last year.

The conclusions of the Bulgarian investigation, citing a clear connection to an attack on European Union soil, might open the way for the EU to join the United States in branding the Iranian-backed Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

Three people were involved in the attack, two of whom had genuine passports from Australia and Canada, Bulgarian

Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov told reporters after Sofia's national security council discussed the investigation.

"There is data showing the financing and connection between Hezbollah and the two suspects," Tsvetanov said.

"What can be established as a well-grounded assumption is that the two persons whose real identity has been determined belonged to the military wing of Hezbollah." Israel blamed the attack in Burgas, which killed five Israeli tourists, their Bulgarian driver and the bomber, on Iran and Hezbollah, a



Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev (L) speaks during a joint news conference with Prime Minister Boiko Borisov (R) and Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov in Sofia on 5 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

powerful Shi'ite Islamist militia that is part of the Lebanese government and waged a brief war with Israel in 2006. Iran has

denied responsibility and accused arch-enemy Israel of plotting and carrying out the bus bombing last July.

Reuters

Colorado lawmakers want gun owners exposed to civil liability

DENVER, 6 Feb—Owners and makers of assault-style weapons would face civil liability under a package of measures unveiled on Tuesday by top lawmakers in Colorado, a state shaken by some of the deadliest shootings in US history. The bills, introduced by Democrats who control the state legislature, could push Colorado to the forefront of a national gun control debate reignited by several mass shootings last year, including massacres of schoolchildren in Newtown, Connecticut, and moviegoers in suburban Denver.

Other states such as New York have moved to further restrict military-style assault weapons. But if the measures become law, Colorado would hold owners, manufacturers and distributors of firearms more accountable for gun violence. Owners of semi-automatic rifles would be subject to strict liability for civil damages caused by their weapons, and state statutes that shield manufacturers, importers and dealers from such liability would be lifted.

Handguns, bolt-action rifles and shotguns would be exempt from the measure.

If passed it would put Colorado at odds with a 2005 federal law protecting gun manufacturers from being held liable for crimes committed with their products.

"Coloradans have asked us to lead on this issue, not to stand idly by while children are being gunned down in schools and movie theaters," state Senate President John Morse said at a news conference in Denver.

The Democrats, who hold a majority in both houses of the Colorado Legislature, also urged passage of bills to ban sales of high-capacity ammunition magazines and to extend background checks for gun purchases.

A previous loophole that exempted firearms sales at gun shows from background checks was closed following the 1999 Columbine High School massacre in Littleton, where two students shot a teacher and 12 students to death before committing suicide.—Reuters

Colombia leader says peace possible this year

BOGOTA, 6 Feb — President Juan Manuel Santos said on Tuesday if the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is ready, peace could come this year after 50 years of armed conflict that killed some 600,000 people in the South American country.

"If there is will, I have

confidence that this year we can achieve peace in this country," said Santos at a Latin American leadership event in Bogota.

Santos, who had tried to end the FARC insurgency by military forces, now calls on Colombians to set aside hatred and seek reconciliation.

"United, we do better. Driven apart, we languish. Making war is more difficult than making peace," he said.

Santos said the government will pursue peace through legislation, enacting laws to compensate victims of fighting and redistributing lands, which

also should be key points in future negotiations.

Peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC in Havana, Cuba, have been underway since October, but fighting resumed recently after the rebels ended their monthlong unilateral cease-fire on 20 January.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indonesia to build ape rehabilitation centre

JAKARTA, 6 Feb— Indonesian officials plan to establish another orangutan rehabilitation centre in East Borneo (Kalimantan) island this year, in a bid to release all apes being held at such centres into the wild, media reported here on Tuesday.

Over 70 percent of the wild orangutan species are living outside protected areas, and the number of the endangered species involv-

ing into conflict with humans remained high, thus making it crucially important to have more rehabilitation centres, said Novianto Bambang, the Forestry Ministry's director of biodiversity conservation.

The new centre would be constructed on 50 hectares of land in North Penajam Paser and it will be the second orangutan rehabilitation center run by the Borneo Orangutan Survival

Foundation (BOS) in East Kalimantan, he said. "So we're optimistic that the remaining 700 or so orangutans still being kept at rehabilitation centres can all be released into the wild by 2015, even though we face difficulty finding suitable habitats for them," Noviano was quoted by the *Jakarta globe* as saying.

There an estimated 58,500 of the apes remaining in the wild in Kalimantan, most of them in West, Central and South Kalimantan, Hardi Biaktiantoro, the Director of the Centre for Orangutan Protection, an activist group, said. Only around 4,800 are believed to remain in East Kalimantan, "the orangutan population in East Kalimantan continues to decline along with the conversion of forested land for other uses," Hardi said.

Xinhua



Fed says internal site breached by hackers, no critical functions affected

WASHINGTON/BOSTON, 6 Feb—The Federal Reserve said on Tuesday that one of its internal websites had been briefly breached by hackers, though no critical functions of the US central bank were affected by the intrusion. The admission, which raises questions about cyber security at the Fed, follows a claim that hackers linked to the activist group Anonymous had struck the Fed on Sunday, accessing personal information of more than 4,000 US bank executives, which it published on the Web. The Federal Reserve system is aware that information was obtained by exploiting a temporary vulnerability in a website vendor product," a Fed spokeswoman said. "Exposure was fixed shortly after discovery and is no longer an issue. This incident did not affect critical operations of the Federal Reserve system," the spokeswoman said, adding that all individuals effected by the breach had been contacted.

Technology news site

ZDNet separately reported that Anonymous appeared to have published information allegedly containing the login information, credentials, internet protocol addresses and contact information of more than 4,000 US bankers on Sunday night. The claim was made via Twitter over an account registered to OpLastResort, which is linked to Anonymous, a loosely organized group of hacker activists who have claimed responsibility for scores of attacks on government and corporate sites over the past several years. OpLastResort is a campaign that some hackers linked to Anonymous have started to protest government prosecution of computer prodigy Aaron Swartz, who committed suicide on 11 January.

The Fed declined to identify which website had been hacked. But information that it provided to bankers indicated that the site, which was not public, was a contact database for banks to use during a natural disaster.—Reuters

A view shows the Federal Reserve building on the day it is scheduled to release minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee from 1 Aug, 2012, in Washington on 22 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS



Ahmadinejad says he is ready to be first Iranian in space

DUBAI, 6 Feb—President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Monday he was ready to be the first human sent into orbit by Iran's fledgling space programme, Iranian media reported. Iran declared last week that it had successfully launched a monkey into space and retrieved it alive, which officials hailed as a major step towards their goal of sending humans into space. The launch added to Western concerns about Iran's space programme because the same rocket technology could potentially be used to deliver a nuclear warhead on a ballistic missile. "I am ready to be the first human to be sent to space by Iranian scientists," Ahmadinejad said on Monday, on the sidelines of an exhibition of space achievements in Teheran, according to the *Mehr* news agency. "Sending living things into space



Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks during a media conference at Iran's embassy after he attended the Developing-8 summit in Islamabad on 22 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

is the result of Iranian efforts and the dedication of thousands of Iranian scientists." Ahmadinejad is known for provocative public comments and it was unclear whether the suggestion was a serious one. His second and final term as president ends in August, and his political star has been on the wane since he fell out with parliament early in his second term and

appeared to lose the support of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. On Sunday he stood up in parliament to play a tape recording that he said provided evidence of corruption by the family of parliamentary speaker Ali Larijani, his political arch-rival and a likely frontrunner to succeed him as president. Larijani and his brother Fazl denied the accusations.

Reuters

Blimps to bolster Washington's air shield in test

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb—A pair of big, blimp-like craft, moored to the ground and flying as high as 10,000 feet, are to be added to a high-tech shield designed to protect the Washington DC area from air attack, at least for a while. The bulbous, helium-filled "aerostats"—each more than three quarters the length of a football field at 243 feet—are to be stitched into existing defences as part of an exercise of new technology ordered by the Defence Department.

The coming addition to the umbrella over Washington is known as Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defence Elevated Netted Sensor System, or JLENS. Raytheon Co is the prime contractor. "We're trying to determine how the surveillance radar information from



A Raytheon Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defence Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) aerostat is pictured at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, in this 24 Feb, 2012 photo obtained on 1 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

the JLENS platforms can be integrated with existing systems in the National Capital Region," said Michael Kucharek, a spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defence Command.

NORAD, a binational command, is responsible for

defending air space over the United States and Canada, including the Washington area with its many pieces of important infrastructure. The most significant air attack in the area took place on 11 September, 2001, when Al-Qaeda militants hijacked

American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757, and crashed it into the Pentagon. To expand the time available to detect and defend against any future attacks from commercial aircraft, major changes were made under Operation Noble Eagle, combat air patrols begun after the 11 September attacks.

Airspace restrictions were extended. US Army Sentinel radars for low-altitude radar coverage and short-range Stinger/Avenger missile batteries were deployed. Washington is currently guarded by an air-defence system that includes Federal Aviation Administration radars and Department of Homeland Security helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft on alert at Reagan National Airport to intercept slow, low-flying aircraft.—Reuters

US science balloon breaks flight duration records

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb—A large US science balloon has beat flight duration record while flying over Antarctica carrying an instrument that detected 50 million cosmic rays, US space agency NASA announced on Monday.

The Super Trans-Iron Galactic Element Recorder (Super-TIGER) balloon was launched on 8 December last year. It has spent 55 days, one hour, and 34 minutes aloft at 127,000 feet while brought down to end the mission on Friday, becoming

the longest flight of any heavy-lift scientific balloon. The previous record was set in 2009 by NASA's Super Pressure Balloon test flight at 54 days and one hour and 29 minutes.

Super-TIGER flew a new instrument for measuring rare elements heavier than iron among the flux of high-energy cosmic rays bombarding Earth from elsewhere in our Milky Way galaxy. The information retrieved from this mission will be used to understand where these energetic atomic nuclei



are produced and how they achieve their very high energies.

The balloon gathered so much data it will take scientists about two years to analyze it fully, NASA said. "This has been a very suc-

cessful flight because of the long duration, which allowed us to detect large numbers of cosmic rays," said Bob Binns, principal investigator of the Super-TIGER mission. "The instrument functioned very well."—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Vitamin C pills linked to kidney stones



WASHINGTON, 6 Feb —A new research from Karolinska Institute in Sweden shows that men who take vitamin C supplements regularly have a higher risk of developing kidney stones.

The study, published Monday in scientific periodical *JAMA Internal Medicine*, indicates that men who take vitamin C sup-

plements (typically 1,000 mg per tablet) are twice as likely to develop kidney stones as men who do not take any dietary supplements.

The risk is also found to increase with the frequency of vitamin C supplement use.

However, the regular use of multivitamins is not found to be associated with the risk of kidney stones.

The researchers believe that both the dose and combination of nutrients with which the vitamin C is ingested are important.

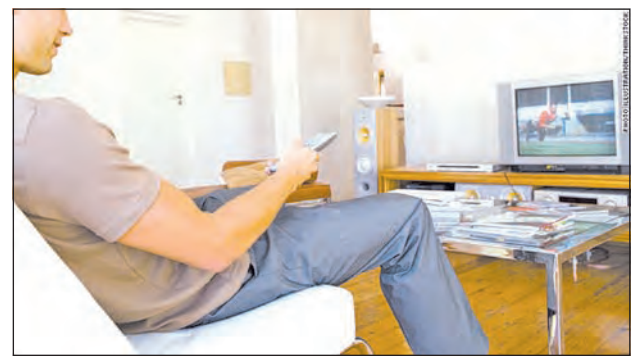
For this reason, the

observed increase in risk does not apply to a normal dietary intake of vitamin C from fruit and vegetables.

The research is based on data from a large population-based study of men, who have been observed for 11 years on average. "Given that there are no well-documented benefits of taking high doses of vitamin C in the form of dietary supplements, the wisest thing might be not to take them at all, especially if you have suffered kidney stones previously," says study leader Agneta Akesson, associate professor at Karolinska Institute.—Xinhua

TV viewing, exercise habits may significantly affect sperm count

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — Men's sperm quality may be significantly affected by their levels of physical activity, according to a new study led by researchers at Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH). The researchers found that healthy young men who were sedentary, as measured by hours of TV viewing, had lower sperm counts than those who were the most physically active. The study were published online Monday in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.



The researchers analyzed the semen quality of 189 men between the ages of 18 to 22 participating in the Rochester Young Men's Study during 2009 at the University of Rochester. The men were asked about their physical activity and TV-watching habits, in addition to health issues that may affect their sperm quality, such as diet, stress levels, and smoking.

Results showed that men who watched more than 20 hours of TV weekly had a 44 percent lower sperm count than those who watched almost no TV.

Men who exercised for 15 or more hours weekly at a moderate to

vigorous rate had a 73 percent higher sperm count than those who exercised less than 5 hours per week. Mild exercise did not affect sperm quality.

"The majority of the previous studies on physical activity and semen quality had focused on professional marathon runners and cyclists, who reach physical activity levels that most people in the world cannot match.

We were able to examine a range of physical activity that is more relevant to men in the general population," said Jorge Chavarro, senior author of the study and assistant professor at HSPH.—Xinhua

Boeing 787 wingbox supplier says not changing production plans

TOKYO, 6 Feb—Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd (7270.T), a first-tier supplier for Boeing Co's (BA.N) 787 passenger jet, said there was no change to its production plans for the grounded Dreamliner's wingbox.

"Our production plans are unchanged," said Mitsuru Takahashi, Fuji Heavy's chief financial

officer at a quarterly earnings news conference on Wednesday.

Boeing has halted deliveries of the 787 until the cause of battery fires is uncovered by investigators in Japan and the United States, but is still assembling new planes in the US, keeping the completed jetliners at its plants. Fuji Heavy, better



known as a maker of Subaru cars, is the sole maker of the 787's wingbox, a critical

component that connects the wings to the fuselage.

Reuters

Sensex recovers over 86 points in early trade



MUMBAI, 6 Feb—The BSE benchmark Sensex recovered by over 86 points in early trade today on emergence of buying by funds and retailers amid a firming Asian trend.

Snapping its four-session losing streak, the 30-share barometer gained 86.74 points, or 0.44 per cent, to 19,746.56.

The index had lost almost 345 points in the previous four sessions. All sectoral indices trading in the positive zone with a gain up to 0.80 per cent.—PTI

Adults with mental illness smoke at higher rate

ATLANTA, 6 Feb — Mentally ill adults in the United States smoke cigarettes at a 70 percent higher rate than adults without any kind of mental illness, according to a report released by federal health agencies on Tuesday. Statistics show smoking by the mentally ill is a "very serious health issue that needs more attention" and should prompt mental health facilities to ban the habit, said Dr Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We need

to do more to help smokers with mental illness quit," Frieden told reporters during a telephone briefing.

The CDC study found 36 percent of mentally ill adults smoke, compared with 21 percent of other adults. Those with mental illnesses also smoke more heavily, consuming an average of 331 cigarettes per month, compared with 310 for other smokers, the report found. Tobacco can alter some aspects of mental illness, such as anxiety. But it can also lead to a long list of other health problems

and should not be used as a form of self medication, Frieden said. "There are very good treatments and very good counseling that, unlike cigarettes, don't take 10 years off your life," he said.

Reuters



Steroid shots for tennis elbow may hurt, not help

NEW YORK, 6 Feb — Getting a cortisone injection won't cure tennis elbow any better than a drug-free saline shot, according to a new study—and it might actually slow recovery. Researchers found that a few weeks after receiving the steroid shots, people reported less pain and disability than those who'd been given placebo injections. But a year later, the same patients lagged behind the placebo group in their likelihood of complete recovery.

"This absolutely confirms that steroid injections are not a good idea," said Dr Allan Mishra, an orthopedic surgeon at Stanford University in Menlo Park, California. "This is important, because people think that it's okay to get a cortisone injection (for tennis elbow), and it's not okay.

It puts you at a disadvantage long term in terms of getting better," Mishra, who has studied tennis elbow treatment but wasn't involved in the new study, told *Reuters Health*. The condition is caused by overuse of tendons in

the elbow and typically treated with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, physical therapy and steroid shots.

Last month, a study from Denmark found neither steroid nor platelet injections improved pain and functioning among people with tennis elbow any better than saline shots, over a period of three months. Researchers at the time cautioned that the study's follow-up period was short and the results might look different at six months or a year post-injections.

By following patients longer, the new report shines a light on the possible long-term tendon

damage that can be caused by cortisone shots, Mishra said.

Bill Vicenzino from the University of Queensland in Australia and his colleagues randomly assigned 165 adults with tennis elbow to one of four treatment groups: cortisone shots with physical therapy, placebo shots with physical therapy, cortisone shots without physical therapy and placebo shots without physical therapy. After one year, there was no difference in people's improvement in pain or functioning based on whether they'd had the eight sessions of prescribed therapy.

Reuters



WORLD

Obama to pay first visit to Israel as president

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb—US President Barack Obama will pay first visit to Israel as president, announced the White House on Tuesday, stopping short of disclosing more details regarding the trip.

The White House also stressed that as a matter of fact, Obama planned to make the visit since he began his first term of presidency in January 2009.

“The start of the president’s second term and the formation of a new Israeli government offer the opportunity to reaffirm the deep and enduring bonds between the United States and Israel and to discuss the way forward on a broad range of issues of mutual concern, including Iran and Syria,” said the National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor.

He added that details of the trip, including the schedule of the travel, will be announced later. Israeli media, however, reported that the visit would start on 20 March.

White House spokes-

man Jay Carney said that Obama would also visit the West Bank and Jordan during the trip which is believed to be focused on an array of thorny regional issues, including the Iranian nuclear standoff, the ongoing crisis in Syria and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Analysts said the visit indicates that Obama intends to pay more attention to the Middle East in his second term in order to prevent turmoil in the region from spinning out of

control. The rather hawkish Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been threatening to use pre-emptive strikes to destroy Iran’s nuclear facilities.

However, Obama insists that there is still time and space for diplomacy, refusing to give a clear red line. The upcoming visit could serve as an opportunity for the two leaders to mend the notoriously frosty relations between them.

Xinhua



Photo from a Kyodo News helicopter shows Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden in Tokyo covered by snow on 6 Feb, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

French forces not to stay in Mali for long

PARIS, 6 Feb—French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Tuesday ruled out a long-term deployment of French troops in Mali following positive progress made during France’s three-week military intervention against Islamist rebels.

“I don’t think that French forces will stay for a long time in Mali. Militarily, we are making progress and it’s up to Malians to ensure the political issue,” the minister said. “As Malian and African forces will be ready to replace us, we will withdraw,” he said, adding that already 4,000 African troops had been deployed in the West African country.

During his one-day

visit to Mali last Saturday, French President Francois Hollande stressed that French soldiers would return home once the conflict-torn state has restored sovereignty and a UN-backed African military force could take over from the French soldiers.

Speaking to local news channel BFMTV, Le Drian drew a “positif stock” of French military operation after inflicting “heavy losses” on al-Qaeda-linked insurgents. “We reported one victim and three slight injuries but we have provoked many hundreds of dead (rebels) and heavy logistic and technical damage in camp trainings,” the minister said.—Xinhua



Villagers perform a folk dance to celebrate the coming Spring Festival in Haiyuan County, northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Feb. 5, 2012. The Chinese Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, falls on 10 February this year.—XINHUA



A coachman waits for tourists at the Shuangfeng Forest Farm in Mudanjiang City, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 2 Feb, 2013. The Shuangfeng Forest Farm, located in an intersection of two mountains, witnesses frequent snowfalls and is covered with snow for most of the year.—XINHUA

Sweden receives positive evaluation from IEA on energy policy

STOCKHOLM, 6 Feb—Sweden received a positive evaluation from the International Energy Agency (IEA) for its investments in renewable energy and improvement of energy efficiency in the past five years, the Swedish government said on Tuesday.

The extensive eval-

uation on Sweden’s energy policy was introduced by Maria van der Hoeven, Executive Director of the IEA, on a visit to Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm.

“It’s good that the report clearly shows that during the last five years Sweden has made several steps

forward to a more sustainable energy system,” said Anna-Karin Hatt, Swedish Minister for IT and Energy.

She added that Sweden had set a long-term and high goals for climate and energy, which the report of IEA proved to have drawn attention of the surrounding world.—Xinhua



Image provided by Mexico’s Presidency shows Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto (C Front) attending the commemoration ceremony of the 96th anniversary of the Mexican Constitution in Queretaro city, Mexico, on 5 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

UN chief “deeply disappointed” after alleged Somali rape victim, reporter receive jail sentences

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Feb—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday voiced his deep disappointment over the sentences handed down in Somalia against a woman who allegedly had been gang-raped by security forces, and a journalist who interviewed her.

“The Secretary-General urges the Government of Somalia to ensure that all allegations of sexual violence are investigated fully and perpetrators are brought to justice,” a UN spokesperson said in a statement issued here.

A court in the Somali capital on Tuesday gave respectively one year jail sentence to the woman, who claimed she had been raped in September last

year by armed men in government uniforms while living in a camp for internally displaced persons (IDP), and to the reporter who interviewed her. Last month, Somali authorities arrested the woman and the journalist, as well as the person who introduced them.

The journalist, Abdi-aziz Abdinur Ibrahim, was charged for offending the honour of a state institution and for filing a false report, while the alleged victim was charged for offending the honour of a state institution. A Somali government official said the country’s judiciary was independent and that the executive cannot interfere in the judicial process following international and local outcry of the case.

Cuba, Finland to resume bilateral cooperation

HAVANA, 6 Feb—Cuba and Finland signed an agreement here on Tuesday to resume bilateral cooperation after the two nations decided to restore relations last year.

The document was signed by Deputy Foreign Minister Rogelio Sierra Diaz and visiting Finnish Secretary of Foreign Affairs Pertti Torstila.

Helsinki and Havana established diplomatic ties on 5 April, 1929. But the bilateral relationship had been suspended for more than a decade after European Union members, including Finland, adopted a Common Position in 1996 to press Cuba for changing its political system.

Last year the two sides decided to resume ties, and head of the Cuban Institute of Cinema Art and Industry (ICAIC), Omar Gonzalez, traveled to Finland to promote new projects between the institute and Finland’s Aalto University School of Art and Design.—Xinhua

WORLD



Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, meets with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 5 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

US homeland security chief touts improved border safety

HOUSTON, 6 Feb — US Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Tuesday touted improved security along the country's border and called Republican lawmakers' insistence that the border be secured before there is immigration reform a flawed argument.

At a stop to inspect border security in El Paso, Texas, on Tuesday, Napolitano said the Republican lawmakers' argument ignored gains made in illegal immigrant captures as well as seizures of drugs, weapons and currency along the border, according to report

by newspaper *The Houston Chronicle*.

The argument's fundamental flaw is contending that border security is unrelated to interior enforcement such as verification of legal residence of job applicants, she said.

Noting that the immigration "system as a whole is badly in need of reform," Napolitano said border security is inextricably linked with interior enforcement, visa reform and the process for legal migration.

Napolitano touted the current border safety, saying that the current admin-

istration has "deployed historic levels of personnel, technology and infrastructure to help secure the Southwest border."

In last year alone, the El Paso sector saw an increase of 71 percent in seizures of currency, 39 percent more drugs interdicted and a 139 percent of illegal weapons seized, according to Napolitano.

The US Border Patrol made 356,873 arrests on the border with Mexico during the 2012 fiscal year, up 8.9 percent from the previous year.

Xinhua



Electricians install electrical equipment at Liyushan Village in a remote mountain area in Yiwu City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 4 Feb, 2013, as an effort to ensure power supply for villagers during the upcoming Spring Festival, which falls on 10 February this year. XINHUA

Potential tsunami threat issued for New Zealand after M-8.0 quake off Solomon Islands

WELLINGTON, 6 Feb—Potential tsunami threat has been issued for New Zealand on Wednesday after a magnitude 8.0 earthquake struck off the Solomon Islands.

The quake struck about 2.12 pm NZ local time on Wednesday near the Santa Cruz Islands, part of the Solomon Islands, at a depth of 33 km, the US Geological Survey said.

New Zealand's Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management has issued the potential

threat advisory for North Cape, Auckland West, East Cape, Gisborne, Auckland East, New Plymouth and Wellington.

It said the advisory will remain until it is either upgraded to a full tsunami warning or a cancellation message is issued.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii said sea level readings indicate a tsunami was generated.

"It may have been destructive along coasts near the earthquake epicentre

and could also be a threat to more distant coasts," it said. "Authorities should take appropriate action in response to this possibility."

It issued a tsunami warning for the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, New Caledonia, Kosrae, Kiribati, and Wallis and Futuna.

A tsunami watch was issued for several more distant islands, including New Zealand.

Xinhua



Performers dressed in costumes of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) act during a rehearsal of a performance presenting the ancient royal ritual to worship heaven at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, capital of China, on 5 Feb, 2013. The Temple of Heaven, used to be the imperial sacrificial altar in ancient China, will witness the heaven worship performance during the upcoming Spring Festival holiday. The Spring Festival, or the Chinese Lunar New Year, falls on 10 February this year.—XINHUA

Libya lawmaker's son, two others, kidnapped

TRIPOLI, 6 Feb —Three young people, including a lawmaker's son, were kidnapped on Tuesday evening in Zawiya city, some 45 KM west of Libya capital Tripoli, Mustafa al-Turiki, a General National Congress (GNC) member told Xinhua.

Al-Turiki said that GNC member Abdulraheem al-Kilani's son, Mohamed al-Kilani, was one of the three people due transferring two prisoners from Tripoli to Zawiya city. The incident occurred between Zawiya city and Maiya town which located between Tripoli and Zawiya, where there was a fake patrol.

The kidnappers have contacted with Mohamed al-Kilani by phone saying that they demand releasing the two prisoners who have been transferred to Zawiya prison, said al-Turiki.

Mustafa al-Turiki added that an investigation is already underway while the family of Abdulhameed is negotiating with the kidnappers.

Xinhua

UN hails new government in Central African Republic

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Feb—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday welcomed the formation of the Government of National Unity in the Central African Republic, praising the move as "an important step towards the consolidation of the peacebuilding process."

"The Secretary-General welcomes the formation of the Government of National Unity in the Central African Republic, in accordance with the agreements signed in Libreville on 11 Jan 2013," said a statement issued here by Ban's spokesman.

"This is an important step towards the consolidation of the peacebuilding process," the statement said.

In accordance with a decree released Sunday with signature by the Central African Republic's

President Francois Bozize, Michel Dotodjia Am Nondroko, the leader of the Seleka rebels, was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for national defence of the transitional government.

The transitional government, which was formed 15 days after the appointment of Nicolas Tiangaye as the prime minister, has 33 members, including a prime minister, two deputy prime ministers, 23 ministers and seven deputy ministers.

The formation of the new government came in the wake of several days of tense negotiations that followed the 11 January peace deal ending a rebel offensive starting on 10 December.

The Seleka rebels had seized about one third of the Central African Republic's territory.—Xinhua

South African authorities arrest 19 DR Congo rebel suspects

JOHANNESBURG, 6 Feb—South African authorities on Tuesday said they had arrested 19 rebel suspects from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on suspicion of taking military training. The 19 men were arrested earlier in the day in the Limpopo Province.

"The group's objective was to receive specialized military training to overthrow the current DRC government," said Makhosini Nkosi, spokesman of the

National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

He denied reports that the men were linked to the Congolese rebel group M23, which has been fighting in the eastern part of the Central African country since April 2012. The movement is now engaged in talks with the government on a solution.

No South Africans were implicated in the plot, according to Nkosi.

It remains unknown

whether any arms or documents were seized during the raid. Police Brigadier Lindela Mashigo told Xinhua that the South African Police Service's Counter Terrorism Unit was involved in an intelligence collection initiative focusing on the alleged rebel activities. The 19 suspects being charged with transgressing the Foreign Military Assistance Act will appear in court on Wednesday.—Xinhua



People watch a polar bear as they visit the newly-inaugurated Arctic Circle at the Copenhagen Zoo in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 5 Feb, 2013. XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 7 February, 2013

Vital mediators

Civil society organizations or CSOs everywhere now have greater role than ever before in multiple sectors. They in fact are specialists in economic issues and their cooperation expands from grassroots to parliaments and governments.

CSOs on their part increasingly employ extensive networks to pursue their activities and to try to assist policies on a broad range of issues. Moreover, international bodies like the IMF are now working closely with CSOs through information sharing, dialogue, and consultation at both global and national levels.

In fact the word "civil society organization" refers to the wide range of citizens' associations that exist in almost all IMF member countries, and they are providing benefits, services, or political assistance to specific groups within society. Whether national, regional, or international, the way CSOs do business has been profoundly affected by globalization. They can be business forums, faith-based associations, labor unions, local community groups, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), philanthropic foundations, think tanks, among others.

A fundamental aspect of the operation of CSOs concerns the mediating role that they play between the individual and the state. Analysts have demonstrated empirically how both states and citizens can benefit when a dense web of civil society organizations mediates the relationship between them.

The performance of government programs is improved and the impact of state policy is enhanced and made more widespread when, instead of interacting with citizens as atomized individuals, state agencies deal with relatively organized citizens' groups. Citizens are also able to derive greater benefits from government programs and from market opportunities when their individual efforts are organized and made more cohesive by CSOs.

The Myanmar government is now in the process of resurrecting the civil society organizations that played an important role in successive eras. At the same time, the onus rests on each and every citizen to strengthen these important bodies that play as mediators engaging in many public services.

MWAFF's Annual meeting (2012) concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Annual meeting (2012) of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation continued its third and final day session, at MWAFF Headquarters, here, this afternoon.

It was attended by Patrons of MWAFF, President Daw Mya Mya, the general secretary, joint general secretary and CEC members, patrons and chairpersons from Region/State MWAOs,

members and officials.

At the meeting, member of Union Election Commission Dr Daw Myint Kyi explained UEC's work process and general secretary Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun, MWAFF's future tasks.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding speech by the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President.

MNA

NATIONAL
Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends awarding of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing awarded the winning teams in the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions 2013 at Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Sports Ground, here, this afternoon.

Among the spectators were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe and wife Daw Wai Mar Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, servicemen and families of six stations in Nay Pyi Taw Command and those of Toungoo Station, totalling over 20000.

In the final match of the football event, Southern Command routed Central Command 4-0.

Chairman of Tatmadaw Sports and Physical Education Management Committee Adjutant-



Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents championship shield to Yangon Command team.—MNA

General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief

(Army) General Soe Win presented prizes to winning teams in the sports events.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing awarded championship shield to Yangon Command team that secured 73 gold, 46 silver and 62 bronze medals in the sports competitions.

After that, Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and spectators waved to the sports teams and the band that left the sports ground.

Later, the closing of the sports competitions and prize presentation ceremony successfully ended with fire works.—MNA

Union Minister calls for adoption of land utilization policies

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Chairman of Land Allocation and Utilization Scrutiny Committee Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and forestry U Win Tun called for striking a balance between

environmental conservation and sustainable development in utilizing land at the committee's third meeting here this morning.

The Union minister called for adoption and

promulgation of land utilization policies and laws. He added that the ministry will allow establishment of community forest and ensure those who actually are engaged in farming the own farm legally.

The meeting will focus on formation of new villages for illegal immigrants who have been residing in forest reserves and protected public forests for ages.

MNA

Tour Graduates fired up for Zaygabar Myanmar Open presented

YANGON, 6 Feb—Asian Tour Qualifying School winner Chan Kim of the United States will lead an upbeat group of tour graduates in the season-opening Zaygabar Myanmar Open this month.

Chan led a total of 41 players to earn playing rights for the 2013 Asian Tour season from Qualifying School last week and he hopes to carry

his momentum into the US\$ 300,000 event at the Royal Mingaladon Golf and Country Club from 21 to 24 February.

Among other graduates who are expected to challenge for honours at the Zaygabar Myanmar Open include Rahil Gangjee of India, Rattanon Wannasrichan of Thailand, Adam Groom of Australia, Yoshinobu Tsukada of

Japan and Nicholas Fung of Malaysia.

Tongsi Concrete Bridge construction completed

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—The Ministry of Construction built 250 feet long Tongsi concrete bridge that can withstand 60-ton loads in the place of an old wooden bridge.

Construction of new

bridge started on 2 February 2012 and completed on 19 January 2013.

All vehicles are allowed to pass the bridge that lies on Katha-Indaw-Mansi Road in Indaw Township as of 20 February.—MNA

NLM

ARTICLE

Readiness for the Reality of the World

Tekathou Maung Myo Min

There can be no argumentative issue that the state of having been made ready or prepared for use or actions in any situation, is the key to success; and also an action that is well prepared will climb the ladder of success, can be said; in that case ignorance of a little something that will head towards the road to failure should be seen in the history of human kind which can be proved- so, be in readiness for favourable winds or opportunities can be noted.

Regarding the importance of readiness for our golden land, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which will be certificated on 30 December 2015, should be considered as a matter of fact in the competitive field of international trade for our national interest. In line with Bangkok Declaration (8 August, 1967), ASEAN – the Association of South East Asian Nations, a geopolitical and economic organization, was established to accelerate economic growth, social progress, and cultural development and to promote peace and security in Southeast Asia; and also Myanmar became the eighth member on 23 July 1997, together with Lao PDR (the ninth member). The members of ASEAN, in addition, are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam at the present time.

Concerning the regional cooperation amongst the members, on the three pillars: political-security, economic, and socio-cultural integration, the ASEAN has focused, can be seen. Among them, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) shall be

the goal of regional economic integration in accordance with Bali Declaration (2003). Afterwards, in order to accelerate the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint has been signed in 2007; of which the main objective is to transform ASEAN into a single market and production base, a highly competitive economic region, a region of equitable economic development, and a region fully integrated into the global economy.

Referring to the AEC Blueprint, the single market and production base shall consist of five core elements: free flow of Goods; free flow of services; free flow of investment; free flow of capital; and free flow of skilled labour, and it also includes two important components: the priority integration sectors, and food, agriculture and forestry.

To achieve and to help bring the cause of single market and production base, free flow of Goods is one of the most important factors principally. But, free flow of Goods will require zero tariffs, the removal of non-tariff barriers, Rules of Origin, Trade facilitation, Customs Integration, ASEAN Single Window, and Standards and Technical Regulations to trade.

Achieving the single market and production base, in other words, depends on trade liberalization. Trade liberalization also began with tariff liberalization under the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), signed in 1992, which implemented a comprehensive program of tariff reduction in accord with the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT). According to the AFTA,

since 2003 the ASEAN members gradually lower their import duties amongst them and targeted will be zero for most of the import duties at 2015. ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) which signed in 2009, moreover, is also the important agreement for tariff liberalization and free flow of Goods.

ASEAN-6 (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), as above mentioned, has practiced for the AFTA, by 2003 60% of inclusion list of Goods was zero, by 2007 80% of inclusion list of Goods was zero, and by 2010 100% of inclusion list of Goods was zero. ASEAN-4 (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam), in addition, has practiced for the AFTA, by 2008 60% of inclusion list of Goods was zero, by 2012 80% of inclusion list of Goods will be zero, by 2015 93% of inclusion list of Goods will be zero, and by 2018 100% of inclusion list of Goods will be zero except Sensitive List (SL), Highly Sensitive List (HSL) and General Exemption List (GEL) of Goods. The AEC tasks, this being so, this progress more and provides that not only non-tariff barriers will be eliminated but all tariffs will also fall to zero-duty.

It can be discussed that reducing import duties mean to gain greater market access into trading partners and to attract foreign direct investments to ASEAN and simplified and standardized trade and customs procedures can reduce the transaction of the costs, and enhance competitiveness for Stakeholders. Addition to that, most of the percentage of the collection of the Import Duty for Customs Department of Myanmar

No.	Fiscal year	Budget Estimate	Import Duty (Actual Receipt)	Percentage%
1	2002/2003	800.00	1679.46	209.93
2	2003/2004	1705.00	3281.23	192.45
3	2004/2005	1700.00	15200.16	894.13
4	2005/2006	4400.00	6954.79	158.06
5	2006/2007	3000.00	13641.76	454.73
6	2007/2008	7000.00	11514.51	164.49
7	2008/2009	65000.00	69042.38	106.22
8	2009/2010	25000.00	20543.16	82.17
9	2010/2011	228000.00	223427.78	97.99

A Figure of Collection of Other Receipts for the Customs Department (Kyats in million)
(Sources: Customs Department)

can be found as a fair result consecutively in the fiscal years (2001-2011) as follows:

It can be argued that, the AEC may be Whether Opportunity or Threat, and what we can realistically expect from it, and also in good faith it has no grounds for transforming ASEAN into a European style union, but it aims to transform ASEAN into a single market and production base. However, such a single market and into production base would whether help maximize trade gains and minimize the transaction of the costs, and keep a balance of trade or not amongst members. On the one hand, the AEC will increase regional economic prosperity and stability, reduced the development gaps amongst members, and provide for the elimination

of tariff, free professional movement, capital transfer and a faster customs clearance procedure, can be assumed. This is why, many different answers such as arguments, assumptions, beliefs, complaints, opinions and so on, can be got if we ask anybody of the ASEAN citizens what he thinks ASEAN will become in 2015, some scholars believe.

However, in a nutshell, the year of 2015 is approaching and Myanmar is now at a junction of realizing the AEC. Moreover, our collection of customs duty and the other important things such as not only banking system, insurance, capital market, taxation, the basic infrastructures: electricity, transportation and communication system, but also the income of the natural resources- gas, teak, jewels, etc., and

the condition of export production, can be very challenged and questioned in the field of ASEAN free trade area and the reality of the production world; and also it can provide greater competition for local professionals due to the introduction of international standards and practices. Nevertheless, it is a point that rules of the game and playground has emerged, and the eyeglasses itself which we (the players) use to see the world can shape how we interpret the world, should not be forgotten- so much so that in all senses of the world where we stand depends on where we sit and whatever is coming we will hope for the best and prepare for the AEC, in the name of our national interest and of next generation. Be in readiness for favourable winds or reality of the world!

Thaukyekhet Hydropower Project starts power generation

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Thaukyekhet No. 2 Hydropower Project is one of the power generation projects being implemented by the Ministry of Electric Power at Thaukyekhet Creek, 14 miles to the east of Toungoo in Bago Region under BOT system with a

national company, Golden Energy Co Ltd.

Two out of three generators of the project with total installed capacity of 120 megawatts were reported to have started test-run and the commercial power generation from the first generator will begin

tomorrow morning to generate 40 megawatts of electricity which will be distributed to the national grid through Toungoo sub power station.

The project is reported to be able to generate 604 million KWH on average annually.—MNA

Educative talks on narcotic drugs and side effects given

YANGON, 6 Feb—Educative talks on narcotic drugs and its side ef-

fects jointly conducted by Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA)



and National Management Collage of Higher Education Department under the Ministry of Education, took place at National Management Collage in Botahtaung Township, here, today.

After the talks, Principal of National Management Collage Dr Than Win spoke words of thanks.

The entertainment programme followed.

Thant Zin Win

No.	Fiscal year	Budget Estimate	Import Duty (Actual Receipt)	Percentage%
1	2001/2002	4822.00	5856.91	121.46
2	2002/2003	4500.00	4691.16	104.25
3	2003/2004	4500.00	4031.30	89.58
4	2004/2005	5500.00	21130.68	384.19
5	2005/2006	13000.00	17894.03	137.65
6	2006/2007	13000.00	29467.91	226.68
7	2007/2008	22000.00	35567.97	161.67
8	2008/2009	75000.00	82434.00	109.91
9	2009/2010	40000.00	45765.41	114.41
10	2010/2011	35000.00	59635.76	170.39
11	2011/2012	57000.00	135620.52	237.93

A Figure of Collection of Customs Duty for the Customs Development (Kyats in million)
(Sources: Customs Department)

WORLD



Visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (L) and his Hungarian counterpart Viktor Orban (R) inspect the guard of honor in Budapest, Hungary on 5 Feb, 2013. Erdogan is on a one-day of official visit to Hungary.

XINHUA

Normal relations would benefit both Georgia and Russia

TBILISI, 6 Feb—Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili said Tuesday that the South Caucasus country seeks to improve its relations with Russia and that normal relations would benefit both countries.

"We are committed to the foreign policy of European Union and NATO integration," said Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili. "But we have started in parallel efforts to improve relations with Russia.

And our goal is the normalization of relations with

our big neighbour Russia." "Negotiations have shown that mutual desires can always find a way and we can carry on with normal economic relations which will benefit both sides," said the prime minister while answering questions at a special press briefing.

Georgia's special envoy on Russian issues met Russia's first Deputy Foreign Minister in mid-December last year and the two are expected to meet again this month. The Georgian Prime Minister

and his Russian counterpart had a greeting session at the Davos World Economic Forum. A Georgian delegation is now in Moscow discussing the prospect of a return of Georgian wines and mineral waters to the Russian market. The prime minister described the Moscow trip by seven Georgian delegates, some government officials, as a breakthrough and their talks in Moscow as good ones for the return of Georgian agricultural products to Russia.

Xinhua

Seven killed in avalanche in northern India

NEW DELHI, 6 Feb—At least seven people have been killed in an avalanche in Himachal Pradesh as heavy snowfall brought life to a standstill in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, a senior police official said on Wednesday.

"The victims were killed when the avalanche hit Kafnu village in the state's remote Kinnaur district on late Tuesday night. More people are feared to be trapped in the avalanche as efforts are going on to search for any more survivors," he said, on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, heavy snowfall has brought life to a standstill in the entire district.

"The entire Kinnaur district is experiencing continuous heavy snowfall. While four feet snow was recorded till Tuesday, another one-and-half feet was recorded this morning. Already a high alert has been sounded in the district," Kalpa Prashant Deshta, a local government official told the media.—Xinhua



Visitors view festive lanterns during a lantern show in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, on 5 Feb, 2013. The lantern show was held to greet the upcoming Spring Festival, or the Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on 10 February this year.—XINHUA

Death toll of Brazil's nightclub fire rises to 238

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Feb—The death toll in Brazil's recent nightclub fire rose to 238 on Tuesday after a 20-year-old victim passed away in hospital, local authorities said.

The health secretary of the Rio Grande do Sul state said the youngster, identified as "PA," died on Tuesday at a hospital in Porto Alegre, the regional capital city.

According to the secretary, 81 injured people were still hospitalized, among whom 23 remained in serious conditions, while 11 people have been discharged in the last 24 hours.

On the night of 27 January, a nightclub in Santa Maria named "Kiss" burst into flames during a university party, after the sparks from a flare used by

briefing held here.

"Access to areas is constantly changing from week to week," he said. "Overall, 55 percent of the public hospitals have been damaged and more than one-third of all hospitals are out of service."

Also on Tuesday, the WHO announced that the National Hospital had been destroyed in the last few days.

Elizabeth Hoff, the WHO representative in Syria, told reporters by telephone from Damascus that heavy fighting is under way

in the rural area around Damascus, the national capital of Syria.

More than two thirds of the ambulances in the country have been damaged and new ones are being used for military purposes, she said.

In addition to urgently-needed supplies and medications, Hoff said doctors and health personnel are not able to get into Damascus to use them, coupled with a lack of fuel and power cuts which are further hampering medical treatments.

Hoff added that lack of clean water and sanitation

has been linked to increased reports of diarrhoea and hepatitis A, for which internally displaced persons are being vaccinated with available supplies.

Confirmed cases of leishmaniasis, a disease caused by a type of sand fly, are also on the rise.

"The World Health Organization's early warning system is functioning and it reports an increase in Hepatitis A cases, a disease linked to failures in water and sanitation," Nesirky said.

Xinhua

6.2-magnitude quake hits Santa Cruz Islands

BEIJING, 6 Feb—An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale jolted waters near the Santa Cruz Islands at 8:07 am Beijing Time Wednesday, according to the China Earthquake Networks Center.

The epicentre, with a depth of 10 km, was initially determined to be at 10.9 degrees south latitude and 165.2 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 5 Feb, 2013 shows the general view of the place where six Spanish woman tourists were raped by masked gunmen early Monday, in Barra Vieja, a resort in Acapulco, Guerrero state, south Mexico.—XINHUA

Norway, Afghanistan sign partnership agreement

OSLO, 6 Feb—Norway and Afghanistan signed a long-term partnership agreement on Tuesday on further cooperation after the Norwegian troops pull out from the war-torn country completely in 2014.

Norway pledged to give Afghanistan continuous assistance under the agreement, which was inked after Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg and visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai met in Oslo on Tuesday afternoon.

Karzai, who arrived

in Oslo on Monday from London for a two-day visit, praised Norway for its support since 2002, the last time he visited the rich Nordic country.

Karzai also held discussions with Norwegian Parliament Speaker Dag Terje Andersen and the chief of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Ine Marie Eriksen, who brought up the issue of corruption.

Norway has already reduced its military presence in Afghanistan to a few

hundred soldiers and officers for training local security personnel.

About 100 Afghans, including 44 English interpreters, who had worked for Norwegian troops in Afghanistan, have applied for asylum in Norway in fear of a threat to their life after Western troops leave the country next year.

Karzai was criticized by one of the interpreters for saying that they could continue to live and work in Afghanistan after 2014.

Xinhua



A man cleans snow from the roof of his house in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 5 Feb, 2013. A heavy snowfall hit Moscow on Sunday.

XINHUA

REGIONAL



Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (L, front) and French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault (R, front) review the guard of honour during a welcoming ceremony at the Government House in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 5 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA

Indonesia to put 1.6 bln USD to reduce impact of tsunamis

JAKARTA, 6 Feb—Indonesia has allocated 16 trillion rupiah (about 1.6 billion US dollars) to build shelters and supporting necessities in areas that are early affected by tsunami-related disasters until 2017, Chairman of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) Syamsul Maarif said here on Tuesday. “The construction of shelters and the supporting necessities to anticipate possible tsunami has commenced this year with 1 trillion rupiah already allocated to finance the projects,” Syamsul told a Press conference at the end of a BNPB national disaster mitigation coordination meeting.

Syamsul said that the private sector is highly en-

couraged to take part in the projects aimed at saving people from possible tsunamis. “We have to build those shelters as the existing technology cannot predict the occurrence of earthquake. The shelters would be built in a radius of 500 meters so as to facilitate people to get there within 30 minutes,” the BNPB chief said, adding that the shelters would be equipped with sanitation utensils and first aid medical assistance to provide necessities for people affected by tsunami.

He said that construction of the shelters was approved by the president as part of the order to develop tsunami early warning system in areas

prone to the disaster. As an emergency measure before the completion of the shelter projects, the Indonesian president has endorsed a regulation that obliges the owners of multi-storey buildings in tsunami-affected areas to allow people to stay in their properties as shelters until high water from tsunami recedes. Indonesia saw a deadly tsunami originated from a 9.3-magnitude earthquake on 26 Dec, 2004, the third largest one recorded in the world history, which also affected India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Maldives, claiming the lives of more than 230,000 people, including more than 175,000 in Indonesia.

Xinhua

Heavy rains bring Indian capital to standstill

NEW DELHI, 6 Feb—The Indian capital came to a standstill on Tuesday following heavy rains since late Monday night, which caused long spells of power failure and massive traffic jams triggered by water-logging across the city.

A senior Indian Meteorological Department official said that more rains and thunderstorms were likely to hit the national capital throughout the day and the minimum temperature would also go down in the evening. “This type of weather is likely to continue for the next couple of days,” he said.

Meanwhile, traffic was thrown out of gear in different parts of the Indian capital because of rampant water-logging. “We have deployed some additional traffic policemen to mend the roads,” a senior police official said, on condition of anonymity.

The residents of the Indian capital also complained of massive power blackout in various places since early morning. “Power failure in the national capital is a matter of shame. How much can we depend on the power back-ups. The government never properly addresses the shortage of power,” an angry resident said.—Xinhua

Two fishermen missing in C Philippines

MANILA, 6 Feb—Two fishermen were reported missing in central Philippine Province of Negros Oriental after they failed to return from a fishing venture, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Tuesday. The two fishermen were identified as Wilven Moises 16, and Carmelo Sambroso, 20, both residents of Giligaon village in Siaton town.

They reportedly went on a fishing venture last Sunday on board an undocumented motor boat, but since then they never returned, the PCG said, quoting a report from the local residents in Giligaon.

“The missing fishermen are yet to be found,” the PCG said, adding that search and rescue operation has been ongoing.—Xinhua

One soldier wounded in clash with leftist rebels in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, 6 Feb—About a hundred leftist rebels attacked an isolated army outpost in southern Philippines on Tuesday, triggering a fierce clash that left one soldier wounded, officials said.

The fighting in Maco town, Compostela Valley province between soldiers and New People’s Army rebels came almost a week af-

ter a spate of attacks by the insurgents in several army posts that resulted in the death of a soldier, according to Lieutenant Colonel Lyndon Paniza, spokesman for the 10th Infantry Division.

Paniza said at least 100 NPA guerrillas assaulted the army detachment in Tagbaros village around 6 am local time but they were

repulsed by militiamen and soldiers defending the camp.

Corporal Wahad Sahadjan, the camp commander, was slightly wounded in the shoulder, and authorities believed the attackers also suffered casualties due to blood traces in their route of withdrawal, Paniza said.

Tuesday’s clash happened a day after soldiers

killed a rebel in a brief fire fight in San Fernando town, in Bukidnon province, according to Lieutenant Colonel Eugenio Julio Osias IV, regional army spokesperson. The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces since 1969.—Xinhua

Australian tourism continues to grow strongly in 2012

CANBERRA, 6 Feb—Australia’s overseas arrivals have continued to grow strongly through the end of the year, recording seven percent growth in December 2012 to reach 6.1 million visitors in 2012, the latest data released on Wednesday showed.

The latest Overseas Arrivals and Departures figures, released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), showed significant growth of inbound arrivals from almost all the major source markets with many Asian markets leading the

way. According to the figures, in 2012, the number of international visitor increased by 270,500—an increase of almost five per cent on 2011 arrivals.

In 2012, the number of Chinese visitors increased almost 16 per cent, 9 per cent from Malaysia, 8 per cent from Singapore and over 7 per cent from India and compared to 2011. Visitors from China and Japan grew by 13 per cent and seven per cent respectively in December 2012.

Minister for Tourism Martin Ferguson said

the figures highlighted the importance of the government’s allocation of 48.5 million (almost 50.5 million USD) to the Asia Marketing Fund and showed the fruits of Tourism Australia’s long term marketing campaign, There’s Nothing Like Australia.

“The significant growth of overseas visitor arrivals in December gives the Australian tourism industry cause for optimism with strong growth continuing from Asian markets,” Ferguson said in a statement.—Xinhua



Residents from Shuangmidi Village cross the Nujiang River via a zip-line in Liuku County of Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 2 Feb, 2013. More than 98 percent of Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture is occupied by mountains and valleys. The zip-lines have been quite popular transportation method along the Nujiang River since the ancient time. However, as transport conditions improve in recent years, a growing number of traditional zip-lines along the Nujiang River Valley have been dismantled or replaced by bridges.

XINHUA

Moderate quake strikes off Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Feb — An earthquake measuring 5.1 Richter scale jolted Papua in easternmost of Indonesia on Wednesday, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency reported here.

The quake struck at 08:20 am Jakarta time (0120 GMT) with epicentre at 135 km southwest Nabire of Papua and with the depth at 31 km under sea bed, an official of the agency told Xinhua over phone.

Indonesia sits on a vulnerable quake hit zone so called “the Pacific Ring of Fire.”

Xinhua



Foreign tourists pose for photo in front of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests in the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, capital of China, on 5 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA



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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION

Announcement of Prequalified Firms for
Yangon International Airport Project



1. The Prequalification Evaluation Committee formed by the Ministry of Transport has evaluated the prequalification documents submitted by nineteen applicants for the Yangon International Airport Project and has selected the best qualified eleven firms based on (a) financial strength (b) experience record (c) qualified personnel and (d) equipment resources.
2. Accordingly, the Department of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Transport hereby announce the following list of firms which are prequalified to submit tenders for the Yangon International Airport Project.

No	Reg. No.	Leading Firm	Consortium	Country
1	003	Invest Import AD	Invested Import	Serbia
			Airport Nikola Tesla Belgrade JSC	Serbia
			Ooo Pi	Russia
			Planum Limited	Cyprus
			Ener goprojekt – Industrija AD	Serbia
			Deneza M Engineering Ltd.	Serbia
			Shwe Taung Development	Myanmar
2	005	Toyota Tsusho Corporation	Toyota Tsusho Corporation	Japan
			Central Japan International Airport Co., Ltd.	Japan
			Aung Thaung Co., Ltd.	Myanmar
3	008	Vinci Airport	Vinci	France
			Muhibbah	Malaysia
			Shwe Taung Development	Myanmar
4	010	ITNL International Pte.,Ltd	ITNL International Pte Limited.	Singapore
			IL&FS Transportation Networks Limited	India
			Dublin Airport Authority	Ireland
			Htoo Construction Development Group Co.,Ltd	Myanmar
			Larsen & Toubro Limited	India
5	011	ACO Investment Group Co.,Ltd.	ACO Investment Group LLC	USA
			Myint Mo Oo General Services Co., Ltd.	Myanmar
			Mckinsey & Company, Inc	Hong Kong
			The MITRE Corporation	USA
			Unison Consulting, Inc	USA
			Fentress Architects	USA
			Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., Ltd.	USA
6	012	Incheon Airport Consortium	Incheon International Airport Corporation	Korea
			Kumho Industrial Co, Ltd	Korea
			Halla Engineering and Construction Corporation	Korea
			AI Construction Co.,Ltd.	Myanmar
7	013	Okkar Thiri	Okkar Thiri Co.,Ltd.	Myanmar
			Flughafen Munchen GmbH (Munich Airport) & MUC	Germany
			Essar Projects (India) Ltd.	India
			Shihlin Electric & Engineering Corporation	Taiwan
8	014	Pioneer Aerodrome Services	Pioneer Aerodrome Services Co., Ltd.	Myanmar
			China Harbour Engineering Co., Ltd.	China
			CPG Consultant Pte Ltd.	Singapore
			Malaysia Airport consultancy Services Sdn. Bhd	Malaysia
9	017	Sojitz Corporation	Sojitz Corporation	Japan
			Maeda Corporation	Japan
			Japan Airport Terminal Co., Ltd.	Japan
			New Kansai International Airport Co., Ltd.	Japan
			Five Oceans Company Ltd.	Myanmar
10	020	Bouygues Batiment-First Pacific-Yoma-FMI	Bouygues Batiment	France
			First Pacific	Hong Kong
			First Myanmar Investment	Myanmar
			Yoma Strategic Holdings	Singapore
11	025	Yongnam-CAPE-JGC Consortium	Yongnam Holdings Limited	Singapore
			JGC Corporation	Japan
			Changi Airport Planners and Engineers Pte.Ltd.	Singapore
			Pac Link Trading Ltd	Myanmar

Note: **The list is in order of the registration number of the firms at the time of purchase of prequalification documents from the Department of Civil Aviation.**

3. The Department of Civil Aviation will inform in writing to each of the firms in the above list the date and terms and conditions for purchase of the tender documents.

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Dated 07 February, 2013.

Charlie Sheen won't marry again

LONDON, 6 Feb—Actor Charlie Sheen says he won't be walking down the aisle again because he does not want to have four failed marriages.

The former "Two and A Half Men" actor said he has learnt his lesson after three failed marriages—to Donna Peele, actress Denise Richards and socialite

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Dated 7 February 2013

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U Than Maung, Advocate
For Shakey's International Limited,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
Room 1508-1509, 15th Floor,
Sakura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 7 February 2013



Charlie Sheen

Brooke Mueller, reported *Daily Express*. "In baseball when you strike out three times... It's a golden sombrero. Four times is a platinum sombrero.—PTI

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SANG THAI EAGLE NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANG THAI EAGLE VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SANG THAI SHIPPING PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RATNA NO (875)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (875) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
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FIFA rejects appeal of spectator ban on Hungary's next World Cup meet



BUDAPEST, 6 Feb—World soccer governing body FIFA on Tuesday rejected an appeal by Hungary's football federation (MLSZ) against a ruling requiring Hungary to play its next World Cup qualifier meet behind closed doors.

MLSZ said that Hungary will appeal for redress to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS). MLSZ must do it within 21 days. If it fails to make its case before CAS, the 22 March meet between Hungary and Romania will have to be played in an empty stadium.

FIFA took the disci-

plinary action following a friendly game between Hungary and Israel last August that was marred by anti-Semitic slurs shouted out and racist posters displayed by fans. Hungary was also fined 40,000 Swiss francs.

While Hungary acknowledged the incident and agreed with FIFA's goals, it felt that the sanctions were disproportionately high.

On its part, the members of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee were unanimous "in condemning an abhorrent episode of racism, anti-Semitism, and of political provocative and aggressive nature perpetrated by supporters of the Hungarian national team," according to an official FIFA statement. It also warned of harsher sanctions should there be any further racist incidents.

Xinhua

Singapore joins probe into match-fixing scam

LONDON, 6 Feb—Singapore, which European investigators say is the source for hundreds of soccer matches being fixed in a global betting scam, promised on Tuesday to aid the probe but some in the game said many of the revelations were nothing new. About 680 suspicious matches including qualifying games for the World Cup and European Championships, and the Champions League for top European club sides, have been identified in an inquiry by European police forces, the European anti-crime agency Europol and national prosecutors.

"The authorities in Singapore are assisting the European authorities in their investigations into an international match-fixing syndicate that purportedly involves Singaporeans," the Southeast Asian city-state's police said in a statement. "Singapore takes a strong

stance against match-fixing and is committed to working with international enforcement agencies to bring down transnational criminal syndicates, including those that involve the acts of Singaporeans overseas, and protect the integrity of the sport." Investigators said about 380 of the suspicious matches were played in Europe, and a

further 300 were identified in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The fixing could also include top-flight national league matches in several European countries, as well as two Champions League matches, including one played in Britain. Danish newspaper Ekstra Bladet said that match was Hungarian side Debrecen's 2009 Champions League

group match against Liverpool. The report caused barely a ripple at Debrecen who said on Tuesday that it was merely raking over old ground.

Ekstra Bladet said match fixers intended to rig the betting market for total goals in the European club clash, which Liverpool won 1-0, and targeted Debrecen's Montenegrin goalkeeper Vukasin Poleksic. Debrecen, however, said these allegations have already been dealt with by European soccer's governing body UEFA and Poleksic was given a two-year ban in 2010 for failing to report approaches from alleged fixers ahead of matches against Liverpool and Serie A side Fiorentina in Hungary. The scourge of match fixing, according to one coach who was banned for helping to throw matches, will not go away quickly.—Reuters



The trophy for the UEFA Champions League is seen on the pitch prior to the Champions League quarter-final second leg soccer match between Bayern Munich and Olympique Marseille in Munich, on 3 April, 2012.

REUTERS

Senna quits Formula 1

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Feb—Brazilian driver Bruno Senna has quit Formula 1 to race for Aston Martin in this year's World Endurance Championship. The 29-year-old was dropped by Williams last year after finishing 16th in the

F1 drivers' standings with 31 points. "I want to move forward and get back to winning races," Senna told Autosport.

The former Williams, Renault and HRT driver had been linked with a move to Force India before

Tuesday's announcement. Senna, the nephew of the late three-time F1 world champion Ayrton Senna, will make his WEC debut at next month's 12 Hours of Sebring event in Florida, the United States.

Xinhua



Brazilian driver Bruno Senna

Vonn out for season with serious injury

VIENNA, 6 Feb—A heavy crash put an end of American Lindsay Vonn's season as the skiing star seriously injured her right knee at the World Ski Championships in Schladming, Austria, on Tuesday.

The incident happened at the opening super-G race when Vonn flipped

and crashed into a safety gate as she landed on the side of her ski. She was



American Lindsay Vonn

wheeled down the slope. Immediate exam showed that Vonn suffered a torn anterior and medial cruciate ligament in her right knee and a lateral tibial plateau fracture, which forced the two-time World Cup overall winner out.

The race was pushed back 13 times to 1330 GMT

because of bad weather. Just 36 of the 59 runners finished the race when the International Ski Federation (FIS) called an end and handed the gold to Slovenia's Tina Maze. Switzerland's Lara Gut took silver and Vonn's teammate Julia Mancuso bronze, but two favorites who raced immediately after Vonn both failed to finish in the tough conditions.—Xinhua



Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso (L) of Spain and Felipe Massa of Brasil pose near the new Ferrari F138 Formula One car is seen in this official undated handout image distributed by the Ferrari Press Office on 1 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Opening ceremony of Mingaung Library held in Sagaing

SAGAING, 6 Feb—The opening ceremony of Mingaung Library was held in Sayae village of Sagaing Region on 28 January. Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Sein Khe, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Win and townselder U Win Aung formally opened the library.

Writers Soe Bar Dine, Ko Nay Mam and Nyo



Tun Lu talked about literary affairs. Myanmar Libraries

1million to the library with the contribution of Zeya Shwe Myay fans.—Kyemon

Ravens' Lewis delights fans with dance at Super Bowl parade

BALTIMORE, 6 Feb—Thousands of fans attending a parade honoring the Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens were treated to one last dance by future Hall of Famer Ray Lewis. For 17 National Football League (NFL) seasons Lewis's

of turf, kissed it, and delivered his dance. The capacity crowd, most of them dressed in Ravens' purple and black, roared. "There is no place on this earth that's better than Baltimore," Lewis said. "This city, we believed

things that you ever did for me, and all the support you ever gave to me, is bring back the Lombardi trophy to Baltimore one more time." The players traveled in military-style Humvees, football-themed floats, and flat-bed trucks for the parade, which began at War Memorial Plaza outside City Hall and ended at M&T Bank Stadium.

Thousands lined the route despite the chilly temperatures, and as the procession neared the stadium, the people sidestepped the barriers and walked alongside the vehicles in the street.

Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Joe Flacco, who has been on the talk-show circuit and at Disney World in Florida since the game, told the stadium crowd, "Baltimore, we did it!" "Super Bowl champs, baby," he said.—Reuters



Baltimore Ravens retiring linebacker Ray Lewis waves to fans on the team's parade route in Baltimore, Maryland on 5 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

pre-game dance got Ravens fans fired up and it was no different on Tuesday when he delighted them with his signature moves at M&T Bank Stadium. Lewis, who retired after Sunday's 34-31 Super Bowl victory over the San Francisco 49ers, emerged from the players' tunnel dressed in jeans and a dark blue overcoat.

The 13-time Pro Bowl linebacker grabbed a piece

in each other from day one. From 1996 until now, we believed in each other, Baltimore." This was my last ride. And every moment, every time I've ever stepped in this stadium, what I received is pure love ... This team was destined to go on and win the Super Bowl.

"The only way on my last ride to repay Baltimore to give back for all the

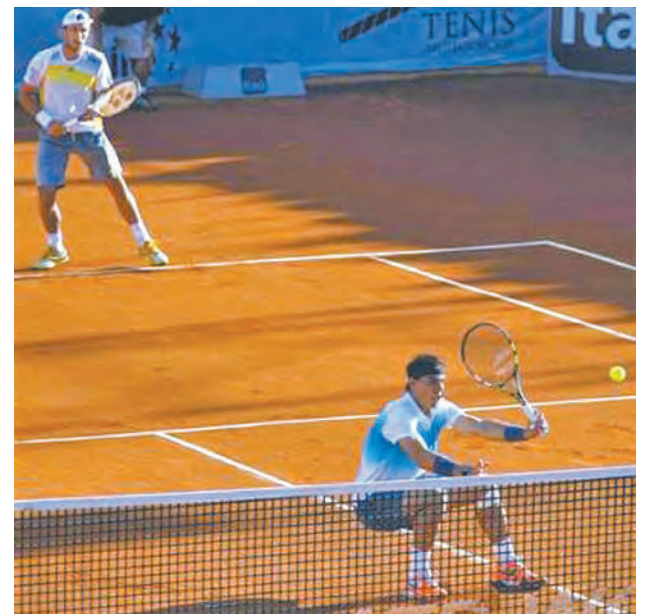


A man walks on a flooded street in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar on 6 Feb, 2013. At least 17 people were killed, 31 injured and many others displaced after moderate to heavy rainfall lashed several areas of Pakistan over the last 72 hours, local TV Dunya reported on Tuesday.—XINHUA

Nadal wins doubles match on Chilean comeback

VINA DEL MAR, (Chile), 6 Feb—Rafa Nadal made a successful comeback after a seven-month injury absence with victory in the first round of the Chilean Open doubles on Tuesday. The former world number one and Argentine partner Juan Monaco overpowered second-seeded Czechs Frantisek Cermak and Lukas Dlouhy 6-3, 6-2 in 65 minutes at the Pacific coastal city of Vina del Mar. Nadal had been out with a knee problem since losing to Czech Lukas Rosol in the second round at Wimbledon in June. "It's a good feeling to be back. We'll see how the knee reacts," Nadal told a news conference. "The moment and the surfaces were the right ones and playing for the first time in this country was a great opportunity."

"Playing doubles is less aggressive, so we'll see how things go tomorrow in singles," he added after he and Monaco had taken advantage of four of their seven chances to break the Czechs' service.



Rafael Nadal of Spain (front) returns a shot as his teammate, Argentina's Juan Monaco, watches during their men's doubles tennis match against Frantisek Cermak and Lukas Dlouhy of Czech Republic at the Chilean Open tennis tournament in Vina del Mar city, about 121 km (75 miles) northwest of Santiago, on 5 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

The 26-year-old's planned return at the end of last year was delayed due to illness but he will compete on his favorite clay surface at three Latin American events this month.

On Wednesday, Nadal plays a second-round

singles match against Argentine qualifier Federico Delbonis. After the Chile tournament he will compete at the Brazil Open in Sao Paulo next week and the Mexico Open in Acapulco from 25 February.

Reuters



Peter Schmeichel (L), former goalkeeper and ambassador for Manchester United, and Akira Kaetsu, president of Yokohama Marinos Ltd., are pictured at a Press conference at Nissan Stadium in Yokohama on 5 Feb, 2013. Manchester United announced the club will play a friendly against J-League side Yokohama F Marinos on 23 July at the stadium, on its first tour through Japan in six years.—KYODO NEWS

Moore-led Shanxi makes WCBA history

HANGZHOU, 6 Feb—Maya Moore's arrival in China witnessed a perfect ending as Shanxi became the first promoted team in WCBA history to win the title here on Tuesday. Holding off Zhejiang 97-87, Moore collected 36 points, 16 rebounds and seven steals. Zheng Xianmin and Zhang Wei added 19 points and 17 points respectively. "It's really a blessing to be able to win championship in the other side of the world (to me)."

Everybody wants to win, so to see the smile on everybody's face, all the hard work put into the whole season is paid off and I'm excited to be a part of it," said Moore.

Zhejiang hosted

Shanxi in their new home Huanglong Sports Centre here due to a one-year suspension from the Chinese basketball governing body following their fans' misconduct in Game 1. About 1,000 fans from around Zhejiang came here to support their girls. Zhejiang's Shen Binbin opened the game with a 3-pointer and the hosts finished several fast breaks to build a 9-4 lead, forcing the opponents into a timeout.

However, Zhejiang's powerful center Elizabeth Cambage didn't receive much limelight in this quarter due to her reported injury before the game by only scoring four points. Moore had eight points in this quartet to help Shanxi

for a 29-23 lead.

Zhejiang cut the deficit down at the start of the second quarter. Cambage got a fragrant foul later, and after that Shanxi built a double-figure lead for the first time by 38-28. The Australian center also drew a fragrant from the opponent Ma Liang in going for rebounds, before which she began to bounce back with finishing several consecutive layups in the paint field.

Moore continued her momentum by blocking shots in defense and hit a 3 in offense. Shanxi had 53-45 lead into halftime. Shanxi remained the margin over five points in the third quarter, while their Korean player Jung Sunmin was off the court

after contacting with Cambage.

Jung returned to the lock room for medical check, while came back several minutes later.

Zhejiang still had the opportunity to come back into game after they only trailed by three points. However, Shanxi's Zhang Wei made a critical 3-pointer to pull away the game.

With tough defense and free throws, Shanxi finally secured the victory and took the title away. Zhejiang finished runner-up for the second straight year after losing to Beijing in last season's finals. Cambage contributed 29 points and 11 rebounds. Ji Xiao added 16 points.

Xinhua

Religious Affairs Ministry ensuring equality of different religions: Dy Religious Affairs Minister



Amyotha Hluttaw representatives attending 15th-day meeting of Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—U Paul Htan Htine of Chin State Constituency No. 3 asked whether **there is any plan to enact a law under which legal actions can be taken against inappropriate actions towards respective religions** at today's Amyotha Hluttaw session.

He said "I asked this question to make people professing others religions perceive the government is giving equal attention to all five major religions prescribed in the Constitution. The Religious Affairs Ministry needs to ensure equal rights of different religions and be

transparent in allocating funds so that there is no misunderstanding."

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win replied that Sections 295, 296, 297 and Sub-section 295 (a) in Chapter 15 of Myanmar Penal Code state offences and punishment in religious affairs. In addition, respective religious organizations are taking care of offences pertaining to own religious affairs and the Religious Affairs Ministry handles the cases that cannot be settled by those organizations of different religions. And the ministry also opens religious affairs offices in region/state

and districts and townships and arranges religious rituals of different religions.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint urged the Hluttaw to discuss the bills amending private health care service law and amending the national food law.

Then MPs discussed the proposal of U Ha Shein Bwe of Chin State Constituency No 8 who urged **to revise the principle that in selecting students from remote regions for admission to medical universities, the students must have passed Grades IX, X and matriculation exam from**

the schools of their own region.

U Neng Khim Paung of Chin State Constituency No 7 called for gender quality in selecting students for admission to medical universities, questioning the current male-female ratio of 60-40 percentage, citing that the huge difference minimum required marks between female and male students.

Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint replied that the ratio has been adjusted 50-50 in 2012-2013 academic year. Out of those that applied from remote and self-administered regions,

those that meet required qualifications were selected to attend at University of Medicine (Magway).

He described the proposal a good one aimed to bring more opportunities for students from remote and self-administered regions,

urging for documentation of it, vowing to take measures to be commensurate with changing education system.

The proposal was put to vote and the majority voted against the proposal. The 16th day session continues tomorrow.—MNA

Committee to be formed to grant liberty to remaining political prisoners

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—The Union government has been granting amnesty to prisoners of conscience serving their terms in prisons across the nation, with a view to ensuring peace and stability and lasting peace of the State, national reconciliation, inclusiveness in political process, turning the prisoners to ones who take their fair shares in State building realizing magnanimity of the government.

The President Office has today instructed to form a committee to scrutinize the remaining political prisoners serving

their terms in prisons throughout the country so as to grant them liberty. The committee is reportedly to be chaired by Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane and to be constituted with representatives from government ministries, civil society organizations and some political parties.

The committee will define the meaning of prisoners of conscience and coordinate for a set of framework for releasing and scrutinize the remaining political prisoners and report the findings to the President.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (6-2-2013)

Heho	2°C
Pinlaung	3°C
Namhsam	4°C
Haka	4°C

Inauguration day of Ze-ai Bridge on Minbu-An Road drawing near

While we are driving our motorbikes on the Minbu-An Road around 9 am, we have enjoyed the scenic beauty of the Yoma Mountain Range which is partially covered in the blanket of fog and sunflower plantations on both sides of fields. Sometimes, big trees of Htanaung and Latpan have come into our views, attracting us by the upper Myanmar's romantic scenery.

Around 10 am, we arrived at the Bridge No. 4/13 namely "Ze-ai Bridge" on Minbu-An Road. We have seen the rhythmic movements of construction workers and caterpillars at the worksite of Ze-ai bridge which is located 13 miles from

Minbu.

The bridge is across the Ze-ai Creek and being constructed by the Bridge Construction Special Group-4 of the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction.

The old bridge was nearly 30 years and it lost its strength.

"In 2011, one pier of the bridge and approached structures of the old bridge was damaged by the downstream water when the Storm Giri hit Magway," said U Hla Aung Moe, an engineer of the construction group. Meanwhile, the piers and wooden pillars of the bridge have been eroded by the creek over time.

"The old bridge was pulled down and work on construction of the new

bridge launched six months ago," he said.

Ze-ai Bridge is one of the important bridges on Minbu-An road. The downstream water flows in the creek in the last rainy season caused two-hour delay for vehicles and transportation on the road.

"The bridge has been finished by over 50 per cent and it is expected that we can complete the construction in March," said U Hla Aung Moe.

The workers are on day and night shifts and the engineers are closely supervising the construction work to complete the bridge meeting the set standard.

"The bridge will be completed during the busiest time of Shwesattaw



Pagoda festival which starts on 15 February," U Hla Aung Moe says," the

transportation between Minbu and An would be swift and smooth on

completion of the bridge."

Kyemon: 4-2-2013

Trs: AMS

Byline: Magway Hla Myint