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Only when youths are competent in discharging duties, will the nation keep abreast of international community, develop: Vice-President

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greets local national races in Loikaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Union Ministers U Kyaw Lwin, U Zeyar Aung and U Htay Aung, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Maj-Gen Zaw Win, U Myint Zaw, Dr Myo Myint, Dr Win Myint and Dr Zaw Min Aung and departmental officials, left Nay Pyi Taw by helicopters and arrived at Loikaw of Kayah State yesterday morning.

They were welcomed at Loikaw Airport by Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo, Kayah State Hluttaw Speaker U Kyaw Swe, State ministers, district/township level departmental officials, townselders, officials from Peace groups, social organizations, culture troupes and local people.

In his speech, the Vice-President said that it needed basic infrastructures which are least requirements for building up a developed country or state. Manual farm and livestock breeding would improve only when the country saw better education, health, road, bridge, water supply, electricity, transport, communication, administration and security. It could improve the living standards of local people.

He pointed out the fact that higher education can contribute to development of knowledge-oriented industries. Kayah State's MPs submitted financial difficulties at the Hluttaw.

Myanmar still is on the list of LDC. According to the survey jointly conducted by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and UNDP in 2005-2010, average poverty rate was 32 percent and 26 percent in 2010. It is expected to reduce to 16 percent in 2015.

Kayah State's poverty rate in 2005 was 34 percent and 11.4 percent in 2010. In the world, a person is said to live below poverty line if his or her daily income per person is lower than two backs.

Although Myanmar is resource-rich country, the country would become developed if the root causes of the poverty could be sought. Richness and poverty would be judged based on the facts such as management, people's efforts, technology, capital investment, regional peace, trade with neighbouring countries.

Now the country saw multi-party democracy system and check and balance system. It is undeniable that the country sees a change. The new government could make lots of reforms in its two-year term since taking office. In addition, the government encouraged private sector. Foreign Investment Law has been enacted for attracting foreign investors. Kayah State's infrastructural development is related with border trade. He urged the State government and people to make collaborative efforts for border trade development. Thanks to it, Kayah State would see development and more job opportunities.

Peace and stability could bring development to the region.

(See page 8)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 11/2013)
9th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1374 ME
(19th February, 2013)
Deputy Minister appointed

Under the provisions of Sub-sections (a) and (d) of Section 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and paragraph (9), Sub-section (b), Section (16) of the Union Government Law, member of Union Civil Services Board Dr Win Myint has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Construction.

***Sd*/ Thein Sein**
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Japanese guests, students visit Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—A nine-member delegation led by Governor Mr. Hiroshi Okuda of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) of Japan and 79 teachers and students of marketing and financial management course of the Strategy First Institute this morning observed the 12th day six regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and looked round the Hluttaw buildings.

MNA

Spitfire search continues, two Spanish panels of ground surveillance hired

By Moe Thuzar Soe

Two Spanish panels of ground surveillance have been hired by the Spitfire search team led by David J Cundall, the searchers of the iconic fighters buried in Myanmar told the press in Yangon.

The Spitfire excavation team met the press at Park Royal Hotel in Alanpya Pagoda Road here today.

David J Cundall and officials of Shwe Taung Paw Group of Companies, the local backer of the search, elaborated on the search.

They said the exploration of the legendary World War II fighters is going on step by step. Ground radars will image the parts of the fighters said to be buried in wooden crates, the team explained.

Exploration will continue in Myitkyina, Mingaladon and Meiktila as the team is currently working near Yangon International Airport.

David J Cundall said they will repair the fighters to flying condition and showcase in international air shows as "Myanmar Spitfire" if they are found.

DJC Company and Shwe Taung Paw signed a two-year contract on excavation of the fighters believed to be buried in WWII era in October, 2012.

***Trs:* HKA**

LOCAL NEWS

Seizures of illegal sawmill, timber and vehicles in Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Regions

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb — Forest staff of Indaw Township in Sagaing Region seized 3.372 tons of illegal teak, a sawmill engine, a disc of chainsaw and related items and arrested owner U Han Nyunt of Nannkan village in the Gahe forest reserve in Indaw Township on 7 February. A lawsuit was filed against the owner.

Likewise, forest staff of DaikU Township of Bago Region on 8 February seized 6.333 tons of illegal timber from an overturned TE truck on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway and arrested U Aung Ko Oo, truck conductor, who was alive with injuries while three other were killed in the car accident.

A combined force comprising forest staff of Hlegu Township of Yangon Region and police members U Tin Oo, driver and owner, of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, U San Hlaing of Thanlyan, U Kyi Win of Kyaukmyaung arrested while making a search of a vehicle carrying 0.3094 ton of teak block at the junction of Hlegu-Phaunggyi road and Yangon-Mandalay No (1) road on 12 February.

Moreover, forest staff led by the deputy director of Yangon Region Forest Department seized 7.7772 tons of sawn teak while searching of a stationery 10-wheeled truck near mile post No (12/6) on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. Ngasutaung police station opened a case in the seizure of illegal teak and actions are being taken to expose the driver, the conductor, the vehicle owner and illegal teak owner.

Kyemon

Winter groundnut harvest in progress in Sagaing Township

SAGAING, 19 Feb — The winter groundnut is being harvested in Nyaungbinshe village of Sagaing Township in Sagaing Region.

"Yields are quite good this year so far. If the weather is fine, we will see a bumper harvest. Per acre yield of groundnut is forty baskets. In the past, we had to hire those with small number of farmlands to harvest the groundnut. They used to get one basket of groundnut after a yield of eight baskets. At present, groundnut growers hire women workers on a daily wage of K 2000. Today's market price for the groundnut is K 1800 per viss. It can be said that it is okay because we get back our capital", a farmer who put the groundnut on the five and a half acres.

Kyemon

House fire causes 27 households homeless in Patheingyi Township

MANDALAY, 19 Feb — A fire engulfed 19 houses at Aung Chantha ward of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region at about 10.30 am on 17 February.

According to Mandalay Region Fire Services Department, the fire started from a two-roomed house of U Than Aung, 62. The fire was brought under control by about 150 fire crews accompanied by 35 fire engines at about 11.15 am. "Fire victims are from rented houses. They are street vendors. The fire swept through and engulfed nineteen houses because no one knows the outbreak of fire as soon as it started", witnesses said.

A total of 19 houses were reduced to ashes in the fire, leaving 27 households homeless. Fire victims have been given food and shelter at the relief camp in the compound of Lawka Marazein pagoda.

Patheingyi Police Station opened the fire case.

Kyemon

A series of armed robberies at S-turn on Laikha road in Mongnaung

MONGNAUNG, 19 Feb — An armed robbery occurred at S-turn between mile post No (38/0) and (39/0) on Laikha road, seven miles from Mongnaung, on 8 February. A group of armed robbers who were disguised robbed a wagon and two vans, shooting at the vehicles with percussion lock firearms, and snatched money from the drivers and travelers.

It has been the third time since vehicles were robbed by an armed group. At about 3.30 on that day, a van driven by Thar Htwe of Yoma Cherry Taunggyi-Mongshu hired car line and a van driven by Ko Pay Thargyi of Shwe Kyar Phyu line left Taunggyi for Mongshu carrying passengers were forced to stop at the S-turn by a group of disguised four men with percussion lock firearms and asked the drivers of two vans to drive into the forest. Then they snatched cash from the travelers and drivers and went away.

"I have had a career as a driver here for over two decades. I used to be the victims of robbery frequently at the S-turn. Actually I say, every driver is afraid of being robbed here because it is easy for the armed robbers to shoot anyone down. I would like to call on authorities concerned to tackle this case as soon as possible for the sake of the road users. Otherwise, the situation will be worsened later", a driver of the hired car line said.

Kyemon

Decapitated young woman body found under bridge in Pyu Township

PYU, 19 Feb — According to an information that a suspect Penang bag was found under Zahar creek bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway near Zahar village in Pyu Township of Bago Region at about 9 am on 14 February, police members rushed there and conducted a search of the suspect bag.

They had found a dead beheaded body of an unidentified young woman who is believed to be about 20 years old in a black plastic bag. Next, they launched a search for the head of the decapitated body and found it in the field between the motorway and railroad at about 3 pm.

Pyu police station opened the case and investigation into the case is ongoing.

Kyemon

Sister charged with murder of her own brother

YANGON, 19 Feb — Dagon Seikkan Police Station charged a woman with the murder of her younger brother on 13 February.

A tragic incident happened to Ma Tin Aye Mu, 46, and her younger brother Win Htwe Aung (a) Shan Lay with a mental illness, 38, at about 7 pm on 13 February.

While Ma Tin Aye Mu was sleeping in a room at her house on Shwe Hintha street in ward-88 of Dagon Seikkan Township, Win Htwe Aung tried to stab his own sister, Ma Tin Aye Mu, with the five inches long sharp knife, saying that he would kill her as she struck him in the face. The knife attack left Win Htwe Aung (a) Shan Lay dead with four stabs in his left chest.

Kyemon

One man dies in fist fight in Bago

PYU, 19 Feb — A man died from a tragic quarrel with his peer while he was taken to Bago Hospital on 6 February.

A quarrel between Thet Min Tun, 39, and Kyaw Myint Oo (a) Hsanshe, 36, of ward-9 in Oktha Myothit occurred at the top of Hsemyaung street in Bago on that day. Both are motorbike taxi drivers. Thet Min Tun fell down from his bike as he was punched and kicked in the fist fight. He was pronounced dead on the way to the hospital. No (3) Police Station filed a lawsuit against Kyaw Myint Oo (a) Hsanshe.

Kyemon

Rail derailment in Lewe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb — A mail train left from Pyinmana railway station derailed at a place between mile post No (231/18) and 232/18) on Pyinmana-Taungdwingyi railroad near Thetkalchin (Theykal-chaung) village in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at about 6.45 am on 15 February.

Although five coaches of the 101 up-train left the track, there were no injures in the rail derailment.

Kyemon

WORLD

Fighting breaks out in Sudan's Blue Nile border state

Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir attends a meeting with leaders from South Sudan at the National Palace in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on 5 Jan, 2013.— Reuters

Cairo , 19 Feb—- Fighting broke out in a Sudanese border state between the military and rebels trying to overthrow President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, both sides said on Monday, and the government said its forces had killed scores of insurgents.

The rebels gave a different account, saying the government forces had attacked civilian areas.

The conflict in Blue Nile started in September 2011, a few months after neighbouring South Sudan seceded under a 2005 peace deal that ended decades of civil war.

Rebels in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, another Sudanese border state, fought as part of the southern rebel army during that war, but were left on the Sudanese side of the border after partition.

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes because of the fighting since 2011.

On Monday, Sudanese state media reported the armed forces had taken the Muffa area in Blue Nile and "expelled the remnants of the rebels," who had been backed by tanks and artillery.

The army killed 66 rebels, it said, quoting the armed forces spokesman al-Sawarmi Khalid. The armed forces suffered a "small number" of casualties, it said, without giving details.

The rebels, known as the SPLM-North, said the Sudanese armed forces and allied militia had started a "military dry season campaign" on 14 February in a heavily populated area at Muffa.

It said the fighting had forced thousands of civilians to flee toward Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Events in the two states are difficult to verify independently because of government restrictions on media, and the two sides often give conflicting versions of the fighting.

Some 2 million people died in Sudan's north-south civil war, which ended in 2005 with the peace deal that paved the way for South Sudan's independence.

Khartoum accuses Juba of continuing to back the rebels in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. South Sudan denies the accusation.

Reuters

Over 2,300 Syrian babies born at refugee camps in Turkey

Ankara, 19 Feb—Some 2,393 babies have been born at refugee camps in Turkey for Syrians fleeing from clashes in their home country since early 2011, Turkish officials said on Monday.

Syrian refugees are sheltering in 17 camps in eight Turkish provinces and Turkey provides education in 372 schools for 26,315 Syrian children, according to figures *Xinhua* obtained from Turkish officials.

Turkey also provides 110 courses for 24, 364 Syrian adults to develop their manual skills, the officials added.

The total number of Syrian refugees registered in the camps in Turkey increased to 182,621, Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate announced on Friday.

More than 280,00 Syrian refugees, including those unregistered, have got more than 600 million US dollars of aid from the Turkish government.

Turkey opened a coordination center in southern Gaziantep Province, where Syrian refugees can get registered and seek access to assistance, with another four under construction.

Xinhua

Russian police investigate online sales of meteorite fragments

Moscow, 19 Feb —The Russian police are checking out information that fragments of a meteorite that struck Chelyabinsk city in Russia's Urals region on Friday were being sold online, local media reported on Monday.

"Information (that) appeared on the Internet about sale of the meteorite's pieces has been thoroughly studied, (and) a decision will be made upon completion of the investigation," Spokeswoman for the Chelyabinsk Interior Department Angela Chirkova told the *RIA Novosti* news agency on Monday.

A TV screen grab taken from 24 channel of the Russian State Television shows a scientific researcher holding a meteor fragments found in the chebarkul lake region near Chelyabinsk, about 1500 kilometres east of Moscow, Russia, on 18 Feb, 2013.
Xinhua

Shortly after the rare event, in which nearly 1,200 people were injured by the meteorite explosion over Chelyabinsk, some websites reportedly posted advertisements offering alleged meteorite pieces for sale.

Prices ranged from 100 to 1,000 rubles each (about 3 to 33 US dollars).

The vendors claimed that they had collected the small rocks from the site of the Chelyabinsk Zinc Plant, which was slightly damaged by the meteorite's blast wave.

Russian scientists said on Monday that they have found some pieces of the meteorite in the Chebarkul lake near Chelyabinsk.

But some scientists hold that no large remnants could exist, as the meteorite was mainly composed of ice which almost completely evaporated during its entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

Xinhua

Only half of Czech people satisfied with NATO membership

Prague, 19 Feb—Only half of the Czech people were satisfied with the country's NATO membership, which is a 7 percent year-on-year decrease, according to a poll released on Monday.

A quarter of the polled is not satisfied with NATO membership and the other quarter people said they are undecided, the poll conducted in January by the CVVM polling agency showed.

A total of 55 percent of the polled are of the view that NATO membership guarantees peace and safety in the Czech Republic and 70 percent said it increases stability in Europe. The other two-fifths believe that the country's membership of NATO increases the risk of being dragged in an armed conflict, and 23 percent of respondents think it raises tension and uncertainty in Europe.

Meanwhile, 51 percent people hold the view that NATO membership is a certain form of the Czech Republic's subordination to other powers, and 43 percent consider it a guarantee of the country's independence.—*Xinhua*

Mexico's new president has 56 percent approval rating

Mexico City, 19 Feb— Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has a lower approval rating at the start of his term than his predecessor did, a poll showed on Monday, underscoring the challenge he faces to push key economic reforms through a divided Congress.

Less than three months into office, 56 percent of Mexicans approve of Pena Nieto as president compared to 29 percent who disapprove of the job he is doing, according to a survey by Buendia y Laredo published by *daily El Universal* on Monday.

After 12 years of opposition rule, Pena Nieto returned to power his centrist Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which ruled Mexico for most of the past century.

Pena Nieto's ranking is below the 58 percent approval rating scored by former President Felipe Calderon at the start of his own term. Some 26 percent disapproved of Calderon at the time. Monday's poll was based on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 people and reported a margin of error of 3.5 percent. Pena Nieto has promised to push through a series of economic reforms, including tax legislation and an overhaul of the lumbering state-run energy sector, that the last two presidents failed to drive through a divided Congress.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto gives a speech before he received a sword and a sabre as the supreme commander of the armed forces during an event at the Palacio Nacional in Mexico City on 15 Feb, 2013.
Reuters

Calderon, from the conservative National Action Party (PAN), failed to win support for his major economic plans in the country's Congress, where no party holds a majority. He was able to pass only minor tax and energy reforms while in office.

Reuters

Correa's victory confirmed in Ecuador presidential election

Quito, 19 Feb—Ecuador's National Electoral Council (CNE) on Monday confirmed President Rafael Correa's victory in Sunday's presidential election with 71 percent of the votes counted.

Correa garnered 56.92 percent of the votes, or 3,546,636 votes, CNE spokeswoman Nubia Villacis told local Press.

The runner-up, former banker Guillermo Lasso, obtained 23.14 percent with 1,441,676 votes, and the third place was occupied by former president Lucio Gutierrez, with 6.53 percent.

Correa celebrated the results that reelected him to a new four-year term (2013-2017), and thanked the people for giving him "a historic opportunity" to change the country.

Ecuadorans also voted on Sunday to elect legislators vying for 137 seats in the National Assembly, where Correa's ruling PAIS Alliance movement secured a majority.

So far, CNE results show PAIS obtained 51.08 percent of the National Assembly, and 51.04 percent of the Andean Parliament. "The people have understood the message of having support in the assembly to avoid suffering what we have suffered over the last four years of boycotts, open conspiracies, insulting coups," said Correa.

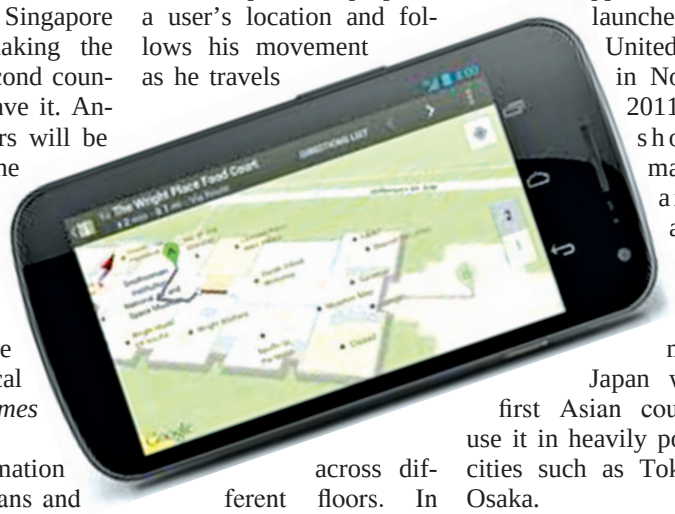
Correa's second term will end on 24 May, when he will take the oath of office along with his Vice President-elect Jorge Glass.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google launches indoor maps feature in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 19 Feb—Google launched its indoor maps feature in Singapore on Tuesday, making the city state the second country in Asia to have it. Android phone users will be able to use the online mapping system to help themselves find their way inside shopping malls and large buildings, local daily *Straits Times* reported.



Such information includes floor plans and basic walking directions for any building which has submitted its indoor maps to Google. It uses existing Wi-Fi access points to pinpoint a user's location and follows his movement as he travels across different floors. In Singapore, 22 malls have signed up for its launch. Changi Airport is not on the list.

The application was launched in the United States in November 2011, with shopping malls and airports among the first to be mapped. Japan was the first Asian country to use it in heavily populated cities such as Tokyo and Osaka.

Indoor maps for malls, however, were not new in Singapore.—*Xinhua*

Study finds carbon emissions rise as predators decline

VANCOUVER, 19 Feb—Freshwater ecosystems emit a lot more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere when the animals at the top of the food chain are removed, a new Canadian study has found. The recently published study, led by researchers from the University of British Columbia, was aimed at measuring the role predators play in regulating carbon emissions in order to better understand the consequences of losing these animals.

In the study, the researchers removed all the predators from three controlled freshwater ecosystems in Canada and Costa Rica and found 93 percent more carbon dioxide was released into the atmosphere. Predators are bigger animals at the top of the food chain and their diets are comprised of all the smaller animals and plants in the ecosystem, either directly or indirectly, according to the researchers.

As a result, the number of predators in an ecosystem regulates the numbers of all the plants and animals lower in the food chain. It' s these smaller animals and plants that play a big role in sequestering or emitting carbon. "We knew that predators shaped ecosystems by affecting the abundance of other plants and animals but now we know that their impact extends all the way down to the biogeochemical level," said Trisha Atwood, lead author of the study.

However, predators are disappearing from our ecosystems at alarming rates because of hunting, fishing and human induced changes to their habitats, which could have significant impact on climate change.

Xinhua

Burger King takes down Twitter account after hack attack

***Burger King's Twitter account shows hacking activity before the account was suspended by Twitter in this screen grab taken on 18 Feb, 2013.—*REUTERS**

NEW YORK, 19 Feb—Hackers breached the Twitter account of fast-food chain Burger King, posting the online equivalent of graffiti and sometimes making little sense. Burger King Worldwide Inc suspended its Twitter account about an hour after it learned of the attack at 12:24 pm EST on Monday, company spokesman Bryson Thornton said in an email.

"It has come to our attention that the Twitter account of the BURGER KING® brand has been hacked," the company said in a statement. "We have worked directly with administrators to suspend the account until we are able to re-establish our legitimate site and authentic postings."

Several tweets carried the logo of Burger King's larger rival McDonald's, but spelled the latter company's name incorrectly.—*Reuters*

India allows 4G airwave holders to offer voice, boosts Reliance Industries

NEW DELHI, 19 Feb — India will allow wireless broadband airwave holders to provide voice services if they pay an additional $306 million, a senior government official said on Monday, a move likely to boost billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd.

Reliance Industries, controlled by India's richest man, is the only company with nationwide fourth-generation (4G) broadband airwaves.

The company re-entered the fiercely competitive sector by buying airwaves in a 2010 auction and has so far invested at least $3.5 billion.

Firms which own the broadband wireless access (BWA) airwaves can provide voice services along with high-speed Internet if they pay a fee of 16.58 billion rupees ($306 million), R Chandrashekhar, the top bureaucrat at the telecommunications ministry, told reporters.

"There is no restriction on the technology that is being used (to provide voice services)," he said.

A move by Reliance Industries, which is still preparing to launch high-speed 4G Internet services, into the voice market would intensify competition and hurt rivals such as Bharti Airtel Ltd and the Indian unit of Vodafone Group Plc.

Reuters

***A woman walks past a poster of Reliance Industries installed outside the venue of the company's annual general meeting in Mumbai on 7 June, 2012.—*REUTERS**

Remains of first Brazilian emperor exhumed for study

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Feb — The remains of Emperor Pedro I, founder and first ruler of the Empire of Brazil, were exhumed for the first time for study, a local daily reported on Monday. The remains of the emperor, who declared Brazilian independence in 1822, and his two wives, Leopoldina and Amelia, had been kept in Brazil's Independence Memorial in Sao Paulo since 1972.

Last year, the remains were taken from the crypt after historian and archeologist Valdirene do Carmo Ambiel received permission from the royal family's descendants. The study on them can help experts to clarify mysteries of the life and death of the emperor and his family. For example, by analyzing the emperor's remains, scientists have confirmed that he was a man of athletic build, as depicted in history books.

They have also confirmed that Pedro I broke four left ribs, which rendered his left lung practically useless and probably caused the tuberculosis that killed him in 1834. Tests have also overthrown a popular theory about the death of Empress Leopoldina. According to previous records, she had fallen or been thrown by the Emperor down the stairs of the palace and broken a femur, which caused her premature death.—*Xinhua*

Russia asks: How do you stop space objects hitting Earth?

MOSCOW, 19 Feb — What can man do to prevent Earth being hit by meteorites and asteroids?

Russia has found, to its cost, that it has no answers. But US and European experts may be able to help with a few ideas that at first glance seem straight out of science fiction, including smashing spacecraft into asteroids, using the sun's rays to vaporize them, or blasting them with nuclear bombs. That should come as some relief to the many worried Russians who want something done immediately, even though scientists say the explosion of a meteor over central Russia on Friday was a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"We must create a system to detect objects that threaten Earth and neutralize them," Dmitry Rogozin, a first deputy prime minister in charge of the defence industry, wrote on Twitter. For all their nuclear missiles, he said that neither the United States nor Russia could shoot down such meteors. Even President Vladimir Putin held up his hands, saying no country was able to protect against such events.

But there is hope for Russia as it looks for a solution. Last week's near miss from an asteroid half the size of a football field, the same day as the meteor explosion, has heightened awareness of the dangers Earth faces. At a conference in Vienna on Monday, scientists said it was time for man to do more to spot objects hurtling towards the planet and to counter their threat.—*Reuters*

***Russian police work near an ice hole, said by the Interior Ministry department for Chelyabinsk region to be the point of impact of a meteorite seen earlier in the Urals region, at lake Chebarkul some 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of Chelyabinsk on 15 Feb, 2013.* REUTERS**

Economic crisis, crime dominate CARICOM meeting

KINGSTON, 19 Feb—The global economic crisis and high crime rates afflicting most member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) dominated the group's meeting on Monday in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, according to reports reaching here.

"Since the financial and economic contagion of 2008, growth in this region has been strangled. Most of our member states contend on a daily basis with a fiscal situation that threatens to overwhelm them," said CARICOM General Secretary Irwin Larocque.

"The circumstances which fashioned our approach to integration have changed, the nature of the challenges which we face has changed, our society has changed. Therefore, so must we," Larocque said at the opening session of the group's 24th Inter-sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government. He blamed CARICOM's economic challenges partly on what is viewed as the adverse policies of multilateral lending institutions.

"The excruciating debt burden is exacerbated by the policies of the international financial institutions which disqualify many of our member states from concessionary financing because of criteria inappropriate to our circumstances," he said. "Those criteria are also being considered by other international development partners and, if adopted, could render our development efforts even more challenging," Larocque warned. Additionally, the CARICOM chief said rising crime rates in the region have become an obstacle to economic growth and stability.

Xinhua

Excessive TV in childhood linked to long-term antisocial behaviour

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb—Children and adolescents who watch a lot of television are more likely to manifest antisocial and criminal behaviour when they become adults, according to a new study published online Monday in the US journal *Pediatrics*. The study followed a group of around 1,000 children born in the New Zealand city of Dunedin in 1972-73. Every two years between the ages of five and 15, they were asked how much television they watched. Those who watched more television were more likely to have a criminal conviction and were also more likely to have antisocial personality traits in adulthood.

Researchers from University of Otago in New Zealand found that the risk of having a criminal conviction by early adulthood increased by about 30 percent with every hour that children spent watching TV on an average weeknight. They also found that watching more television in childhood was associated, in adulthood, with aggressive personality traits, an increased tend-ency to experience nega-tive emotions, and an in-creased risk of antisocial personality disorder; a psychiatric disorder characterized by persistent patterns of aggressive and antisocial behaviour. And the relationship between TV viewing and antisocial behaviour was not explained by socio-economic status, aggressive or antisocial behaviour in early childhood, or parenting factors.

Xinhua

Swiss say US not in touch over Heinz insider trading case

ZURICH, 19 Feb—Swiss authorities said on Monday they have not yet been asked to help a US investigation into alleged insider trading in call options of HJ Heinz Co (HNZ.N) the day before the company announced it would be sold, even though a Zurich account is at the heart of the matter. US securities regulators filed suit on Friday against as-yet-unidentified traders in Heinz options alleging they traded on inside information before the company made public the deal to be bought for $23 billion by an investor group made up of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N) and Brazil's 3G Capital Partners.

Traders work at the post that trades HJ Heinz Co on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 14 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

The US Securities and Exchange Commission said in a statement on Friday it had obtained "an emergency court order to freeze assets in a Zurich, Switzerland-based trading account that was used to reap more than $1.7 million from trading in advance of yesterday's public announcement about the acquisition of HJ Heinz Company."The order from the US District Court for the Southern District of New York freezes the traders' assets and prohibits them from destroying any evidence, the SEC statement said. SEC spokesman John Nester said on Monday that the assets concerned had been frozen in the United States, not Switzerland, though the "beneficial owners" were those allegedly behind the Swiss account.—*Reuters*

Nestle finds horsemeat in beef pasta meals

LONDON, 19 Feb—Nestle (NESN.VX), the world's biggest food company, has removed beef pasta meals from sale in Italy and Spain after finding traces of horse DNA. The discovery of horsemeat in products labeled as beef has spread across Europe since last month, prompting product withdrawals, consumer anger and government investigations into the continent's complex food-processing chains.

Swiss-based Nestle,

A Nestle logo is pictured on a factory in Orbe on 20 April, 2012.—REUTERS

which just last week said its products had not been affected by the scandal, said its tests had found more than 1 percent horse DNA in two products. "We have informed the authorities accordingly," Nestle said in a statement on Monday. "There is no food safety issue." Nestle withdrew two chilled pasta products, Buitoni Beef Ravioli and Beef Tortellini, in Italy and Spain, Lasagnes à la Bolognaise Gourmandes, a frozen product for catering businesses produced in France, will also be withdrawn. Nestle was suspending deliveries of all products made using beef from a German subcontractor to one of its suppliers, Nestle said.——*Reuters*

The burnt auxiliary power unit battery, removed from an All Nippon Airways' (ANA) Boeing Co 787 Dreamliner plane which made an emergency landing on 16 Jan, 2013 in Takamatsu, is inspected by the manufacturer at the headquarters of GS Yuasa Corp in Kyoto, western Japan, in this handout photo taken on 26 Jan, 2013 and released by the Japan Transport Safety Board (JTSB) on 5 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Swelling found in APU battery on 787 jet under Japan probe

TOKYO, 19 Feb —A second lithium-ion battery on the Boeing Co (BA.N) *787 Dreamliner* forced to make an emergency landing in Japan last month was found to have irregularities, a Japan Transportation Safety Board official said on Tuesday. The jet, flown by All Nippon Airways Co (9202.T), was forced to make the landing after its main battery failed.

The plane's auxiliary power unit (APU) battery, which powers its systems when it is on the ground, was found to have swelling in two of its eight battery cells, the official said.

Reuters

Thai economy grows 18.9 pct in last quarter of 2012

BANGKOK, 19 Feb—Thailand's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 18.9 percent in the last quarter of 2012 from a year earlier, compared with a 3.1 percent growth in the previous quarter, the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) said on Monday.

NESDB, a governmental agency for economic planning under the Office of the Prime Minister, attributed the substantial quarterly growth to the expansion of both domestic and external demands. Household consumption and investment rose by 12.2 percent and 23.5 percent respectively. Government consumption increased by 12.1 percent.

The inflation rate in the fourth quarter of last year was 3.2 percent.

It said that for the entire year 2012, the economy registered a 6.4 percent year-on-year growth, compared with a 0.1 percent growth in 2011 when the country was hard-hit by flooding which was considered the worst in more than 50 years. Meanwhile, NESDB forecast that GDP would increase between 4.5 percent and 5.5 percent this year as the global economy continue to recover. Inflation would be in the range of 2.5 to 3.5 percent.—*Xinhua*

Brazil's grain harvest to set record in 2013

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Feb— Brazil's grain production will reach record high of 185 million tons this year, President Dilma Rousseff said on Monday in her weekly radio show.

The president praised the agriculture sector and attributed the expected harvest to credit expansion for producers, cheaper loans and greater investment, as well as to the country's rich soil and favourable climate.

"Brazil's government offered 115 billion reals (58.6 million US dollars) to finance agribusiness and 18 million reals (9.2 million dollars) for family farming," she said, adding that the spending on agricultural equipment rose 24 percent this year. By now, mid-season farmers have already borrowed 72 billion reals (36.7 billion dollars) of that amount, according to the president. "All of that means better technology for farms and the result is that today we have one of the most efficient and modern agricultural sectors in the world," she said.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

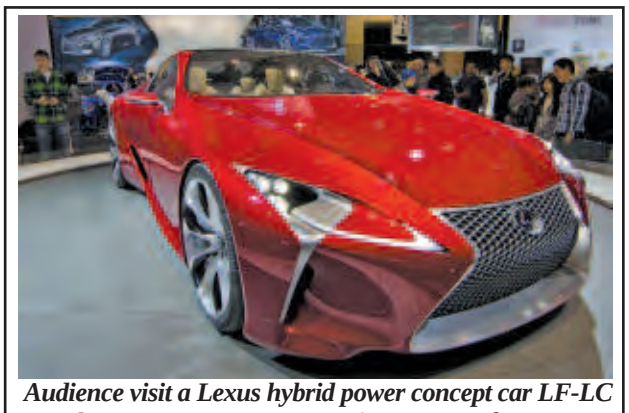
Three mortar rounds hit district of Syrian capital, causing damages

Damascus, 19 Feb—Three mortar rounds fired from unknown destination landed on Monday evening at a French hospital, a nearby school and a street in the Syrian capital Damascus, causing material damages only, witnesses told *Xinhua*.

One shell landed inside the yard of the French hospital near the emergency section in the Christian-dominated al-Qassa District, witnesses said, adding that another mortar landed at the adjacent al-Maoneh school and caused material losses only.

A third shell, meanwhile, slammed the Fares Khouri Street close to al-Qassa and caused minor damages only, according to witnesses.

The incidents came as ongoing clashes have engulfed the nearby suburb of Jobar, which has emerged as a main hotspot for fighting between the rebels and the government troops in Damascus. Residents of al-Qassa, Bab Touma and Tijara often hear the sound of clashes and gunfire reverberating from the nearby Jobar, Zamalka and Qaboun areas.—*Xinhua*



Audience visit a Lexus hybrid power concept car LF-LC at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre of Toronto, Canada, on 18 Feb, 2013. The Canadian International Auto Show is celebrating its 40th birthday from 14 February to 24 February with an extensive roster of new vehicle rollouts, while bringing the latest in green auto technology to car enthusiasts.—Xinhua

Colombian guerrillas to keep captive Canadian

Bogota, 19 Feb—Colombia's National Liberation Army (ELN) rebel group on Monday confirmed it has no plans to release a Canadian citizen it kidnapped in January in northern Colombia, after it freed five men captured in the same operation.

In a statement posted on its website, the ELN said: "Canadian engineer Jernoc Wobert, 47, continues to be held by ELN fighters in the San Lucas sierra, while Peruvians Ochoa and Mamani were released, along with three Colombians who were also detained four weeks ago at the mining camp that Geo Explorer maintains at Casa de Barro, in Norisi, in southern Bolivar" department.

Wobert and the other Canadian mining company workers were captured on on 18 January, but the other five were released last Friday and handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The rebels said the Canadian is being held to spotlight the government's over-exploitation of Colombia's natural resources with the collusion of Canadian firms, saying they captured the six men to "defend the natural resources" of Colombia. "The government of Bogota assured this Canadian company dedicated to gold mining that it could go to the San Lucas sierra, because the military plan there was in its final stage of consolidation, thus no one was going to oppose the intensive mining of the precious metal," said the ELN.—*Xinhua*

Perth established as one of the world's top five geothermal cities

Canberra, 19 Feb—The western Australian city of Perth has been established as one of the world's top five geothermal cities, Australia's top science institution CSIRO said on Tuesday.

CSIRO said Geothermal Energy Association (GEA), the US geothermal trade association, had identified Perth as one of the top ten "Geothermal Cities" of the world. Ranking No 5, Perth's inclusion was unique as it was earned on the merit of plans to become the world's first geothermally cooled city.

The achievement was largely attributed to the Western Australian Geothermal Centre of Excellence (WAGCOE).

Established in 2009 with funding support of 2.3 million Australian dollars (2.37 million US dollars) from the state government of Western Australia, WAGCOE brought researchers, industry, investors and government agencies together with the shared vision of creating zero-emission geothermal cities.

WAGCOE Director Professor Klaus Regenauer-Lieb said the centre had strived to underpin a new era of energy development by developing local solutions. "When we consider the challenges of climate change and the need to develop reliable sources of renewable energy, the work of WAGCOE is less about the last four years than the next 50 years," Regenauer-Lieb said.

"At WAGCOE we provided a world-class research and training environment where scientists developed local solutions to revolutionize energy development in Western Australia and contribute to the goal of powering zero-emission geothermal cities.''

Among WAGCOE's other major achievements was the development of a 3-D computer model illustrating a comprehensive geological assessment of the entire Perth Basin, which will act as a template for future geothermal developments in the region.—*Xinhua*

Rescuers work in rain at Yudong Village of Longchang Township in Kaili, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 18 Feb, 2013. Five people, including two children, were buried after a landslide hit the village around 11 am on Monday. Relief work was hampered as sporadic slides continued.
Xinhua

British leader says UK seeks to forge special relationship with India

New Delhi, 19 Feb—Visiting British Prime Minister David Cameron on Monday said Britain can forge a "special relationship" with India whose "rise is going to be one of the great phenomena of the century." "I want Britain and India to have a special relationship... this is a relationship about the future, not the past. As far as I am concerned, sky is the limit, it's about business, economy and trade. But it is also about culture, politics, diplomacy. India is going to be one of the leading nations in this century and we will be partners," Cameron said in Mumbai.

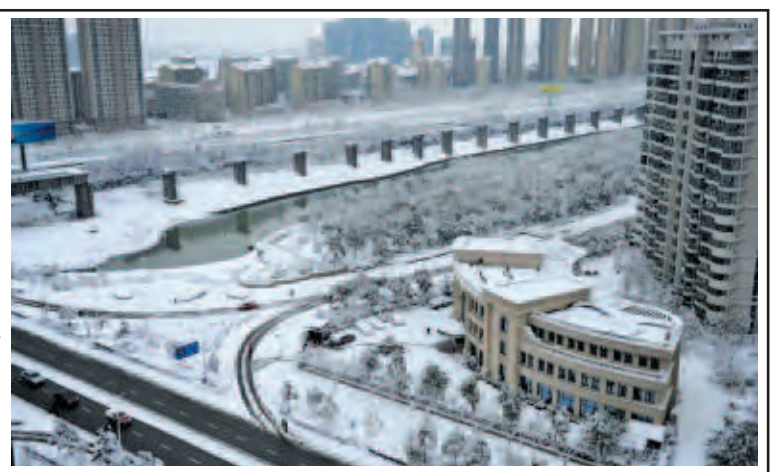
Stating that the enormous growth of India is going to make it the third largest economy by 2030, the British prime minister added, "India's rise is going to be one of the great phenomena of this century and it is incredibly impressive to see. Britain wants to be your partner of choice. We've only just started on the sort of partnership that we could build."

Cameron, who arrived in Mumbai this morning on a 3-day tour of India, is leading what is claimed to be the largest trade delegation taken on an overseas trip by a UK premier till date.

Asserting that 1.5 million people of Indian origin live in Britain, he said that his 100-member business delegation includes Indian businesses and parliamentarians of Indian origin.

"The business relationship between the two nations is already strong with Britain being the biggest European investor here. Half of Indian investments in Europe is in the UK. We see the power and the growth of your economy and we see amazing opportunities," he said.

The British prime minister also said that he wanted the use of British expertise to develop a "business corridor" between Mumbai and the southern Indian city of Bangalore, which may spruce up investments worth up to 25 billion US dollars. "With me I've got architects, planners and finance experts who can work out the complete solution. It would unleash India's potential along the 1,000 km stretch from Mumbai to Bangalore, transforming lives and putting British businesses in prime position to secure valuable commercial deals," he added.—*Xinhua*



Buildings covered by snow are seen in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 19 Feb, 2013. Snowstorm hit multiple places in Anhui Tuesday morning, disturbing the local traffic.
Xinhua

Algeria to maintain indexation of gas prices with those of crude oil

Algiers, 19 Feb—Algerian Minister of Energy and Mines Youcef Yousfi said on Monday that his country supports maintaining the indexation of gas prices with those of crude oil, *APS* news agency reported.

In a message read on his behalf by Secretary General of the Ministry Ahmed Messili to the 4th symposium of the Algerian Association of Gas Industry (AIG), Yousfi warned that cancellation of this principle would affect the security of world market supply in this key energy.

The minister also warned against the liberalization of international gas markets based on the spot, and rather advocated for long-term gas contracts that would ensure both profitability for the investments made by producers and security of supply for the consumers.

Meanwhile, Abdelhamid Zerguine, CEO of the state run energy group Sonatrach, said that Algeria is due maintain the principle of the indexation of gas prices with those of crude oil in the context of long-term contracts that provide an outlet for investment incurred by gas producing countries, *APS* reported.

European countries, especially France, have called for the cancellation of this principle, saying it contributes to increasing gas prices.

In September of last year, the French government requested the energy group GDF-Suez to renegotiate its gas supply contracts in a bid to reduce their exposure to soaring oil prices.

In 2011, Algeria was the fourth largest natural gas supplier of France as it ensured 12.7 percent of its domestic need.—*Xinhua*

EU pledges support to Cambodia's general election in July

PHNOM PENH, 19 Feb— The European Union will support and cooperate with Cambodia in order to ensure a free and fair general election in Cambodia in July, Ambassador Jean-Francois Cautain, Head of EU Delegation to Cambodia, said on Monday.

Cautain made his remarks during a meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen at the Peace Palace, Eang Sophallet, personal spokesman for the premier, told reporters after the meeting.

"Twenty-seven countries in the European Union will support and cooperate with Cambodia in organizing the forthcoming parliamentary election in order to ensure that the election will be free and fair," Cautain was quoted by Eang Sophallet as saying to Hun Sen.

He did not say what ways of support the EU will provide to Cambodia for the election.

Cautain also hailed Cambodia for progressive steps in judicial reform through adopting several legal instruments including the Civil Code, the Penal Code and the Anti-Corruption Law; however, he said the country should expedite the passages of Law on Judges, Law on Lawyers and Law on Supreme Council of Judges. Meanwhile, the premier said that the forthcoming election is held once in every five years and it is very important to push Cambodia towards development with democracy.

He also pledged to urge the passages of the above-mentioned laws as soon as possible.

Cambodia sets to hold a general election on 28 July, the National Election Committee announced last month. Some 9.67 million Cambodians will be eligible to cast their ballots.

The Committee said that the election will cost about 21 million US dollars, which is covered by the government.

In the last general election in 2008, the Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen won 90 seats in the National Assembly, followed by the Sam Rainsy Party with 26 seats, the Human Rights Party three seats, the Norodom Ranariddh Party two seats and the Funcinpec Party two seats.—*Xinhua*

Thousands of couples in South Korea on Sunday took part in the first mass wedding organized by the Unification Church since the death of its founder San Myung Mun six months ago.
XINHUA

Job seekers look for jobs at a job fair in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 18 Feb, 2013. As the Chinese New Year holidays draw to a close, job seekers and recruiters in the labour-intensive regions returned to job fairs.—XINHUA

6.1-magnitude quake hits Kermadec Islands, New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 19 Feb— A 6.1-magnitude quake jolted Kermadec Islands, New Zealand at 12:19:19 GMT on Monday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 34.10 km, was initially determined to be at 30.6821 degrees south latitude and 178.1273 degrees west longitude.

Xinhua

Qatar Airways ready to launch daily flights to Cambodia's capital

PHNOM PENH, 19 Feb— The Doha-based Qatar Airways will operate its daily flights from Doha to Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, from Tuesday, Cambodia's tourism minister Thong Khon said on Monday.

"Tomorrow (Tuesday), the airline will launch daily flights from Doha to Phnom Penh via Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam," he told reporters on the sidelines of a tourism conference. "It will become the only Middle Eastern carrier to operate into Cambodia."

The minister said that with the presence of Qatar Airways, he believed that there would be more tourists from Arab countries to Cambodia. "It is a huge airline. Its presence here truly reflects Cambodia's full security and political stability and potential for business opportunities," he said.

According to a report of Cambodia Airports, the developer and operator of the country's international airports, Qatar Airways will operate flights with an *A330-300* plane, which can be seated by 305 passengers.

Ang Kim Eang, president of Cambodia Association of Travel Agents, said the presence of Qatar Airways in Cambodia will benefit not only tourism industry, but also trade and investment between Cambodia and countries in the Middle East.

"When there is direct flight between the two countries, it will bring tourists, investors and businesspeople from Qatar and other Arab countries to Cambodia," he told *Xinhua* over telephone on Monday.

According to the latest report of tourism ministry, last year, Cambodia received only 10,000 tourists from more than 10 countries in the Middle East.

Xinhua

Seven killed in terrorist attack in Pakistan's Peshawar

ISLAMABAD, 19 Feb— At least seven people including five security personnel were killed and seven others injured on Monday in a terrorist attack at a government office in Pakistan's northwestern provincial capital of Peshawar, local media and officials said.

According to the reports, the incident took place when some unknown militants opened fire and hurled hand grenades at security personnel deployed at the office located at the Bara road of Peshawar, the provincial capital of Pakistan's northwestern Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The militants, who were wearing security personnel uniforms, stormed the building when civil law enforcers were shifting some arrested miscreants to the Khyber House, an office of the civil administration of Pakistan's northwestern tribal region of Khyber Agency.

Eyewitness said that the attackers tried to get free the prisoners and had fire exchange with the security personnel.

The firing exchange that was followed by the hand grenades attacks killed six persons on the spot, including five security personnel and one attacker.

Some reports said that another militant exploded his explosive jacket when security personnel tried to arrest him.

At the time of the attack, the representatives of some main political parties of the country were holding a meeting in the Khyber House to devise a strategy for the upcoming general elections in the restive Khyber Agency.

Soon after the incident, the personnel of Pakistan Army rushed to the site and evacuated all the people who were trapped inside the building.

The commandos of the Pakistan Army were conducting a search and clearance operation in the area including nearby buildings.

Rescue teams shifted the bodies and injured to the Lady Reading Hospital of the city where few of the injured were reportedly in critical condition.

Some sources said that at least eight militants took part in the attack and two out of them were killed while others succeeded to run away.

No group or militant organization claimed responsibility of the attack yet.—*Xinhua*

Pakistani security officers cordon off the attack site in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 18 Feb, 2013. At least seven people including five security personnel were killed and seven others injured on Monday in a terrorist attack at a government office in Peshawar, local media and officials said. —XINHUA

China to build culture inheritance zone

BEIJING, 19 Feb — China's central government has approved a plan to protect and showcase cultural resources in northwestern Gansu Province, as part of a drive to promote cultural prosperity and support economically underdeveloped regions.

Minister of Culture Cai Wu announced on Tuesday that the General Office of the State Council, or China's Cabinet, on 21 Jan green-lit the construction of the "Inheritance and Innovation Zone of Chinese Civilization" in Gansu, an important cradle of the Chinese nation.

The project is in line with the goal, put forward by the sixth plenary session of the 17th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the 18th CPC National Congress, to "build the country into a socialist cultural power," he said at a press conference hosted by the State Council Information Office.

In ancient times, Gansu was an important gateway for exchanges between Chinese and Western civilizations, and it now boasts "a large amount of irreplaceable cultural resources," Cai noted.—*Xinhua*

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 20 February, 2013

Produce more food for more people

The global population is increasing at an alarming rate and Myanmar is no exception. Therefore, it is necessary to increase agricultural production through the extensive reclamation of virgin and fallow lands and the wider application of modern agricultural methods so that more food can be produced for more people.

In Myanmar, rice production is still increasing faster than demand contributing not only for local consumption but also for world food supply. The government is in pursuit of the aim of boosting production of agricultural produce in order to improve the socio-economic status of rural people. And towards this end, it has launched programs for region-wise food security in cooperation with relevant organizations at home and abroad.

Now, some regions and states have yet to try to meet their rice sufficiency level and in general the nation's rice supply exceeds local demand as a whole. Meanwhile, agricultural implements that are not economically viable or practical to be made with the country may be imported.

Boosting agricultural production calls for not only advanced agricultural methods but also increased use of fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation water. That may harm soil and water sources, and farmers are therefore to apply sustainable ways for growing crops such as correct methods, effective policies and environmentally friendly agriculture. Only then, will agriculture harmonize with the environment and meet with success for increase of food production.

Low investment in the agricultural farming and poor research on production of crops are posing barrier to food security. Since food insecurity leads to poor health, short life span, drop in capacity to work and decline in ability to learn that will have adverse effect not only on current generation but also for future generation, the government is at the crossroads groping for way to end its possible food crisis.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforts a patient at Loikaw Hospital (200-bed).—MNA

Only when youths,...

(from page 1)

It is impossible to ease the armed conflicts with the effort of the government alone. He urged the people to have a hand in peace-making process and to join hand with the government to bear the fruits of the democracy. Regarding the reports, the Vice-President replied that written reports were needed for developmental affairs, vowing to implement the regional development tasks presented by locals after making coordination and fulfill the requirements of peace groups. Some undertakings could be implemented within the framework as they were limited.As national races affairs are sensitive, ways and means were to be sought to address the different use of terms of ethnics so that names of ethnics could be identified while taking census in 2014. Next, cash and kind donations of companies for regional undertakings followed.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice-President claimed that the ongoing democratic system enabled every citizen to enjoy freedom of expression. He called on Kayah State dwellers to express their feelings through Hluttaw representatives and media and to the Union government and Hluttaw committees by mails, stressing the need of accountability.

On his arrival at the ploughing and seed-sowing ceremony for summer paddy in Dimawhso Township, the Vice-President heard reports on progress in agricultural sector of Kayah State and observed sample of Palethwe hybrid strains and fertilizers and held coordination with officials concerned to attend to the needs of local people.

In meeting with faculty members at Loikaw University, the Vice-President spotlighted the role of teachers for turning out of highly educated graduates who will shape the future of the nation. Only when they are competent in discharging the duties of the country, will the nation keep abreast of international community and develop.

He said that it was needed to be highly competitive in competing with those of ASEAN and world nations as Myanmar would face challenges in free flow of skilled workers, investment and information in 2015 when ASEAN Community is realized.

The nation had seen 163541 graduates for 2010-11 academic year. Out of 773, 117 who are officially registered as graduates on that year, new and old alike, 286, 566 had been employed at home and abroad, accounting for 37 per cent. Qualified graduates would be able to draw more opportunities, he added.

He said that knowledge economy commonly made up a large share of development, mentioning electronic industry-based countries with advancement in economic sector. He insisted that a country with a lack of natural resources could be a developed one.

The universities of Myanmar were cooperating with international universities—Johns Hopkins University of the US, JPN Nagoya University, Cologne University of Germany and University of Kolkata of India, he added.

He said that education budget would be increasing in line with the economic growth. If educated youths take part in the economic and political sectors directly or indirectly, Myanmar would be able to keep abreast of international community in every arena at not-too-distant future. The Vice-President expressed thanks for commitments of faculty members in promotion of education sector of the state. The government would attend to the needs of them. He called on faculty members to work hard to be proficient in their subjects and to cultivate the future generation as much as they can. Next, the Vice-President inspected progress in construction of infrastructures in Loikaw University.

On his arrival at 200-bedded state hospital, the Vice-President comforted patients and attended the ceremony to donate cash for the hospital. After inspecting construction works of the hospital, the Vice-President and wife and party visited Shwetaung Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Loikaw and Thiri Mingala Hill.

MNA

Seminar on Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Sector Programme kicks off

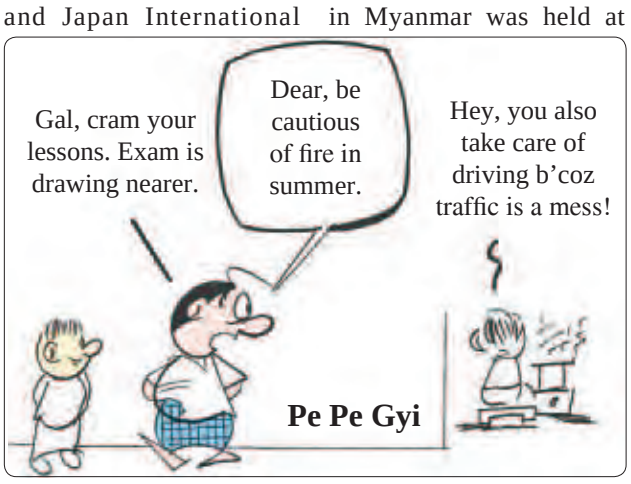
YANGON, 19 Feb— Jointly organized by Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), seminar on Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Sector Programme in Myanmar was held at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, here, yesterday morning.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe delivered an opening speech on the occasion citing that YCDC has been striving for meeting the increasing demand of purified drinking water through upgrading water distribution system and groping new water resources. Besides, water supply, sewerage and drainage system are high on the agenda in drawing Yangon City Development Programme.

He expressed his belief that the seminar will produce fruitful result in ensuring better water supply, sewerage and drainage system.

JICA (Myanmar) Chief Representative Mr. Masahhiko Tanaka and Water Industry & Infrastructure System, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Director Mr. Yuzo Goto made speeches.

Officials from JICA, METI, Ministry of Land Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) participated in the seminar.—*MNA*



About 50 firemen practised fire drill in Shwepyitha Village of Bhamo Township on 17 February.
MYANMA ALINN

Objectives of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2013

1. To uphold the national policy namely non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To play the leading role in the national politics by the Tatmadaw joining hands with all national races with Union Spirit and the true patriotism in line with the Constitution
3. To crush all destructive elements at home and abroad through the strength of State, People and Tatmadaw
4. To build up a strong, competent, modern, patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the security and sovereignty of the nation

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Russian delegation

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meeting with Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee of the Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Mr. Viktor A. OZEROV .—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee of the Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Mr. Viktor A. OZEROV at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Hluttaw Complex, here, this evening. They held discussions on boosting cooperation between the two parliaments and further bilateral cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, committee chairmen U Hla Myint Oo and U T Khun Myat, committee secretary U Maung Toe and officials of the Hluttaw Office.— *MNA*

Dy Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker receives Russian Federation guest

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein met a delegation led by Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Mr Viktor A. OZEROV, at the meeting hall of Amyotha Hluttaw of the Hluttaw Complex, here, this evening.

At the call, both sides discussed the 65th anniversary founding of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Russia, further promoting amity between parliaments of two countries and mutual cooperation.

Also present at the call were Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs Committee Chairmen U Zaw Myint Pe, U Thein Win, U Aung Tun and U Nyunt Tin, Col Maung Maung Htoo and officials.—*MNA*

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws U Mya Nyein receives Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Mr Viktor A. OZEROV.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairman receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Pyithu Hluttaw Plannings and Financial Development Committee Chairman U Soe Tha received Chairman of G-8 Responsible Investment Initiative Mr David Fitton and party at the Committee Hall here this afternoon.

The meeting focused on corporate responsibilities, capacity enhancement, technical aids and investment law.

It was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee Chairman U Maung Maung Thein, Secretary of Investment and Industrial Development Committee U Kyi Tha and officials of the Hluttaw office.—*MNA*

Union Attorney-General holds talks with IBA President

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin held talks with President of International Bar Association (IBA) Mr Michael Reynolds accompanied by an official from British Embassy at his office, here, this morning.

The Union Attorney-General extended greetings. The IBA president said in his comment it was his first visit to Myanmar and arrangements are being made to assist corporate lawyers in Myanmar which is undertaking economic reforms in it.

The Union Attorney-General said that he is the Chairman of Myanmar Bar Association and felt deliriously happy on disseminating talks that bring fruitful results towards the Bar Council.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Kyaw Hsan and responsible persons from Union Attorney-General Office.

MNA

Downtown collision causes no injury

YANGON, 19 Feb—Our correspondent in Yangon reported that a passenger bus collided a white Toyota Ipsum near Theinbyu junction on Merchants street here yesterday morning, causing no casualty.

The 177 Parami was heading to Sule from Botahtaung when the two vehicles vied for the traffic.

NLM

The New Light of Myanmar

Rare cold front chills Cuba

HAVANA, 19 Feb — An unusual cold front chilled parts of Cuba on Monday as the temperature dropped to as low as four degrees Celsius, Cuba's Meteorology Institute (Insmet) said.

The Caribbean island country, which usually enjoys balmy temperatures of 22 to 28 degrees Celsius all year around, saw the thermometer dip to single-digits at various locations early on Monday due to a "cold, dry Arctic air mass" over it.

Insmet said on its website that 20 meteorological stations in Cuba registered temperatures lower than 10 degrees Celsius and it was "notably cold" in towns located in the central and western regions.

The lowest temperature registered was four degrees in Bainoa, 45 kilometres west of Havana, while Cuba's capital registered a cold 11.9 degrees, a rare occurrence in a city where the temperature seldom drops below 17 degrees.

"In the western and central regions, the lowest temperatures were between 10 and 13 degrees Celsius and in the eastern region, they were 19 degrees," said Insmet, noting the temperature in eastern Cuba never goes below 25 degrees.

Cubans refer to Cuba as the land of "eternal summer" because temperatures are generally high all year around, with an annual average temperature between 22 and 28 degrees, and higher along its eastern coast.

Cuba has a moderate subtropical climate with two clearly defined seasons — the dry season from November to April and the wet season from May to October. The coolest and driest time is between December and February.—*Xinhua*

Tourists view lanterns at a park in Yangcheng County, north China's Shanxi Province, on 18 Feb, 2013. A lantern shows started in Yangcheng County at Monday night. Chinese traditional Lantern Festival this year falls on 24 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Afghan gov't bans local forces from asking foreign troops for air support

KABUL, 19 Feb— Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Monday issued a decree banning the country's security forces from requesting air support from foreign forces stationed in the country.

"The Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior and the National Directorate of Security (NDS) or intelligence agency in any situations during their operations in residential areas must not request for airstrike from foreign forces," said a statement issued here by Karzai's office.

The move came days after a NATO airstrike claimed the lives of 10 civilians in the country's eastern Province of Kunar.

The attack, allegedly called by Afghan NDS, took place last Tuesday and the killed included four women, five children and a man in the province 185 km east of Kabul. However, the bombing also claimed the lives of four armed militants, provincial officials said.

Currently, more than 100,000 foreign troops with nearly 66,000 of them Americans are deployed in Afghanistan to fight Taeeban- led insurgency there.—*Xinhua*

EU formally launches training mission for Mali

BRUSSELS, 19 Feb —The European Union (EU) on Monday formally launched the training mission to help train and reorganize the Malian Armed Forces.

According to an EU statement, an advance party had arrived in Bamako on 8 February and would formally start the mission in the coming days. Military instructors will be deployed before the end of March, the statement said.

It said the operation, launched in the framework of UN Security Council resolution 2085, was "an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach to the situation in Mali and the Sahel."

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton thanked "the contributing member states and partner countries, whose decisive action has allowed the deployment of the mission."

The mission will provide advice and military training to the Malian Armed Forces, including on command and control, logistics and human resources as well as on international humanitarian law, the protection of civilians and human rights. The mission will not be involved in combat operations.

Xinhua

Geisha and apprentice geisha get ready for a photo shoot in Kyoto on 18 Feb, 2013. The event was to take pictures for use in brochures for their annual "Kitano Odori" dance performance to be held from 25 March to 7 April.—KYODO NEWS

Ma Ying-jeou says to expand cross-Strait exchange

TAIPEI, 19 Feb—Taiwan's leader Ma Ying-jeou on Monday pledged to further expand and deepen economic ties with the Chinese mainland.

Ma made the remarks while addressing representatives of Taiwanese business people investing in the mainland at a gathering held to mark the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Ma shared his observations on the dramatic changes that have taken place in the environment of cross-Strait relations and stressed that reconciliation across the Taiwan Strait has brought peace and prosperity.

A total of 7.17 million mainlanders visited Taiwan in the past more than four years, including 2.58 million in 2012, creating 150,000 jobs for the island, according to Ma.

Ma also pledged to actively negotiate follow-up issues regarding the 2010 Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA), in an aim to bring more benefits to Taiwan's business arena.

In terms of mainland students' applications to schools on the island, Ma noted that existing restrictions would be "gradually removed."

The island's education authority currently only recognizes diplomas granted by 41 mainland universities.—*Xinhua*

Home of Tito's widow looted

BELGRADE, 19 Feb—The Belgrade villa where the widow of the former Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito has lived for the past 30 years was broken into during a brazen day-time robbery, reported Radio Television Serbia (RTS) on Monday.

Jovanka Broz, 88 years old, was home at the time, however, did not notice the burglars and did not know she had been robbed until she saw a writing table had been stripped clean of jewelry, money, important personal papers and a valuable sculpture.

"One or more perpetrators--as of yet we don't know precisely—jumped the fence and entered the basement," said Uglesa Stesevic from the Criminal Investigation Department.

"We believe this event is the result of carelessness and the poor conditions in which she lives, as the house is in ruins and inadequately secured," said Bojana Pavlovic-Saric, lawyer for the former first lady of Yugoslavia.

Tito's widow is among the 100 people whose security is kept by the Serbian military and police. Security at the villa was scheduled only during the evening and night from 8 pm to 8 am Pavlovic-Saric has called for round-the-clock security at the villa.—*Xinhua*

Photo taken on 18 Feb, 2013 shows the peach blossoms at Baiyun mountain in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province. The peach blossoms in Taohuajian of the mountain bloomed and attracted many visitors.—XINHUA

2,754 civilians killed in Afghanistan in 2012

KABUL, 19 Feb—A total of 2,754 Afghan civilians had been killed and 4,805 injured in conflict-related violence in Afghanistan in 2012, said a report released by the UN mission in the country on Tuesday, attributing majority of civilian deaths to anti-government armed groups.

"UNAMA documented a 12 percent drop in civilian deaths and a marginal increase in civilian injuries compared with 2011. UNAMA recorded 7,559 civilian casualties - 2,754 civilian deaths and 4, 805 civilian injuries - in 2012," said the report released by United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) here.

Anti-government elements were responsible for 81 percent of the casualties, while eight percent were caused by operations of pro- government forces, and the rest 11 percent could not be attributed to any party to the conflict, the report added.

Xinhua

France ready to invest in Greece again: French president says ahead of Athens visit

ATHENS, 19 Feb— France is ready to invest in Greece again since the confidence in the prospects of the Greek economy has been restored, French President Francois Hollande said on Monday ahead of his visit to Athens on Tuesday.

"I have no doubt that French businesses are ready to invest in Greece again, since confidence has been restored," Hollande said in an interview with the local "*Ta Nea*" *(The News) daily*. He appeared certain that French firms will take part in the ongoing Greek privatization programme and will seek further investment opportunities in the country.

Hollande's visit to Greece is seen by political analysts in Athens as a show of support to the debt-laden country's painful efforts to overcome the financial crisis which started three years ago.—*Xinhua*

Nepal political parties jointly declare polls

KATHMANDU, 19 Feb—Making headways in talks, Nepal' s ruling and opposition parties have announced on 5 June as the date for the second Constituent Assembly election. The parties agreed late Monday to form an 11-member interim election government to be headed by the sitting Chief Justice Khil Raj Regmi.

With such an understanding, parties have reached consensus on major issues leaving some other issues to be decided in the upcoming meetings.

"It is significant that we made headways. Many things have been agreed, while little is left to be resolved now," Deputy Prime Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha, who is also the Vice Chairperson of UCPN-Maoist, told journalists.

Parties decided that the next Constituent Assembly will have 491 members, 240 of them will be directly elected, while the equal number of members will be selected proportionately based on the percentage of votes a party receives. The rest 11 will be nominated by the Council of Ministers.

While the Assembly will have a five-year tenure, its primary task in the first year is to draft a new full-fledged constitution. In the remaining four years, the Assembly will function as the parliament.

Parties, however, still need to accomplish the most important task towards clearing the hurdles amending the existing interim constitution to incorporate the provision of an election government.

"The present constitution does not mention anything about an election government. If the sitting Chief Justice is appointed executive head right now, such a move will be simply unconstitutional," said Anup Raj Sharma, a former Chief Justice.—*Xinhua*

Tourists select goods at a duty-free store in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 18 Feb, 2013. More than 18,000 people visited the duty-free store in Sanya on 16 and 17 Feb. About 123,500 people spent 140 million yuan (22.5 million US dollars) at the store during the Spring Festival holiday.
XINHUA

Residents evacuated as bushfire menaces Melbourne's northern suburb

MELBOURNE, 19 Feb—Residents were evacuated as a bushfire continues to burn on the northern suburb of Melbourne in Australia's Victoria on Monday, according to local fire service authorities.

Local media reports quoted the country Fire Authority spokesman Kevin Monk as saying that nearly 2,000 hectares of land on both side of Hume Freeway around Epping and Campbellfield areas were ravaged, leaving one people injured, one home destroyed and another damaged.

According to a *Xinhua* reporter at the scene, huge smoke haze can be seen covered the above areas, the Hume Freeway was closed and traffic gridlock was placed on nearby major roads.

Six helicopters and 70 fire engines were battling the fire, which located about 20 km north of the Melbourne CBD, he said.

"I have lived here for 80 years, this is the largest fire I' ve ever seen. I hope my house can survive the fire," Andrew Leng, an 86-year-old local resident, told *Xinhua*.

Due to continued high temperatures and low humidity, the bushfire spread quickly on Monday afternoon and residents in the affected areas were evacuated from 1 pm. The fire is expected to be under control on Monday night, Victoria's Fire Services Commissioner Craig Lapsley told media.—*Xinhua*

33 houses buried in S Philippines landslide

DAVAO CITY, 19 Feb—Dozens of homes have been destroyed and hundreds of people fled after a landslide hit a southern Philippine village, authorities said on Monday.

The avalanche of loose earth buried 33 houses in three communities in the mountain village of Mambing in New Corella town, in Mindanao's Davao del Norte Province, Sonio Sanchez, provincial disaster officer, said. No one was hurt as the residents were able to flee as the hilly portion of the village collapsed amid a heavy rain around 2:30 pm on Sunday, Sanchez said. At least 156 families were evacuated and are now staying at a village hall and provincial officials have sent relief goods for the affected families, according to Mayor Nestor Alcoran.

The mayor said experts from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the government's Department of Environment and Natural Resources have been sent to the area to conduct assessment as to the risk of more landslides. He suspected a wide crack caused by torrential rains during last year's Typhoon Bopha at the upper portion of the village might have collapsed, causing the landslide. The mineral-rich southern Philippines region has been a scene of deadly landslides due to the presence of communities in steep villages. A landslide at a mining village in nearby Compostela Valley Province killed at least 40 people.—*Xinhua*

Students are seen at Shungeng International Exhibition Centre as they waiting to sign up for the Major of Arts Admissions Test (MAAT) in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, on 18 Feb, 2013. The 2013 MAAT for colleges in Shandong is scheduled to start here on 20 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Cambodia forecasts 4 mln foreign tourists in 2013

PHNOM PENH, 19 Feb—Cambodia is predicted to greet 4 million foreign visitors this year, an expected 12 percent rise year-on-year, Tourism Minister Thong Khon said on Monday.

"Last year, we received 3.58 million foreign tourists, up 24 percent year-on-year, and generated total revenue of about 2.2 billion US dollars," he told reporters on the sidelines of a tourism conference. "This year, we believe that the country will attract up to 4 million foreign visitors."

He said about 75 percent of the tourists were from Asia-Pacific region and about 16 percent from European countries.

"Besides, ASEAN member states see countries in Asia-Pacific region as our major tourism destinations, especially China, Japan, South Korea and India," he said.

The minister said that flight connections are very important to attract foreign tourists to Cambodia, saying that the country has already connected direct flights to seven countries out of the ten-member ASEAN, except Brunei and Indonesia.

"This year, I hope that there will be direct flights from Japan to Cambodia and flight increases from China to Cambodia," he said. Ang Kim Eang, president of Cambodia Association of Travel Agents, said the tourism growth from year to year was thanks to attractive tourism destinations, broad promotions, flight connections between Cambodia and foreign countries and visa exemptions among ASEAN member states.—*Xinhua*

NATO defence ministers to meet on Afghanistan on Friday

KABUL, 19 Feb—The defence ministers of the NATO and other troop contributing nations will later this week discuss the situation in Afghanistan, said a NATO spokesman here on Monday.

"On Thursday and Friday this week, 21 and 22 February, NATO and ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) Defence Ministers meet at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium," spokesman Dominic Medley told a Press briefing.

This is the normal and regularly scheduled meeting of the ministers, he said, adding "Afghanistan will be on the agenda on Friday,"

Afghan Defence Minister Bismullah Khan Mohammadi will address the 50 ISAF defence ministers, he said.

The new ISAF Commander General Joeph Dunford and NATO Senior Civilian Representative will also provide updates at the meeting, he added.

"It is expected that ministers will hear briefings on the latest situation in Afghanistan, on transition, on redeployment, on sustaining the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and on plans for the new NATO mission after 2014 to train, advise and assist," he noted.

Currently 100,000-strong foreign troops with nearly 66,000 of them Americans are being deployed in Afghanistan.

Under the US President Barack Obama's withdrawal plan 33,000 US troops already pulled out of Afghanistan in September last year and another 34,000 will return home within one year. Most of ISAF are due to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

The ANSF have taken full control of areas where about 75 percent of Afghan population lives.

US troops in Afghanistan will switch from combat to support role—training, advising and assisting Afghan forces—this spring, Obama has said.

Xinhua

Indonesia to launch gas-powered taxis programme to cut fuel consumption

JAKARTA, 19 Feb—Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry partnering with the private transportation sector will launch a natural gas-powered taxis programme in a bid to cut the country's huge subsidized gasoline consumption, a minister said here on Monday. Energy and Mineral Minister Jero Wacik said the programme converting gasoline-powered taxis to natural gas-power programme will be applied this year, expecting to slow down the increasing trend of subsidized fuel consumption.

Indonesia, a former OPEC member and Asia's largest gasoline importer, spent 211.9 trillion rupiah (some 22 billion US dollars) on subsidizing fuel in 2012, contributing to the current account swinging to a deficit of 24.18 billion US dollars.

"We have already motivated and discussed with the private companies, and taxis will use the compressed natural gas (CNG) later," Jero said, as quoted by Indonesia news portal inilah.com.

The minister said the taxi operators will build natural gas infrastructure such as the gas filling stations in the taxi pools to facilitate the access to CNG for taxis, adding that filling stations is not the obstacle to implement the programme.—*Xinhua*

A performer in snake costume participates in a parade celebrating the Lunar New Year in Sydney, Australia, on 17 Feb, 2013.
XINHUA

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Invitation for Proposal of Joint Venture Project for Laboratory in No(1) Refinery (Thanlyin)

Date of issue: 20.2.2013

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces invitation to submit proposal for upgrading of Laboratory in No(l) Refinery (Thanlyin) to conduct Joint Venture between Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) and a Local/ Foreign Company(Party) under Foreign Investment law and Existing Laws, Rules, Regulations and Policies.
2. All interested parties shall have the Certificate of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for analysis of specification and qualification of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and Petroleum Products.
3. All interested parties are cordially invited to submit the proposal together with the following documents:
   (a) Company Profile
   (b) Certificate of incorporation
   (c) Company Article of Association (AoA)
   (d) Company Memorandum of Association (MoA)
   (e) Past Performance and Track Record
   (f) Certificate of International organization for Standardization (ISO) for analysis of specification and qualification of Aviation Turbine Fuel and Petroleum Products
   (g) Amount of Capital Investment
   (h) The detailed process (Share Contribution, Cash Flow, Project Time frame, Period of Feasibility Study and Others)
4. The party who desires to enter into the Joint Venture Contract with Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise shall have technical competency, financial capability, experience, expertise, technical know-how and reliable in long term cooperation with respect to conducting analysis for specification and qualification of petroleum products.
5. One original and three copies of proposal shall be submitted to the following address not later than 29.3.2013.(4:30 pm)
   Building No (6)
   Ministry of Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
6. For further inquiry (and/ or) information, please contact the following:
   U Sein Win (Managing Director)
   Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
   Building No (44), Nay Pyi Taw
   Ph. 95-67-411050

The Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Finance and Revenue
27th SEA GAMES FINANCE COMMITTEE
Invitation for Bids

1. Bids are invited by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Committee on Finance for the Supply of the following motor Vehicles in Myanmar currency.
   (a) (9 Seaters) Model 2008 above (Left-hand-drive) (67) Nos
   (b) (7 Seaters) Model 2008 above (Left-hand-drive) (50) Nos
   (c) City-Bus (45 Seaters) Model 2008 above (Left-hand-drive) (225) Nos
   (d) Mini-Bus (29 Seaters) Model 2008 above (Left-hand-drive) (85) Nos
2. Bids shall be in compliance with the following terms and conditions in addition to the instructions for bidders-
   (a) Price of the Cars shall be CIF Yangon quoted in Myanmar Kyats
   (b) Time of delivery of cars shall be stated accurately in the bid
   (c) Bid shall be accompanied by specification of each type of cars
   (d) Catalogues or photo (5 nos)are attached to the specification
   (e) Price quoted must be valid for three months from the date of closing of bids
   (f) The bidder (or) its agent who can decide the price and type of cars shall presence at the date when bids are verified
   (g) Contract of Purchasing shall be entered with the successful bidder
3. Committee on Finance reserves the right to verify, cancel, re-invite tender and its decision shall be final and conclusive.
4. Bids shall be only on the official bidding form which shall be available at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue Office No. 26 Nay Pyi Taw and Tax Service Unit, No 59/61 at the corner of Pansodan and Merchant street, Yangon, Myanmar during the office hour commencing from (21-2-2013) to (1-3-2013) in Payment ot Kyat 100,000(Kyat one Lakh only)
5. Bids shall be delivered into Tender Box Located at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue Office No. 26 Nay Pyi Taw no later than (16:00)hours on (8-3-2013)
6. Bids shall be opened at the same venue, office No. 26 , Nay Pyi Taw at (10:00) a.m on (11-3-2013).
7. Announcement on the Successful bidder will be made on 15-3-2013. For detail enquiry, Contract - 01-378370, 01-378372, 067-430071, 067-410181 during the office hour.

Secretary
Committee on Finance

Singer Fergie says she and actor Josh Duhamel expecting baby

NEW YORK, 19 Feb—The Black Eyed Peas singer Fergie said on Monday that she and her husband, actor Josh Duhamel, are expecting a baby.

"Josh & Me & BABY makes three!!!," she tweeted. She also posted photos of herself and her husband as toddlers. It is the first child for the couple married in 2009. Duhamel, 40, appeared in the "Transformers" movies and stars this year in the film "Safe Haven."

Fergie, 37, whose real name is Stacy Ferguson, joined The Black Eyed Peas in 2002 for their third album, "Elephunk," which proved to be a huge commercial success.—*Reuters*

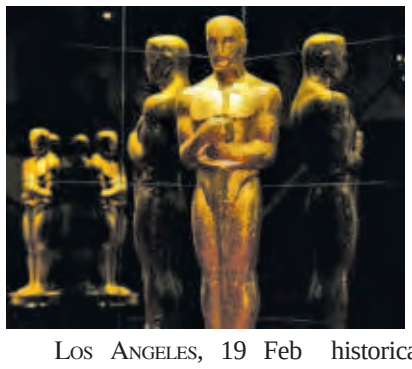
Want to integrate world cinema with Indian movies: Prashita

NEW DELHI, 19 Feb– Prashita Chaudhary, who is one of the producers behind Danis Tanovic's Emraan Hashmi starrer untitled international project, says she is keen to wed world cinema sensibilities to Indian movies.

"I am very focused on this film because it's a very important movie for us. We got Oscar-winning director in Danis and an actor like Emraan together. My effort is to integrate good world cinema into our industry. This film is one such attempt," Prashita told *PTI*.

PTI

History alive and kicking at 2013 Oscars



An Oscar statue is seen at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences following the 85th Academy Awards nominee announcements in Beverly Hills, California on 10 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 19 Feb —History is alive and kicking at this year's Oscars in an unusually rich year for movies that plumb the distant and recent American past and have resonated with both audiences and voters.

Four of the nine Best Picture nominees at Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony—Iran hostage drama "Argo," Osama bin Laden thriller "Zero Dark Thirty," slavery revenge fantasy "Django Unchained" and US presidential drama "Lincoln" - are the most discussed films of the awards season, with their very different takes on historical events.

"It's an interesting year for thought-provoking movies that have a semblance of reality. Some look to where we come from and where we are going, and they get people thinking," said Pete Hammond, awards columnist for entertainment industry website Deadline.com.

It's a sharp contrast with 2012 when the silent film comedy "The Artist" was embraced by the 6,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as a love letter to old Hollywood.

Reuters

Anurag Kashyap brings 'Gangs of Wasseypur' to UK

LONDON, 19 Feb—Anurag Kashyap may have been branded a torch-bearer of new-age Indian cinema but the filmmaker says he hates carrying any such burden.

"I hate being a poster boy, because a he eventually becomes a dart board. I never consciously carried any kind of burden of new-wave Indian cinema but people have a tendency to label you. All I felt was that if there were more filmmakers who made cinema I relate to, then I could also co-exist.—*PTI*

Anurag Kashyap

Chow's comic "Odyssey" dominates Chinese box office

BEIJING, 19 Feb—Fantasy action comedy "Odyssey" took 560 million yuan (89.7 million US dollars) in the week ending on 17 February, dominating the Chinese box office, according to data released on Monday.The takings of the film, directed by famed Hong Kong actor Stephen Chow, accounted for 66.7 percent of all ticket sales in the week, showed China Film News' postings on Sina Weibo, the Chinese equivalent of Twitter.

"Odyssey," which premiered on 10 February, set new box-office records for a single day for a Chinese movie for three consecutive days, said its producer Huayi Brothers Media Group. The film is basically a retelling of classic Chinese tale Journey to the West. The "101st Marriage Proposal," a low-budget domestic romcom which debuted in Chinese theaters on Tuesday, followed "Odyssey" with 117 million yuan. "Jack Reacher," an action thriller starring US actor Tom Cruise, came in third with 30 million yuan. It hit Chinese screens on Saturday.—*Xinhua*

Hong Kong actor Stephen Chow.

SPORTS

Italy's Sara Errani (L) and Roberta Vinci pose with their trophies after winning the doubles final match against Russian Nadia Petrova/Slovenian Katarina Srebotnik at the Qatar Open tennis tournament in Doha on 17 Feb , 2013. The Italian pair won 2-1.—XINHUA

Olympics: Yoshida not ready to mull joining FILA female committee

NAGOYA, 19 Feb — Three-time Olympic champion Saori Yoshida said on Monday she is not ready to consider whether to join the world wrestling governing body's female committee that will be formed as the organization is fighting to maintain the sport's Olympic status for the 2020 Summer Games.

"I cannot think of it yet as I am still an active athlete," Yoshida, who won her third consecutive 55-kilogram Olympic gold in London last summer, said at a promotional event held at the Nagoya Regional Taxation Bureau.

The wrestling body, known as FILA, on Sunday named Yoshida, as a candidate to sit on the female committee.

Yoshida also said she will prepare herself for FILA's presentation at an International Olympic Committee meeting in May in which she is expected to take part along with three-time Olympic champion Alexander Karelin of Russia.

Wrestling is among eight sports that will apply for inclusion in 2020 after a surprise decision by IOC executives earlier this month to drop wrestling from the list of core sports.

Kyodo News

Three-time Olympic champion Saori Yoshida answers a reporter's question at a promotional event held at the Nagoya Regional Taxation Bureau in Nagoya on 18 Feb, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

US tennis mourns as San Jose Open bids farewell

SAN JOSE, 19 Feb — The US tennis community mourned the loss of another ATP tournament on Sunday when the San Jose Open packed up and headed to Brazil after 125 years in California. The event was first played in 1889 and has included champions such as Fred Perry, Rod Laver, Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Andy Murray and Andy Roddick before Canada's Milos Raonic completed a hat-trick of wins on Sunday.

Former player and broadcaster Justin Gimelstob, who is also an ATP board of directors member, told *Reuters* he was sad to bid farewell to the second oldest tournament in the United States behind the US Open."It's been one of the landmarks of the tour," he said. "There are so many great champions who have won here. This negative trend is very disappointing."

Tournament owners San Jose Sports & Entertainment Enterprises, who are also in charge of the San Jose Sharks, opted to sell the event to a Rio de Janeiro group for both financial reasons and to prevent having to send their NHL team on an annual two-week road trip. When the United States was dominating men's tennis and former major champions such as Sampras and Agassi were happy to play at one of their national tournaments, spectator attendances were good.

Reuters

Ana Ivanovic of Serbia hits a return to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia during their women's singles match at the WTA Dubai Tennis Championships, on 18 Feb, 2013.
REUTERS

Ivanovic reaches Dubai second round, Stephens bows out

DUBAI, 19 Feb — Former French Open champion Ana Ivanovic beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-3, 7-6 in the first round of the Dubai tennis championships on Monday while US teenager Sloane Stephens was eliminated in three sets to cap a miserable debut trip to the Gulf. Ivanovic's career has dipped since she won the French title in 2008, sinking from number one in the world rankings to 13th, and she was far from flawless on the floodlit Dubai court.

The Serb slipped from 4-0 up in the second set to 6-6 as her first serve percentage plunged, before winning the subsequent tiebreak 7-5. She was still too strong for 21-year-old Pavlyuchenkova, breaking in the first game and remaining largely in control thereafter, with her Russian opponent's forehand too often found wanting to really put her higher-ranked adversary in trouble.

"I really want to, you know, break into the top 10 again," Ivanovic said. "I feel I have the game, but I just haven't been consistent enough, especially against the top players." Ivanovic broke for a second time to go 4-1 up in the first set, a fierce cross-court return earning a break point she converted after Pavlyuchenkova thumped a forehand into the net.

Yet Ivanovic immediately lost her own serve to love as the world number 29 closed to 4-3 but the 25-year-old roused herself again, dropping only two points in the next two games as Pavlyuchenkova double-faulted to gift her the first set. The Serb blamed her second set slump on a troubled shoulder.

Reuters

Allen stands firm to help Blues edge out Canucks

LOS ANGELES, 19 feb — Rookie goaltender Jake Allen shook off the concession of a game-tying goal in the final minutes of regulation to make a string of key stops as the St Louis Blues sealed a 4-3 shootout win over the Vancouver Canucks on Sunday. Vancouver's Mason Raymond forced overtime when he beat Allen with just 1:47 left in the third period to make 3-3, but the first-year netminder refused to remain despondent.

Allen made five saves in overtime, finishing with 28 overall, and blocked Vancouver's two shootout attempts to ensure St Louis (9-5-1) won for the third time in a row and he remained unbeaten in his first three starts. "I am not getting too far ahead of myself," Allen told reporters, having been filling in for starter Jaroslav Halak, who has been sidelined with a groin injury since on 1 February but is finally ready to play. "You are not going to win forever you just want to keep making the most of your chances."

Ryan Kesler scored the first goal of the game, in only his second contest of the season after recovering from injury, and Henrik Sedin added another to give Vancouver a 2-1 first period lead after TJ Oshie had equalised for the visitors.

Reuters

St Louis Blues Vladimir Tarasenko (L) is checked by Vancouver Canucks Chris Tanev and Aaron Volpatti (R) during the second period of their NHL hockey game in Vancouver, British Columbia on 17 Feb, 2013.
REUTERS

Women's World Cup a huge success, says Clare Connor

MUMBAI, 19 Feb — The head of ICC's Women's Committee Clare Connor gave a huge thumbs up for the Women's World Cup that concluded here yesterday and said the tournament is a huge success and has raised the profile of the women's game.

The head of ICC's Women's Committee Clare Connor

"It has been a huge achievement, a huge success in raising profile, in terms of the number of people who have tuned in, in countries where it has been televised," the former England women's cricket captain said yesterday.

PTI

GENERAL

Vietnamese karate player to compete at 2013 World Games

HANOI, 19 Feb — Vietnamese karate player Nguyen Hoang Ngan has been invited to compete at the 2013 World Games to be held in Colombia from 25 July to 4 August , reported by Vietnam's state-run news agency *VNA* on Monday.

Ngan won a spot at the Games following a successful year of competitions. She grasped a gold medal at an open tournament in Germany last September.

The World Games, first held in 1981, are an international multi-sports event, meant for sports, or disciplines or events within a sport, that are not contested in the Olympics. The Games, held every four years, are organized and governed by the International World Games Association, under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee.

Ngan has won the world champion title twice in 2006 and 2008, and triumphed in many Asian tournaments and SEA Games.

Xinhua

Fire preventive measures launched in Sagaing

SAGAING, 19 Feb — Ward Administrator U Thein Tun of Myothit Ward of Sagaing and townselders, auxiliary fire brigade members and local people took fire preventive measures in every house in the ward in anticipation of the open season.

They are also drawing plans to ensure 24 hour-fire watch and prevent fire incident in the ward.

Kyemom

Resino to replace Herrera as Celta's coach

MADRID, 19 Feb— Abel Resino will replace Paco Herrera as the coach of struggling Spanish BBVA Primera Liga club Celta. The decision was made on Monday in the wake of a dreadful run of form for Celta, which has seen them slip to third from bottom of the league table, placing the club in danger of a return back to the Spanish second division after just one season back in the top flight. Saturday saw Celta capitulate 3-1 away to Getafe, a result which means they have taken just six points from their last 11 games and have suffered three consecutive defeats.

Herrera was strongly critical of the club's highly rated striker, Iago Aspes after Saturday's defeat, accusing Aspes of 'having his head in the clouds,' during the match in which all of the scoring had finished by halftime and where Celta never looked like recovering. The decision is hard on 59-year-old Herrera, who was in his third season with the club and who last season led Celta to promotion after a lean period of five seasons in the Spanish second division.

He becomes the eighth coach to lose his job this season in the Primera Liga and the fourth in the past month following the departures of Domingos Palaciaos (Deportivo la Coruna), Joaquin Caparros, (Mallorca) and Juan Antonio Anquela (Granada).

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-2-13 09:30 am ~ 20-2-13 09:30 am) MST

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* Meeting for the Elimination of Drugs
* News
* Evergreen Classical Music (Part-14)
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* Chin Traditional Bamboo Dance
* Myanmar Movies "Why you hatc me, Ko Ko?"

Myanmar TV

(20-2-2013, Wednesday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. Health Programme

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:40 am
4. International News

8:00 am
5. Teleplay (Health)

8:10 am
6. Cultural Dances

8:20 am
7. Road to 27th SEA GAMES (Karatedo)

8:35 am
8. Song Of National Races

8:45 am
9. Musical Programme

4:00 pm
10. Opening Song

4:05 pm
11. Classical Song

4:15 pm
12. 2013 University Entrance Examination (English)

4:50 pm
13. Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm
14. Evening News

6:15 pm
15. Weather Report

6:20 pm
16. ASEAN Programmes

6:30 pm
17. Shwe Yin chone Than

7:00 pm
18. News

7:30 pm
19. Documentary

8:00 pm
20. News
21. People Talks
22. International News
23. Weather Report
24. Road to SEA GAMES (Yachting-1)

10:00 pm
25. News
26. Myanmar Movie

Durant leads West over East in All-Star game

HOUSTON, 19 Feb — Kevin Durant and Blake Griffin provided a potent mix of outside shooting and inside dominance to lift the Western Conference to a 143-138 victory over the Eastern Conference in the NBA All-Star game on Sunday. Durant scored 30 points and Griffin added 19, on nine-of-11 shooting, but the Most Valuable Player Award went to Chris Paul, who scored 20 points and added 15 assists for the West.

Paul told Durant, the NBA's leading scorer and last year's All-Star game MVP, to expect to see the ball in his hands. "I told KD early in the first quarter, 'Man, if they score anything, you run. I'll get you the ball, you score. I want to be the one to give it to you," recalled the Los Angeles Clippers guard. "In games like this it's so up tempo and fast paced, a guy like me that's a facilitator, I enjoy it."

Carmelo Anthony of the New York Knicks paced the East with 26 points, followed by Miami guard Dwyane Wade, who had 21, and LeBron James, who added 19.

Durant hit 13-of-24 shots to lead the West to a third straight victory in the annual showcase that features little defense, a lot of dunks, and plenty of assists for anyone who decides to pass. "I'm just out there having fun," Oklahoma City forward Durant said. "I played a lot of street basketball. I played a lot of celebrity games. This is my type of ballgame, up and down."

Reuters

NBA All-Star Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma Thunder (35) dunks during the NBA All-Star basketball game in Houston, Texas, on 17 Feb, 2013.
REUTERS

Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss dies at 80

LOS ANGELES, 19 Feb — Jerry Buss, who parlayed a $1,000 real estate investment into ownership of the Los Angeles Lakers, winning 10 National Basketball Association championships and making the team one of the most glamorous in American sports, died on Monday at 80, the team said on its official website. Buss, who matched superstar players with brilliant coaches and savvy executives, had been hospitalized recently for cancer. The official cause of death was kidney failure, said Lakers spokesman John Black.

Buss had been hospitalized much of the past 18 months and had not been to a Lakers game this season. "We not only have lost our cherished father but a beloved man of our community and a person respected by the world basketball community," a statement released on behalf of the Buss family said. NBA Commissioner David Stern said the NBA had "lost a visionary owner whose influence on our league is incalculable and will be felt for decades to come."

Buss bought the Lakers in 1979 and under his ownership they became the second most valuable professional basketball team behind the New York Knicks, worth an estimated $1 billion, according to *Forbes* magazine.

Reuters

File photo of Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss leaving after NBA labor meetings in New York on 4 Oct, 2011.—REUTERS

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The New Light of Myanmar

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Japanese delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) Mr Hiroshi Okuda at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Also present at the call together with Vice-President U Nyan Tun were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein, the director-general at the President Office and officials.

At the call, they friendly discussed investment opportunities in financial tasks, insurance, electricity supply, water supply, rail transportation and communications and development tasks beneficial for the two countries based on amity.—*MNA*

Vice-President U Nyan Tun holds talks with Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) Mr Hiroshi Okuda at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

MNA

Communication Bill includes improvement of telephone density-services ratio in rural areas

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb— To improve the telephone density and services ratio in rural areas, the Communication Bill would include establishing a fund for Universal Service Obligation (USO) by using a ratio of incomes from the new operators for communication services, said Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Win Than at the 12th day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw here today.

In his clarification to previous discussion of MPs, he also expressed the two points that would be added to the ministry's plan for the 2013-2014 FY, saying that the ministry would improve the mobile communication meeting the international standard of 3G and above and would implement the ICT Eco System such as e-government, e-Visa, e-Procurement, e-license, e-Payment, Online Billing System etc.

Regarding the rice export, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan said the ministry has granted licenses for rice export after calculating the output, domestic consumption and surplus of rice as the crop is the staple food of Myanmar.

Paddy is not allowed to be exported in normal condition with the aim of improving the rice milling sector which can create job opportunities and can provide feed stuff for cattle and for fuel as well, he added.

However, sticky rice from border areas in Shan State (East) including Mongyaung is allowed to be exported to foreign countries as the sticky rice is in surplus in the areas and there is no enough rice mills in the state and high cost for transporting the rice to other areas due to difficult access to the areas, he said.

According to the request of the local farmers, the sticky rice from the areas would be allowed to be exported until early 2014 when more rice mills were completed in the state, he added.

In his clarification to the border trade sector discussed by MPs, Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan said the ministry has issued licenses for manageable trading on trial at border trade centers in Tamu, Muse, Myawady and Tachilek and the licenses would be issued in the remaining trade centers in border areas.

Regarding the arrangement for establishing Mawtaung Border Trade Centre, the ministry had already informed the authority concerned of Thailand through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the ministry has been working to open Mawtaung and Htimi border trading centres in Taninthayi Region, Meisei Border Trade Center in Kayah State.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw clarified the policy and basic principles of the National Planning Bill for the 2013-2014 FY, and Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein reported on the debt clearance of the country to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

During today's meeting, ministers and deputy ministers from 16 ministries clarified the discussions of MPs.

The meeting will continue tomorrow.

NLM

***Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives seen at 12th day session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.*—MNA**

Thaworn shooting for more glory in season-opening Zaygabar Myanmar Open

YANGON, 19 Feb—Asian Tour number one Thaworn Wiratchant has been given the honour of hitting the opening tee shot when the Asian Tour's 10th season begins at the Zaykabar Myanmar Open presented by Alpine on Thursday.

The highly decorated Thai, who holds a record 15 Asian Tour wins, will be paired with fellow countryman Boonchu Ruangkit, who hit the first shot when the Tour was launched as a players' organization in 2004, and Singaporean veteran Mardan Mamat. The leading trio will launch the US$ 300,000 event from the 10th tee as a symbolic move.

While honoured, the 46-year-old Thaworn is determined to take the last putt of the tournament on Sunday afternoon as he seeks a winning start to his 2013 campaign at the Royal Mingalardon Golf and Country Club on the region's premier circuit.

In 2013, the Asian Tour will celebrate momentous milestones with its 10th season. As the official sanctioning body for professional golf in Asia, the Asian Tour leads the development of golf across the region, enhancing the career of its members while maintaining a commitment to the integrity of the game.

NLM