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Peace and stability guarantees regional development: Vice-President

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views progress of Pon Creek Bridge Project in Bawlakhe.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party, who were in Loikaw, visited Biluchaung Hydropower Plant No (3) project together with Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and departmental officials yesterday morning.

At the briefing hall, the Vice-President heard reports on facts and figures related to implementation of the project and health care services being given to staff and local people presented by officials concerned and Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myint Zaw made a supplementary report.

Next, the Vice-President and party observed the already-built main power intake channel in a motorcade and construction of power house.

So far the whole project has been completed by 67 per cent. Upon completion, 334 kwh electricity can be generated per year and contribute toward more supply of electricity in the country through national power grid.

In meeting with officials and local people at Bayintnaung Hall in Bawlake, the Vice-President coordinated the sector-wise matters with officials concerned to fulfill the regional requirements presented by locals. He called on lcaol people to atcively take part joinging hands in hands with the government in tasks of ensuring a lasting pece in teh region as peace and stability can bring about regional development.

Next, the Vice-President visited Bawlakhe People's Hospital and Bawlakhe Basic Education High School.

During his tour of Bawlakhe, the Vice-President oversaw Pon creek bridge construction project being implemented by Public Works.

Next, the Vice-President and party flew to Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State where they offered gold foils to the Pagoda.

On his arrival at Hpa-an in Kayin State, the Vice-President met with departmental officials and local people at Zwekabin Hall in Hpa-an

He stressed the need to put more efforts in production of manufactured goods to be able to export them, insted of raw materials, thereby translating the nation into a developed one.

Then the Vice-President and his wife and party paid homage to the Buddha Image at Shwe Yin Hmyaw Pyidaw Aye pagoda in Hpa-an and Thayhta Man Aung Buddha Image and made cash donations.

MNA

Cash donated to construction of Mingalabyuha Sasana Beikman

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb— Local companies donated cash to construction of Mingalabyuha Sasana Beikman mainly funded by Shwe Family Foundation at the hall of the building yesterday evening.

Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Dr Maung Maung Htay and Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htay accepted donations from Krislite, TZTM, Max Myanmar, Moon Ray, Moe Kyalzin, Original Group, A1, Shwetaung, FCGC, WEG, Diamond Wall, Tatlan, Diamond Mercury companies and other donors and returned certificates of honour.

MNA

Union Peace Working Committee, UNFC hold talks, issue joint-statement

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb— A 11-member Union Peace Working Committee delegation led by its Vice-Chairman U Aung Min held talks with a 12-member delegation of United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) including Nai Hong Sar and Dr La Ja in Chiang Mai of Thailand from 9 am to 5 pm today.

Both sides agreed to issue a five-point joint-statement. The full text of the joint-statement is as follow:-

Joint Statement

February 20, 2013

1. The eleven-member Union Peace Working Committee delegation, led by its Vice-Chairman U Aung Min, and including Union Ministers U Khin Yi, U Ohn Myint, and Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo met with United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) twelve-member political negotiation team led by Nai Hong Sar and Dr La Ja to discuss the Framework for Political Dialogue from 9.00 to 17.00 hrs on February 20, 2013 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
2. Both delegations discussed the following issues in a frank and friendly manner:
   (a) Political objectives;
   (b) Framework for political dialogue;
   (c) Timeframe for political dialogue;
   (d) Drafting agenda for political dialogue;
   (e) Venue for future political dialogue;
   (f) Presence and role of mediators, monitors, and observers in the meetings;
   (g) Six-point ethnic nationalities peace plan; and
   (h) other miscellaneous issues.
3. Both delegations discussed mechanisms to secure local and international support for humanitarian assistance, education, health, agricultural and livestock sectors during the preparatory period and political dialogue for areas where member organizations of the UNFC are located.
4. Both delegations discussed holding meetings between respective technical teams.
5. Both delegations also agreed to hold a follow-up meeting within two months.

Myanmar hosts 13th NIOHC meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb— The 13th anniversary of North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC), hosted by Myanmar, was held at Park Royal Hotel in Yangon, yesterday morning, with an opening address by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe.

Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladeshi, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and UK are NIOHC member countries and Australia, France, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Sudan and the US, partnership countries. The Commission which is formed under International Hydrographic Organization is planning to publish Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) and International Charts (INT) and to conduct courses on navigational safety for hydrographic officers.

Its annual meeting is held in member countries on an alternate basis. This year, Myanmar hosts the four-day meeting for the first time.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Free eye care service in MraukU Township

MRAUKU, 20 Feb — Under the supervision of the 11th Tipitakadhara Dhamma-bhanagarika Sayadaw, an eye specialist team comprising Professor Dr U Soe Nyunt, Professor Dr U Thein Aung, Dr U Soe Moe, Dr U Hla Maung Din, Dr U Zaw Tun, Dr Daw Saw Thein and Rakhine State Eye Specialist Dr U Moe Kyaw, Dr Daw Ohnma Khin and nurses led by Dr U Aye Tun provided needy patients with free eye care service, performing eye surgeries in MraukU of Rakhine State from 9 to 13 February.

The team gave eye care service to 2000 outpatients, 238 patients who were in need of eye surgeries and 500 patients with eye complaint and donated 380 pairs of glasses. Moreover, Dr U Tun Myat and Dr Daw Khin Mya Lwin (Mandalay) provided free health care service to 1500 patients in cooperation with Dr U Khin Maung Than and medical staff of MraukU Township.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and party comforted patients who were receiving medical treatment. The Rakhine Sayadaw and Professor Dr U Thein Myint and family donated relief supplies to patients.

Kyemon

Myanmar Caravan Tour 2013

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — Under the ASEAN Friendship Caravan Tour 2013 programme, a convoy of vehicles carrying 54 travellers from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Norway came into Myanmar via Mae Sot-Myawady route of Thailand on 18 Feb morning with the aim of observing tourism and investment sectors in Myanmar.

The line of vehicles will pass Myawady, Kawkareik, Hpa-an, Kyaikto, Kyaikhtiyoe, Phayagyi, Nay Pyi Taw, Pyawbwe, Kalaw, Aungban, Heho, Nyaungshwe, Inlay, Taunggyi, Meiktila, Mandalay, Shwenyaung, Heho, Aungban, Kalaw, Thazi, Monywa, Pakokku, Bagan, Chauk, Magway, Pyay, Yangon, Bago, Bilin, Thaton, Zinkyaik, Paung, Mottama and Mawlamyine and leave for Mae Sot.

The event with the convoy of 22 vehicles was jointlysponsored by Royal Colourful Land, travel and tour agency of Myanmar, and Tourism Authority of Thailand. Along the route, they will not only visit famous pagodas and places of interest, enjoying natural beauty of Myanmar but observe ongoing reform process in Myanmar and prospects of investment in Myanmar.

According to the news reports from tourism society, more caravan tours will be organized later as more tourists have flocked to Myanmar than ever before since the new government took office. — *Kyemon*

Undertakings for development of townships in Yangon inspected

YANGON, 20 Feb — Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Hla Myint inspected upgrading of Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township on 16 February.

Next, the Mayor observed preventive measures against DHF being carried out in wards of Hlinethaya, Thingangyun, Pabedan, Mingaladon and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships.

Then the mayor visited Tabinshwehti road, Dagon Ayeyar brokerage and highway bus terminal and Kyansittha street in Hlinethaya Township, Sawbwagyigon brokerage and truck yard in Insein Township, Hlawga dam in Mingaladon Township and Yadana market at Htaukkyant on Yangon-Bago road.

Afterwards, the mayor made an inspection tour of Ngamoeyeik water treatment plant in Hmawby Township, paving concrete on Wayzayanda road and Pin Shwenyaung road in Thingangyun Township and dredging of Nat creek for proper flow of water in Tamway Township.

MNA

Wire shock circuit sparks fire, reducing two houses into ashes

PAUKKAUNG, 20 Feb — Sparks from a wire shock circuit had ignited a house roof and the fire swept through the whole house on Pyay-Paukkaung-Toungoo motorway in Paukkaung of Pyay District in Bago Reign at about 4.20 pm on 15 February.

The fire started from the wire shock circuit while photocopying with the photocopier powered by the generator at the house (Hein Photocopying Service) of U Maung Maung (a) U Than Oo in Paukhaung. Two houses were reduced to ashes as the fire spread to next house. It took about one hour to put out the fire by fire crews accompanied by nine fire engines—three from Paukkaung Township Fire Service Department, one from Paukkaung Township Development Affairs Department, two from Pyay Township Fire Services Department, one from Paungde Auxiliary Fire Brigade, and two from Pyay Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

Paukkaung Police Station filed a lawsuit against U Maung Muang, the house owner, and the investigation into the fire case is ongoing. — *Kyemon*

Houses, cowshed burnt to the ground by kitchen fire

MONYWA, 20 Feb — A fire broke out at Mongyopyin (North) ward in Salingyi Township of Monywa District in Sagaing Region at about 4 pm on 15 February.

The fire started in the kitchen and caused by negligence in cooking at the house of U Nyan Maung in the village. The fire swept through and engulfed eight houses and one cowshed. Fire crews accompanied by fire engines and water bowsers of Salingyi, Yinmabin and Monywa Township Fire Services Departments, Myanmar-Wanbao Company and Myanmar-Yangzi Company managed to bring the fire under control at about 5.30 pm. Fire victims were given food and shelter at the relief camp being kept open at the village monastery.

Kyemon

Asters in full bloom in Ywadan Sub-township

YAMETHIN, 20 Feb — Aster plants are commercially grown in Yanaungtaung, Ywama, Okshitbin and Hsonywa Htanpauk villages in Ywadan Sub-township of Yamethin Township.

Out of wide varieties, aster plants that have deep red and white flowers are mainly grown. In growing aster plants, they can produce flowers about four months later with one-month nursery period.

Although aster flowers market is not stable, deep red aster flowers get a good price more than white aster flowers. An aster flower is priced at K 30. Aster growers are paid in cash for their flowers by flower brokers who transported flowers to Yamethin, Pyawbwe, Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw.

Kyemon

Illegal teak, hardwood seized in reserved forest areas of Indaw Township

INDAW, 20 Feb — Under the plan to eliminate illegal timber production in reserved forests and protected forests for environmental conservation, timber logs and sawn hardwoods were seized in Meza region of Indaw Township, Sagaing region while making field trips in accord with laws, rules and regulations by the Forest Department.

During the period from 11 to 14 February, forest staff of Indaw Township led by Staff Officer U Soe Lin Aung seized 38.2254 tons of sawn teak and hardwood with no ownership in Tatlwin reserved forest and Pyinte protected which are adjacent to Laungsu, Htadaw, Latpandan, Kyauk-oh, Par-auk and Natyaytwin villages. Actions are being taken to expose the owners of seized illegal teak and hardwood.

Kyemon

General John Allen to retire, won't take NATO nomination

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb—US Marine General John Allen, who led NATO forces in Afghanistan and was caught up but later cleared in the scandal that forced CIA chief David Petraeus to resign, said on Tuesday he will retire and forgo his nomination to become NATO's supreme allied commander because of his wife's health.

The decision ends the career of one of the US military's most well-known leaders, who until 10 February spent 19 months in Afghanistan trying to help wind down America's longest war and strengthen Afghanistan's military to fight insurgency.

Beyond the pressures of war, Allen faced a media frenzy over a high-profile Pentagon investigation that in January cleared him of wrongdoing in his email exchanges with a Florida socialite, Jill Kelley.

The emails came to light in an investigation of CIA chief and former General David Petraeus, who preceded Allen in Afghanistan and resigned his CIA position in November over an extramarital affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell.

President Barack Obama and Defence Secretary Leon made no mention of that probe in statements on Tuesday, instead extolling Allen's 38-year military career. Obama cited Allen's "extraordinary service" in the Afghan war.

"Today, I met with General John Allen and accepted his request to retire from the military so that he can address health issues within his family," Obama said in a statement.

"I am grateful for the sacrifices made by his family in supporting him during his service."

Reuters

US General John Allen, commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces in Afghanistan, speaks during US Independence Day celebrations in Kabul, in this 4 July, 2012 file photo.
REUTERS

Hungary's Constitutional Court throws out law banning symbols in history

BUDAPEST, 20 Feb — The Hungarian Constitutional Court threw out a law banning the display of symbols in history such as the Nazi swastika and the red star, declaring the law unconstitutional in a Tuesday decision.

The court did not object to the principles of the ban, stating that protecting human dignity and the constitutional order from the threats implied in the symbols could well justify a ban.

But it said that the current Penal Code regulation was too broad and not sufficiently clear, since it specified criminal sanctions for displays of the symbols without considering the reason for the display, the manner in which the given symbol was displayed and the outcome of the display.

The court said that these shortcomings violated legal security and disproportionately limited freedom of opinion. In reaching this decision the court nullified a Constitutional Court decision of 2000, which found the law to be constitutional. In doing so, it cited the practices of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The court decision will take effect as of 30 April of this year.

The reason cited by the court for delaying implementation of the ruling was to allow criminal cases already under investigation to go forward as well as to give the legislature sufficient time to put a more restricted version of the law in place before taking this one off the books.

The current law specifies that merely displaying these symbols in public qualifies as a misdemeanor offence. It also says that displays for educational, scientific, artistic or historical purposes, or when the symbol in question was part of the official image of a country, were permitted.

Xinhua

Argentina to renovate railways with Chinese trains in 2014

BUENOS AIRES, 20 Feb—Argentina will receive Chinese-built trains next year as part of a push to modernize its aging metropolitan railway network that links the capital Buenos Aires with its main suburbs, Argentinean Interior and Transportation Minister Florencio Randazzo said on Tuesday.

A video conference was held on Tuesday when Randazzo and the Chinese contracting party both confirmed that the engineering work is well under way.

The railroad cars will be delivered in 13 months, as stipulated by the contract, the Transportation Ministry said, citing the executives from CSR Qingdao Sifang Locomotive & Rolling Stock Co.

"We want you to tell Argentina's President that we have already begun to work very hard on the construction of the cars and we are going to fulfill what we signed," the Chinese executives said.

CSR president Zhang Zaizhong said that his firm is well aware of the project's importance for the government of Argentina.

The contract for the rail cars, which are to be built with the latest technology in comfortability, speed and safety, came as a result of the tragic railway accident that killed 51 passengers in Buenos Aires on Feb. 22, 2012.

The tragedy forced the government to intervene in the railway service sector where private companies had been the major players, and ordered the renewal of all rail cars. Chinese companies won the bid with the most competitive proposals. CSR executives confirmed the advance payment of 164 million US dollars by the government, and reassured the ministry that "we will work quickly to build the trains."

Xinhua

Costa Rica's President Laura Chinchilla (L) and Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto (R) meet in San Jose, capital of Costa Rica, on 19 Feb, 2013. Nieto is on an official visit of two days in Costa Rica.—XINHUA

The Yemeni supreme security commission said the death toll from Tuesday's fighter jet crash has hit 10, including two children, in a residential area of the capital Sanaa, according to a statement carried by state-run Saba news agency.—XINHUA

Colombia's rebel forces push for ceasefire

HAVANA, 20 Feb—The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group pushed for a bilateral ceasefire on Tuesday, endorsing a proposal put forward by conservative former minister Alvaro Leyva Duran. Ivan Marquez, the FARC's chief negotiator in peace talks with the government of President Juan Manuel Santos, replied to Leyva, saying "we agree with your proposal for a bilateral truce with international oversight."

Speaking in Havana, Cuba, where the talks are being held, Marquez said "surely the country agrees with former minister Leyva Duran. We must stop the national bleeding, and more so when we are in peace talks." Marquez added the FARC pledged to abide by a truce that would help set the tone for peace talks and further mutual understanding.

The proposal was published on Monday by Colombian daily *El Nuevo Siglo*, which cited Leyva calling for "a ceasefire, a bilateral truce, but a real one. Controlled. With an Internationalized Oversight Commission for the truce."

While the FARC unilaterally put down arms for a month at the start of these talks, Santos has so far resisted a bilateral truce, saying he fears the rebels will use the lull in fighting to re-arm and regroup, as they allegedly did during a truce some 10 years ago.

As a result, while representatives for the two sides sit down to discuss the conditions that will lead to a lasting peace and an end to five decades of fighting, the leftist rebels and military forces continue to clash in the jungles of Colombia.

Xinhua

Syria humanitarian forum to discuss aid to end crisis

GENEVA, 20 Feb—The focus of the seventh Syria Humanitarian Forum will be on securing access to millions of Syrians desperately in need of help, UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos said on Tuesday.

Addressing a Press conference, she added that humanitarian action alone could not solve the problems facing the Syrian people.

"This crisis requires a political solution and I hope that all who have influence with the parties will succeed in bringing them to the negotiating table as soon as possible," she said.

THe UN estimates that 4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria, which includes more than 2 million internally-displaced persons.

Amos told reporters that the UN was crossing conflict lines and negotiating with armed groups on the ground in order to reach more people in need.

"But we are not reaching enough of those who require our help."

Amos said the situation in Syria was getting worse with "limited access in the north" being a major problem.

UN figures show 70,000 people have been killed since the onset of the Syria crisis and 830,000 Syrian refugees have registered or are awaiting registration.

UN humanitarian agencies such as the World Food Programme are scaling up to meet the needs of 2.5 million people by April, while UNICEF and the World Health Organization have reached more than a million children with vaccination campaigns against polio and measles.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

"Meteorite rush" begins as Russian scientists find fragments

Moscow, 20 Feb — A meteor that exploded over Russia's Ural mountains and sent fireballs blazing to earth has set off a rush to find fragments of the space rock which hunters hope could fetch thousands of dollars a piece. Friday's blast and ensuing shockwave shattered windows, injured almost 1,200 people and caused about $33 million worth of damage, said local authorities. It also started a "meteorite rush" around the industrial city of Chelyabinsk, 1,500 km (950 miles) east of Moscow, where groups of people have started combing through the snow and ice.

One amateur space enthusiast estimated chunks could be worth anything up to 66,000 roubles ($2,200) per gram — more than 40 times the current cost of gold. "The price is hard to say yet ... The fewer meteorites that are recovered, the higher their price," said Dmitry Kachkalin, a member of the Russian Society of Amateur Meteorite Lovers. Meteorites are parts of a meteor that have fallen to earth. Scientists at the Urals Federal University were the first to announce a significant find — 53 small, stony, black objects around Lake Chebarkul, near Chelyabinsk, which tests confirmed were small meteorites.—*Reuters*

A research worker of the Ural Federal University inspects a fragment of a material substance in Yekaterinburg, the Pro vince of Sverdlovsk capital in the Ural Mountains, on 18 Feb, 2013. —Reuters

Raytheon says aces missile-detection tests in US

Washington, 20 Feb — A Raytheon Co system built into big blimp-like balloons has demonstrated capabilities that could make it easier to detect and track certain enemy ballistic missiles, the company and the US Army's manager of the programme said. System tests in December at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, successfully tracked four targets mimicking tactical ballistic missiles in "high-threat" regions, Raytheon is set to announce on Tuesday.

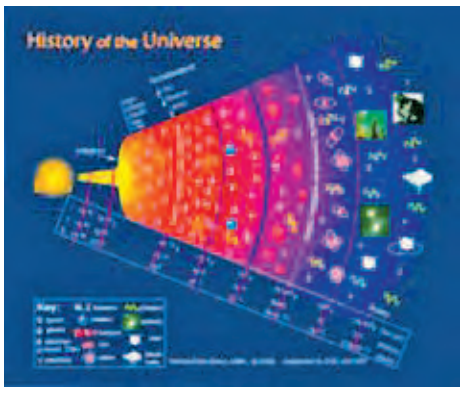
The hardware is known as Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defence Elevated Netted Sensor System, or JLENS. It includes a targeting radar and a wide-area surveillance radar with a 360-degree look-around capability that can reach out to 340 miles.Each radar system flies as high as 10,000 feet with a separate, 74-metre-long aerostat capable of operating aloft for up to 30 days while tethered to mobile moorings.

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

The bulbous, blimp-like aerostats work in pairs officially estimated to cost about $450 million—though Raytheon has said it can lop a third off of that price.

Reuters

Subatomic calculations indicate finite lifespan for universe



Boston, 20 Feb — Scientists are still sorting out the details of last year's discovery of the Higgs boson particle, but add up the numbers and it's not looking good for the future of the universe, scientists said on Monday. "If you use all the physics that we know now and you do what you think is a straightforward calculation, it's bad news," Joseph Lykken, a theoretical physicist with the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, told reporters. Lykeen spoke before presenting his research at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Boston.

"It may be that the universe we live in is inherently unstable and at some point billions of years from now it's all going to get wiped out," said Lykken, who is also on the science team at Europe's Large Hadron Collider, or LHC, the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator.—*Reuters*

Vietnam shortly to take full control of communication satellites

Hanoi, 20 Feb — Vietnam plans to take full control of its two communication satellites from next month after years with foreign assistance in running the systems, according to the Vietnam Post and Telecommunications Group (VNPT) on Tuesday.

Vietnam launched the first satellite, called *VINASAT-1*, in 2008 and the

second one, *VINASAT-2*, in 2012.

In the beginning of their operations, the country received foreign assistance in controlling the systems. VNPT and US contractor Lockheed Martin had joint training courses for Vietnamese engineers.

Vietnamese engineers from VNPT, the owner of the two satellites, have successfully controlled the first *VINASAT-1* for 27 months after it entered the orbit nine months ahead of schedule, reported the Group.—*Xinhua*

HTC launches smartphone with revamped software to take on Samsung

London, 20 Feb — Taipei's HTC Corp has unveiled the new smartphone that it hopes will set it apart from the crowd of Google Android devices on the market and help it to make up ground lost to Samsung. The HTC One is powered by Google's software, but the company has distinguished it from rivals by using new software to replace icons on the home screen with a personalized stream of news articles, social networking updates, photos and video.

Chief executive Peter Chou told reporters in London that the BlinkFeed feature would reinvigorate the smartphone experience."BlinkFeed transforms your home screen into a live feed of information that matters to you," he said. HTC was an early, and successful, maker of smartphones based on Android, but it has been eclipsed by the increasing dominance of Samsung in the Android market. Android is widening its lead in smartphone operating systems, with devices running the software capturing nearly 70 percent of the market in the fourth quarter, Gartner said last week. Apple is in second place with 21 percent, while Blackberry and Windows Phone, which Nokia is pinning its hopes on, trailed with 3.5 percent and 3 percent respectively.

Reuters

HTC president Jason Mackenzie shows the new HTC One during a launch event in New York, on 19 Feb, 2013.— Reuters

Samsung aims to lead TV market with premium products

Seoul, 20 Feb — Samsung Electronics, the world's No 1 TV maker, said on Tuesday that it aims to lead the global TV market for eight straight years this year with new premium products. "Samsung has a strategy to bolster its leadership in the global TV market by strengthening premium TV lineups with SmartTV 'F8000' series and UHD TV," Samsung said in an e-mailed Press release.

The company said it aimed to rank first in the global TV industry for the eighth consecutive year in 2013, and more than double its gap with other players in the premium segment. At a launch event held on Tuesday in its Seoul headquarters, Samsung unveiled new

Smart TV models such as "F8000" series, saying that it plans to roll out around 70 new models in a serial order this year at home and abroad.

The newly launched Samsung products feature the so-called "smart hub" panel, on which users can browse TV, movie, apps, social network and music by rotating through five different screens.

Xinhua

Apple, Macs hit by hackers who targeted Facebook

Boston, 20 Feb — Apple Inc was recently attacked by hackers who infected Macintosh computers of some employees, the company said on Tuesday in an unprecedented disclosure describing the widest known cyber attacks targeting Apple computers used by corporations. Unknown hackers infected the computers of some Apple workers when they visited a website for software developers that had been infected with malicious software. The malware had been designed to attack Mac computers.

The same software, which infected Macs by exploiting a flaw in a version of Oracle Corp's Java software used as a plug-in on Web browsers, was used to launch attacks against Facebook, which the social network disclosed on Friday. The malware was also employed in attacks against Mac computers used by "other companies," Apple said, without elaborating on the scale of the assault. Twitter, which disclosed that it had been breached on 1 February and that hackers might gave accessed some information on about 250,000 users, was hit in the same campaign, according to a person close to the investigation.—*Reuters*

The Apple logo hangs in a glass enclosure above the 5th Ave Apple Store in New York, on 20 Sept, 2012. Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

As parked 787s multiply, Boeing cash drain worries grow

EVERETT, 20 Feb— Paine Field Airport, next door to Boeing Co's (BA.N) widebody plant north of Seattle, is getting crowded as 10 new *787 Dreamliners* flank the runway, sparkling with contrasting and colourful liveries, including Poland's LOT, Britain's Thomson Airways and China Southern Airlines (600029. SS). It is a similar story several thousand miles away, outside the company's North Charleston, South Carolina final assembly building, where space is taken up by four *787s* destined for Air India AIN.UL.

A month after the global fleet of the carbon-composite jets were grounded as US and Japanese regulators carry out investigations into overheating batteries, the parked airliners are a stark symbol of deepening problems this is causing Boeing. At Paine Field in Everett, Boeing plans to move some of its other planes around to make room for new *787s* coming off its two production lines, and says it has room to store all the *787s* it is making. But Boeing is finding it increasingly difficult to convince Wall Street that its balance sheet is not going to be strained by the crisis. Until the *Dreamliner* is cleared to fly again, which could be several months, Boeing will be starved of delivery payments but still has to keep producing and maintaining the *787s* it is making.

The world's largest planemaker is being hit on a number of financial fronts, as well as suffering potential damage to its brand image. It is unable to deliver the five *Dreamliners* being produced per month, missing out an about $200 million in final cash payments from customers every month the *787* is grounded, while it has to pay out millions of dollars to clean, maintain and insure the parked planes.

Reuters

US business seeks more clarity on foreign bribery law

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb —US business groups on Tuesday renewed their campaign to amend an anti-foreign bribery law, suggesting authorities should give companies additional defences against criminal charges. The US Chamber of Commerce and others have complained the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, a 1970s-era law that bars US companies and others from paying bribes to officials of foreign governments in exchange for business, is ambiguous.So far they have unsuccessfully lobbied Congress to amend it. Manufacturers and two dozen others said in a letter to the federal regulators. A Justice Department spokesman on Tuesday said the department appreciated the group's input and would "welcome a continuing dialogue on these issues."

US authorities have significantly stepped up enforcement of the FCPA in recent years, extracting hundreds of millions of dollars in fines from Siemens, Alcatel-Lucent, KBR and others. Some of the largest US companies, including Wal-Mart (WMT.N) and Avon Products Inc (AVP.N), have already spent hundreds

One hundred dollar notes are seen in this photo illustration.—REUTERS

of millions on internal investigations of potential misconduct.

In November the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission released new information about how they enforce the law.

On Tuesday the groups said that guidance addressed "many, but not all" business concerns, but they also called for additional provisions that would allow companies to escape criminal liability for the misconduct of individual employees if they already have strong safeguards and internal compliance systems in place. "Such assurance should be provided through legislative reform of the FCPA," the Chamber, the American Bankers Association, the National Association of

As part an effort to head off industry concerns, agencies that enforce the law last year provided new details about cases they declined to prosecute. They also gave examples about what kind of due diligence a company should perform on an acquisition target and what kind of person constitutes a foreign official.

In the letter to Lanny Breuer, the head of the criminal division at the Justice Department, and George Canellos, who heads the enforcement division at the SEC, the groups said they appreciated much of the guidance but still had concerns..—*Reuters*

Newly-revised rules on drug quality target circulation

BEIJING, 20 Feb— The State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) on Tuesday released a newly-revised regulation on Good Supply Practices (GSP) for drugs, urging greater risk-control capabilities for drug distributors during the circulation stage.

According to Li Guoqing, a senior SFDA official, the 187-article GSP regulation stipulates detailed quality management standards for both wholesalers and retailers. Li said improvements related to purchase channels, storage temperatures, the keeping of receipts and other documents, cold-chain management and transportation have been included in the revision.

According to the revised rules, invoices must be issued for drug procurement and the transportation of drugs must be accompanied by matching document records.

For transportation conducted by third-party groups, consigners should first review their transfer capacities and sign liability agreements in case the quality of the drugs cannot be maintained during the transportation process.

Xinhua

Almost one-third of chemotherapy used "off-label"

NEW YORK, 20 Feb — About one-third of chemotherapies are used to fight cancers that drug regulators never approved them to treat, says a new study. Chemotherapies — drugs that kill rapidly dividing cells — are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to fight specific cancers, but there's nothing stopping doctors from prescribing the drugs "off-label" to treat other types of tumors.

A view shows the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland on 14 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

Some researchers have questioned whether doctors were prescribing the expensive and toxic drugs outside of their intended use, according to the study's researchers, led by Rena Conti, an assistant professor of health policy and economics at the University of Chicago. "The main criticism of off-label prescribing has been the concern that it jeopardizes patient safety because the full risk-benefit ratio is often not completely understood," wrote the University of Toronto's Dr Monika Krzyzanowska, who published an editorial accompanying the study in the Journal of *Clinical Oncology* on Tuesday.

But that doesn't mean the billions of dollars spent on off-label chemotherapies are wasted, according to Conti. "We don't know what the outcomes are. We can't make a judgment of whether the off-label use we document… is appropriate or inappropriate," said Conti. For the new study, the researchers used a national prescription database from US cancer doctors to estimate how the most common intravenous or injected chemotherapies were used in 2010. They found ten chemotherapies that were still protected from competition by patents. They ranged from almost 500,000 doses of Genentech's Avastin or bevacizumab—approved to treat brain, colorectal, lung and kidney cancers—to about 53,000 doses of Celegene's Vidaza or azacitidine—used to treat certain blood disorders. Overall, about 70 percent of the doses of the ten chemotherapies were used "on-label," which means the doses were used in line with FDA approval. The other 30 percent was used to treat cancers the drug regulators never approved.—*Reuters*

Robot-assisted hysterectomies on the rise

NEW YORK, 20 Feb — The proportion of women having their uterus removed using robotic-assisted surgery increased from one in 200 procedures in 2007 to almost one in 10 in 2010, according to a new study. However, the tool didn't reduce complications linked to hysterectomy or otherwise improve women's outlook after surgery, researchers found. And it raised the cost of the procedure by almost one-third. "This is clearly in some ways a waste of resources," said Joel Weissman from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, who co-wrote an editorial published with the study. "It's a waste because there are equally good options and one is just more expensive than the other," he told *Reuters Health*.

According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, about 600,000 hysterectomies are performed each year in the US Researchers led by Dr Jason Wright from Columbia University in New York analyzed records from more than 260,000 women who had the procedure because of endometriosis, bleeding or fibroids between 2007 and 2010. During that time, the number of women treated both robotic and standard minimally-invasive surgery, rather than open surgery, increased. During robotic or minimally-invasive non-robotic surgery, a similar proportion of patients — between five and six percent — had complications such as bladder injuries or bleeding.

Robot-assisted hysterectomies on the rise.

There was also no difference in women's chances of needing a blood transfusion or requiring further care at a nursing home post-surgery, based on procedure type. The only advantage to robotic surgery was a drop in the proportion of women staying longer than two days in the hospital — 20 percent, versus 25 percent of those who had standard minimally-invasive surgery, also known as laparoscopy.

Reuters

WORLD

Hollande gives vote of confidence during Athens visit

Greek President Karolos Papoulias (R) speaks with visiting French President Francois Hollande during their meeting at the presidential palace in Athens, Greece, on 19 Feb, 2013. —XINHUA

ATHENS, 20 Feb—French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday gave a vote of confidence in Greece's prospects of economic recovery, calling on French businesses to invest more in the debt-ridden country.

"I am here as leader of a country who supported Greece's stay in the euro zone," Hollande said during a visit to Athens amid a fresh wave of anti-austerity protests. "I came to Athens to call on French businesses to further invest in Greece," he said after a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras.

"We are here to show solidarity and confidence to Greece... We need to give Greece every chance to meet the goals set," he said, referring to the painful stability and growth programme launched three years ago to address the severe Greek debt crisis. In his first visit to Athens as the French President, Hollande led a delegation of dozens French businessmen who seek investment opportunities in Greece in various sectors such as energy, construction, infrastructure, transport and tourism.

According to local media reports, Hollande is targeting the lease for the exploration of gas reserves in the Aegean Sea.

Hollande's six-hour visit in the Greek capital rounds up on Tuesday afternoon with a business forum during which an agreement for the establishment of a Greece-France Business Council will be sealed.

Currently, France is among Greece's largest lenders through the EU/International Monetary Fund support mechanism and among the largest foreign investors in the country.

It is estimated that more than 100 French-interest firms employ some 20,000 workers in Greece.

"Today France gives a battle by our side for more solidarity and growth in Europe," Samaras said on Greece's part.

He added that Hollande strongly supported efforts to safeguard social cohesion in a country hit hard by deep recession over the past six years and unemployment rates which reach 60 percent among the youth.

Xinhua

Russian PM to visit Cuba on trade, joint projects

HAVANA, 20 Feb—Russian Primer Minister Dmitri Medvedev is expected to arrive on Thursday in Cuba on an official visit aimed at boosting trade diversification and joint industrial, pharmaceutical and energy projects, an official news source confirmed on Tuesday.

Medvedev's agenda included meeting with Cuban leader Raul Castro to discuss greater economic cooperation between the two countries, online news site Cubadebate reported. The Cuba visit is part of the Russian prime minister's Latin American tour, which will also take him to Brazil. Russian Foreign Minister Serguei Lavrov announced on Monday that Cuba and Russia planned to sign a cooperation agreement for joint research in outer space. The agreement will promote Russian-Cuban cooperation in the fields of telecommunication, satellite navigation, space probe, space medicine and biology, as well as the training of Cuban personnel.

Cuba and Russia were close political and economic allies during the Cold War era, but relations cooled following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Starting from 2005, however, both governments have pursued closer collaboration and political ties.

Raul Castro visited Moscow on 14 July, 2012 and met with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, Medvedev and the head of the Russian Security Council, Nikolai Patrushev.

Currently Russia is Cuba's ninth largest trade partner, with trade volume reaching 224 million US dollars in 2011, according to the latest published figures.—*Xinhua*

Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi (R welcomes visiting Palestinian National Authority President Mahmoud Abbas(L) in the capital of Sanaa on 19 Feb, 2013, on the latest development of the peace process between the Palestinians with Israelis. —XINHUA

Large-scale military operations in Mali "coming to an end"

PARIS, 20 Feb—Large-scale military operations in Mali "are coming to an end," Malian Prime Minister Diango Cissoko said here on Tuesday.

"The security and military situation is much better than a few weeks ago. Large-scale military operations in Mali are coming to an end. What's remaining is to restore security and stability in the retaken zones," Cissoko said.

Following talks with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius in Paris, the Malian senior official pledged to "end election operations no later than 31 July" and invited the different Malian factions to participate in the national dialogue in a bid to outline the country's roadmap to guarantee political stability and boost development in the conflict-torn country.

In a joint Press conference, Fabius stressed that military operation in Mali was "in progress as terrorists have not all been killed."

In a statement posted on its website, the defence ministry said 150 French and Malian soldiers, supported by vehicle patrol and Mirage fighter jets, attacked the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains where Islamist insurgents took refuge.

"The French mission was able to locate terrorist elements in their hideout, to chase them and to kill more than 20 of them," it added.

One French soldier was killed during the operation, bringing the death toll of French troops in Mali to two since the start of Seval operation on 11 January.

Xinhua

New Zealand appoints new chief of Army

WELLINGTON, 20 Feb—Major General Dave Gawn, currently Commander of New Zealand's Joint Forces Headquarters, will be the country's new Chief of Army, Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman announced on Wednesday.

Gawn had exhibited the strategic and leadership characteristics required to be appointed to lead the army, said Coleman in a statement. Gawn enlisted in the New Zealand Army in 1978, and had served in Singapore, Australia, Bosnia, East Timor, and had studied in the United States and Australia. He was promoted to his current rank and assumed his current position of Commander Joint Forces New Zealand in 2011.

The post of Chief of Army became vacant when Major General Tim Keating was appointed Vice Chief of Defence in December 2012. Air Commodore Kevin Short was named to succeed Gawn as the new Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, which oversees command of all New Zealand's deployed forces.—*Xinhua*

UN Assistant Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlstrom (R) attends a meeting with workers at after-school day care centers in the northeastern Japan city of Fukushima on 19 Feb, 2013, to learn about the health impact of the 2011 nuclear crisis.
KYODO NEWS

US drilling specialists work to kill Apache gas well in Gulf of Mexico

HOUSTON, 20 Feb—Drilling specialists have been pumping heavy fluids into a gas well in the Gulf of Mexico in a bid to halt natural gas moving among underground formations at the site, local media reported on Tuesday.

The intervention is taking place about two weeks after workers detected an uncontrolled flow of fluid at a well, owned by Houston-based Apache Corp, some 80 kilometres off the Louisiana coast on 4 February, according to the website of newspaper *The Houston Chronicle*.

Though Apache activated a blowout preventer in response and apparently was successful in keeping natural gas from escaping the well, later tests detected the hydrocarbon had migrated from the bottom of the 8,300-foot (about 2,530 meters) hole to a shallower sand formation 1,100 feet (335 metres) below the sea floor, according to the report.

The company evacuated 15 nonessential workers from the drilling rig and hired specialists at Boots & Coots, a Halliburton company, to kill the well.

Apache is also moving a rig to the site, in case a relief well is needed to intersect the existing well bore, according to reports.

US federal regulators said they will only deem the well kill operation complete "when the diagnostic tests demonstrate that there is no existence of natural gas in the well and appropriate steps are taken to plug the well."—*Xinhua*

5.8-magnitude quake hits Santa Cruz Islands

SYDNEY, 20 Feb—An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale jolted Santa Cruz Islands at 00:09:19 GMT on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 10.10 km, was initially determined to be at 10.7699 degrees south latitude and 166.8657 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Kyaukse District IPRD serves Wifi to public

KYAUKSE, 20 Feb—Kyaukse District Information and Public Relations Department of Mandalay Region performed its tasks to change the district library to the district public library, open public book corner at its office and mobile libraries, display the book shows, raise reading habit and organize the extempore talks and art show.

As of 3 February, the department posts the Wifi through Sky Net Internet receiver around its 100 yards area free of charge for the use of public convenience under the arrangements of the IPRD (Head Office).

Moreover, the district department has kept open the Internet room for public use.

Myanma Alinn

War veterans get cash assistance

MYITKYINA, 20 Feb—Myanmar War Veterans Organization (Central) Organizing Committee and Myitkyina Township WVO jointly organized the ceremony to provide cash assistance to members of over 75 years at the office of the Township WVO on 9 February afternoon.

Chairman of the Township WVO Captain (Rtd) Hsan Win extended greetings. Officials presented cash assistance to old war veterans.

MWVCOC presented K 20000 each and Township WVO K 10000 each to 29 old war veterans.

Myanma Alinn

Older persons in Katha get free health care services

KATHA, 20 Feb—Katha Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and townselders jointly give free health care services to older persons every Monday.

The health care service has been provided to older persons of over 65 years for 10 years.

In 2012, the association has given medical treatment to 1934 older persons. The association cost K 35000 for medicines and medical equipment and K 15000 for refreshment for the older persons, totally amounting to K 50000 per week. So, the association seeks fund for long-term services, said Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Aye Thanda Tun.—*Myanma Alinn*

Mandalarians display fresh vegetables, fruits at show

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and party view round vegetables and fruits displayed at show.

MANDALAY, 20 Feb—The 11th Mandalay Mayor's Cup Vegetables and Fruit Show and Contest was opened at Mandalay Kandawgyi Garden, here, on 11 February, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife.

Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moung and Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than formally opened the show and contest.

Next, the Region Chief Minister and officials viewed round the vegetables and fruits displayed at the show.

The show and contest was held at the Mandalay Kandawgyi Garden from 12 to 18 February. A total of 13 departmental booths, two educative booths and four salerooms of private companies were displayed at the show. Music bands performed entertainments to visitors every evening.

Myanma Alinn

Eye care and free surgical services for patients

MANDALAY, 20 Feb—Eye specialists from Yunnan Province of China and eye, ear, nose and throat specialists of Mandalay will joint perform free surgical services to eye patients at Mandalay EENT Specialist Hospital for five days as fo 25 February.

Those wishing to receive eye care services may enlist at the eye out-patient department of the hospital.

Myanma Alinn

Fire drill practised at Meiktila Development Market

MEIKTILA, 20 Feb—Development Market in Meiktila Township of Mandalay Region has been equipped with fine engines, 7200-gallon-capacity water tank and fire extinguishers and water tankers.

On 10 February evening, members of fire brigade took fire drills with the use of fire engines and fire extinguishers as part of efforts for possible outbreak of fire at night.

The fire drill was supervised by Executive Officer U Thant Zin of Township Development Affairs Committee, township level officials, members of the market board of trustees, and officials of district and township Fire Services Departments.

Myanma Alinn

Loans disbursed to slow-moving vehicle drivers

SHWEDAUNG, 20 Feb—With the aim of enhancing socio-economy of families and uplifting living standard of slow-moving vehicle drivers, Shwedaung Township Development Affairs Committee of Pyay District in Bago Region disbursed loans to those drivers at its office on 8 February.

Acting Township Administrator U Soe Thein made a speech. Executive Officer U Han Shein of Township DAC explained the purpose of disbursement through Rural Development Bank for uplifting living standard of those drivers to become owners of slow-moving vehicles.

Next, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Nyi Nyi and Executive Officer U Han Shein presented K 4.5 million to 45 drivers.

Myanma Alinn

People enjoy better transportation

KENGTAWNG, 20 Feb—Shwetaunggyi small bus line was launched near Kengtawng Market in Kengtawng Sub-Township of Langkho District in Shan State (South) on 7 February morning.

The bus line will be run daily along the route from Kholan, Namhsan, Panglong, Loilem and Taunggyi with the use of vans.

As now peace and stability has been restored in the region, the new bus line can be run for better transportation for the local people so as to enhance socio-economy.

Myanma Alinn

Basic first-aid course conducted at Shwegu Township Hospital

SHWEGU, 20 Feb—Shwegu Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Township Red Cross Society jointly conducted the basic first-aid course at the hall of Shwegu Township People's Hospital of Bhamo District in Kachin State on 27 January.

Altogether 37 trainees from Township MCWA attended the course.

Health Assistant U Tun Than (Course Instructor) provided training course to them.

Dr Aung Moe San (Dentist) and Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Zargyi Phyo presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Myanma Alinn

Narcotic drugs seized in Magway

MAGWAY, 20 Feb—Under the supervision of the Acting Magway District Police Force Commander, a squad of policemen, acting on tip-off, searched the house of Phyo Zaw Hein (a) Mann Kyauk at No 32 at the corner of Yanmyonaing 3rd Street and Khwanyo Road in Yanmyonaing Ward of Magway at 1.15 pm on 26 January.

The policemen seized 0.1 kilo of what appears to be marijuana powder in a paint box kept under the bed, 0.1 kilo of similar powder kept in a Nestle box and 0.003 kilo of similar powder kept in a white box, and 0.408 kilo of similar powder kept in an Ovaltine bottle.

According to the confession, Phyo Zaw Hein (a) Mann Kyauk bought these powder from Ma Balar, 22, from Pabe Village in Napanbe Village-tract of Ngaphe Township last two days.

Therefore, Magway No 2 Police Station opened files of lawsuit against the drug possessor Phyo Zaw Hein (a) Mann Kyauk of No 32 at the corner of Yanmyonaing 3rd Street and Khwanyo Road in Yanmyonaing Ward of Magway and Ma Balar, 22, of Pabe Village-tract in Ngaphe Township of Magway Region under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanma Alinn*

Car, cash donated to social service association

LOIKAW, 20 Feb—A ceremony to donte vehicle and cash to Mingala Social Service Association with opened its office at the hall of Mingala Ward Administrative Office in Loikaw of Kayah State was held at the Mogok meditation centre in the ward on 10 February.

U Kyaw Win-Daw Phu Wai Khaing (General Trading) of Htudungantha Village of Pankan Village-tract of Loikaw Township donated one Super Custom car and fuel to the association and 80 wellwishers K 6 million. Responsible persons of the association accepted the cash donations and presented certificates of honour. Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the association may contact U Sai Aung Thein (Chairman), Tel: 083-21031, U Hla Thaung (Vice-Chairman) Tel: 09-6500142 and U Tha Du (Secretary) Tel: 083-21910.—*Myanma Alinn*

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 21 February, 2013

Towards ecologically sustainable society

Water and energy systems have historically been treated as separate realms, with little consideration of one in the planning of the other, and little discussion of interactions between the two. Yet in reality, they are closely interlinked. Water is needed in the vast majority of global energy production systems—for fuel extraction and processing, in hydropower production, and for power-plant cooling, among other uses. And energy is essential for pumping, treating and distributing water.

Efforts to address climate change have heightened awareness of these linkages and of the need to integrate water and energy planning and decision-making. A great deal of this has to do with water scarcity: in many places, conflicts are arising between water demand for energy production, for urban use, for agricultural irrigation, and to support environmental systems.

Meanwhile, energy demand from the water sector—especially for irrigation, but also for desalination and water and sewage treatment—has emerged as a real concern; not only can it strain already overtaxed energy systems, but it also adds significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing the throughput of these resources increases the economy's ecological footprint, destroys natural resources and renders a society economically unsustainable.

Our present industrialization gives us a high material standard of living that is widely shared but the problem is that it's not ecologically sustainable. As trying to grow the economy through growth in throughput has to hit a limit, we need to change the way we think if we're going to have an ecologically sustainable society that has a high standard of living which is extensively and equitably shared among the human population.

Photo shows progress of Lawpita Power Plant No 3 Project in Kayah State.
(News on page 1)—MNA

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Canadian Parliamentary Secretary

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Mr Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary of Canada, at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building, here, this morning.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on further cooperation between the two countries' parliaments and amity and cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo and U T Khun Myat, secretaries U Maung Toe, U Win Myint, Daw Dwe Bu, parliamentarians and officials from the Hluttaw office.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet hosted a dinner to Speaker of Lok Sabha of India Honourable Smt Meira Kumar and party at the dinning hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, yesterday evening. It was also attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Speakers U Nanda Kyaw Swa and U Mya Nyein, chairs and secretaries of Hluttaw committees and the Indian Ambassador.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann greets Mr Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary of Canada at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Myanmar, Russia discuss military affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb— Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin received Mr. Viktor A. OZEROV, Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee of the Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation at his office, here, this morning.

Both sides discussed matters related to the two armed forces.

Also present on the occasion were officials concerned of the Defence Ministry.

MNA

Eight months countdown to Myanmar's ASEAN chairmanship

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb— In his address at the second meeting of Committee for Organizing ASEAN Summit and related meetings took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, this afternoon, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin elaborated on ongoing tasks of the ministry after receiving assistance for capacity building given by ASEAN member countries and international organizations eight months away from the chairmanship.

Next, members of the committee and chairmen of 17 subcommittees held discussions on work progress and follow-up tasks. —*MNA*

Article, essay contest to mark World TB Day

MANDALAY, 20 Feb— National TB Control Unit of the Ministry of Health and the Union Office in Myanmar PICTS will jointly organize the article and essay contest in commemoration of the World TB Day.

Any body may take part in the article contest. Middle and high school students are allowed to participate in the essay contest with over 300 words under the title of Free TB in Myanmar.

The entries are to be sent to the Union Office in Myanmar at No 36 on 27th street between 72nd and 73rd streets in Chanayethazan Township, not later than 8 March.

First, second and third prizes will be awarded to winners on 24 March which falls on World TB Day.

For further information, may dial 02-71082 and 09-402606505.

Myanma Alinn

Ambassador U Min Lwin presents his credentials to Timor-Leste President

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—U Min Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Taur Matan Ruak, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, on 14 February 2013 in Dili.—*MNA*

Ambassador U Soe Nwe presents his credentials to Finnish President

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—U Soe Nwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Finland, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Sauli Väinämö Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland, on 14 February 2013 in Helsinki.—*MNA*

Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws Speaker meets Canadian Parliament Secretary, British Minister for Cabinet Office

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb— Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Secretary of Canadian Parliament Mr Deepak Obhrai at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Hluttaw Complex, here, this morning.

Present at the call together with the Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws U Mya Nyein, Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Nyunt Tin, U Sai Paung Nap, Col Maung Maung Htoo, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye and officials.

Both sides had a cordial discussion on further bilateral ties and cooperation between the two countries, exchange of visit, setting up Parliament's library, dissemination of parliamentary experience and exercising democracy system.

In the evening, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker received a British delegation led by Minister for the Cabinet Office Rt. Hon. Francis Maude at the same venue.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws U Khin Aung Myint receives Minister for the Cabinet Office Rt. Hon. Francis Maude and party.—MNA

Also present at the call were Chairpersons of Amyotha Hluttaw Committees Dr Mya Oo, Dr Myint Kyi, Col Maung Maung Htoo and Daw Khin Waing Kyi and officials of Hluttaw Office and the British Ambassador to Myanmar.

They held discussions on exchange of visits of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff between the two countries, assistance for Myanmar Parliament Library and linking network between the libraries of two parliaments.

MNA

Tabodwe, the month of bonfire Festival

The eleventh month in Myanmar lunar calendar is called Tabodwe, approximately corresponding to February. Astrological name of this month is Kumbha [Aquarius] and its zodiacal symbol is water pot. Two trees; Pauk [Butea Monosperma] and Leh [Silk cotton tree Bombax Malabaricum] bloom profusely creating a riot of orange and scarlet hues everywhere in the country there flowers are designated as flowers of this month.

The 4th month of Myanmar writer, Tabodwe can be very cold, even much more chillier than Pyatho. Many Myanmar old sayings speak of this month's character, နှာရည်ယိုရွဲ တပို့.တွဲ [In Tabodwe, we have a running nose] ဇီးဝမ်းကိုက်ပြဲ၊ တပို့.တွဲ [In Tabodwe, ripen plums open] တပို့.တွဲ၊ ထမနဲတလုပ် နှပ်တရွက်[In Tabodwe, you eat mouthful of delicacy 'htamene' and one breathe in of running nose].

There are two meanings of Tabodwe. The first meaning is "Tabo" meaning "yoke", twe or "dwe" means "hang-up". In this month all agricultural activities are over after the harvest. Farmers and peasants hang up all their implements including "yoke". So it is the month in which all yokes are hung up. The next meaning is "Tabo" (Htanbu) is spadix of a toddy palm tree from which the sap is tapped. "Twe" means to hang down. In the month toddy palm climbers press spadixes to hang down to tap the sap.

The traditional festival of this month is bonfire festival. Bonfire is made by burning sandal or fragrant woods in earthern braziers to produce warmth, and they are offered to Buddha Images, elderly monks and senior citizens to keep off the chill of the month.

The festival originated in the lifetime of lord Gotama Buddha. Residing at the Pubayon Monastery in Savatthi, on one Tabodwe evening Gotama Buddha happened to be standing on a hillside. Feeling very cold he kept his back in the warmth of the sun rays. When the sun set in, and as it was out in the open, the chill of late evening was too much for the Buddha, who was wearing only one set of robe. When the night advanced and cold intensified, the Buddha put on the second robe to resist the cold. By midnight he had to wear the third robe. By dawn the three robes were not enough to keep body heat. The fourth robe was worn over the third. By the rule of Vinaya (Priestly Discipline) only three robes are allowed for each monk. To silence criticism of some laymen, the last two robes were stitched together to become the third robe called "Dukut". In the extreme chill of Tabodwe night and dawn the Buddha made his hands, feet and body warm by keeping them on and near a furnace.

To commemorate that event, Buddhist devotees offer bonfire to the Buddha images in Tabodwe, especially on its full moon day and night to gain religious merit. The following is an excerpt from the old Treatise on Court Ceremonies and Festivals compiled by Minister Thiri Uzana regarding Bonfire Festival held by Myanmar kings.

"On the 8th waxing day of Tabodwe, the ceremonial procession of gathering firewoods took place. In the front were the Samyaungs [royal pioneer guards] accompanied by the music of royal drums, followed by 250 firewood cutters from Shey Win, 250 firewood cutters from Letwei Win and 250 firewood cutters from Letya Win and 250 firewood cutters from Anauk Win. Behind them

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Myunt

followed 1000 body guards. Next followed 100 equestrian soldiers with helmets led by two knights on horseback wearing helmets and gowns of their rank. When the procession reached Maha Myat Muni Temple, music was still playing. The body guards and firewood cutters went out to gather firewood in the nearby forests. "The procession returned and when it reached Shey Yone, the body guards put the firewoods on the stands and bound them into bundle. On the 14th waxing moon day the clerks carried the firewood bundles into Shey Yone. The Minister of Royal Treasury brought 1000 braziers."

"At 4 o'clock in the evening, princes, princesses, royal grand children, ministers and courtiers wearing their ceremonial dress, ornaments and gowns of their rank came out to attend the ceremony held at Shey Yone from 4 o'clock evening till 1 o'clock at night. Then they departed."

"The Minister of Royal Granary [Kyi Wun] took 1000 pots of Yagu (rice porridge), 1000 stands of firewood bundles and 1000 braziers borne by Thwethauksu Shwe Pan Pan equestrian soldiers to the Pagodas and Temples for offering them to Buddha Images."

On pages 544-545 of the Konbaumg Set Maha Yazawun Tawgyi [Great Royal Chronicle of the Konbaung Dynasty] Volume III a graphic account of Bonfire festival in Tabodwe is given.

In Mandalay, at the Temple of world renowned sacred Maha Muni Buddha Image, the bonfire puja is held on a grand scale. On the eve of the fullmoon day of Tabodwe bundles of sandal and fragrant woods are piled up in the design of a pagoda in the courtyard of the Temple. Other offertories—fruits, sweets, rice porridge and htamane [a Myanmar delicacy concocted from glutinous rice and ingredients] are also offered to the Buddha Image. At dawn, religious music band, dedicated to this Temple only, performs the music "Nayee" with the song "Htoo Ma Cha Na" Te Diem. After monk Sayadaw has done his daily morning ritual of washing and polishing the face of the Image, bundles of fire wood are burnt to provide warmth to the Buddha on Tabodwe's chilly nights and dawns. Mandalay's climate is severe. Its cold season is as severe as its summer's heat. It is the belief of Mandalay people that only after sacred Maha Muni Image has received the warmth of bonfire on the fullmoon of Tabodwe the cold begins to reduce. The bonfire puja at this temple is one of major events in Mandalay, attracting a large crowd of devotees and tourists.

Closely associated with Bonfire festival is the communal activity of making a traditional Myanmar delicacy called "htamane". Myanmar traditional medicine prescribes htamane eating in cold season. Tabodwe cold weather dries up the body skin, because there is no perspiration to moisten the body skin. So it is needed to take a little more of vegetable oil to protect the unbearable chill. Therefore oily htamane is eaten as a sort of preventive medicine by Myanmar old folks.

A recipe for concocting htamane is composed as a tayhtat verse, rendered into English as follows:-

"Take 4 pyi of a basket of nice glutinous rice and wash it clean by fresh water. Put one viss of pure sesamum oil in a big iron pan which is placed on a wood fire. Fry 3 ticals weight of ginger slices in the oil to get flavour. Put the washed rice in ginger flavoured oil and stir it thoroughly. Add some water to it and knead it with big wooden ladles. When glutinous rice gets grilled, with oil oozing out of it, reduce the fire, and spray on the stuff in the pan. 80 ticals weight of fried groundnut, 32 ticals weight of roasted sesamum seeds, 20 ticals, weight of shredded co-co nut kernel and 7 ticals weight of salt. Then knead and crush the sticky stuff again and again. Taste it to test if it has attained the required quality. If so, htamane is put on banana leaves for serving with hot plain tea.

Htamane making is a social occasion for Myanmar community. All ages are involved in this activity—old, adult, young, children, male and female. Htamane making takes place on the Pagoda compound, courtyard of a Temple or precinct of a monastery Htamane making and contest party is formed under individual or collective sponsorship. From making a makeshift fire place dug out in the ground, carrying heavy loads and hand labour such as bunging down coconuts from trees, breaking them open, carrying fresh water, feminine jobs of washing rice slicing gingers, frying ingredients, children's job of washing, cleaning, plucking banana leaves, packing of htamane. Strong muscular men kneading and crushing resilient stuff to the required standard, sweat in Tabodwe's cold.

A good htamane is the result of correct ratio of rice, oil, water and ingredients and thorough kneading and crushing by ladles. Folk music band, dance and song cheer up the competing htamane making parties. A specially formed connoisseur committee determines the standard of the htamane. After htamane is offered to the Buddha , the monks and senior citizens, it is served gratis to all comers from all directions.

Htamane feasts of Tabodwe month are open houses. Any stranger or passerby, regardless of race, religion, rank or creed is welcome and is served htamane to his fill with cups of hot plain tea. He may also take some with him because there are packets of htamane wrapped up with leaves for the taking.

WORLD

Slovak woman dies of swine flu

BRATISLAVA, 20 Feb—A Slovak woman who had contracted swine flu has died, a hospital spokesperson said on Tuesday.

"The condition of the patient deteriorated after initial improvement. She died because of the disease over the weekend," spokesperson of the F D Roosevelt Hospital Ruzena Mataseje said. The patient was admitted to the hospital in Banska Bystrica on 4 February, according to Mataseje. Two patients with the A(H1N1) virus still remain at the FD Roosevelt Hospital.—*Xinhua*

Photo taken on 19 Feb, 2013 shows the snow-covered Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province. Many cities in eastern and central China were hit by a snowfall on 19 February.—XINHUA

Portugal to send 8 tons of medicine for Mozambique flood victims

LISBON, 20 Feb—The Portuguese government is preparing to send eight tons of medicine for flood victims in Mozambique, according to Portugal's *Lusa* news agency on Tuesday.

The medicines, essentially for cholera, malaria among others, have been collected and stored in a warehouse in Montijo, south of capital Lisbon, before being transported by ship to Maputo, capital of Mozambique.

The medicine was donated by Portugal's pharmaceutical manufacturers while the aid shipment is being coordinated by Portugal's Ministry for Foreign Affairs with the help of the Ministry of Health.

President of the National Authority of Medicine and Health Products (INFARMED) Eurico Castro Alves said that further shipments of medicine could be organized quickly if needed. "We are of course at the disposal of the Mozambican authorities, who will tell us if this aid is sufficient or not," he added.

Flood hit Mozambique in January this year as a result of strong tropical storms. Gaza Province in the south of the country is the worst affected.

According to latest figures released by Mozambique's National Calamities Management Institute (INGC), the death toll from the flooding is now at 113. Some 240,000 people were displaced because of the river banks bursting, among whom 186,000 are still living in temporary shelters.

Xinhua

Special policemen are undergoing training in chilling weather in China's Urumqi Mnicipality. XINHUA

Ecuadorian leader celebrates majority win in National Assembly

QUITO, 20 Feb—Ecuador's newly reelected President Rafael Correa on Tuesday celebrated his ruling party's majority win of regional governments and National Assembly seats.

"With the people's support, we have won 23 of the country's total of 24 provinces and more than two thirds of the National Assembly seats," an elated Correa said two days after sweeping the general elections on Sunday.

According to a quick count by a non-governmental organization, the ruling PAIS Alliance movement has won a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, securing at least 91 of the 137 seats that were being disputed on Sunday.

Correa's mandate could still grow, since the preliminary counts don't include votes cast abroad, where Ecuadorian immigrants were able to elect six representatives.

Ruling party representatives said they could still pick up an additional five seats, giving PAIS a 70 percent majority in the legislature.

Correa can also consolidate his legislative majority through left-leaning parties allied with his, such as the Avanza movement, which is set to obtain five seats, according to the quick count.

A final tally is pending from the National Electoral Council (CNE), but its numbers are confirming the quick count.

During his campaign, Correa promoted his party's legislative candidates, hoping to obtain a majority for his third and last term as president to be able to pass several stalled bills, including one controversial bill covering the media sector.

"Now we have a solid and secure country with direction, planning, resources, humanity," said Correa, who won with 56.92 percent of the votes, with 71 percent of the ballots counted. In the past two years, Correa lost control of the legislature after several lawmakers and former political allies broke away from the ruling party due to internal disagreements, complicating the passing of bills.—*Xinhua*

Milk in Serbia safe for consumption

BELGRADE, 20 Feb—Milk in Serbia is safe for consumption, Serbian Minister of Agriculture Goran Knezevic said on Tuesday, as reports of toxic milk have triggered scare recently.

At a government conference, Knezevic took a sip of milk from a glass before the journalists.

But the minister confirmed that some quantities of milk products have been withdrawn from the market due to the higher levels of Aflatoxin in them.

"It is true that there is suspicion on increased presence of Aflatoxin in some samples of milk. Veterinary Inspection has withdrawn some quantities, and their samples have been sent to the Netherlands... for additional testing," Knezevic said. Aflatoxin is a species of mykotoxin created by some fungus, mainly found in geographic regions with warmer and wetter climate. It can be found in plants, diary and meat products, and if absorbed in larger quantities, it could cause cancer. Now in Serbia, the permitted level of Aflatoxin in milk is 0.05 micrograms per kilogram.

Knezevic underscored that health of the consumers was never endangered, adding that he did not plan to resign over the fact that higher levels of Aflatoxin were found in some of the milk samples.

Earlier Tuesday, the Ministry of Agriculture said on its website that Veterinary Inspection has demanded withdrawal of milk products which may contain higher levels of Aflatoxin.

Contamination of the milk on Serbian market was sourced back to the corn infected by the Aflatoxin, which the milking cows eat.

Xinhua

Photo shows the all-new Volvo V40 hatchback featuring the world's first air bag designed to protect pedestrians as Volvo Cars Japan unveiled the vehicle in Tokyo on 19 Feb, 2013.—KYODONEWS

154-mln-USD art collection gifted to art galleries in Britain

LONDON, 20 Feb—A private collection of Western art estimated to be worth 100 million pounds (154 million US dollars) has been donated for public exhibition at art galleries throughout Britain, it was revealed on Tuesday.

The collection was the property of Sir Denis Mahon until his death in 2011, and in his will he bequeathed his collection to Britain's Art Fund for public display.

The Art Fund helps galleries buy and display works of art for public display. London's National Gallery will receive 25 paintings, and in total Mahon's bequest is 57 paintings, all of them from the Baroque period in Italy.

Mahon, who died aged 100, had been collecting Italian Baroque paintings for decades, and had helped to make them more widely known and fashionable and at the same time more expensive.

He was able to pick up bargains in the 1920-60s for no more than a few thousand pounds which are today worth millions of pounds. Mahon's collection includes masterpieces by Guercino, Guido Reni, Domenichino, many of which have been on long-term loan to the galleries.

Besides the National Gallery in London, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford will get 12 works; the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh eight works; the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, six works; Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, five works; and Temple Newsam House in Leeds, one work.

Stephen Deuchar, director of the Art Fund, said, "Sir Denis was a life-long supporter of the Art Fund and shared our fundamental commitment to widening free public access to art. His vision as an art collector was extraordinary, as was his determination that his collection should ultimately be on public display."

Xinhua

4.8-magnitude quake hits Yunnan

BEIJING, 20 Feb—A 4.8-magnitude quake jolted a county home to Hani ethnic minority in southwestern Yunnan Province at 1:01 pm on Wednesday (Beijing Time), according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The epicentre, with a depth of 5 km, was monitored at 23.3 degrees north latitude and 101.6 degrees east longitude, the centre said.—*Xinhua*

Traffic accidents increase during crowded lunar New Year in Vietnam

HANOI, 20 Feb—Despite being warned, victims of traffic accidents kept increasing during the traditional Lunar New Year holiday from 9 to 17 Feb, according to the Vietnam National Traffic Safety Committee on Wednesday.

Some 314 people died and other 487 people were injured in 373 cases of traffic accidents during the 9-day holiday, said the committee.

Of the total figure, land routes reported 367 accidents that killed 307 people and injured 384 others, while railroads reported 5 cases with 6 dead, 3 injuries, and waterways one case with one dead.

Compared to last year's traditional holiday, the number of traffic accidents decreased by 10 cases, but death toll increased by 5 people and injuries by 29 people, said the committee.

The increasing of traffic accidents death toll is blamed mostly on driving after alcohol drinking, which is popular in Vietnam during holidays when people go to visit one another.

Statistics from the committee revealed that 70 percent of traffic accidents during the holiday are resulted from drinking driving.

Drinking alcohol causes people to drive more recklessly, committing violations such as exceeding speed limits and carrying more people than allowed, said Vietnam's state-run news agency, citing Nguyen Hoang Hiep, vice chairman of the committee as saying.

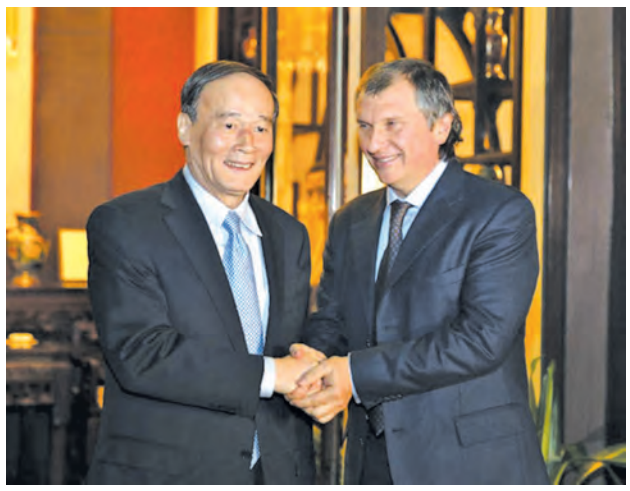
In an effort to ensure traffic safety during the period, ahead of the holiday, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung sent an urgent message to local authorities with instructions on improving traffic investigations and patrols, and strictly punishing individuals who break the law, especially those caught driving under the influence of alcohol.

In another movement, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, who is also head of the National Traffic Safety Committee, requested cities and provinces to assure traffic safety as people return to big cities for work or travel to attend festivals.

Xinhua

Rescuers lay the suction pipe at a coal mine in Madixiang Community of Yangquan, north China's Shanxi Province, on 19 Feb, 2013. Six people have been trapped underground since a coal mine in Yangquan City was flooded at about 4 am on Tuesday, when 12 people were conducting illegal mining operations, the local government said.—XINHUA

China, Russia pledge closer energy cooperation



Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan (L) shakes hands with Igor Sechin, president of Russia's state-owned oil producer Rosneft and executive secretary of the commission on the strategic development of Russia's energy sector, in Beijing, capital of China, on 17 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 20 Feb—Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan met with Igor Sechin, the president of Russia's state-owned oil producer Rosneft, on Tuesday, pledging to boost energy cooperation between the two countries.

"Energy cooperation constitutes an important part of the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between China and Russia," Wang said, highlighting achievements made in the countries' cooperation in oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear energy and electricity, as well as trade, investment, financing and upstream-downstream integration.

Wang said oil and gas cooperation is the key to China-Russia energy cooperation, adding that it is inter-complementary, necessary and feasible for the two sides to expand cooperation.

As the two sides make joint efforts to score new breakthroughs, they are finding more common interests, Wang said during the meeting with Sechin, who is also the executive secretary of the commission on the strategic development of Russia's energy sector.

It was the second meeting between Wang and Sechin in three days.

Wang said China and Russia should take care of each other's concerns and work together to achieve more substantial outcomes in energy cooperation to benefit the people of the two countries.

Closer cooperation between China and Russia in various areas is not only conducive to the economic and social development of the two nations, but also to that of the whole world, which is facing mounting uncertainties.

Sechin said enhancing bilateral cooperation is the best choice for Russia and China in countering the ongoing international financial crisis.—*Xinhua*

India hopes to expand banking links with China

NEW DELHI, 20 Feb—India has called on China to expand banking links between the two countries and to enhance licensing procedures, to create "a more conducive environment" for companies operating in each other's country, reported local daily *The Hindu* online on Tuesday.

Indian Minister of State for Finance Namo Narain Meena said in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin on Tuesday while opening the State Bank of India's (SBI) second branch in China, that "foreign bank licensing policy is gradual in China, and all these banks are at various stages of establishing their operations".

"It is hoped that other Indian banks that have fulfilled conditions set for foreign banks in mainland China also graduate to opening branch operations at an early date," he said.

SBI is the only Indian bank which has opened branches in China other than Beijing.

It opened its first branch in Shanghai in 2006. The bank's Shanghai branch was allowed to start operations in the local Renminbi (RMB) currency in 2010.

"The success achieved at the Shanghai branch has encouraged us to strengthen our presence in China by upgrading our representative office in Tianjin to a branch,"SBI Managing Director Hemant Contractor was quoted as saying.

The bank works with around 90 Indian companies who trade with China and around 200 Chinese companies.

The Tianjin branch, which will open with an operating capital of 300 million RMB and does not yet have the approval to work in RMB, will focus on assisting "small and medium companies" located in northern China and "try to facilitate bilateral trade finance", according to Contractor.

Xinhua

Clash leaves two Taleban fighters dead, wounding three Afghan police

NILI, (Afghanistan), 20 Feb—Two Taleban militants were killed and three police personnel sustained injuries as clash flared up in a far-flanged checkpoint in Daikundi Province 290 km west of Afghan capital Kabul on Monday, provincial governor Qurban Ali Uruzgani said.

"A group of Taleban rebels raided a police checkpoint in Kajran District late Monday night and police returned fire killing two attackers on the spot," Uruzgani confirmed to *Xinhua*. Three police constables have also sustained injuries in the clash, he added.

He also admitted that sporadic fire exchange is still continuing in the area between police and the attackers, adding reinforcement has been sent to evict Taleban militants. Taleban militants fighting the government are yet to make comment.

Xinhua

6.1-magnitude quake hits east coast of Honshu, Japan

HONG KONG, 20 Feb—An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted near the east coast of Honshu, Japan at 12:27:38 GMT on Tuesday 20:27:38 Hong Kong Time), the Hong Kong Observatory said.

Xinhua

Fire in Philippine capital kills three

A firefighter tries to put out a fire that hits a slum area in Manila, the Philippines, on 19 Feb 2013. Three residents died while more than 200 families were affected by the fire that razed around 100 shanties. —XINHUA

MANILA, 20 Feb—A destructive fire which swept through a slum area of the capital of the Philippines killed at least three persons, including a two-year-old child, and injured two others on Tuesday afternoon.

The fire, which started from a tondo district in Manila, engulfed about 200 families with nearly 1,000 units, radio dzBB quoted Manila Fire Department's arson unit chief inspector Bonifacio Carta as saying.

Apart from the child, two adult women were also died in the fire. Identities of the victims are still unknown.

The fire started at about 2 pm and reached the fifth alarm one hour later. It was extinguished before 4 pm Witnesses said the fire could be triggered by a Liquefied Petroleum Gas tank explosion.—*Xinhua*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/02/13)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/02/13) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HUB SHIPPING SDN-BHD
Phone No: 256919/256916

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA ZENITH VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA ZENITH VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEA TRANS SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 256919/256916

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 of 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

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

PHNOM PENH, 20 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*

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

Seven killed in terrorist attack in Pakistan's Peshawar

ISLAMABAD, 20 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.

Xinhua

Pakistani security officers cordon off the attack site in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 18 Feb, 2013.
XINHUA

China to build culture inheritance zone

BEIJING, 20 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

ENTERTAINMENT

Japanese kabuki actors rehearsing at Kamishichiken in Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto

KYOTO, 20 Feb — Kamishichiken is a district of northwest Kyoto, Japan. It is the oldest hanamachi (geisha District) in Kyoto, and is located just east of the Kitano Tenman-gū Shrine. The name Kamishichiken literally means "Seven Upper Houses." These refer to the seven teahouses built from the equipment and material leftover from the rebuilding of the Kitano Shrine in Muromachi era (1333–1573).

The kabuki actors wear traditional costumes, and sing in addition to acting during rehearsals at Kamishichiken in Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto, on 18 Feb, 2013. XINHUA

Kamishichiken is located in Kyoto's Nishijin area, which is known for traditional hand-woven textiles. The quiet streets of Kamigyo-ku are made up of dark, wooden buildings, mainly o-chaya (teahouses) and okiya (geisha houses).

Unlike the other remaining districts, which are located close to the city centre, Kamishichiken is further away, and accordingly significantly quieter and attracts fewer tourists. The geisha of this district are known for being subtle and demure, few in number but each highly accomplished dancers and musicians.

There are approximately 25 maiko and geiko in Kamishichiken, along with 11 teahouses.

Xinhua

Oscar "losers" to go home with $45,000 gift bags

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb— Oscar nominees who don't end up with a coveted gold statuette at the Academy Awards on Sunday won't go home empty handed after all. Los Angeles-based marketing firm Distinctive Assets will be handing out its annual "Everyone Wins at the Oscars Nominee Gift Bag", valued at more than $45,000, to the talented and well-dressed "losers," the company said on Tuesday.

Among the items in the gift bags, known as swag bags, are trips to Australia, Hawaii and Mexico, personal training sessions, condoms, a bottle of tequila, hand-illustrated tennis shoes, appointments for injectable fillers and 'portion-controlled' dinnerware for those watching their figure, Distinctive Assets said in a statement. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which hands out the Oscars, stopped its practice of giving gift baskets to presenters and performers in 2007 after the practice came under closer scrutiny from US tax authorities.

Celebrities who receive gifts and free trips at awards shows are expected to declare them to the Inland Revenue Service as income and pay the appropriate taxes. The Distinctive Assets gift bag is not endorsed by the Academy but has been creating consolation goodie bags for 11 years now.

Reuters

A large Oscar statue stands in the hallway at The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Pickford Centre for Motion Picture Study in Hollywood on 10 Sept, 2012.

Adele enjoys private double date with Robbie Williams

LONDON, 20 Feb — Adele enjoyed a private double date with Robbie Williams at his home.

The Skyfall singer and her boyfriend Simon Konecki spent the day with the former Take That star and his actress wife Ayda Field at their plush mansion in Los Angeles. According to the MailOnline.com, the couple was spotted leaving their Beverly Hills hotel together and heading over to Robbie's home but didn't bring their baby boy Angelo James, who was born in October.

The 24-year-old singer has spent much of the past month in the US where she attended the Grammy Awards and the Golden Globe Awards earlier this month. She is expected to return to the UK after performing at the Oscars next weekend, where she is also nominated for Best Song for her hit James Bond theme tune. Adele and Robbie, 39, became good friends after she invited him to stay at her haunted mansion last year because he and his wife are super natural enthusiasts.

A source previously said: "Adele thinks they are both fantastic and would love to spend some time sharing ghost stories and witnessing paranormal activity."

PTI

For Mary Kom biopic, Priyanka Chopra working hard to get boxer's body

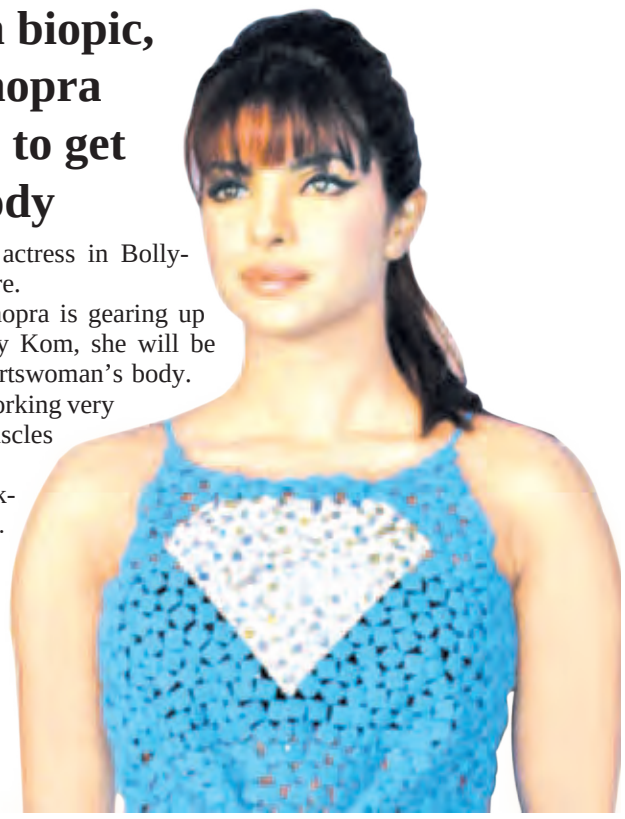
MUMBAI, 20 Feb — No actress in Bollywood has played a boxer before.

Naturally as Priyanka Chopra is gearing up to essay Olympic boxer Mary Kom, she will be training hard to achieve a sportswoman's body. Sources say that Priyanka is working very hard to develop abdominal muscles to portray Mary to the hilt.

A source says, "She is taking her fitness to another level. Priyanka is charged up for her role. If she hasn't found time in the day to work out, she hits the gym even in the middle of the night."

Apparently it was Priyanka who convinced the makers about her look and currently is huffing and puffing away at the gym.

PTI



Priyanka is working on her stomach muscles in preparation for playing Olympic boxer Mary Kom. — PTI

Paris and her brother Prince, children of the late Michael Jackson, arrive at the Mr Pink Ginseng Drink launch party at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, on 11 Oct, 2012. REUTERS

Michael Jackson's teenage son lands US television gig

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb — The teenage son of late pop star Michael Jackson has signed up to be a correspondent for the "Entertainment Tonight" television show, following in the footsteps of his show business family.

Prince Jackson, 16, was to debut on "Entertainment Tonight" on Tuesday, interviewing actors James Franco, Zach Braff and director Sam Raimi as they promote their upcoming film "Oz the Great and Powerful," the programme said. Prince, who was born Michael Joseph Jackson Jr, is the oldest of Michael Jackson's three children. Jackson told the syndicated tabloid news show that he wants to eventually get into the film business. "I'm looking to become well-rounded as a producer, director, screenwriter and actor," he said.

Jackson's sister Paris, 14, signed up in 2011 to star in a movie called "Lundon's Bridge and the Three Keys," based on a young adult fantasy novel. The film is still in development. Michael Jackson died unexpectedly at his home in Los Angeles in June 2009 at age 50 from an overdose of the powerful anesthetic propofol and sedatives. — *Reuters*

SPORTS

Classy Bayern in charge after 3-1 win at Arsenal

LONDON, 20 Feb—The Bayern Munich juggernaut rolled on with a 3-1 first-leg win over an Arsenal side lacking confidence and ill-equipped to stop the German giants seizing control of their Champions League last 16 tie on Tuesday.

The runaway Bundesliga leaders have been flattening everything in their path for most of this season while Arsenal have struggled to keep pace with the Premier League's big guns while suffering some humiliating domestic cup defeats. The gulf in confidence and class was obvious as goals by Toni Kroos, Thomas Mueller and Mario Mandzukic earned Bayern their first ever win in London to make them overwhelming favorites to reach the last eight.

Arsenal's goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny (L) and Laurent Koscielny (C) challenge Bayern Munich's Javi Martinez during their Champions League soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 19 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

On this form, it will take a good side to stop four-times European champions Bayern returning to north London in May at Wembley to contest a third Champions League final in four seasons.

"Here in England it has been hard for Bayern in the past," coach Jupp Heynckes, who will make way for Pep Guardiola at the end of the season, told reporters.

"We've scored three goals in an away game, that's quite good. I think Arsenal allowed us quite a few things in their defence but we are in astonishing form at the moment and we can punish the smallest mistakes of opponents."

Oozing confidence after an 18-match unbeaten sequence which sees them 15 points clear at the top of the Bundesliga, Bayern had seized control of the match before the midway point of the first half with Kroos and Mueller both on target.

Reuters

Del Bosque doubts of his chance to return to Real Madrid

Spain's national soccer team coach Vicente del Bosque (L) stands beside his wax figure during the unveiling ceremony at Madrid's wax museum on 14 Feb, 2013.
REUTERS

MADRID, 20 Feb—Spanish national team coach Vicente del Bosque said on Tuesday that he doubts whether his former club, Real Madrid, misses him, and he believes current Madrid coach Jose Mourinho is "aggressive".

Del Bosque left the club under controversial circumstances in 2003 when club president, Florentino Perez failed to renew his contract, despite leading Real Madrid to the league title.

Perez said at the time that he believed the club needed a more modern coach and Real Madrid have since gone through 10 different coaches, with current coach, Mourinho arriving at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in summer 2010.

Del Bosque meanwhile became Spanish national coach in 2008 and led the country to its first ever World Cup trophy in 2010, before seeing his country become the first ever to retain a European Championship after winning a World Cup, in 2012.

His success contrasts with Madrid's fortunes, despite Madrid winning least season's title and many fans would probably be delighted to see him return, although Del Bosque doesn't believe that is the case.

"I don't think that they miss me: they are one of the best clubs in the world and have, together with FC Barcelona, have maintained an incredible level, which allows us to enjoy their football," he said, before speaking about Mourinho.

"Mourinho appears to be a very aggressive coach, on the other hand, I am calmer and there is a world between these two extremes, but the most important thing is that the group of players works as a team. Everything else is of secondary importance," said Del Bosque.

Xinhua

Stosur eases through in Dubai, Azarenka pulls out

DUBAI, 20 Feb—Grand slam winners Samantha Stosur and Petra Kvitova strolled into the second round of the Dubai championships with straight sets wins on Tuesday after Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka withdrew due to a foot injury.

Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki also went through as the leading players made short work of lower-ranked opponents on a subdued centre court.

Seven of the top 10 remain in contention but Belarussian Azarenka decided to rest her injured right foot.

"I have been playing a lot of tennis over the last five days, so going to a new tournament is too much to handle right now—it keeps getting worse," said the world number two.

Samantha Stosur

Australian seventh seed Stosur beat Russia's Ekaterina Makarova 6-3, 6-1 after suffering one wobble on the way when she lost her serve to fall 3-2 behind in the first set after slugging an easy cross-court smash wide.

However, that shocked the 2011 US champion into action and Stosur then won 10 out of 11 games as her opponent wilted.

Makarova, 24, scuffed a backhand into the net to lose the first set, while the second was a formality for Stosur.

"The first couple of games were good—I was getting ahead in the games but not winning them—and then I got down that break and that kicked me into gear," Stosur told reporters.

"It wasn't like anything outstanding, but I played tight games and didn't really give her too much."

Czech Petra Kvitova put an indifferent start to 2013 behind her as she thumped Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 6-1. Kvitova won Wimbledon in 2011, but suffered a second-round exit at January's Australian Open.

"At the beginning of the season I wish (I had) better results," Kvitova told reporters. "I changed my fitness preparation, so I needed some time to get used to it."

Eighth seed Wozniacki was similarly dominant in beating Lucie Safarova 6-2, 6-2 although the Dane lost her serve at 5-1 in the first set before breaking back immediately.—*Reuters*

Bad weather gives Donald a Match Play boost

MARANA, 20 Feb—Possible snow showers forecast for Wednesday's first round of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship could be a good omen for Luke Donald, who says he would embrace such conditions in Arizona's high desert. Two years ago, Donald won the elite World Golf Championships (WGC) event with a 3&2 victory over Germany's Martin Kaymer in the final after the day had dawned with almost an inch of snow blanketing Dove Mountain.

Luke Donald of England watches his tee shot on the ninth hole during a practice round for the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament in Marana, Arizona on 19 Feb, 2013.— REUTERS

The Englishman went on to enjoy the most successful year of his career, winning four times worldwide and becoming the first player to clinch the money titles on both sides of the Atlantic after spending much of 2011 as world number one.

"Obviously I have very fond memories from a couple of years ago," Donald told reporters at Dove Mountain's Ritz-Carlton Golf Club on Tuesday. "That was kind of a springboard for what was my best year out on tour."

"Winning here gave me a huge amount of confidence. I went on to become No 1 in the world and won a bunch of tournaments, and a lot of that was the result of winning here against a great field." Donald, whose world ranking has slipped to third, has been drawn to play Germany's Marcel Siem in the opening round and he smiled when told that chilly conditions, with a chance of snow showers, had been forecast for Wednesday. "If it snows, I think we'll be in the clubhouse," the 35-year-old grinned. "When bad weather is expected, the thing that gives me a gleam in my eyes is when I hear people worrying about it, complaining about it."—*Reuters*

Woods set for Match Play after presidential win

MARANA, 20 Feb—Two days after winning a friendly match with his playing partner President Barack Obama, Tiger Woods said he felt in good shape for this week's WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship, an event he has won three-times.

The American world number two has not competed on the PGA Tour since clinching his 75th title at the Farmers Insurance Open four weeks ago, taking time off to be with his children before getting down to some serious practice.

"The last couple of weeks, I started getting back into it. The last week really hard," Woods told reporters on Tuesday outside the spacious clubhouse at Dove Mountain's Ritz-Carlton Golf Club. "And playing with Mr President was pretty cool. "He's just a wonderful person to be around. We won."

Tiger Woods

Obama, an avid weekend golfer, and 14-times major winner Woods played together on Sunday for the first time at the exclusive Floridian Yacht and Golf Club, which was surrounded by a cordon of security.

Woods, who lives about an hour south of the Floridian club in Jupiter, said he had been impressed by the quality of Obama's golf.

"He's a pretty good athlete, and as we all know he played a lot of hoops (basketball)," said the 37-year-old American as the wind began to strengthen at Dove Mountain.

Reuters

GENERAL

Maha Myat Muni Buddha image in Mandalay

It is the most revered Buddha image in Mandalay. It is also known as the Maha Myat Muni, or Phaya Gyi.In B.C 123, in the reign of King Sanda Thuriya, Monarch of Rakhine-Dharyawaddy, and carry the Image reverently so as to enshrine it at the present site.

It took four months to carry the image reverently across the Rakhine Yoma Ranges, by inland route and by waterway a tough and rough journey indeed. The Height of the Maha Muni Buddha Image is 8 Cubits and 1 Maik (3.83m). The altar is 2.13m high. There, 2 bronze Siamese images, 3 bronze lion images and 1 bronze three headed.—*NLM*

Alonso happy with new Ferrari on track return

BARCELONA, 20 Feb—Fernando Alonso drove Ferrari's new Formula One car for the first time in Barcelona on Tuesday and said it was on another planet compared to the tricky one he wrestled into title contention last season.

The Spaniard, ending a long absence from the cockpit, clocked the third fastest time in testing at the Circuit de Catalunya.

The 31-year-old, runner-up to Red Bull's triple champion Sebastian Vettel last year, had skipped the first pre-season test in Jerez to focus on his physical preparations for the season starting in Australia on 17 March. With the team declaring his training workouts in the gym and on the road to have been "worthy of the best Olympic athlete", Alonso completed a total of 110 laps in the F138 with a best time of one minute 22.952 seconds.

"I feel reasonably pleased with this first day and I can say I share (team mate) Felipe's (Massa) opinion that the car is on another planet compared to the one we began with on the first day of testing last year," said the double world champion in a team release at the end of the session. Alonso said the target was to work on reliability, aiming to complete more than 100 laps each day, before focusing on performance in the final test.

"I knew from looking at the Jerez data what sort of car I would find here today, as in fact we know more or less what we will see at the first race in Australia, in terms of what new parts we will have and how many tenths they will produce," he said.

Reuters

Ferrari's Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain takes a curve during a training session at the Circuit de Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo, near Barcelona, on 19 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Paralympics-Movement will grow despite Pistorius shock

LONDON, 20 Feb—The Paralympic movement will continue to thrive and grow despite Oscar Pistorius being charged with murdering his girlfriend, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) president Philip Craven told *Reuters* on Tuesday.

"Blade Runner" Pistorius, born without a fibula in both legs yet still one of the most high-profile athletes in either able-bodied and Paralympic sport, is accused of murdering Reeva Steenkamp at his Pretoria home early last Thursday.

Craven spoke of his "shock and disbelief" at the news of the arrest of the South African, who appeared in court for a bail hearing on Tuesday, and said he had only just got his "head around the whole situation".

He said, however, that the accusations against Pistorius will not prevent disabled sport building on the momentum and goodwill generated by London 2012, an event that smashed ticket-sales targets and was more widely broadcast than any previous Paralympics. "Yes, we are here today discussing this terrible tragedy in South Africa, but the Paralympic movement is very much alive and well," Craven, who is currently in La Molina in the Spanish Pyrenees for the IPC Alpine skiing world championships, said in a telephone interview.

"This afternoon I am writing to all our members, 180 national Paralympic committees. I shall be informing them of the emotional roller coaster that I have been on these last five days...and then reiterating the momentum from London will continue despite this news."

Pistorius was the main attraction heading into last year's Paralympic Games after a battle to compete against able-bodied athletes ended in him becoming the first man to compete in both Olympic and Paralympic track events.—*Reuters*

Oscar Pistorius of South Africa celebrates winning the Men's 400m T44 Final during the London 2012 Paralympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in London on 8 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(21-2-13 09:30 am ~ 22-2-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Myanmar Puppet Show
* Dying Hair Colour
* News
* Te Meaning of Flower (V2)
* News
* Music Programme
* Case Studies for 2014 ASEAN Chaimanship
* News
* Today's Efficient Youth (Indonesian In't School)
* Attracting FDI Experiences of East Asian Countries
* Relax and Health Wellness Centre
* News
* Culture Stage
* Chinese Lion Dance
* News
* International Holocaust CommemorationDay 2013
* News
* A Riverine Cruise with RV Ma-Hay-Thi
* Myanmar Movies "The Spouse And The Lover"

Myanmar TV

(21-2-2013, Thursday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To BE Healthy Exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:45 am
4. People Talks

7:55 am
5. Road to SEA Games (Yacthing-1)

8:15 am
6. Dance Variety

8:25 am
7. Documentary

8:30 am
8. Dance Of National Races

4:00 pm
9. Opening Song

4:05 pm
10.Songs For Upholding National Spirit

4:10 pm
11. Cute Little Dancers

4:30 pm
12. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Mathematics)

5:00 pm
13. Musical Programme

5:10 pm
14. Science and Envoriment

5:25 pm
15. India Dramma Series

6:00 pm
16. Evening News

6:20 pm
17. Approaching Science Discovery World

6:50 pm
18. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
19. News

7:10 pm
20. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
21. News
22. Weather Report
23. CLEVER
24. ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Workshop
25. Nostalga to Myama Cultural Arts

10:00 pm
26. TV Drama Series

Cilic rallies past Dodig in Memphis opener

MELBOURNE, 20 Feb—Marin Cilic struggled early before finding his rhythm as the top seed ground out a 4-6 6-2 6-3 victory over friend and Croatian compatriot Ivan Dodig in the first round of the Memphis International on Monday.

The top seed is bidding for a second successive title after winning in Zagreb last week and opened his campaign against a familiar foe in Dodig, the pair growing up in the same neighborhood and often practicing together.

Dodig started well against the world number 12 but was unable to maintain his form and intensity once Cilic improved his serving after dropping the opening set.

Cilic was the only seeded men's player to take to the court on a quiet day with third and fourth-seeded John Isner and Sam Querrey scheduled to open their campaigns on Tuesday.

Aside from Cilic, American Rhyne Williams beat countryman Steve Johnson 7-6 6-4 while Poland's Lukasz Kubot outlasted another American, Ryan Harrison, 6-4 6-7 7-6.

In the women's draw, the top two seeds, Kirsten Flipkens and Sofia Arvidsson, eased into the second round with straight-sets victories.

In the day's final match, eighth-seeded Frenchwoman Kristina Mladenovic needed less than an hour to dispatch American Courtney Collins 6-3 6-1.—*Reuters*

Marin Cilic of Croatia reacts during his men's singles match against Andreas Seppi of Italy at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 19 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

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Thursday, 21 February, 2013

No 'Rohingya' race in Myanmar, says Deputy Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—There is no so-called 'Rohingya' ethnic race in Myanmar, Deputy Immigration and Population Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win said at Pyithu Hluttaw today.

He repeated the comment twice in his answers to questions raised by U Maung Nyo of Sittway Constituency and Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency – both from Rakhine State which in 2012 witnessed bloody strife between two communities involving indigenous Rakhine nationals.

The deputy minister also said there is no official information with the word 'Rohingya' which MP U Maung Nyo mentioned as a 'newly coined word'.

The deputy minister added that non-ethnic citizens in Myanmar include Chinese, Nepalese, Pakistani, Bengali and Indian.

"I do not say there is no Bengali in Myanmar," Daw Khin Saw Wai told The New Light of Myanmar, saying the purpose of the question is to make clear that there is no "Rohingya" ethnic race in Myanmar.

U Maung Nyo said, "I am satisfied with the answer of the deputy minister."

U Aung Tun Tha of MraukU Constituency raised the question on lifting of the ban of tourist visit to MraukU. The answer by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe is 'soon', making clear that the ministry's commitment is not financial or commercial motivation.

U Thein Swe of An Constituency and U Saw Ba Thein of Thaton Constituency asked questions about development of irrigation facilities which were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than.

17th day sixth regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw session in progress.—MNA

U Zaw Tun of Momauk Constituency asked about matriculation exam intervals answered by Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye.

U Tin Htut of Zalun Constituency put forward an urgent motion on basic education discussed by lawmakers and clarified by Union Minister Dr Mya Aye.

The parliamentarians discussed and approved the Central Bank Bill.

NLM

Amyotha Hluttaw approves bill amending private health care service law

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Soe Myint submitted the committee's report on the bill amending private health care services law, at 17th day session of Amyotha Hluttaw today.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay submitted the proposal to approve that bill and Dr Htay Naing of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.7 seconded it. Hluttaw decided to approve that bill.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay replies to questions.—MNA

"Making amendment to private health care law is due to the extensive emergence of health care courses" said Professor Dr May Oo of Bago Region Constituency No.9.

U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.6 submitted the proposal on urging those who are engaged in three pillars of the country to pay special attention only to the highest goal for the interests of the country and people and to avoid the wrong ways that can veer from the original ways.

U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.6 participates in discussion.—MNA

"Thanks to the reform measures of the new government, the world countries are taking interests in Myanmar. The country sees missive flow of foreign investment, reentering into the world community, removal of foreign debts, etc. Now, the country now is facing four challenges—Rakhine conflicts, Kachin conflicts, EIA, HIA and SIA on projects and protests. Emergence of all inclusive programme calls for dealing with problems with a sense of forgiveness, family spirit, unity and caution", said U Khin Maung Yi.

Hluttaw decided to discuss that proposal. The meeting continues tomorrow.—*MNA*

Union Cup Games to be organized in Nay Pyi Taw ahead of SEA Games

Byline: *Soe Win;*
Photo: *Aung Aung*

Myanmar will host SEA Games in coming December for the first time in nearly five decades. As a host, the country is planning to clinch victory in the games. SEA Games venues are now ready or are nearing completion.

The Union Cup sports event will be organized from 28 February to 7 March as part of preparations for the games. Some sports of the event will be organized earlier than the set date.

A total of 22 sports will be included in the Union Cup Games. The body-fitness event was organized on 12 February at MCC. The event will be hosted by Training Centres (1) and (2) of Wunna Theiddhi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, Paunglaung Sports Ground and Mount Pleasant cycling path. The opening and closing will be held at Wunna Theiddhi Stadium.

XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in three major cities of Myanmar will feature 33 sports.

Myanma Alinn
19-2-2013
***Trs:*HKA**

Ambassador U Soe Nwe concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Austria

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Nwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Austria.—*MNA*

Ambassador Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Linn concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Chile

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Linn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federative Republic of Brazil, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Chile.—*MNA*