

President U Thein Sein, wife host dinner to mark 66th Anniversary Union Day Celebration

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to mark the 66th Anniversary Union Day Celebration at the City Hall here this evening.

When the President and wife arrived at the City Hall, they were welcomed by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, delegates from the invited peace groups, chairperson of the political parties and Union Day delegates.

A reception and dinner to mark the 66th Anniversary Union Day Celebration was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win cordially greet chairpersons of political parties who attended the reception and dinner to mark 66th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA



Artistes in traditional costumes of national races perform entertainments at the dinner in commemoration of 66th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA

(Army) General Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and their wives, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Union ministers, chairmen of Hluttaw affairs committees and Union Day delegates from regions and states.

During the dinner,

national races and singers entertained the dignitaries to the accompaniment of the modern music band of the Myanma Radio and Television.

After the dinner, artistes from the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture and traditional cultural troupes of national races performed dances at the open hall theatre.

MNA

University of Computer Studies (Mandalay) conducts AICT' 13 conference

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—University of Computer Studies (Mandalay) held the 5th Conference on Applied Information and Communication Technology (AICT)' 13 at the university on 9 February.

During the conference, 159 papers were read out by resource persons from

computer universities in upper Myanmar. The University of Mandalay conducts the Conference on Applied Information and Communication Technology (AICT) every year since 2008 with the aim of assisting in ICT development and implementation of the e-government.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

House reduced to ashes by fire in Pakokku Myaung Township to lessen water stress in summer



PAKOKKU, 12 Feb—A house fire broke out at the corner of Arzani street and Seiktathukha street in ward-8 of Pakokku Township in Magway Region at about 12.30 pm on 8 February.

The house was badly damaged by fire that started while pouring the petrol into a container from a barrel by U Win Naing, 49, and the fire swept through the whole house. Fire crews

accompanied by eight fire engines put out the fire at about 1.10 pm together with police members and local peoples. Pakokku Police Station opened a case about the fire outbreak. —Kyemon

Driver, conductor at large after hitting women

YANGON, 12 Feb—A Hilux of Insein-Shwepyitha bus line which was stationary near a garage on Myawady street in ward-1 of Mayangon Township was found with no driver on 6 February. The car was under the watchful eye of ward dwellers as the plastic wind mirror and side-view mirror of the left door of the car were broken and

some hairs were twisted on the bar of the damaged side-view mirror.

Investigation revealed that the car knocked down a woman on that day, leaving her injured. The driver and the conductor transported the injured to Insein Hospital and left the car near the garage. They were still at large.

Kyemon



Cash and kind for quake victims in Mandalay, Sagaing Regions

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Wellwishers are donating cash and kind for quake victims in Mandalay and Sagaing Regions through Relief and Resettlement Department (Head Office) under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the office of the head of Yangon Region Relief and Resettlement Department.

From 1 to 6 February, KEIDENREN of Japan

presented US\$ 10711, U Han Myint and family K 15000, Asia Pacific Ladies Friendship Society K 3 million, Aryu clinic K 100,000 and clothing, Myanmar Consul in Beijing U Soe Han and Daw Lei Lei Wah and family US\$ 200, Sino-Myanmar Friendship Association 50000 yuan and U Khin Shwe and Daw May Hlaing and family K 20000 for quake victims through officials.—MNA

Cattle smugglers arrested in Yamethin Township

YANGON, 12 Feb—A group of 21 smugglers were arrested together with 46 heads of cattle near Hnarbu Hill in Moe-hti Moe-mi region, east of Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region on 30 January.

The 21-member smugglers including Thiha, 35, of Kyaungywa in Tatkon Township were caught together with 46

heads of cattle on their way to Naungtaya of Pinlaung Township from Tatkon Township by a combined force comprising police members led by Sub-inspector Chan Nyein Thaw and security members of Shwe Moe Yan company near the foot of Hnarbu Hill. Actions are being taken to charge them with smuggling cattle. —Kyemon

Daytime burglary occurs in Sagaing

SAGAING, 12 Feb—K 100, 000 in cash and 10 kinds of gold wares were stolen in the daytime at a two-storey house in Podan ward of Sagaing on 8 February.

As soon as they received information, the ward administrator and party and police members of No (1) Police Station rushed there.

They found the back door of the house was broken and K 100,000 kept in a handbag and 10 kinds of gold wares were lost in the house. Officials of No (1) Police Station is carrying out their investigation into the burglary in order to expose the burglary.

Kyemon



Photo shows a road accident in which a motorbike crashed into the back of a saloon that made a stop for pedestrians walking across the road at the zebra crossing on Mazin 1st street in Bago on 2 February.—KYEMON

in Tamasaykan, Magyikan, Zayatkon and Latyattkha villages where local people heavily rely on the lakes collected with rainwater for their drinking water had run dry starting from the middle of the month of December. Thanks to collaborative efforts between the government, wellwishers and villagers, seeking ways and means for availability of drinking water in summer, water woes will be lessen in coming year”, an official

said.

He continued regarding the measures taken for drinking water supply that watertanks with the capacity of 5000 gallons of water in Tamasaykan, Magyikan, and Zayatkon villages, were filled with underground water from Nabal village through pipe lines. Other villages would be able to enjoy drinking water from river water pumping plant in Pareinma village through the canals. —Kyemon

Overtaken ferry car hurts 30 passengers

YANGON, 12 Feb—A road accident happened to a vehicle carrying garment factory workers in Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region at about 9 pm on 7 February.

The ferry car plunged down the roadside and turned over at the corner of Bayintnaung street and Awaia street in ward-7 of the township while driving side-by-side with the other vehicle along the road, leaving 29 women and one man who were on board the ferry car wounded. The injured were sent to Insein Hospital and Shwepyitha

Hospital and no one was reported dead. It is learnt that the overturned vehicle is one of passenger cars running from Shwepyitha to Aung Mingala bus terminal. The road accident occurred while it was providing transport service to factory workers. The driver and the conductor of the overturned car went away from the incident.

Kyemon



Man dies after slipping on a log truck

YANGON, 12 Feb — A log yard worker was killed while loading up a truck with logs at the jetty of Thein Oo service company at Chaungwa in ward-2 of Hline Township on 5 February.

Ko Aye Than, a log yard worker, 38, hit his head against the iron frame of the truck as his foot slipped while he got on the vehicle. He was declared dead on the way to the hospital.

Kyemon

Thief with seven names arrested

BAGO, 12 Feb—A thief was arrested by police members of Yangon Region Police Force in Hlinethaya on 24 January while he was selling gold he had stolen.

No (3) Police Station in Bago filed a burglary case and police members are investigating the theft of two GSM mobile phones, a motorbike, 11 gold bracelets each weighing 0.5 tical, one gold necklace that weighs two ticals, two gold rings that weigh 0.5 tical each, three gold necklaces that weigh 0.5 tical each, two lockers that weigh 0.25 tical each, a pair of earrings that

weigh 0.5 tical, three gold rings with a weight of 0.5 tical, two pairs of earrings with a weight of 0.25 tical and K 2 million from a house owned by U Hla Htay in ward-6 of Ottha Myothit in Bago on 4 September 2012. After the thief was interrogated by police members of Bago Region Police Force, the thief with seven names— Zaw Min Oo (a) Zaw Htaik (a), Nan Si (a) Athay Lay (a) Joak Sa Mut (a) Gadon (a) Win Than Htaik— confessed to the burglary and a lawsuit against him was filed on 7 February.—Kyemon

WORLD

Biden says he senses urgency for gun control



US Vice President Joe Biden (R) makes remarks next to Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsay at the conclusion of a roundtable discussion on gun control at Girard College in Philadelphia.

REUTERS

PHILADELPHIA, 12 Feb— Vice President Joe Biden, speaking hours after a fatal shooting at a courthouse in his home state of Delaware, said on Monday there was an unprecedented sense of urgency among police and officials to enact gun control laws. “The one thing that came across to me in talking with the mayors and law enforcement officers that are here is a real sense of urgency,” Biden said after

meeting Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, police chiefs, three US representatives and a US senator.

He cited the shooting in Wilmington, Delaware, in which three people died and two were wounded in the New Castle County Courthouse.

He also referred to the 14 December mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, in which 20 children and six

adults died.

“We can’t wait, we cannot wait, the images of those innocent little children being riddled with bullet holes has gripped the conscience of the nation, and the nation is demanding that we act responsibly,” he said.

Gun control is likely to be a main topic of President Barack Obama’s State of the Union speech on Tuesday night.

Last month Obama launched the biggest US gun-control push in generations, urging Congress to approve an assault weapons ban and background checks for all gun buyers to prevent mass shootings like the one in Newtown.

Many of the president’s proposals face tough opposition from gun enthusiasts led by the powerful National Rifle Association. Bringing back the military-style assault weapons ban that lapsed in 2004 would be particularly difficult because of resistance from Republicans and some Democrats in Congress.

Reuters

Attacks kill 12 in Iraq’s Mosul

MOSUL, 12 Feb — A suicide car bomber and unidentified gunmen killed at least 12 people in the Iraqi city of Mosul on Monday, police and hospital sources said, as sectarian and ethnic tensions build ahead of elections in April.

The bomber drove a vehicle packed with explosives up to a military checkpoint in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, and detonated it, killing eight people

and wounding 18, among them soldiers. “The blast destroyed everything. It looks like there was nothing here before the explosion,” said a policeman at the scene who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

In a separate incident in Mosul, gunmen using silenced weapons killed the bodyguard of a Kurdish member of the city’s provincial council and three

others, police said.

A surge in violence since the withdrawal of US troops in late 2011 is stoking fears of a return to the sectarian strife that killed tens of thousands of Iraqis in 2006 and 2007.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shi’ite Muslim, is facing mass protests by disenchanted Sunnis and is at loggerheads with ethnic Kurds who run their northern region autonomously from

Baghdad. The prospect of provincial elections is hardening the divisions as political leaders appeal to their constituencies with hostile and uncompromising rhetoric.

The conflict in neighbouring Syria, where mainly Sunni rebels are fighting to overthrow a leader backed by Shi’ite Iran, is also whipping up sectarian tensions in Iraq and across the wider region.

Reuters

Algiers, Moscow tied with strong, respect-based relations

ALGIERS, 12 Feb— Visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said here on Monday that Algiers and Moscow are tied with strong and respect-based relations on both bilateral and international issues.

“Algeria is an important partner for Russia in several domains, including trade and economy, which sees a constant evolution,” the official APS news agency quoted Lavrov as saying at the end of talks he held with Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

“We’ve agreed to develop cooperation in the domains of economy, commerce, science and technology,” the Russian

official said, adding that he is “optimistic about the outcome of the next session of the Algerian-Russian Joint Committee” in this respect. The head of Russian diplomacy recalled the “common will” of the two nations to deepen bilateral cooperation in the military field and “promote political dialogue and consultation at all levels.”

At international level, Lavrov said his “fruitful” talks with the Algerian president evoked the two countries’ positions on the necessity to reform the international system, which must defend the international rights and provide the United Nations

a central role.

He stressed in this context the need to give priority to peaceful options, rather than foreign intervention, in terms of the settlement of disputes, including the conflicts hitting Syria and Mali.

Lavrov arrived Monday evening in Algeria for a working visit at the invitation of his Algerian counterpart Mourad Medelci.

The visit is part of the regular political dialogue between Algeria and Russia, which aims to boost bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation between Algiers and Moscow.—Xinhua

Fireworks light up the Victoria Harbour during the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations in Hong Kong, south China, on 11 Feb, 2013. The Chinese Lunar New Year this year, the year of snake, started on 10 February. —XINHUA



Georgian president, speaker meet to soften political tensions

TBILISI, 12 Feb— The Georgian president on Monday met with the parliamentary chairman to discuss issues which have been causing tensions between the ruling coalition and the major opposition and between the government and the president.

Davit Bakradze, parliamentary minority leader and former speaker, met incumbent speaker Davit Usupashvili at the entrance to the presidential palace for the meeting.

“There have been interesting developments in recent days,” the speaker told the press before his meeting with the president, “As the prime minister noted there have been certain positive elements — I would say some initiatives as well — in the president’s recent public statement.

We have always been ready for a constructive relationship and the prime minister stated that we are ready to continue the dialogue on all important issues.”

The parliamentary speaker said that they

would discuss the issues of common interests but he expected there would be progress on the central issue on the constitutional change on limiting the presidential power to dissolve the government without the authorization of the legislature of the South Caucasus country.

“The president has stated about his readiness on this issue, so we will find out today what his readiness means,” the speaker added.

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili made late on Friday his annual state-of-the-nation address in which he said that he was not against the initiative of limiting the presidential power to dissolve the government without the parliamentary agreement.

But in the same address which was made after changing the venue from the national library to the presidential palace in the wake of some incidents occurred between opponents and supporters of the president in front of the national library.

Xinhua

Syria rebels seize dam, blast on Turkish border

AMMAN/BEIRUT, 12 Feb — Rebels have captured Syria’s biggest hydro-electric dam and battled army tank units near the centre of Damascus, activists said as the opposition renewed an offer on Monday to negotiate the departure of President Bashar al-Assad.

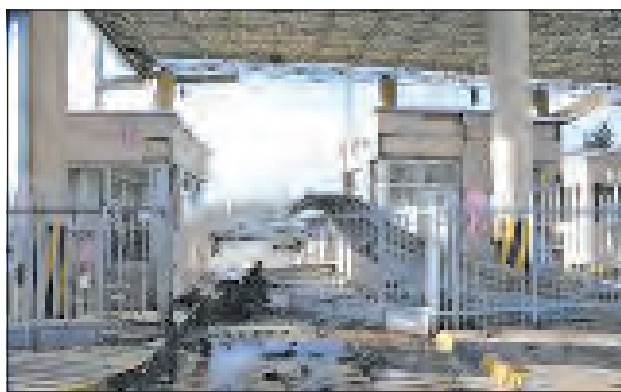
On the Turkish border, nine people were killed when a car arriving from rebel-held territory in northwestern Syria blew up at the Reyhanli frontier crossing; Turkish officials said it was unclear whether the blast was a suicide attack or an accident.

Moaz Alkhatib, exile leader of the opposition Syrian National Coalition, said he had had no response to his offer to discuss a

handover of power with the Assad government but said the invitation still stood, despite the passing of an initial deadline for a response on Sunday.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and other opposition activists said Islamist fighters seized army positions on Sunday around the Taqba dam, near the town of Thawra, some 150 km (90 miles) southeast of Aleppo. It was unclear how far the electricity plant was still operating.

“The dam was protected by an artillery battery and many intelligence units. The rebels moved on them in a lightning offensive yesterday, overrunning their positions



A man walks past a damaged gate after an explosion at Cilvegozu border gate on the Turkish-Syrian border in Hatay Province on 11 Feb, 2013. —REUTERS

and capturing scores of personnel,” said Abu Ziad Teif, an opposition activist in contact with rebels in the area. Rami Abdulrahman of the Observatory called it one of Assad’s biggest setbacks. However, the dam’s

generating capacity has long fallen short of early hopes and, with power already scarce in Aleppo, Syria’s biggest city, it was unclear whether the change of control at Taqba would have a major technical impact.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Comeback cod lessens gloom over emptying oceans



Cod is unloaded from the Haunes trawler at a fish processing plant near Sommaroya, north Norway on 31 Jan, 2013. The Haunes caught 2 tonnes of fish in one day — the area is teeming with fish as part of a record quota for 2013.—REUTERS

ABOARD HAUNES, (Norwegian Sea), 12 Feb—It was hours before dawn on a heaving Arctic sea, and snow showers were making it hard for Kurt Ludvigsen to find his fishing buoys with the trawler's powerful searchlight. But the 49-year-old Norwegian was less bothered by the conditions than by the large numbers of cod flailing in the nets he and his younger brother Trond winched aboard. "It's paradoxical but we have too many fish this year," the older Ludvigsen said. "Prices have fallen 30 percent ... We're having to work far harder."

Just over six years ago,

an article in the US journal *Science* projected that all fish and seafood species, on current trends, would collapse by 2048. A cod bonanza off north Norway and Russia and recovery of some fish stocks off developed nations from the United States to Australia have led many scientists to say the future for overfished world stocks is a bit less bleak.

Stocks off developing nations— from the Pacific to the Caribbean —are still in sharp decline but the recoveries give hope that the problems are not irreversible. "The outlook is improving relative to what

we saw in 2006," said Boris Worm, a professor of biology at Dalhousie University in Canada who was the lead author of the 2006 study in *Science*. "It's more than isolated examples — it's a substantial number" of successes, he said.

A lot is at stake. Fisheries, both marine and farmed, provide livelihoods for up to 820 million people, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which emphasizes that globally, over-fishing is still on the rise. Cod, the 11th most caught fish species in an FAO list led by the Peruvian anchovy, skipjack tuna and Atlantic herring, has had a mixed fate. While a 1990s moratorium off eastern Canada is still in place and European Union quotas are unchanged this year, the quota off northern Norway and Russia is a record 1.02 million metric tonnes, up a third from 2012 and six times as high as in 1990. Part of the reason is that global warming has expanded the cod's habitat northwards. And strict management of quotas by Oslo and Moscow have played a role, fisheries experts say.

Reuters

CANBERRA, 12 Feb—Apple Inc has been ordered to appear before Australia's parliament with fellow technology giants Microsoft Inc and Adobe Systems Inc to explain why local consumers pay so much for their products, despite the strong Aussie dollar. Broadening a row between the world's most valuable company and Australian lawmakers over corporate taxes paid on Apple's operations, Apple executives were formally summonsed on Monday to front a parliamentary committee in Canberra on 22 March.

"In what's probably the first time anywhere in the world, these IT firms are now being summoned by the Australian parliament to explain why they price their products so much higher in Australia compared to the United States," said ruling Labour government MP Ed Husic, who helped set up the committee. High local prices and soaring cost-of-living bills for basic services are hurting the popularity of the minority Labour government ahead of a September 14 election it is widely tipped to lose, giving political momentum to

the inquiry.

All three companies have so far declined to appear before the special committee set up in May last year to investigate possible price gouging on Australian hardware and software buyers, despite the Australian dollar hover-

other multinationals have blamed high operating costs in Australia including high local wages and conditions, as well as import costs and the relatively small size of the retail market in the \$1.5 trillion economy.

Failure to appear before the committee as or-



An iPhone 5 is displayed in an Apple store in central Sydney shortly after going on sale to the public on 21 Sept, 2012. — REUTERS

ing near record highs above the US currency around A\$1.03. A 16GB WiFi iPad produced by Apple with Retina display sells in Australia for A\$539, \$40 above the price in the US, despite the stronger local currency. Microsoft's latest versions of office 365 home premium cost A\$119 in Australia versus \$99.99 in the United States. IT firms and

dered could leave all three firms open to contempt of parliament charges, fines or even jail terms. "For some time consumers and businesses have been trying to work out why they are paying so much more, particularly for software, where if it's downloaded there is no shipping or handling, or much of a labour cost," Husic told Reuters.—Reuters

Square scandal highlights growing pains at tech start-ups

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Feb—When Square Chief Operating Officer Keith Rabois left his job last month, citing legal threats from a young colleague with whom he had a two-year relationship, he threw a spotlight on the risks associated with the freewheeling startup culture that many entrepreneurs cherish.

Startups often thrive on a lack of rules and boundaries. But experts say that as they make the transition from a handful of people in a room to sizeable businesses, the hazards of operating without manual — including lawsuits, reputational hits, and waning employee morale — grow exponentially.

Longtime employees sometimes chafe at the arrival of human resources professionals, codes of conduct and other policies that they fear will step on the company's culture. Yet entrepreneurs and startup investors say they ultimately have little choice. Take Facebook Inc, which displayed murals of naked

women, some riding dogs, in the Palo Alto offices it leased as a small company in 2005. As proud as some of the early employees were of them — one was painted by the then-girlfriend of Facebook impresario and serial entrepreneur Sean Parker — they got painted over shortly after venture-

startup DoubleVerify, an employee gave a presentation about how advertising fraud takes place. Many in the room got a rude awakening when a slide popped up showing an example of an ad where it shouldn't be: next to a particularly raunchy image on a pornography site. "That was the first

same presentation would use a less controversial example, or obscure anything racy.

Alcohol is another dicey topic. "We used to have these new employee hazing ceremonies," said Dheeraj Pandey, chief executive of virtualization company Nutanix, largely involving knocking back tequila shots with chili peppers. But once the company hit about 100 employees, some new hires pushed back and he started considering the potential for liability. "It just faded away about four, five months ago," he said about the hazing. Potential concerns run the gamut from some employees feeling excluded if they don't drink to incidents that sometimes accompany drunken behavior. At 250-person social-media management company Hootsuite, "I somewhat infamously have said I never wanted to work at a company with an HR department," says founder Ryan Holmes.—Reuters



Employees work at the headquarters of Box.net, an online file sharing and Cloud content management service for enterprise companies, in Menlo Park, California on 5 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

capital firm Accel Partners invested in the company. Facebook had no immediate comment.

About a year into the life of online-ad tracking

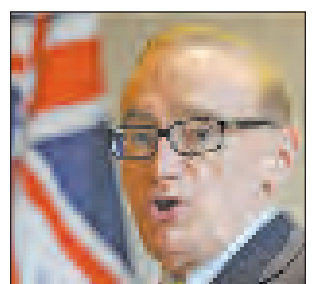
time we realized, 'We gotta get a little more institutionalized,' recalls founder Oren Netzer. Today, the company has policies concerning naked images. The

Australia to extend aid to Kiribati to fight climate change

CANBERRA, 12 Feb — Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr announced on Monday that Australia would provide 15 million Australian dollars (15.5 million US dollars) to rehabilitate 40 kilometres of main road in Kiribati, which has been undermined by rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) said in a statement that Carr, speaking from Kiribati, said the works were essential if the nation was to survive the impact of climate change. "Kiribati is at the front line of climate change," Carr said.

The highest point of the island country is now just three metres above sea level. "Unless action is taken, Kiribati will be uninhabitable by 2030 as a result of coastal erosion, sea level rise and saltwater intrusion into drinking water," Carr said.



Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr

"This project will provide more than 40 percent of the population with better access to health clinics, schools and markets. Coastal roads will be rehabilitated to withstand rising sea levels and storm surges caused by climate change."

Australia will also support the Kiribati Adaptation Program to replace 11 kilometers of damaged water mains and increase access to safe drinking water. Australia's funding would be delivered over three years starting this year in partnership with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Has Volkswagen discovered the Holy Grail of carmakers?

BERLIN, 12 Feb—Ulrich Hackenberg isn't yet a household name but if Volkswagen's \$70 billion bet on his big idea pays off, he may join the likes of Henry Ford, Alfred Sloan and Taiichi Ohno in the canon of auto industry pioneers. Since the heyday of Henry Ford and his Model T, the world's automakers have considered the "global car" to be their Holy Grail — the same basic design that can be built, in subtle variations, and sold in different markets.

Take that fundamental concept, stretch it across many different vehicle types, sizes and brands, then build them by the millions, and you begin to sense the enormity of Volkswagen's rapidly evolving "mega-platform" strategy and its potential impact on competitors around the globe. Auto engineer Hackenberg nurtured this bright idea for three decades, after early pitches to auto executives were largely ignored, until somebody finally bought it wholesale. The man who bit was Volkswagen Chief Executive Officer Martin Winterkorn.

Hackenberg's fundamental rethink of vehicle platforms, the industrial Lego from which cars are designed and made, is helping power the German company to the top of

Ericsson wins \$1 billion contract from India's Reliance Comm

MUMBAI, 12 Feb — Indian mobile phone carrier Reliance Communications Ltd (RLCM.NS) said on Monday that it has awarded an eight-year contract valued at \$1 billion to telecommunications equipment maker Ericsson (ERICB.ST) to manage its networks in the northern and western states of India.

Last month, Reliance Communications gave Alcatel-Lucent SA (ALUA.PA) an eight-year contract valued at more than \$1 billion to manage its mobile and fixed networks in east and south India.—Reuters



The new Volkswagen Golf model is unveiled in Berlin in this file photo taken on 4 Sep, 2012.
REUTERS

the global sales charts several years ahead of its 2018 target. It could also make VW one of the most profitable carmakers in the world. The strategy is not without risk. It could, for instance, expose Volkswagen to the threat of a massive global recall if a single part, used in millions of cars, fails. But rivals have taken note of the power behind its move. Volkswagen's modular platforms are being benchmarked by most of the world's top automakers, including Toyota Motor Corp and Ford Motor Co, according to company executives.

"We'd be crazy not to," said a senior Ford official, requesting anonymity because of the proprietary nature of the subject. VW's work on its largest mega-platform, known internally as MQB, began in earnest in 2007 and is being implemented over the next four years at a cost of nearly \$70 billion, estimates Morgan Stanley. The potential payoff is compelling: Projected annual gross savings by 2019 of \$19 billion, according to the bank, with gross margins approaching 10 percent. The automaker is expected to announce a record profit

for 2012 of more than \$30 billion later this month (22 February), according to Bernstein Research, whose senior analyst, Max Warburton, observes: "VW looks to have unstoppable momentum — in China, the US, Europe and most of the rest of the world."

That momentum has been building for some time, even before the initial deployment last year of Hackenberg's brainchild. Industry-leading levels of commonality — the proportion of parts that can be shared among different models — are nothing new to VW.

Reuters

Novo Nordisk hit hard by US blow to insulin drug

COPENHAGEN, 12 Feb — US regulators dealt a major blow to Novo Nordisk's hopes for its new long-acting insulin Tresiba by demanding the Danish drugmaker conduct additional clinical tests to assess potential heart risks. Shares in Novo, the world's biggest insulin maker, tumbled 15 percent on Monday morning as the company said the decision would make it harder to meet its long-term financial targets, while those in rival Sanofi rose 4 percent. Novo said the US Food and Drug Administration

Tresiba to keep it in the lead in diabetes care — said on Sunday it did not expect to be able to provide the data during 2013. Analysts said the FDA's stance would delay Tresiba until 2015 at the earliest. "It is a really bad situation," said Sydbank analyst Soren Hansen, who expects a delay of two or three years. Tim Anderson of Bernstein said the best that Novo could now hope for was that Tresiba made it to market in 2015, assuming the new trial enrolls patients quickly and the FDA requires only partial data and not full completion.

Waiting for all the data could delay approval to 2017/18, he



(FDA) had requested additional data from a trial focused on cardiovascular effects before it would consider approving Tresiba and related product Ryzodeg.

The drugmaker — which is banking on

said, and if the study reveals new risks it may never be approved. The setback for Tresiba, also known as degludec, is good news for rival makers of insulin medicines, notably France's Sanofi, whose Lantus product is under threat

from Novo's newer ultra-long-lasting treatment. Most investors had expected a green light from the US watchdog, following a positive recommendation from an advisory panel to the FDA last November, despite earlier signals that there might be heart issues with the medicine.

Optimism about Tresiba and Ryzodeg — which combines degludec with another formulation of insulin — was further boosted by approval in Europe, where both drugs won a final go-ahead last month.

They have also been approved in Japan. Novo Chief Executive Lars Rebien Sorensen said the US move would have no impact on its plans for the roll-out or pricing of the drugs in Europe and Japan. Tresiba and Ryzodeg have been widely tipped by analysts to become multibillion-dollar-a-year sellers worldwide — but getting there depends on approval in the United States, the world's biggest and most profitable drugs market.

Reuters

Teen births continue to decline in US

NEW YORK, 12 Feb—The number of US babies born to teen mothers dropped to record lows in 2011, according to new data from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Fewer women also gave birth in their 20s than in prior years, researchers found — but the birth rate increased for those in their late 30s and early 40s.

"The economy has declined, and that certainly is a factor that goes into people's decisions about having a child," said CDC statistician Brady Hamilton, lead author of the new report. Women may say to themselves, "It's not a particularly good time right now... let's wait a little bit," he told Reuters Health. Older women, however, are typically more secure in their employment, he said—and understand

that they don't have as long to wait if they want to get pregnant.

The new data were published on Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*. They showed an eight-percent drop in teen births between 2010 and 2011. Just over three percent of 15- to 19-year-old had babies during that period. Hamilton and his colleagues calculated that 3.6 million more babies would have been born to women in that age group over the last two decades had the teen birth rate not been falling since a peak in 1991. On the other end of the spectrum, the birth rate among 35- to 39-year-old increased by three percent over 2010 figures. In 2011, 4.7 percent of women in their late 30s and just over one percent in their early 40s had a baby, the CDC team found.

Reuters

Bayer's Riociguat submitted for approval in US, EU



FRANKFURT, 12 Feb—German drugmaker Bayer on Monday said it had submitted Riociguat, a drug to treat patients with two forms of pulmonary hypertension, for regulatory approval in the

United States and the EU.

The drug is used to treat chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH) and pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), Bayer said.

Reuters

Metro's electronics retailer to boost online business

BERLIN, 12 Feb—German group Metro's Media-Saturn consumer electronics retailer aims to step up its online business to compete with the likes of Amazon.com Inc, newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* said.

Media-Saturn, operator of Europe's largest chain of consumer electronics stores, wants to more than double the share of total sales generated by the online business to 10

percent next year and double it again in the years to come, unit chief Horst Norberg said in an interview with the newspaper published on Sunday.

"We're stronger than Amazon," the newspaper quoted Norberg as saying. The company also aims to add between 40 and 50 stores per year to its current global tally of 942, according to Norberg.

Reuters



WORLD

Colombia's rebels ready to release three captives

BOGOTA, 12 Feb—The Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group on Monday announced the imminent release of two police officers and a soldier captured in January.

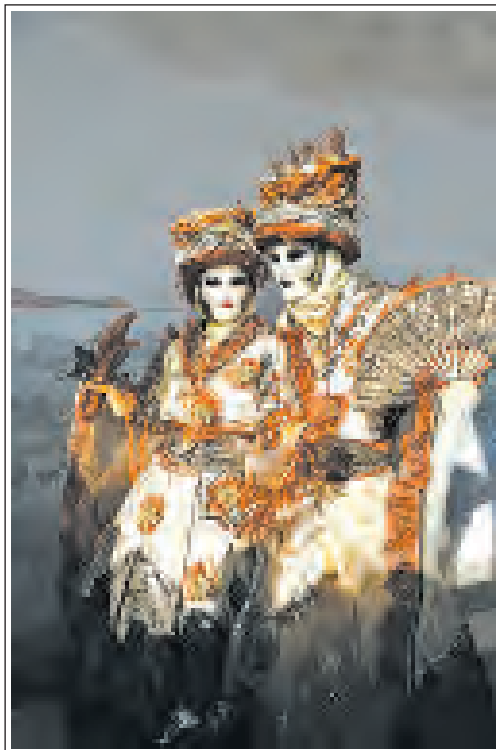
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the FARC was waiting for the Colombian government to "promote as soon as possible" the conditions for the release.

Cited by Colombian daily El Tiempo, FARC leader Rodrigo Granda confirmed that the release process has already begun.

The release "is going forward and it is certain that in the coming hours or days there will be news about it," said Granda.

Policemen Cristian Yate and Victor Gonzalez, together with soldier Josue Meneses, have been held by the FARC since January, when they were captured in military operations in combat zones.

Granda insisted their capture "is not a kidnapping. What we have are prisoners of war held by the FARC, who fell during a military operation in a war zone."—Xinhua



Costumed revelers participate in the carnival in Venice, Italy, on 10 Feb, 2013. The 18-day 2013 Venice carnival will end on 12 February.
XINHUA

Lebanon condemns aggression against any foreign country

BEIRUT, 12 Feb—Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati reiterated on Monday Lebanon's condemnation and rejection of any aggression against any Arab or foreign country whatsoever, stressing the good ties between Lebanon and the countries of the European Union.

Mikati met at the Grand Serail with the EU Ambassador to Lebanon, Angelina Eichhorst, and discussed with her the upcoming visit of the EU neighborhood policy commissioner Stephan Fule on 4 and 5

March.

Bulgaria has charged two Lebanese with connection to Hezbollah of being behind the attack on an Israeli tourist bus in July 2012 in the city of Burgas, which left six dead and scores injured.

Eichhorst, for her part, said she discussed with Mikati the current situation and ways to improve the delivery of aid to Syrian refugees. She said "regarding the issue of the bombing in Burgas, the prime minister is aware of the position of the EU, which will discuss

UN humanitarian fund gives over 5 mln USD to assist flood-stricken Mozambique

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Feb — The United Nations emergency humanitarian fund on Monday announced it will distribute more than 5 million US dollars to provide life-saving assistance to hundreds of thousands of people who have been affected by the recent floods in Mozambique.

Heavy rains hit the southern part of Mozambique last month, leading to massive flooding in the area and left 105 people killed and some 150,000 others displaced. Hundreds of houses were destroyed and crops and infrastructure severely damaged.

In a news release, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the government of Mozambique and its partners have already allocated 10 million dollars to cope with the emergency. However, given the scale of the disaster, more resources are required for those who lost everything in the floods.

The UN-allocated funds, totaling 5.13 million dollars, will be distributed from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which is managed by OCHA, to various UN agencies to provide basic

needs and services such as shelter, food, medical aid, said the Press release.

"While much has been done, much more is needed. These CERF funds will go a long way in ensuring that assistance is provided to those who need it most," said the UN resident coordinator in Mozambique, Jennifer Topping. The World Food Programme (WFP) will receive 2.3 million dollars, and more than 1 million dollars will be allocated to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), respectively.—Xinhua



Taliban militants attend a surrender ceremony in Kunar Province, eastern Afghanistan, on 11 Feb, 2013. Up to 18 Taliban militants renounced violence and surrendered in eastern Afghan Province of Kunar on Monday, authorities said.
XINHUA

Suicide car bomb blast rocks central Somalia town

MOGADISHU, 12 Feb—A suicide car bomber on Monday rammed a vehicle laden with explosives into a convoy with deputy police commander of Puntland in the central Somali town of Galkayo, police and witnesses said.

The target of the attack was the deputy police commander of the semi-autonomous state of Puntland, General Mohyadeen Ahmed who was the con-

voy but was slightly injured in the blast, Ahmed Mumin, a police officer told Xinhua.

"A number of other people were also injured but as far as we know no one was killed in the explosion except the criminal," Mumin said.

Witnesses said the car bomb sped towards the convoy as they moved along a street in Galkayo's northern part and rammed into one of the vehicles. Some

of the vehicles used by the security of the deputy police commander reportedly caught fire and a number of soldiers and bystanders were injured in the blast.

Pro-Islamist website said the Al Shabaab militant fighters claimed responsibility for the attack but the group has not so far officially commented on the blast in Galkayo, provincial capital of Mudug region in northern Somalia.—Xinhua

Libya to close border with Egypt, Tunisia for security precaution

TRIPOLI, 12 Feb—Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zaidan said on Monday evening that his government decided to close the borders with Tunisia and Egypt.

The borders would be closed temporarily from the 14 to 18 February, Zaidan said, adding that the entry of travelers through the airports of Tripoli and Benghazi would also be limited.

He said that these decisions are precautionary measures taken to avoid possible sabotage by the agents of the former regime or some of those who do not want security and stability in Libya.

Xinhua

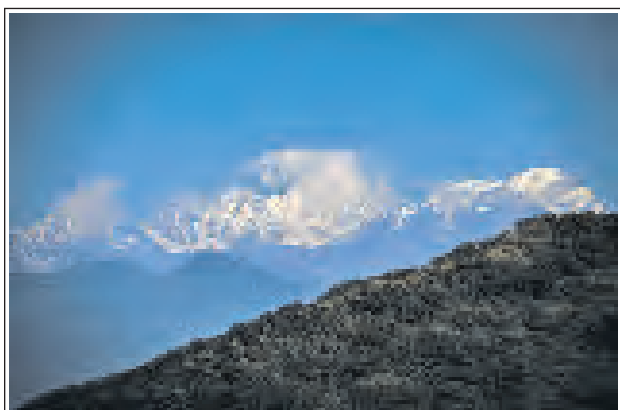


Photo taken from the top of the Jiadingshan Mountain on 10 Feb, 2013 shows the scenery of the Minya Konka (Gongga Mountain), in Hanyuan County, southwest China's Sichuan Province.—XINHUA

Cruise ship to be towed to port after engine fire in Gulf of Mexico

HOUSTON, 12 Feb—A cruise ship in the Gulf of Mexico with more than 4,200 passengers and crew aboard will be towed to Mexico after an engine fire set the ship adrift, US media reported on Monday.

The *Carnival Triumph*, which left Galveston, Texas, Thursday and was due back Monday, will instead be towed to Progreso, Mex-

ico, and the passengers will fly back to the United States aboard chartered planes, according to reports.

The ship has been floating about 240 km off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula since a fire erupted in the aft engine room on Sunday morning, knocking out the ship's propulsion system.

No one was injured and the fire was extinguished,

according to reports. The ship has been operating on backup generator power since the incident, the Carnival Cruise Lines said in a statement.

Onboard power and sewer system outages have been reported. There are also reports of passengers complaining the sanitary conditions on board.

Xinhua

Spain's urban home purchases down 11.3 percent in 2012

MADRID, 12 Feb—The number of people buying urban homes in Spain fell by 11.3 percent in 2012, according to data released on Monday by the Spanish National Institute of Statistics (INE). The 2012 decline is less than that of 2011, when urban home sales dived by 17.7 percent, partly thanks to a year-end rush as potential homebuyers tried to

avoid an increase on sales tax which rose from four percent to 10 percent in January 2013.

Some 114,003 houses in Spanish cities were sold in December 2012, down 1.9 percent year on year and 14.4 percent lower than the previous month, signaling continued pressure on Spain's construction and real estate sector.—Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Regional development tasks inspected in Sagaing Region

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb— Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye inspected medical store and operation theatre at People's Hospital, construction of Sitagu Sangha Hospital and Basic Education Middle School in Thityarmaing Ward in Kyunhla Township on 7 February.

The chief minister then visited Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda in Kanbalu Township and met with officials at Beikman Hall for holding Buddha Pujaniya. He also inspected repair work for Aungzeya Canal.

On 8 February morning, the chief minister attended the opening of Malikha new school building at Ohntaw Basic Education High School in Sagaing Township.

At the ceremony, Region Forestry and Mining Energy Minister U Than Htaik,



Region Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Win and Region Education Officer U Aung

Kyaw Soe formally opened the new building and the chief minister pressed the button

to unveil the signboard of the school.

The handing over for new school building followed at Mayyu Hall, with an address by the chief minister. School Board of Trustees U Maw handed over documents related to the school to the Department of Education.

The Region chief minister and officials presented computer, exercise books, sports gear and journals for the school.

Afterwards, the chief minister inspected site chosen for construction of Mu River retaining wall in Nyaungpinwun Village, completion of Basic Education Primary School in Paukkar Village and thriving wheat plantations of farmer U Net Tu in Kanphyar Village.

MNA

Cargo boats bustling at Pakokku jetty



PAKOKKU, 12 Feb— Rice produced from Deltaic region is being transported to Pakokku through water way.

"In summer, motorboats carrying bags of rice arrive in Pakokku. They spend four days due to sandbanks in the water course, the transport charge is cheap," said a merchant from Pakokku.

Motorboats with the loads of rice from Myaungmya, Mawlamyinegyun and Patheingyi arrive and depart Pakokku jetties daily while the motorboats carrying plam, jaggery and beans and pulses leave the jetties daily.

The merchants face higher transport charge along the motor ways due to toll gates and higher transport charge.

That is why most of the merchants are relying on the waterway transport.

Transport charge is K 25

for one viss of commodity or K 18 on the waterway

and K 45 for one viss on the motorway.—Kyemon

Hlinethaya experiences two fires in single day

YANGON, 12 Feb—Fire broke out two times separately in Ward 5 of Hlinethaya Township on 3 February.

At 7.20 pm, a fire broke out at the corner of Thiri Zeya and Bogyoke streets. At 9.45 pm, one more fire broke out at No 1292 B on Mya Yeik

Nyo 6th street, starting from mosquito coil.

Under the close supervision of Fire Services Department Director-General U Tin Moe, a total of 252 members of FSD and 178 of Auxiliary Fire Brigade together with 70 Red Cross

Brigade members managed the control of the fire at the corner of Thiri Zeya and Bogyoke Streets with the use of four fire engines from Hlinethaya Township, two each from Kyauktada, Sangyoung, Ahlon, Kyimyindine, Tamway, South



PyinOoLwin supplies electricity to rural area

PYINOOLOWIN, 12 Feb— Supply of electricity was launched in Kyeekaing Village of PyinOoLwin Township on 4 February morning.

The district electrical engineer and the deputy Township Administrator formally opened the supply of electricity.

Officials presented certificates of honour to wellwishers. U Kyaw Win of Livestock Breeding Entrepreneurs Association donated K 60 million, U

Thet Phu of High Point Group agricultural farm K 30 million, U Thuta Hlaing of Shwe Yamon tea shop K 11 million and Daw Hnin Yu Wai and U Tun Nwe Oo of Railway Station Housing of PyinOoLwin K 10 million.

Townselder U Kyaw Win spoke words of thanks.

The project cost about K 150 million and it was launched to supply electricity to the local people in commemoration of the 66th Anniversary Union Day.

Myanma Alinn

Thamma Seikta BEMS awards five-distinction winner

NYAUNGLEBIN, 12 Feb—Thamma Seikta Basic Education Middle School in Myoma 1 Ward, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region awarded the outstanding students for 2011-2012 academic year on 9 February.

Present on the occasion were acting township education officer headmistress of Basic Education High School No. 1 Daw

Khin Than Nu, Headmistress of Thamma Seikta BEMS Daw Than Than Hlaing and teachers and students.

Headmistress Daw Khin Than Nu awarded Ma Aye Moe Kyi, former student of Thamma Seikta BEMS, who won five distinctions in 2011-2012 academic year matriculation examination and got the highest scores in the entire township.

NLM



Okkalapa, Hline, Mayangon and Bayintnaung fire stations, one from Shwepyitha, four from Insein, three from North Okkalapa, nine from the headquarters and one from Latha Auxiliary Fire Brigade together with five supporting vehicles and six management vehicles and put it out at 8.30 pm.

The fire destroyed 17 buildings and houses, leaving 725 people from 220 households homeless. The fire victims are being accommodated at the relief camp of Zeyathiri Dhammayon in Ward 5.

Another outbreak of fire was put out at 9.45 pm. Deputy Head of Township FSD U Kyaw Swa Lin inspected start of fire. Action is being taken against those who committed negligence of fire.

Kyemon

Trishaw drivers in Pyay get loans

PYAY, 12 Feb—A ceremony to disburse loans to trishaw drivers was held at the hall of Township Development Affairs Committee in Pyay on 13 January afternoon.

Executive Officer U Myat Soe of Township Development Affairs Committee explained purpose of disbursing the loans to 670 trishaw drivers from 24 townships in Bago Region.

The committee has so far disbursed K 5.5 million to the trishaw drivers.

Myanma Alinn

NATIONAL

Relations between national races, sympathy, mutual understandings of difficulties, valuing tradition and customs could cement national unity



unity. He continued to say that he would always make engagements with the national races affairs ministers.

When there were national races affairs, those ministers could make direct contacts with Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun for direct contact with the President

President U Thein Sein meets Region/State National Races Affairs Ministers who attended the 66th Anniversary Union Day ceremony.—MNA

Office.

The government's reform processes are not aimed at getting good name only for one. It was implementing peace and stability and socio-economic development which are the wishes of 60 million people.

The Government carried out political reforms, working together with all political parties and invited them to participate in the political process, he said. As the peace efforts of the government have already resulted in ceasefire agreement with 10 armed ethnic armed groups out (See page 9)



First Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue held

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—First Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday and Deputy Foreign Minister U Thant Kyaw delivered the opening statement.

The experts from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Myanmar

Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department, Myanmar Correctional Department, Mr. Jun Shinmi, Ambassador in-charge of United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Counsellor Mr. Hisanaga Tomioka from Embassy of Japan and Ms. Miho Nagata, Official, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan attended the dialogue.

Myanmar-Japan cooperation, developments and assistance in the field of human rights were discussed.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—President U Thein Sein met Region/State National Races Affairs Ministers who attended the 66th Anniversary Union Day ceremony, at the meeting hall of mechanized farming model plantation of 500-acre farmer educative farm, here, this afternoon.

It was attended by the Union ministers and distinguished guests, deputy ministers, national races affairs ministers from regions and states and departmental heads.

In his speech, the President said that it was the second meeting. As he promised at the first meeting, national races affairs ministers were invited to attend the

Union Day ceremony. Constitutional Tribunal had already decided that the level of region/state national races affairs ministers was exactly the same as the region/state ministers. With this, arrangements are being made for enabling national races affairs ministers to enjoy privileges and emoluments.

National unity is related with development, perpetuation of sovereignty and long-existence of the country. Paying lip services alone was impossible to establish national unity. Relations between national races, sympathy, mutual understandings of difficulties, valuing tradition and customs could cement national



President U Thein Sein presents gifts to one of the Region/State National Races Affairs Ministers.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 13 February, 2013

Ensure macroeconomic stability and strengthen reforms

Myanmar has embarked on a historic set of reforms to modernize and open up its economy. Managed well, these reforms will facilitate strong and inclusive growth that reduces poverty. The government has made rapid strides over the last two years and important macroeconomic reforms such as the managed float of the exchange rate are already bearing fruits. The government recognizes there is still a long way to go and further policy reform will be essential to deliver sustained inclusive growth.

The recent debt rescheduling agreements with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Paris Club demonstrate the international community's commitment to supporting the reform process. The IMF is closely assisting the government develop and implement the policies to ensure macroeconomic stability and strengthen reforms under their SMP (Staff Monitored Programme). Meanwhile, the IMF will enhance its capacity building programmes which are crucial to human resources development.

Most recently, an IMF team led by Mr. Anoop Singh, Director of the Asia and Pacific Department, visited Myanmar and discussed intensification of the IMF's relations with the government with the Union Minister for Finance and Revenue, the Union Minister for National Planning and Economic and Development, the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and other senior officials.

They also had discussions with civil society representatives and development partners to ensure poverty alleviation.

Discussions with the authorities focused on the importance of intensifying the already strong partnership the IMF has with Myanmar for development of financial sector of the country. At a time when the country is in a critical period of transition we are confident that the impressive commitment of the IMF to economic and social reforms will deliver real improvements to the people of Myanmar and with this, we would be able to make good within a fair short period of time.

NATIONAL

Relations between national races, sympathy, mutual...

(from page 8)

of 11, he expressed his hope that Myanmar has seen the dawn of peace in Kachin State as good results came out of the Shweli negotiation.

Myanmar is going to see the silence of guns for the first time since the independence in 1948, he added.

The government has taken three steps in making peace with armed groups. In the last step, delegates from all national races will participate in a meeting at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, he said.

Only when the country is in peace, will the rule of law be enforced effectively, he said.

Regarding the socio-economy of the people, the President said the Foreign Investment Law was enacted to attract foreign investments in the country as the country was insufficient in capital, technology and human resources despite its richness of natural resources, he added.

The government has made efforts for relaxation of the economic sanctions as a first step and for totally lifting the sanctions as a

second step.

The relations between Myanmar and international countries have improved and the economic sanctions imposed against the country were relaxed, he said.

He called on all national races to understand the good situation of the country and to work in unison.

Afterwards, the President and ministers for national races affairs visited the 500-acre mechanized farming for educating farmers.

They visited cow farm, production of bio gas and running generators on bio-gas, manageable piggeries, crop plantation and irrigated fields of rice.

MNA

Educational fund raising in Pyawbwe

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—"Thanks to the establishment of education fund in Pyawbwe, the township can nurture more educated youths than ever before. It needs to provide those who are in need," said Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, at an educational fund raising ceremony in Pyawbwe of Mandalay Region yesterday.

Member of Board of Directors of National Development Co U Kyaw Min Naing donated K 10 million through the Speaker. After that, Pyawbwe Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw Hsan explained the purpose of the fund raising. The Township Education officer spoke words of thanks.

It was also attended by Hluttaw representatives, the



Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint speaking at educational fund raising ceremony in Pyawbwe Township.—MNA

Region Forestry and Mine officials, townselders and Minister, departmental donors.—MNA

Peru, Colombia seek to improve life of border communities

LIMA, 12 Feb — Colombia and Peru are making efforts to improve life of border communities in the Amazonian region, an official with the Colombian Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

Francisco Coy Granados, Director of Territorial Sovereignty and Border Development of Colombia, said in the Peruvian border town of Iquitos that the two sides have tabled several projects including computer-aided long-distance medical treatment

for people in the Putumayo River basin, as well as food security and fish farming.

At a meeting of the Binational Technical Committee on Border Development and Integration, Coy urged local governments to promote sustainable projects that could bring greater benefit to the border communities of both nations.

Feliz Denegri, Coy's Peruvian counterpart, said the Peruvian government is working on strengthening towns along the bor-

der with Colombia in the Amazon region, where the presence of government institutions had been weak due to their size and lack of access.

"We can do it better if we work together with Colombia, with whom we share common problems," the Peruvian official said.

Denegri also proposed the two nations adopt security measures to fight organized crime and other problems that afflict both countries.

Xinhua

Australian role in Afghanistan after transition waits on US decision

CANBERRA, 12 Feb—Australia needs to get precision from the United States about what the United States sees as the scale of its transition draw down in Afghanistan, and its post-2014

transition proposals, Defence Minister Stephen Smith said on Tuesday.

According to his speech to the Australian Defence Magazine congress in Canberra today, Australian government is about to start the conversation with NATO, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the US on Australia's role next year and beyond 2014.

"What the United States

and Afghanistan agree about the United States presence in Afghanistan post 2014 transition, and what role any United States forces left behind will play, is the starting point," Smith said.

"Once that is clearer, then Australia and other NATO/ISAF countries will be able to make a judgment about what role, if any, others, including Australia, might play."

Minister Smith said Australia had committed 100 million-a-year (almost 102.91 million USD) for three years from 2015 to support the Afghan National Security Forces beyond the withdrawal of western forces.—Xinhua

Quintana visits relief camps in Sittway District



Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Quintana meeting with locals.—MNA

YANGON, 12 Feb—Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, accompanied by UN resident coordinator Mr Ashok Nigam and officials, met Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin at the hall of Rakhine State government office yesterday. At the meeting, the chief minister and officials replied to the questions on current conditions, assistances to

the victims, relief camps and rehabilitation programme.

After that, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party, accompanied by State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Htein Lin and Rakhine State Advocate-General U Hla Thein, proceeded to Myebon of Sittway District. There, they met victims at rescue camps in Kanthahtwetwa and Taungpaw wards as well as victims at Kyeinnipin relief

camp in Pauktaw township.

This morning, they met prisoners freely and separately at Sittway jail and visited men, women and hospital wards. From there, they met victims separately at Mingan and Thetkalpyin relief camps. After that, they held discussions on both sides' views with townselders at Sittway hotel and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

Italy to reopen consulate in Benghazi

TRIPOLI, 12 Feb — Italy will reopen its consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi in the near future, a diplomatic source at the Italian embassy in Tripoli told Xinhua on Monday.

A new Italian consul will also be appointed in Benghazi, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The Italian government announced the temporary

closure of its consulate in Benghazi and withdrew its employees in Libya last month after a failed attack on Italian consul Guido De Sanctis in Benghazi.

A group of militants shot at the bullet-proof car of De Sanctis when the diplomat was on the way to his residence on 12 January. No one was injured in the attack.

Xinhua



Colourful roses imported from Holland are seen at a flower shop for sale before the upcoming Valentine's Day in Suzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 11 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA

Social harmony key to growth for multinational states

DUBAI, 12 Feb—A former Singaporean minister said here on Monday that well organized and technologically advanced government services are essential to keep societies where many ethnic groups live side by side stable.

Speaking at a panel discussion of the two-day United Arab Emirates Government Summit, which started in its first edition on Monday, Chan Soo Sen, Singapore's former minister of state for education, trade and industry, said Singapore's economic success story was not only based

on building up a liberal and well-connected economy, but also on social harmony.

"Social harmony through good governance and public services is key for sustainable prosperity," said Chan, "especially for city state like Singapore, which has no natural resources but has a multicultural society."

According to the official, 75 percent of the 5.3 million Singaporeans are of Chinese origin, while 15 percent are Malay, 8 percent are Indians and 2 percent are of other origins. Religious diversity is likewise

high. While Buddhists and Taoists make up to 53 percent of the total population, Muslims and Christians stand for 16 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

Chan gave a number of examples of how stability can be reached among people of different ethnics. Every citizen in Singapore is obliged to speak the language of his origin and English, he said, "This is compulsory and important, otherwise Singaporeans would feel their origin has no place in society and we could not communicate with each other or with the

world."

In addition, Singapore established a National Council that supports voluntary organizations so that people get a feeling that helping each other is supported by the state. The city state also upgraded its government services by rewarding the use of e-public services. "If a I apply for a new passport at the ministry of interior, I have to pay 80 US dollars, but if I do so online, I get a 10-US dollar discount," Chan said such incentives made people happy and contributed to social harmony.—Xinhua



Asian Development Bank President Haruhiko Kuroda speaks during an interview with media organizations including Kyodo News in Tokyo on 11 Feb, 2013.
KYODO NEWS

Ukraine's perinatal care programme boosts healthcare efficiency

KIEV, 12 Feb—A nationwide perinatal care programme gave pregnant women and newborn babies facing the risk of complications access to affordable and high-quality medical care, an official from the Ukrainian president's office said on Monday.

"The project entitled 'New Life' is well underway. A total of eight perinatal centers have been built in Ukraine. Around 20,000 babies were born there," Iryna Akimova, first deputy

head of the Presidential Administration said during her visit to Kiev perinatal center.

The programme, initiated by Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich two years ago, made it possible for women with limited financial resources to give birth to healthy children, Akimova said.

According to official data, the newborn death rate in Ukraine has nearly halved in the past two years. Xinhua

Zuma gives estimates for sending troops to CAR

CAPE TOWN, 12 Feb—The deployment of peace troopers in the war-torn Central African Republic (CAR) could cost South African taxpayers 1.2 billion rand (about 136 million US dollars) over five years, President Jacob Zuma said on Monday.

Zuma clarified that his initial estimate of 65 million rand (about 7.4 million dollars) for the deployment of 400 SA National Defense Force (SANDF) members was only for the period from 3 January to 31 March.

Zuma made the clarification in a letter to National Assembly speaker Max Sisulu, according to the South African Press Association.

"No provision has been made yet for the financial year 2013/14 for this employment," said Zuma.

Zuma has been criticized by the opposition Democratic Alliance for the amount the government would spend taxpayers' money on sending troops to CAR.

Zuma said that while no budgetary allocation had

been made, the deployment of troops would run to on 31 March, 2018, in terms of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between South Africa and the CAR.

"Therefore, this employment will run up to the end of the duration of our MoU, however if the situation improves in the intervening period, we will revise the protection element accordingly."

Zuma said the Treasury was being consulted on the additional funds needed for the deployment.—Xinhua



Photo from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the Russian sail ship Sedov heading to Nagasaki port in southwestern Japan on 11 Feb, 2013.
KYODO NEWS



A flower shop staff member prepares roses for the sales peak during the upcoming Valentine's Day in Suzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 11 Feb, 2013.
XINHUA



Performers participate in the carnival in Barranquilla, Colombia, on 10 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

World youth pledge to promote environmental sustainability

NAIROBI, 12 Feb—The global youth pledged on Monday to rally behind efforts to promote the green agenda through sustainable consumption, ecosystems restoration alongside activities to reduce chemical and food waste.

The young environmental stewards gathered at the 2013 Tunza International Youth Conference on Environment in Nairobi, reiterated their commitment to advance environmental sustainability in their respective countries.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Achim Steiner said young people are trailblazers when it comes to new, creative solutions to the world's most critical environmental challenges. Xinhua

"In order to follow this example and to ensure a fair share of the world's resources for all, governments, industry and others must also commit to firm actions that can place the world on a more sustainable path," Steiner told delegates from 100 countries.

Over 800 young people from Kenya and across the globe are attending one of the world's biggest environmental youth conferences.

The 2013 TUNZA International Youth Conference on the Environment will see young people from over 100 countries examine ways in which they can directly tackle today's most pressing environmental issues, and encourage their peers to take action. Xinhua

Tornado fighter of Saudi air force crashes, pilot survives

RIYADH, 12 Feb—A Tornado fighter of the Saudi royal air force crashed on Monday during a training, but the pilot survived, Saudi defence ministry said.

The crash occurred on Monday afternoon during a routine training at King Abdulaziz airbase in Dhahran, and the crew have escaped to safety, the Saudi Press Agency quoted the defence

ministry as saying.

An investigation has been launched by a technical team to probe the plane's falling, the ministry said.

An F15 jet and a Hawk aircraft crashed during different training missions in December in the kingdom. One pilot of the F15 jet was killed in the crash. Xinhua

Barclays to cut 3,700 jobs amid costs reduction

LONDON, 12 Feb—Barclays on Tuesday announced 3,700 job cuts this year amid plans to reduce costs by 1.7 billion pounds by 2015.

Of the job cuts, 1,800 will come from its corporate and investment bank, with the vast majority in Asia, and 1,900 will come from its European retail and

business banking.

The job cuts are expected to generate a restructuring charge of nearly 500 million pounds in the first quarter of 2013.

The London-headquartered bank made a pre-tax profit of 246 million pounds for 2012, compared with 5.9 billion pounds for 2011.

The bank set aside 1.6

billion pounds to compensate customers for the mis-sold payment protection insurance (PPI) and 850 million pounds for mis-sold interest rate hedging products.

It also paid 450 million pounds of fines for attempting to manipulate Libor inter-bank interest after the scandal broke out in mid 2012.—Xinhua

REGIONAL

Indonesian capital to become Asia's ultimate property market, expert says

JAKARTA, 12 Feb—Indonesian capital city of Jakarta is estimated to become an ultimate property market in Asia due to robust housing, apartment demands and economic policies that apparently effective in curbing inflation, a prominent property expert said here on Tuesday.

"Jakarta will be a prime destination of property business in Asia," Andy Roberts, general manager of a property broker firm Ru-

mah123.com said, citing to the results of 2012 property surveys in Asia exposed to the media here.

Due to the government's orchestrated policies to keep inflation at low level, Jakarta becomes a competitive place to invest in property business if compared to other Asian major cities like Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Sydney in Australia.

"Development of property market in Indonesia has been essentially backed up by

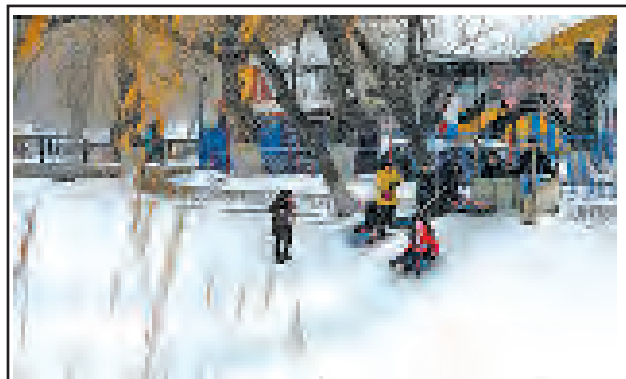
the low inflation rate," Andy said, adding that Indonesia recorded inflation rate below 5 percent in the last 17 months.

He said that such a level is regarded as a good indicator for the future of property business in the country. "We are convinced that Indonesian property business will continue to robust in the future," he said as quoted by the *Antara news agency*.

According to results of a property survey conducted by property consultant Colliers International, Indonesian condominium market grew significantly in the first three quarters last year.

Results of another survey conducted by a credible firm in property business, Jones Lang La Salle, said that Jakarta will see 27,130 new condominiums from 2013 to 2016 in which 61.4 percent of those condominiums have been sold out.

Xinhua



Citizens play in snow in Changchun, capital of north-east China's Jilin Province on 12 Feb, 2013. Some parts of the northeast provinces witnessed snowfall on Tuesday. —XINHUA

Chopper crashes near Baku, killing three

BAKU, 12 Feb—All three crew members were supposedly killed when a military helicopter crashed into the Caspian Sea soon after taking off, Azerbaijan's defence ministry said on Monday.

The Azerbaijan air forces' *Mi-8MT* helicop-

ter was flying to Kurdamir region of Azerbaijan, 160 km west of Baku, when the crash occurred, the ministry said in a statement.

The chopper disappeared from the radar screen at 10:30 am local time (0630 GMT) on Monday morning, it said.

Eyewitnesses said the crash caused an explosion.

Authorities have sent helicopters and ships to the site to carry out search and rescue operations.

Investigation was underway to determine the cause of the accident.

Xinhua

Roadside bomb strikes Afghan army van, kills one, wounds one

JALALABAD, 12 Feb—Roadside bomb hit a vehicle of Afghan army in the eastern Nangarhar Province 120 km east of Kabul on Monday, leaving one person dead and injuring another, a local official said.

"A mine planted by militants on a road in Khogyani district, struck a vehicle of national army in Mimla village at around 10:00 am local time today killing a soldier and injuring another," a security official Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal told *Xinhua*.

Xinhua

KABUL, 12 Feb—Security forces have killed 11 Taliban militants in different provinces within the last 24 hours, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Tuesday. "Afghan police, army and intelligence agency in partnership with the NATO-led coalition forces conducted

six cleanup operations in Kapisa, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Wardak and Paktiya provinces, killing 11 armed Taliban militants and detaining nine others," the ministry said in a statement, adding two militants were wounded in the raids.

They also found and



A bulldozer works to open an alternative pathway beside the crushed bridge on the No. 304 Provincial Highway, the Shuitao Village, Hongsibao District of Wuzhong City, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 10 Feb, 2013. According to local highway authorities, an overloaded truck carrying the outsized casting, with a gross weight of 100 tons, crushed the bridge with design load of only 55 tons when the truck tried to pass over it. —XINHUA

Commonwealth chief in Sri Lanka for pre-summit talks

COLOMBO, 12 Feb—Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma began talks in Sri Lanka on Monday where he will push for advancing Commonwealth values and principles, including the independence of the judiciary and the separation of powers, the Commonwealth Secretariat said in a statement issued in Colombo.

Richard Uku, official spokesperson and director of Communications and Public Affairs at the Commonwealth Secretariat said that the Secretary-General will discuss matters of shared interest between Sri Lanka and the Commonwealth, including the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which takes place in Sri Lanka in

November. He said that the Secretary-General will review organizational preparations for CHOGM and discuss possible outcomes that Sri Lanka and Commonwealth leaders will want to achieve at the summit.

"We want the 2013 summit to achieve significant outcomes for all members. It should show ways in which all Commonwealth citizens — be they city dwellers or residents of remote communities — can increasingly become beneficiaries of national development and growth, and be confident that they can shape their societies through democratic culture and processes. Development and democracy are mutually reinforcing," Uku said.

Xinhua

11 Taliban militants killed in Afghan raids

KABUL, 12 Feb—Security forces have killed 11 Taliban militants in different provinces within the last 24 hours, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Tuesday. "Afghan police, army and intelligence agency in partnership with the NATO-led coalition forces conducted

six cleanup operations in Kapisa, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Wardak and Paktiya provinces, killing 11 armed Taliban militants and detaining nine others," the ministry said in a statement, adding two militants were wounded in the raids.

They also found and

seized weapons, the statement said, without saying if there were any casualties on the side of security forces.

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

Xinhua

Cambodia greets 333,900 Chinese tourists in 2012, up 35 pct

PHNOM PENH, 12 Feb — Cambodia attracted 333,900 Chinese tourists last year, a 35 percent rise compared with 247,200 Chinese visitors in a year earlier, according to a report of the Ministry of Tourism on Tuesday.

"China is the 3rd largest tourist arrival group to Cambodia last year after Vietnam and South Korea,"

Kong Sopheareak, chief of the statistics and planning department at the Ministry of Tourism, told *Xinhua* over telephone. "We see a steady rise of Chinese tourists to Cambodia from year to year, and we foresee that the country will receive up to 1 million Chinese by 2020." He attributed the increase to more direct flight

connection between Cambodia and China and Cambodia's attractive tourism destinations. "Moreover, the very good relationship between the royal government of Cambodia and the government of China has encouraged more Chinese investors and businesspeople to do businesses in Cambodia," he stressed.—*Xinhua*

China's coal mines less deadly, still dangerous

BEIJING, 12 Feb—China reported fewer coal mine deaths last year but safety hazards still abound in the country's coal production, a work safety regulator has said.

Mine accidents killed 37 workers for every 100 million tonnes of coal produced in 2012, said Huang Yi, chief engineer of the State Administration of Work Safety.

That was down from 56.4 deaths per 100 million tonnes of coal output in 2011, but still well above the US level of 1.9 in 2011, according to the administration's data.

In total, 1,384 people were killed in coal mine accidents last year, declining from 1,973 in 2011, Huang said. "The work safety situation at coal mines remains grim and we can not be blindly optimistic," he said.

The administration last month put into effect rules that hold coal mine managers accountable for protecting workers' lives. Managers are required to guarantee proper licenses of operation, ventilation and better trained workers.

Illegal coal production at mines without valid licenses accounted for 43 percent of major accidents that occurred in the past decade, according to Huang.—*Xinhua*



Investigators inspect the railway station where a stampede occurred on 10 February in Allahabad, India, on 11 Feb, 2013. At least 36 people were dead and over 30 others injured in a stampede taking place at the busy railway station in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh's holy town of Allahabad on Sunday night. —XINHUA



C B BANK

CB Bank is happy to announce that we have started **Merchant Service Registration** to help your business accept payments from all three Major International Cards in one single terminal:



Let's Win Win Together !

For Immediate registration :

Please call our Merchant Service Centre (01) – 378 905, 378 906
(or) e-mail at pos.merchant@cbbankmm.com

We warmly welcome

**Hotels, Restaurants, Gems & Jewellery shops,
Souvenir shops and other businesses to register.**



ENTERTAINMENT & ADVERTISEMET

Request for Expressions of Interest

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Community Driven Development Project

IDA Grant H814-MM

Assignment Title: Township Level Technical Assistance

Reference No: C-4.1, C-4.2, C-4.3

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of its National Community Driven Development Project, which is being implemented by the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Border Affairs. The Government intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of consulting services. The consulting services ("the Services") include:

- * The provision of institutional support, capacity development and technical assistance to the township DRD office in the implementation of the Project, including providing data for the project's monitoring and Management Information System (MIS) and tracking and reporting on performance indicators and project progress;
- * The recruitment and training of community facilitators (with each responsible for about two village tracts) to assist village tract forums with the preparation and annual revision of tract development plans, the approval and implementation of sub-projects, and the organization of annual social audits;
- * Assistance to village tract forums to manage project funds in a transparent and accountable manner;
- * Support to DRD engineers and village level committees for the preparation and technical design of sub-projects, including procurement and the identification and adequate mitigation of potential negative environmental and social impacts;
- * Support to the township DRD office in adapting project informational materials to local context and ensuring wide outreach to and communication and consultation with local stakeholders;
- * Support to the grievance handling system in line with standards established by the DRD project secretariat.

During its first year of operation, the Project will begin operations in one township each in Chin State, Shan State and Thanintharyi Region. While the township selection is being undertaken, DRD now invites eligible consulting firms or NGOs ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services in one or several of these townships. The shortlisting criteria are:

- * Past experience with community based development activities in similar conditions as in Myanmar, with prior experience in Myanmar preferred;
- * Availability of staff with relevant expertise, with all staff fluent in Myanmar language and community facilitators also fluent in local languages (depending on final township selection);
- * Size of contracts over the past five years.

The Services are expected to be carried out by a Consultant team of six experts: lead CDD/training specialist, finance officer, procurement officer, M&E officer, infrastructure specialist and communications specialist. The assignment period will be 24 months.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [January 2011] ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other NGOs/firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS or QBS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1600. Expressions of Interest must be delivered in written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, fax, or email) by February 25, 2013.

Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Border Affairs

Attn: U Myint Oo, Deputy Director General

Chairperson of the Procurement Committee

National Community Driven Development Project

Department of Rural Development

Ministry of Border Affairs

Office Number 14

Nay Pyi Taw

Myanmar

Fax: +95-67-409029

Email to all these email addresses: myint.oo.dda@gmail.com; kzaw.dda@gmail.com; naing.7.koko@gmail.com.

Ministry of Information

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Invitation to Open Tender for Purchase of Nikon Camera

1. Open tenders are invited to purchase five items of Nikon Camera D-7000 for News and Periodicals Enterprise.
2. Open tender forms may be drawn from the following address from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr daily during the period from 14-2-2013 to 25-2-2013.
3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of members of the Tender Board at Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 26-2-2013. The overdue forms will not be considered.
4. For further information, may dial 067-412123 and 067-412128 during the office hours.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Ministry of Information

Office No.7, Nay Pyi Taw

Phone:067-412123, 067-412128

"Identity Thief" braves blizzard to become No 1 at N America box office

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy have proven that they are the cinematic draw to moviegoers in the United States and Canada this weekend, as their new film "Identity Thief" opened as No. 1 release in spite of a massive blizzard which hit the major part of East Coast of the United States, cutting a fairly part of revenues off.

The Universal R-rated comedy, which stars Bateman as a guy whose identity is stolen by a woman (McCarthy), debuted with a robust 36.6 million dollar gate, marking as the 13th largest February debut of all time before the ticket price is adjusted for inflation.

Although many theaters in New England were closed on Saturday due to Winter Storm Nemo, which may have taken a 10 percent bite out of the total,



poster of movie "Identity Thief"

this seemed to have not had a negative impact on the flick, as it opened in 3,141 venues and siphoned a healthy revenue from other films in the marketplace.

The movie is a slightly female-skewing piece, as 58 percent was women. It also has an appeal to older filmgoers, as 57 percent was 30 years and

older. Those who have seen it assigned a "B" CinemaScore to it. "Warm Bodies," Lionsgate's PG-13 zombie comedy which opened last weekend as No. 1, slipped to No 2 with a 11.5 million dollars gross. Steven Soderbergh-directed "Side Effects" opened as No 3 with a 10 million dollar weekend.

The Open Road's thriller received a "B" rating on CinemaScore. Rounding out the top 10 most popular films in North America this week-

end were "Silver Linings Playbook" (6.9 million dollars), "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters" (5.8 million), "Mama" (4.3 million), "Zero Dark Thirty" (4 million), "Argo" (2.5 million), "Django Unchained" (2.3 million), and "Bullet To The Head" (2 million).

Xinhua

Black Keys win three as Grammys spread widely

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—The Grammy awards were bestowed widely on Sunday as Australian singer Gotye, New York indie-pop trio FUN. and British folk band Mumford & Sons took home top honors on the music's industry's biggest night.

On an evening that re-

warded mostly young or lesser known artists over veterans and household names, British folk band Mumford & Sons picked up two Grammys, including the coveted Album of the Year for "Babel."

Unlike last year, when British singer Adele swept the board with six trophies,

there was no single big winner. Ohio rockers The Black Keys, formed by Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney, took home three Grammys including Best Rock Album for "El Camino." Auerbach also won the prestigious Producer of the Year award, bring his tally to four.—Reuters



Nate Ruess (C) and Fun accept the Grammy award for song of the year for "We Are Young" at the 55th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, on 10 Feb, 2013.

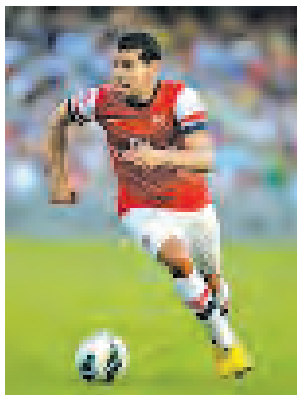
REUTERS

SPORTS

Gremio confirms loan deal for Arsenal defender Santos

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 Feb—Brazilian club Gremio has confirmed the signing of Arsenal defender Andre Santos on a one-year loan deal. Santos trained with the Porto Alegre outfit on Monday and is expected to play in the side's 2013 Copa Libertadores opener against Chile's Huachipato at Arena do Gremio on Thursday.

The left-back has made just 23 first-team appearances for the Gunners since his 2011 move from Turkey's Fenerbahce. Gremio officials also confirmed Ar-



Arsenal defender Santos

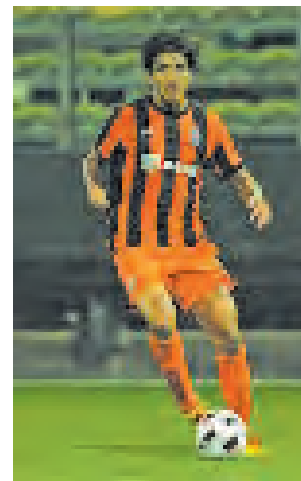
gentine striker Hernan Barcos has been registered with Brazil's football confederation (CBF) ahead of Tuesday's deadline for Copa Libertadores team squads.

The 28-year-old joined Gremio last week after his former club Palmeiras accepted a three-million US-dollar transfer fee and five players on loan. Barcos is hopeful the move will improve his chances regaining his place in Argentina's national team ahead of next year's FIFA World Cup. "I want to play as well as I can at my new club to have another chance of representing my country," Barcos said.—Xinhua

Santos have begun talks with Gremio officials in a bid to secure the 25-year-old on a one-year loan deal, Lancenet reported on Monday.

Moreno, who has been the subject of transfer talks in recent weeks, admits he is unsure what his future holds, but made no secret of

Moreno reveals Neymar factor in transfer talks



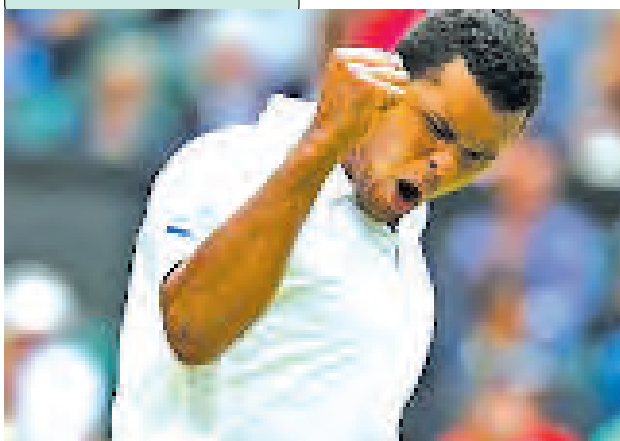
Bolivia international striker Marcelo Moreno

his willingness to join the Sao Paulo club. "I think any player would want to play with Santos. The chance to play with Neymar is something that makes you think," Moreno said.

"It's a great club with a lot of tradition. But right now I am focused on Gremio and I will wait to see what happens." Gremio have an 80 percent stake in Moreno's economic rights with the balance held by the forward's former club Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk.

Xinhua

French third seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga



ROTTERDAM, 12 Feb—French third seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga suffered a shock 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 defeat by Dutch wildcard Igor Sijsling in the first round of the World Indoor Tournament on Monday. The 27-year-old Tsonga squandered five breakpoints before surrendering the first

set 7-3 in the tiebreak but appeared to have gained control of the match when he leveled the contest at one-set all.

But Tsonga's serve, which had produced 14 aces, collapsed in the 10th game of decisive set and that allowed his 77th-ranked opponent to pull off

Dutch wildcard Sijsling knocks out third seed Tsonga

an unlikely victory. "I can't say I played bad tennis but on this kind of surface matches are always tight," Tsonga, the highest seed in action on Monday in a tournament headed by Roger Federer, told reporters.

"It is disappointing to drop out early at such a big tournament," Tsonga's

compatriot Gilles Simon eased past German Daniel Brands with a 7-6, 6-4. Both players dropped their serve twice before Simon clinched the tiebreak and won the second to set up a second round match with Italian qualifier Matteo Viola.

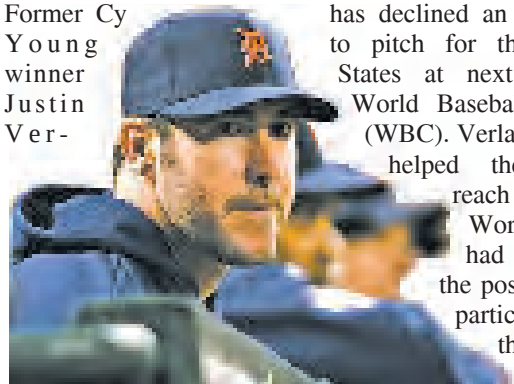
Reuters



Dutch wildcard Igor Sijsling

Tigers' ace Verlander passes on World Baseball Classic

NEW YORK, 12 Feb—Former Cy Young winner Justin Ver-



Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Justin Verlander

lander of the Detroit Tigers has declined an invitation to pitch for the United States at next month's World Baseball Classic (WBC). Verlander, who helped the Tigers reach last year's World Series, had left open the possibility of participating in the WBC

when provisional rosters were announced last month but now said he needs the time to prepare for the upcoming 2013 Major League Baseball season.

"I don't want to have to feel rushed to catch up to where I need to be," Verlander told reporters at Detroit's spring training camp in Florida on Monday. The US team begins play in the WBC on March 8 and the Tigers open their MLB

campaign on 1 April. The hard-throwing right-hander decided he needed to give his arm a rest after throwing 266 innings last year following a 271-inning season in 2011.

"I knew it was going to be a long shot the whole time," said Verlander, who fell just short of repeating as Cy Young winner after going 17-8 with a 2.64 earned run average last season.—Reuters

Judo: Tachimoto takes 3rd gold for women's team in Paris Grand Slam

PARIS, 12 Feb—Megumi Tachimoto won the women's over-78 kilogram gold medal on the final day of the Paris Grand Slam on Sunday.

In the final, Tachimoto defeated Cuba's London Olympic champion Idalys

Ortiz, who was disqualified for her fourth penalty. The gold was the third for Japan's women's team, which competed in the wake of an abuse scandal that has rocked sports in the country.

In the women's 78-kg

class, Japan's Akari Ogata finished second after losing the final by yuko to France's Lucie Louette. Ruika Sato joined Ogata on the podium with a bronze medal.—Kyodo News

Japan's Megumi Tachimoto (L)



Mourinho: Real Madrid - Manchester United - what the world is waiting for

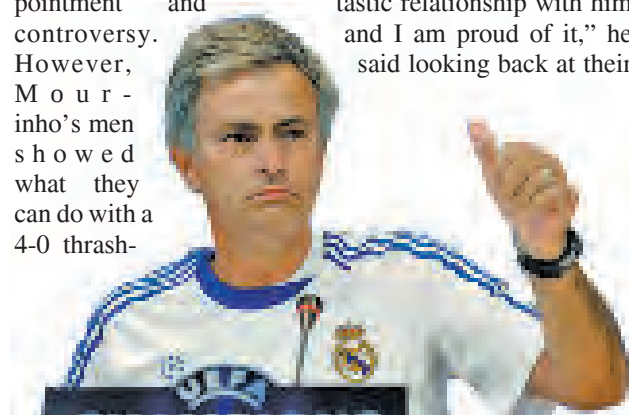
MADRID, 12 Feb—Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho hails the Champions League tie between his side and Manchester United Wednesday as one of the biggest matches of the season. The reigning English and Spanish league champions go head to head in the first leg of their last 16 tie in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Wednesday night with the return three weeks later in Old Trafford.

While Manchester United go into the game 12 points clear at the top of the Barclay's Premier League in England, Madrid are 16 points behind FC Barcelona and the Champions League is the chance redeem a season tainted by disappointment and controversy. However, Mourinho's men showed what they can do with a 4-0 thrash-

"People think we are under pressure because a big team will be out, but it is the kind of match we want and the people are not waiting for any other game. I hope we give them what they want," he added.

Mourinho visited Old Trafford to watch Manchester United prepare for the game with a 2-0 win over Everton and spoke of his close relationship with United coach Sir Alex Ferguson, who some believe he may one day succeed at Old Trafford.

"I feel privileged about that because he is such an important person in the world of football and, more importantly, he is good person. I have always had a fantastic relationship with him and I am proud of it," he said looking back at their



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho

ing of Sevilla on Saturday in a game in which former Manchester United striker, Cristiano Ronaldo scored a blistering hat-trick and that has wetted Mourinho's appetite for the match.

"It is the match the world is waiting for," the Real Madrid coach said in an interview on MUTV in which he highlighted the quality of two sides who would normally have expected to meet at a later stage of the competition.

rivalry when Mourinho had coached Porto, Chelsea and Inter Milan. "We have had so many matches between us which started with Porto. We had some with Chelsea, Inter and now Real.

Some I had won, some I have lost, others I have drawn." "Of course, I want to win and he wants to win, but I believe the loser will have a little bit of space to feel a little bit happy because of the friendship.

Reuters

GENERAL

Members of District Fire services Department, family from Thabyaygone market participate in the fire preventive measure drill.
KYEMON



Alpine skiing: Ligety's risk strategy nets second gold



Ted Ligety of the US skis during the men's super combined Slalom race at the World Alpine Skiing Championships in Schladming on 11 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

SCHLADMING, (Austria), 12 Feb — American Ted Ligety's risky strategy earned him the super-combined title on Monday and his second gold medal of the alpine skiing world championships. Seven years after winning the discipline's Olympic crown in Sestriere, Ligety proved he was more versatile than ever, clinching victory in a combined time of two minutes 56.96 seconds. Ligety, who won the super-G last week, will also be the hot favorite in the defense of his giant slalom crown on Friday as he bids

for a formidable hat-trick.

His performance was all the more spectacular as he had never won either a super-G or a super-combined in the World Cup before the world championships and the 28-year-old from Salt Lake City could even be a threat in Sunday's slalom. On the steep and icy slalom course at the bottom of the Planai piste, home of a famous floodlit slalom on the World Cup circuit, Ligety adopted a dangerous strategy. "I took all the risks after my great downhill run. I knew I had a chance but

I was looking to ski smart also, it was easy to ski out as the run was so tough," he told reporters.

"I have huge routine being on the tour for nine years, so I can handle pressure well and these worlds have been pretty exciting for me so far," he added. He promised more excitement in the week ahead. —Reuters

Deja vu Devils repeat 3-1 victory over Penguins

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb — The New Jersey Devils dished out a second 3-1 defeat in as many days against the Pittsburgh Penguins on Sunday to strengthen their position at the top of the Eastern Conference. A day after beating their Atlantic Division rivals by an identical score in New



New Jersey Devils

Jersey, the Devils repeated the feat in Pittsburgh on the back of one goal from Ilya Kovalchuk and two from David Clarkson, who took his tally to nine for the season.

The win was the fifth in a row for the visitors and improved their record to 8-1-3, while the Pens dipped to 8-5-0. "It's just confidence, the more years you play in the league you get a bit more comfortable and you try to make plays," Clarkson told reporters. "My line is helping me a lot and it's just finding the areas of the ice and the puck just seems to be going in right now." Clarkson

opened the scoring after 13 minutes, showing great stick work on a quick break to slam home the puck in an opening period dominated by the Penguins.

The Devils improved after the break and wrapped up proceedings in a two-minute spell midway through the second period when Kovalchuk scored and Clarkson rammed home a rebound from a Patrik Elias shot for a 3-0 lead. "I think we are a team that is a bit meat and potatoes. We get it in deep and work hard and I can't say enough about our penalty kills, they were phenomenal tonight," Clarkson said. "I



think we are just working as a team and buying into the system." James Neal scored a consolation goal for the Penguins during a powerplay early in the final period but the visitors were unable to make any further inroads into New Jersey's advantage over the final 19 minutes.

Reuters

Federer calls for biological passports to detect doping



ROTTERDAM, 12 Feb — World number two Roger Federer has called for the introduction of biological passports in

tennis similar to those used in cycling to detect possible doping. "A blood passport will be necessary as some substances can't be discovered right now but might in the future, and that risk of discovery can chase cheaters away," the 31-year-old Swiss said on the opening day of the World Indoor Tournament in Rotterdam.

"But there also should be more blood tests and out of competition controls in tennis," he added. According to figures on the International

Tennis Federation website (www.itftennis.com), sport's governing body carried out only 21 out-of-competition blood tests in the professional game in 2011. Cycling's governing body the UCI carried out more than 3,314 out-of-competition blood tests in the same year.

The UCI introduced biological passports in 2008 to track any blood changes in riders against an original profile which could mean they had taken illegal substances.

Reuters

Nadal says give me more time before judging me

SANTIAGO, 12 Feb — Rafa Nadal's worst defeat on a claycourt for nine years offered ammunition to the naysayers but the Spaniard says his recovery from knee injury should be judged over time. The seven-times French Open champion's narrow loss to Argentine world No 73 Horacio Zeballos in Vina del Mar on Sunday was rightly regarded as a shock as Nadal's defeats on clay over the past eight years can be counted on two hands.

Even those rare reversals have come against players of the calibre of

Roger Federer and, most notably Novak Djokovic in 2011 and the last time he lost to a player outside



Spain's Rafael Nadal prepares to serve to Argentina's Horacio Zeballos during the men's singles final match at the Chilean Open tennis tournament in Vina del Mar on 10 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

the world's top 20 on clay was five years ago in Rome when former world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero got the upper hand. You have to go back to Palermo in 2004, before Nadal had won his first French title, to find the Spaniard losing to one of the game's journeymen, Frenchman Olivier Mutis who was then ranked outside the top 100. Zeballos, who had never won a title before, played admirably but Nadal was clearly not firing on all cylinders despite reaching the final without dropping a set.—Reuters

State Flag-hoisting and saluting ceremony marks 66th Anniversary Union Day

Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 66th Anniversary Union Day Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham gives salute to the State Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the ceremony to mark the 66th Anniversary Union Day.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 66th Anniversary Union Day Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham read the message sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein to the ceremony to mark the 66th Anniversary Union

Day in front of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this morning.

At 5.30 am, the national races and the flag-hoisting platoon hoisted the State Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The Guard of Honour took the position at the square of the City Hall.

After taking the salute of

the Guard of Honour, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham together with those present saluted the State Flag. The Guard of Honour played the National Anthem.

Next, the Vice-President read the message sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were the Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, the Union ministers, the judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, deputy ministers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, members of the Management Committee, national race ministers of regions and states, departmental heads and guests totaling over 2300.

Ministries, offices, the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, roundabouts, Myanmar Gem Museum, Mani Yadana Jade Hall and Jade Garden, markets in Nay Pyi Taw, buildings and staff quarters were illuminated in commemoration of the 66th Anniversary Union Day at the nights of yesterday and today.—MNA

**Ten members of Mon Peace Defence Group return to legal fold**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Two members of Mon Peace Defence Group — Naing Nyo with the rank of major and Achan with the rank of lieutenant—returned to the legal fold bringing along with one M.32 pistol, one .30 carbine and accessories to the local battalion at Laynyar Village in Pyigyimandaing sub-township, Taninthayi Region on 10 February morning.

Thanks to a warm welcome given by Tatmadaw, they made contact with the remaining groups. As a result, another eight-member group led by

Soe Myint with the rank of major joined them bringing along with one .30 carbine, two M-16s, two HKs, one AK-47, one .22 gun, one smoothbore gun, one 40 mm RPG, one handmade gun and accessories yesterday.

Those ten members who returned to legal fold brought along with 12 guns, 1207 rounds of ammunition and 22 magazines. Officials provided them with foodstuff and clothing and arrangements are being made to provide more assistance to them for rehabilitation and security of their families.

MNA

**Tatmadaw holds ceasefire in Kachin State**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The Tatmadaw is taking measures not to happen fightings except self-defence, following the instructions dated on 11 December, 2011, of the President Office, and in

accordance with the press release 3/2013 of the Union Government.

While discharging duties for regional security in Hpakant, Kachin State, a Myanmar Tatmadaw troop was greeted by

a ten-member troop of KIA Battalion-6 near Waelon/Wakha Village in Hpakant Township yesterday afternoon. After friendly greeting them, the Tatmadaw troop continued their journey to their

outpost, said Ministry of Defence.

Since 4 February, the Tatmadaw has maintained the situation in order to prevent the occurrence of skirmishes, it said.

MNA

Indian parliamentary goodwill delegation arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 12 Feb—At the invitation of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of LOK SABHA of the Republic of India Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar arrived here by air this morning.

The Indian parliamentary delegation was welcomed by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Secretary U Ko Ko Tun, Yangon Region Hluttaw Legislation Committee Chairman U Hla Tun and region Hluttaw representatives, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri and departmental officials

at Yangon International Airport.

The Indian parliamentary goodwill delegation paid tributes to King Zafar Shah's Tomb

on Ziawaka Street in Dagon Township and visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe

and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay hosted dinner to the visiting Indian parliamentary delegation at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel.

MNA



Indian parliamentary goodwill delegation at King Zafar Shah's Tomb.—MNA