

The New Light of Myanmar

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President U Thein Sein to pay official visits to Norway, Finland, Austria, Belgium and Italy

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—At the invitations of His Excellency Mr. Sauli Niinisto, President of the Republic of Finland, His Excellency Mr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria, His Excellency Mr. Giorgio

Napolitano, President of the Republic of Italy, His Excellency Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway and His Excellency Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, U Thein Sein, President of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will pay official visits to the Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Finland, Republic of Austria, Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Italy in the near future.

MNA

President U Thein Sein holds talks with Serbian FM and party

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Mr Ivan Mrkic at Credentials hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

Present at the call together with the President were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane and departmental heads. The visiting delegation led by the Serbian Foreign Affairs Minister was accompanied by Charge d' Affaires ai of Serbia Mr Nino Maljevic.

At the meeting, they

had a cordial discussion on cooperation in education and culture, investment in energy, forest, rubber and foods production sectors and cooperation of Serbia in development sector of Myanmar. The President expressed thanks for being invited by the Serbian President to attend his oath-taking ceremony and said he would like to send message to the Serbian President through the Serbian FM to pay a visit to Myanmar. The Foreign Affairs Minister of Serbia said Myanmar Ambassador has been appointed in Belgrade and arrangement has been made to appoint Ambassador in Myanmar in coming May.

MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein poses for a documentary photo with a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Mr Ivan Mrkic.—MNA

Places of interest in Mandalay and its vicinity



Mandalay Region situated on the area of 14295 square miles in central part of Myanmar is the populous region. It is rich in cultural heritages and wildlife. The scenically attractive area is always crowded with local and foreign visitors.

Shwe-U Daung wildlife

sanctuary is located within the area of 22.41 square miles in Thabeikkyin and Mogoke Townships of Mandalay Region and 45.55 square miles in Moemeik Township of Shan State (North). Visitors will be able to have a chance to observe deciduous and evergreen forests which are

home to the wealth of wildlife and bird species and mountain ecosystem.

Pyin Oo Lwin Bird Sanctuary with the total area of 49.13 square miles is situated in Pyin Oo Lwin Township. It was established in 1927 and its mountain forest ecosystem provides a

habitat for species of birds. Mt. Popa wildlife sanctuary is located in Kyaukpadaung Township with the total area of 49.63 square miles. It was set up in 1989, enabling visitors not only to study natural forests in central region, hundreds of species of birds and plants and other

Byline: Min Khant Soe (Kyemon)
Photo: Aung Kyaw Win

animals but also enjoy scenic beauty of the environment and natural stones of the 320000-year-old extinct volcano. Lawka Nanda wildlife sanctuary is situated on the area of 0.18 mile in Nyaung U Township and it was established in 1995. It offers visitors opportunities in wide variety to observe cultural heritages of central Myanmar and natural forests, extinct species of birds and other animals including golden deer and star tortoises, to conduct surveys and researches on the wildlife and to enjoy relaxation and recreation.

Minsontaung wildlife sanctuary is situated in Natogyi Township and it has a total area of 8.71 square miles. It was established in 2001 and reestablished in 2012. It possesses dry deciduous forest ecosystem and extinct animals are protected there.

National Kandawgyi Park is situated in Pyin Oo Lwin and it has an area of 0.6 square mile where there are orchid garden and three museums—butterfly museum, petrified wood museum and fossil museum. It is the famous botanical garden of Myanmar.

National Landmark Gardens in Pyin Oo Lwin offers visitors to see scale models of historic pagodas and cultural heritages in Myanmar. Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image, Mandalay Hill and Kyaukdawgyi pagoda, Kuthodaw Pagoda, Sandamuni Pagoda, Yankin Hill, Yaytagun Hill, Taungpyone, Yadana cave, Shwesaryan pagoda, Taungtaman lake and U Pein bridge are included in Mandalay Palace are included in places of interest in Mandalay.

Kyemon: (19-2-2013)

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LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay Region Chief Minister tours Madaya, Singu Townships

MANDALAY, 21 Feb—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint accompanied by Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw U Aung Htay Kyaw and Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing met trainees at the ward/village-tract administrator work efficiency courses at Madaya and Singu Township General Administration

Departments of PyinOoLwin District on 8 February.

He explained duty and function of the ward and village administrators, regional development tasks and plans of the region government.

He stressed the need for clerks and grassroots level administrators to abide by rules and regulations in running their machinery.

Then, he urged them to cooperate with the region government in undertaking rural development and poverty alleviation.

The Chief Minister inspected progress in reconstruction of Nan Ayeya building of Singu Basic Education High School and attended to the needs of works.

Myanma Alinn

First-aid course for collegians concludes at Mandalay Technological University

MANDALAY, 21 Feb—Red Cross Society of Mandalay Technological University under Technical and Vocational Education Department of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee jointly organized the second

basic first-aid course No 1/2013 at the three-storey building of the university on 15 February morning.

At the concluding ceremony of the training course, Rector Dr Aye Myint made a speech.

The rector presented first, second and third prizes

to Maung Win Htut Lin, Ma Le Le Pyone and Maung Min Thu Aung.

General Staff Officer Grade-I U Phone Kyaw of Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee presented certificates to the trainees.—Myanma Alinn

New express bus serves passengers



MANDALAY, 21 Feb—Mandalay Region Cooperative Syndicate launched the Nandaw Express bus line for public convenience at the terminal of the bus line in Pyigyidagun Township on Mandalay-Yangon Expressway on 13 February morning.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan sprinkled scented water on the bus.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Director U Sai Kyaw Min of Mandalay Region Cooperative Department, Director of Small Scale Industries Department U Htay Lwin, Chairman of the Syndicate U Soe Myint Aung and BOD members, members of bus line and officials.

The express buses run the route of Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw Toungoo as of 14 February.—Myanma Alinn

Disaster risk reduction talked in KhinU

KHINU, 21 Feb—Under the arrangements of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar Engineering Society and Seeds Asia toured earthquake hit areas and gave talks on disaster risk reduction in Sagaing Region by centering at Shwebo.

On 11 February, the mobile talk team disseminated knowledge about disaster risk

reduction. Daw Gaw Twe, U Ye Kyaw Thu, U Lin Thu Aung and Daw Wai Wai Aung gave lectures on disasters over tsunami, landslide, outbreak of fire, cyclone, tornado, flood, earthquake, lightning and thunders to those present.

About 160 people comprising local authorities, townselders and enthusiasts attended the talks.

Myanma Alinn

Anti-human trafficking, traffic rules knowledge disseminated

PYINMANA, 21 Feb—The talks on prevention against trafficking in person and traffic rules was given at No 1 Basic Education High School in Pyinmana on 11 February afternoon.

Headmistress Daw Khin Mar Win made a speech.

Leader of the Central Anti-Human Trafficking Committee Police Lt-Col Nyunt Hlaing of Myanmar

Police Force explained matters related to human trafficking.

Director of Administration and Training Department of MPF Police Col Win Khaung (Writer Htet Khaung) encouraged the students for the examination.

Later, Police Win Khaung and reporter Khaing Min (Nay Pyi Taw) donated books to the library of the school.

Myanma Alinn

Local people satisfied with tube-well water

NYAUNGU, 21 Feb—Yinhsan Village is one of the villages where water is scarcity. Rural Region Development Department sank a tube-well on 14 February morning.

The village administrator and officials drove stake

at the designated place where the tube-well would be sunk.

Over 200 local people happily greeted the skilled workers from the crew of sinking tube-well.

After the department had sunk the tube-well successfully, the local people en-

Narcotic drugs seized in Mawlu

MAWLU, 21 Feb—Police officers from Mawlu Police Station and witnesses searched the house of Hnin Maung in Mawlu Village of Manhe Village-tract at 7.45 pm on 10 February.

They seized what appears to be heroin from a penicillin bottle and a gas lighter weighing 0.255 gram from the pocket of Hnin Maung's shirt.

Action was taken against the drug possessor

under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Investigation is being made for exposing the correct case.

At 1.30 pm on 10 February, the authorities searched Ma Chaw Su who strolled along the road in Myaypalin Village and seized a plastic box containing 2.5 grams of what appears to be heroin and other equipment. Action was taken against her under the law.

Myanma Alinn

Faculty members of Sittway University make field trips

PONNAGYUN, 21 Feb—Dean of English Department Professor Daw Tin Hlaing and professors and faculty members of Sittway University of Rakhine State attended the coordination meeting on raising pass rate of matriculation examination at Tago Saya Tun hall of Ponnagyun Basic Education High School on 9 February.

Faculty members of the university gave lectures on Myanmar, English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Economics to students including five Basic Education High Schools from surrounding villages, totalling over 500.

Myanma Alinn



Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe being welcomed by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Essa Y Al-Shamali at the reception to mark the 52nd National Day and the 22nd Independence Day of Kuwait at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 20 February.—MNA



WORLD



People wait to buy Yuanxiao, glutinous rice flour dumpling with sweetened stuffing, at Jinfang Snack in Beijing, capital of China, on 20 Feb, 2013. Yuanxiao is a traditional festive food for the Lantern Festival, which falls on 24 February this year. People lined up to purchase Yuanxiao before the celebration.—XINHUA

Georgian president greets Armenian counterpart on re-election

TBILISI, 21 Feb — Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili on Wednesday congratulated his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan on re-election.

In a telephone call, the Georgian president wished Sargsyan with successes and well-being, and congratulated the Armenian people on their democratic

development.

Sargsyan, who collected 58.64 percent of the votes in Monday's election, has got several messages of congratulation.

Second in Armenia's presidential vote is Raffi Hovannisian, who served as the country's first foreign minister between 1991 and 1992.—Xinhua

China to develop closer relations with Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 21 Feb — China attaches great importance to the development of a strategic partnership with Mexico, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said here on Wednesday.

Qiang Wei, member of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Qinghai Provincial Committee, made the remarks during a meeting with Francisco Arroyo Vieyra, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico.

Bilateral ties have achieved considerable progress since China and Mexico established diplomatic relations more than 40 years ago, Qiang said, adding that this year also marks the 10th anniversary of the two countries' strategic partnership.

China is ready to work with Mexico to enrich their strategic partnership to promote the sustained and stable development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, he said.

Arroyo Vieyra said Mexico has consistently adhered to the one-China policy and respected China's political system and development path, stressing that the two sides



Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's Qinghai Provincial People's Congress, Qiang Wei (R) shakes hands with Mexico's President of Chamber of Deputies Francisco Arroyo Vieyra after a meeting in Mexico City, Mexico, on 20 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

share broad consensus on major international issues and bilateral relations.

He believed that the good political relations between Mexico and China will surely promote continuous development of

pragmatic cooperation in various fields.

A delegation headed by Qiang arrived here on Monday at the invitation of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party of Mexico.—Xinhua

Afghan forces kill 14 Taliban including group commander

KABUL, 21 Feb — Afghan forces targeted Taliban hideouts and killed 14 militants including a group commander in the eastern Laghman Province 90 km east of the Afghan capital the Kabul city on Wednesday, Interior Ministry said.

"The security forces involving police and army targeted Taliban rebels in Gularam and Katasng villages outside provincial capital Mehterlam today during which 14 armed

militants including their commander Qari Almas have been killed," the statement asserted.

Qari Almas was involved in organizing anti-government activities in Mehterlam city and adjoining areas, the statement said, adding Almas elimination is major setback to the militants operating in Laghman Province. Taliban militants have yet to make comment.

Xinhua

Ecuador's Correa vows to make socialist revolution 'irreversible'

QUITO, 21 Feb — Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa said his party likely won three-quarters of the seats in Congress in last weekend's election and vowed on Wednesday to "steamroll" through reforms that will make his socialist model irreversible.

The 49-year-old economist was re-elected on Sunday with 57 percent of votes, some 34 percentage points more than the runner-up. During his six years in office he has won broad support with high spending on infrastructure and social welfare.

Results are still being compiled, but Correa said the ruling Alianza Pais party probably won about 73 percent of Congress' 137 seats. That means he will be able to push through reforms, although he said he would respect different political opinions.

"This is going to be a legislative steamroller to serve the interests of the

Ecuadorian people. ... In democracy, the winners rule, but the losers have to be respected," he told foreign reporters at the presidential palace.

"We're overwhelmed with the amount of support from people. ... We're going to deepen the citizen's revolution, build a new homeland and make it irreversible."

Final results from Sunday's congressional and presidential votes are expected to be published in the coming days.

Correa first took office in 2007 vowing to increase revenue from the OPEC nation's oil resources and cut debt obligations to fund spending on roads, hospitals and schools.

He also promised to press ahead with socialist reforms to empower the low-income majority and dismantle what he called an elitist system that controlled the state and neglected the poor.

He is also expected to pass a new mining law to ease investment terms that could pave the way for the development of some large and mid-sized projects that would let Ecuador diversify its economy away from a dependence on oil exports.

Correa said he did not want to play a leading role in the ALBA alliance of leftist Latin American presidents at a time when

the bloc's figurehead, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, has been silenced by his battle with cancer.

"No one is looking for anything for themselves," he said, referring to other leftist presidents in the region including Bolivia's Evo Morales. "We want to help people and if I can help by being Hugo's chauffeur, that's what I'll do," he said.

Reuters



Ecuador's President Rafael Correa speaks at the opening ceremony of the New Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Tababela parish, about 20km (12.4 miles) northeast of Quito on 19 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

EU executive gets national budget vetting powers

BRUSSELS, 21 Feb — The European Commission will check euro zone countries' draft budgets to verify if they are in line with EU rules and will ask for changes if they are not, under a deal struck on Wednesday with the European Parliament.

After months of wrangling, EU lawmakers backed the new powers for the Commission, the EU executive, to further strengthen euro zone budget discipline and prevent another sovereign debt crisis.

The new law, called in EU jargon the "two-pack", complements the existing budget rules, tightened at the end of 2011 through the introduction of swifter financial sanctions for those breaking deficit and debt limits.

It gives the Commission an extra level of oversight on member countries' budgets. Governments of course are free to ignore the commission's recommendations but risk EU legal action by doing so. "These new laws are a key element in building stronger economic governance for the euro area and boosting the EU's armor against further economic crises," European Parliament President Martin Schulz said.

Wednesday's deal is expected to become law in March and will oblige euro zone governments to send draft budgets for the following year, based on independent economic forecasts, to the Commission before 15 October for verification.

"This will mean that

the euro area can benefit from a more integrated and effective policy-setting framework already for the 2014 budgetary cycle," the EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn said after the deal was reached.

Euro zone countries already agree, in a process that takes up the first six months of the year, on where their fiscal policy should be heading the following year. The Commission makes suggestions that must be approved by governments.

The additional step of vetting draft national budgets in October before they are submitted to national parliaments for approval is meant to catch any divergences from what governments themselves had already agreed to earlier.

The new law will allow the Commission to put a country that is "threatened with financial difficulties" under strict surveillance. That means the government would be under an obligation to deal with the problems that led to the difficulties and entail quarterly reviews of its progress.

The agreement ends a long deadlock between the parliament and the Commission over the new legislation.

Reuters



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso attends a debate on the EU's long-term budget at the EU Parliament in Brussels on 18 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA loses regular communication with ISS



WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — The US space agency NASA announced on Tuesday that flight controllers lost regular communication with the *International Space Station (ISS)* in the morning, but the station was fine and the crew was doing well.

According to an alert from NASA, Houston's Mission Control was updating software of the space

station's onboard flight computers at 8:45 am EDT (1245 GMT) when one of the station's data relay systems malfunctioned. Although a backup computer took over critical station functions from the primary computer, the station lost all communication, voice and command from Houston. About an hour later, while flying over Russia, station commander Kevin

Ford was able to briefly radio Moscow that everyone was well and they were working on the problem.

"This is the same way they used to do it in the 1960s, with *Gemini* and *Apollo*," NASA spokesman Josh Byerly said. "The crew is working on this, and they'll get it back up and running." The *ISS*, which is carrying one American astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts, does not appear to be in danger. "It's not a panicked mood that takes over mission control," Byerly said. "Anybody who's been here has seen that." Byerly said the problem should be fixed later on Tuesday. Until then, astronauts can talk with Moscow control for a few minutes every 90 minutes.—Xinhua

Cloud computing chance and challenge for big firms

DUBAI, 21 Feb — Zaki Sabbagh, chief information officer (CIO) of Saudi Arabia's Zamil Industrial Investment Company, said here on Tuesday that cloud computing enables small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to operate like big players.

Speaking at the two-day Middle East CIO summit organized by global information technology (IT) research firm IDC, Sabbagh said Zamil Industrial Investment, as one of the largest Saudi industry conglomerates, started to implement cloud computing three years ago and the firm needed another three years to complete the implementation. Zamil Industrial Investment is a stock-listed blue chip firm and employs

8,500 people in 55 countries.

Besides the time challenge, Sabbagh added that it will be crucial for big firms to deliver better services and increase the unique selling proposition "because SMEs can provide the same IT-based services thanks to cloud computing and they need much less time for implementation in order to jump on the cloud wagon than a big market participant." Cloud computing describes the use of hardware and software resources through a network, mostly the internet.

Its advantages are increased economies of scale due to shared resources from many network participants. End-users can access cloud-based services

through mobile and smart phone applications.

Whilst most companies do not have to hire new IT staff because cloud computing is mostly based on web-driven solutions, "a key challenge is to involve the entire company into the cloud computing scheme."

Xinhua



Zaki Sabbagh, chief information officer (CIO) of Saudi Arabia's Zamil Industrial Investment Company.—XINHUA

Australian landscape soaked up one third of carbon emitted in 20 years

CANBERRA, 21 Feb — Australian landscape soaked up one third of the carbon emitted by fossil fuels in Australia over the past twenty years, a latest study from Australia's top science institution CSIRO found recently.

The 3-year study, the Australian Terrestrial Carbon Budget, published this month in the journal *Biogeosciences* and outlined on Wednesday at the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network symposium, Canberra. According to the

findings, Australia exported 2.5 times more carbon in fossil fuels in 2009-2010 than was emitted from fossil fuels burned within Australia.

In the study, scientists quantified how much land carbon is lost or gained through plant and soil "breathing" in response to variable climate and rising carbon dioxide. Effects of fires, erosion and deforestation were also considered. All these processes together with fossil fuel emissions are critical to domestic



carbon management and international reporting protocols." For Australia as a whole, increased carbon dioxide has caused a 15 per cent increase in plant production over the last two decades, relative to pre-industrial times," Lead author Dr Vanessa Haverd said.

The study data will help the understanding of

how carbon stored in the Australian landscape responds to climate variability—the swings between drought and flood. "It is important to know that carbon stored in the land during periods of high plant growth may disappear again during the next drought." "Understanding any trends and changes in fire regime or intensity, particularly in the savanna fires of Northern Australia, is important for quantifying the impact of fire on the net carbon balance," she said.

Xinhua

Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang joins Lenovo board as observer

HONG KONG, 21 Feb — Lenovo Group said Yahoo! co-founder Jerry Yang is to join its board as an observer, as the world's No 2 maker of PCs expands its mobile business to tap global demand for smartphones and tablets.

Yang, who co-founded Yahoo! in April 1995 and served as chief executive from June 2007 to January 2009, will not be able to vote or have any of the other rights of a director, Le-

novo said on Wednesday.

The Hong Kong-listed company will pay Yang \$61,875 per year and offer equity rights with a value of \$135,000 in return for attending board meetings and providing views.

Yang, 44, resigned from Yahoo's board last year when he also stepped down from the boards of Alibaba Group Holding and Yahoo! Japan.

Lenovo, the second-biggest smartphone vendor in China, is stepping up its expansion in the business. In its October-to-December third quarter, Lenovo shipped 9.4 million phones, including 9 million smartphones, mainly in China where its smartphone business was profitable for the first time.

Reuters



Co-founder of Yahoo Jerry Yang

Sony set to make pre-emptive strike on Microsoft with PS4



A man looks at Sony Corp products at an electronics store in Tokyo on 25 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 21 Feb — Sony Corp is expected to showcase a new PlayStation console on Wednesday in a pre-emptive strike against Microsoft Corp's bid to make its Xbox the world's leading hub for household entertainment.

The rare PlayStation event in New York comes

amid industry speculation that Microsoft is set to unveil the successor to its Xbox 360, which beats the seven-year-old PlayStation 3's online network with features such as voice commands on interactive gaming and superior connectivity to smartphones and tablets. "Their focus is on establish-

ing a beachhead for the next generation of consoles, and that's what 20 February is all about," said PJ McNealy, CEO and founder of Digital World Research. "The reality is they have been playing catch-up."

Pushing ahead of Microsoft's Xbox and Nintendo Co Ltd's new Wii U could help Sony revive an electronics business hurt by a dearth of hit gadgets, a collapse in TV sales and the convergence of consumer interest around tablets and smartphones built by rivals Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd. Tablets and smartphones already account for around 10 percent of the \$80 billion gaming market. Those mobile devices, analysts predict, will within a few years be as powerful as the current slew of game-only consoles.

Reuters

US researchers discover biological marker of dyslexia

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — US researchers have found a biological mechanism that appears to play an important role in dyslexia, a constellation of impairments unrelated to intelligence, hearing or vision that make learning to read a struggle, according to a study to be published on Wednesday in *The Journal of Neuroscience*.

Recording the automatic brain wave responses of 100 school-aged children to speech sounds, the Northwestern University researchers found that the very best readers encoded the sound most consistently

while the poorest readers encoded it with the greatest inconsistency. Presumably, the brain's response to sound stabilizes when children learn to successfully connect sounds with their meanings.

The researchers said that the results suggest that good readers profit from a stable neural representation of sound, and that children with inconsistent neural responses are likely at a disadvantage when learning to read.

According to the researchers, the good news is that response consistency can be improved with

auditory training.

Decades of research from laboratories worldwide have shown that reading ability is associated with auditory skills, including auditory memory and attention, the ability to rhyme sounds and the ability to categorize rapidly occurring sounds.

Xinhua



BUSINESS & HEALTH

Boeing engineers split on contract, talks to resume

SEATTLE, 21 Feb — The largest group of engineers working at Boeing Co approved the planemaker's latest contract offer in a vote on Tuesday, likely paving the way for a full agreement as Boeing attempts to focus its resources on fixing battery problems on its 787 Dreamliner. However, members of the union representing about 23,000 engineers also authorized it to call a strike, giving the union some leverage as parties head back toward negotiations.

According to the Seattle-based Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), its "professional" members — who perform the main engineering duties

on Boeing planes — voted narrowly in favour of accepting the contract, while a smaller group of "technical" members — who support the engineers — voted to reject it. Both groups voted in favour of authorizing the union to call a strike.

The groups negotiate together, but their contracts are separate. The partial resolution of the drawn-out labour talks is a chink of light for Boeing, which is struggling to get to the bottom of battery malfunctions on its 787 and needs engineers in its factories to carry out its planned production ramp-up. "There are pathways to a negotiated agreement available," said Ray Goforth, executive director



A Boeing 787 descends in Everett, Washington travelling with crew only from Fort Worth, Texas on 7 Feb, 2013. — REUTERS

of SPEEA, in a statement.

"With this second rejection by technical workers of Boeing takeaways, it's time for the company to stop wasting resources and improve its offer to reflect the value and contributions technical workers bring to Boeing. That way, we can avoid a strike and focus on fixing the problems of the 787 and restoring customer confidence in Boeing," Boeing welcomed the professional members'

acceptance, but said it was "deeply disappointed" that technical employees rejected the offer and authorized a strike.

"Our goal throughout this entire process was to make sure SPEEA-represented employees were rewarded for the contributions they bring to this company every single day," said Ray Conner, head of Boeing's commercial airplanes unit.

Reuters

World shares gain as growth hopes rise

LONDON, 21 Feb — Signs of improving global economic recovery lifted world shares to 4-1/2 year highs on Wednesday, while sterling fell sharply

inclined than had been thought to voting for more asset purchases under its quantitative easing (QE) programme and had even considered cutting interest

economist at Capital Economics. The pound slumped to an 8-1/2-month low against the dollar of \$1.5336, while the euro gained to a near 16-month high of 87.565 pence, up almost 0.9 percent. Britain's main FTSE 100 stock index .FTSE jumped 0.4 percent to 6,401.79 points, a fresh five-year high and above the 6,400 psychological level that some traders said could induce bigger moves higher.

The gains offset slightly weaker levels across some other European markets to lift the MSCI World Equity index by 0.25 percent to its best level since June 2008 .MIWD00000PUS. Global share markets had surged on Tuesday after forecast-beating German sentiment data pointed to an accelerating recovery in Europe's largest economy and a rise in merger activity in the United States encouraged buyers on Wall

St Gains in Europe were being held in check by the approach of euro zone flash Purchasing Managers Index reports on Thursday and a German business sentiment survey on Friday that could show whether the region's recovery is taking hold.

Reuters

China seeks extra testing of US pork for feed additive

CHICAGO, 21 Feb — China wants a third party to verify beginning on 1 March that US pork shipped to the country is free of a feed additive used to promote lean muscle growth, a US Meat Export

meat and the third-largest market for US pork, baffled analysts since Beijing has not recently reported finding ractopamine in any pork from the United States. The step does, however, come on the heels of Russia

that China's requirement for third-party testing could hurt US pork exports to the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong, valued at \$886 million last year. "We have just been notified (by US suppliers) and are checking details with the quarantine authorities," said a trader with a large state-owned pork importer in China. Beijing maintains that there are serious concerns about ractopamine, despite scientific evidence that it is safe. The United Nations has agreed on acceptable levels.

The quarantine bureau in May rejected a consignment of US pork after tests found traces of the drug. Steve Meyer, president of Iowa-based Paragon Economics, said: "My guess is they are trying to protect the domestic industry. They are trying to throw up roadblocks. That is always a possibility when you are dealing with Russia and China." He said that any move by China to ban pork imports from the United States would benefit exporters such as Canada, Brazil and the European Union. — Reuters



The WIG20 index is seen reflected in clocks showing the time of the different cities in the world at the Warsaw Stock Exchange on 3 Jan, 2013. — REUTERS

when the Bank of England revealed it came close to easing policy further to boost growth.

Minutes from their last meeting showed that members of the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee were more

rates.

"Today's minutes have made us more comfortable with our view that more QE is likely this year, particularly if GDP growth continues to fall short of the Committee's expectations," said Samuel Tombs, UK

Yahoo takes cue from Facebook in website revamp

NEW YORK, 21 Feb — Yahoo Inc is rolling out a revamped look for its website aimed at making the Web portal more modern and attractive to users.

"We wanted it to be familiar but also wanted it to embrace some of the modern paradigms of the Web," Chief Executive Marissa Mayer said on NBC's "Today" show on Wednesday.

"One thing that I really like is this very personalized newsfeed, it's infinite and you can go on scrolling forever," she said. In a blog

post, Mayer said the company will begin introducing the changes over the next few days, with more changes and improvements expected in the coming months. The endless newsfeed containing stories, pictures or video is similar to feeds on Facebook Inc as well as Twitter.

Mayer also said in her blog that the website would feature newly designed applications, allow users to log in with their Yahoo or Facebook IDs and would work well on smartphones and tablets. Yahoo is one of the world's most-

visited online properties, but revenue has declined in recent years amid competition from Google and Facebook. Yahoo has also been beset by internal turmoil that has resulted in a revolving door of CEOs.

Mayer, 37, took over after a tumultuous period at Yahoo in which former CEO Scott Thompson resigned after less than six months on the job over a controversy about his academic credentials, and during which Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang resigned from the board and cut his ties with the company. — Reuters



A man works in his shop selling pork products in Shanghai on 28 Sept, 2007. — REUTERS

Federation spokesman told Reuters. The reasons for China's timing and motives for additional verification on the ractopamine additive were unclear, but stirred speculation ranging from a political agenda to protection of that country's pork industry.

The move by China, the world's biggest producer and consumer of the

barring imports of US meat worth \$550 million a year due to the same feed additive. Officials from the China's quarantine bureau, which oversees the safety of food imports, declined to make immediate comment, while a spokesman said the country's commerce ministry was unaware of the move.

There was concern

WORLD

Egypt adopts new tactic in curbing Gaza tunnels

GAZA, 21 Feb—The tunnels area on Gaza's southern border with Egypt was lively and busy with trucks mostly loaded with construction materials and food making their way through the unpaved roads out.

But smugglers said Egyptian security forces have started closing some tunnels with new tactic: flooding them with waste water, noting that dozens of underground passages were flooded with sewage water, causing severe damage that takes weeks to be repaired.

Ahmed Barhoum, a resident of the Rafah border town, noted that the Egyptian crackdown focused on the neighbourhoods of al-Salam and al-Barazil, to the west of Rafah crossing point.

The Egyptian army and security forces flooded the tunnels with waste water last week, according to the residents and tunnels owners who live near the borders.

Abu el-Bara'a, 41, who owns a tunnel used to bring in cement and gravel, said his tunnel was swamped with sewage water, but he did not give up. "From our side, we used our own pumps to get the waste and sewage water out," he said.

"If Egypt and Israel destroy the tunnels, we will dig more new tunnels," he said.

Asking about the easing of the Israeli blockade, the smuggler said they are insufficient. "We won't stop until Israel and Egypt lift the siege completely," he said.—Xinhua



Taleban fighters attend a surrender ceremony in Balkh Province in north Afghanistan, on 20 Feb, 2013. Up to 16 Taleban militants renounced violence and joined the government-initiated peace and reconciliation process in Balkh on Wednesday, local police said.

XINHUA

Ukraine to resume gas imports from Turkmenistan in 2013

KIEV, 21 Feb—Ukraine plans to resume imports of natural gas from Turkmenistan to ease a dependence on expensive Russian supply, a senior Ukraine official said on Wednesday.

"We want to restart natural gas deliveries from Turkmenistan this year," Energy and Coal Industry Minister Eduard Stavytsky told a Press conference.

Ukraine plans to buy some 10 billion cubic meters of gas from Turkmenistan in 2013, Stavytsky said.

Turkmenistan supplied Ukraine with around 36 billion cubic meters of gas annually until 2006 when Ukraine switched over to Russian gas.

Currently, Kiev is seeking to slash gas imports from its northern neighbour, an intention that Moscow said violates their energy deal signed in 2009.

Under their contract, Ukraine agreed to buy 52 billion cubic metres of gas per year or pay for a minimum of 80 percent of that volume, regardless of the actual amount taken.

Kiev, which currently pays 432 US dollars per 1,000 cubic meters of gas, is reported to have imported 24.9 billion cubic meters from Russia last year.

Russia on 25 January demanded that Ukraine pay 7 billion dollars for failing to import the contracted amount of gas.—Xinhua

Wu Bangguo (R), chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, arrives in the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), south China, on 20 Feb, 2013. Wu will attend the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of Macao's Basic Law.—XINHUA



France calls on nationals to immediately quit northern Cameroon

PARIS, 21 Feb—French Foreign Ministry on Wednesday urged French nationals to leave northern Cameroon area where seven French tourists have been kidnapped a day before "as soon as possible."

"It's essential that French nationals who are currently in the far north of Cameroon to move to a safe place and leave the area as soon as possible," the ministry said.

The Quai d'Orsay also recommended French tourists to avoid northern parts of Cameroon near the Nigerian border until further notice.

On Tuesday, seven French expatriates including four children were abducted by a group of armed men on motorbikes near the Waza national park and Lake Chad where Westerners used to visit during holidays.

French President Francois Hollande said the French captives were held by a Nigerian-based "terrorist group" known to French authorities and the militant organization had taken the hostages towards Nigeria. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, meanwhile, pointed the finger to the Islamist group Boko Haram to be behind Cameroon hostage taking.

Xinhua

Australia to expand ties with Laos

VIENTIANE, 21 Feb—Australia's Foreign Minister Bob Carr wrapped up meetings with senior Lao ministers in Laos' capital city of Vientiane on Wednesday, agreeing to deeper economic and political ties between the two countries.

During his four-day stay he met with his Lao counterpart Thongloun Sisoulith. After their talks, Sisoulith told a Press conference that both sides had discussed a broad range of issues and their extended cooperation and good relations were highly valued, according to state-run news-

paper *Vientiane Times*. The Australian delegation said they were pleased to continue their support of Laos' education, sustainable growth in trade and investment, rural development, clearance of unexploded ordinance (UXO), and infrastructure development in rural communities.

Laos, one of South East Asia's least developed nations, is expected to receive just under 50 million US dollars in aid from Australia over 2012-2013.

On Wednesday Carr also announced that Australia would provide around 5.5 million US dollars to

support UXO clearance efforts, as well as mine risk education, and survivor assistance.

This additional aid is expected to help in the clearance of around 2500 hectares of land which could then be used for agriculture and transportation.

Carr also announced a second Trade Development Facility for Laos, which would be designed to streamline trade regulatory frameworks, stimulate investment and create jobs. This would come as part of a wider plan to stimulate further engagement from the Australian business sec-

tor in Laos. After the meetings Bob Carr said, "this new round of Australian funding for the Trade Development Facility (TDF) is expected to halve the time taken to clear exports and imports through customs and halve the number of days taken to get an import licence," according to an AUSAID Press release.

Carr and Sisoulith also discussed Australia's priorities as a member of the UN Security Council, Laos' accession to the World Trade Organization, and Australia's aid contributions to Laos.

Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills two Afghan police, wounds one

ASSADABAD, 21 Feb—Two personnel of Afghan Border Police Force were killed and another sustained injuries as a roadside bomb struck a police van in Kunar Province, 185 km east of Kabul on Wednesday, a local official said.

"A mine planted by militants on a road in Narai District, struck a vehicle of Border Police Force at 09:00 am local time today as a result two personnel were killed and another sustained injuries," border police officer Ayub Hussainkhil told *Xinhua*.

Taleban militants who have been fighting the government and largely relying on suicide and roadside bombings have yet to claim responsibility.

Xinhua



Tourists visit the Huangshan Mountain scenic area after a snow in east China's Anhui Province, on 20 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Serbia to promote cooperation in education, culture and economy



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Foreign Affairs Minister of Serbia Mr Ivan Mrkic.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister of Serbia Mr Ivan Mrkic, at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Building, here, this evening.

At the meeting, both sides had a cordial discussion on further promoting amity between two governments, parliaments and peoples, cooperation in the sectors of education, culture and economy and Myanmar's political and economic reforms and democratization process.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, secretaries Dr Soe Yin and U Maung Toe and officials from Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Rehabilitation tasks in Rakhine, Kachin and Kayin States discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin held discussion with a delegation led by Mr George Rupp, Chairman of International Rescue Committee (IRC) on natural disaster relief and rehabilitation and

development tasks in Rakhine, Kachin and Kayin States, at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister also met Ms. Barbara Manzi of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and party, at the same venue. They discussed natural

disaster preparedness tasks, humanitarian aid programme in Rakhine and Kachin States and cooperation in rehabilitation and regional development.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister Daw Su Su Hlaing, directors-general and officials.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Indian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Indian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr. V.S Seshadri who has completed his tour of duty paid a call on Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, at 10 am today.

Both sides frankly discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries and between the two armed forces.

Also present at the call together with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General were Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe from office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army). The delegation was accompanied by Military Attaché Col-Rajesh Kumar.

After the meeting, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented gift to the Indian Ambassador.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shaking hands with Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. V.S Seshadri.—MNA

Judges, judicial officers take oaths

YANGON, 21 Feb—Oath-taking ceremonies of judges and judicial officers from Yangon Region High Court and district courts and district-level judges from refresher course No.5/2012,

township-level judges and judicial officers took place at Yangon Region High Court yesterday morning and afternoon.

At the ceremony, Chief Justice of Yangon Region

High Court U Win Swe delivered a speech and a total of 238 judges and judicial officers took oaths in the presence of the chief justice of the region.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Construction of self-reliant library coordinated

TOUNGGOO, 21 Feb—A coordination meeting on construction of self-reliant library was held at the hall of administrative office in Ward 11 in Tounggoo on 12 February.

Ward elders made speeches.

Those present discussed construction of the library and work plans.

The fund-raising committee was formed with U Myo Htay as chairman and the construction committee with U Zaw Win as chairman.—Myanma Alinn

Conflict news writing course conducted in Lashio

LASHIO, 21 Feb—The Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC) and International Media Support (IMS) jointly conducted the conflict news writing course at Golden Hill Hotel in Lashio on 11 February.

Course instructor Binod Bhattaral discharging Lecturer at ACE Management

University of Nepal to provide economic news writing and management subject and Myanmar journalists U Myint Kyaw and Daw Tin Zar Zaw gave lectures to the trainees. Altogether 21 journalists from Shan State (North) attended the three-day course.

Myanma Alinn

Work efficiency course conducted



MANDALAY, 21 Feb—Chanayethazan Township General Administration Department of Mandalay Region opened the work efficiency course for ward administrators at its office from 28 January to 8

February, attended by 20 ward administrators and 19 clerks.

The concluding ceremony of the work efficiency course was held at the meeting hall of the department at 2 pm on 13 February. At first, Township

Aid presented to displaced persons

MYITKYINA, 21 Feb—A ceremony to donate 971 items of supplies worth K 15.26 million donated by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and 503 sets of family

kit and kitchen sets by Kachin State Red Cross Society were distributed to displaced persons of Phakant Township from 7 to 10 February.

Myanma Alinn

Kyaunggon dwellers donate blood sixth time

KYAUNGGOON, 21 Feb—Myittamon Blood Donors Association of Kyaunggon held the sixth blood donation at the national blood centre of Yangon General Hospital Administrator U Aung Lwin gave a speech and presented certificates to the trainees.

Later, officials presented gifts to the course instructors.

Myanma Alinn

in Yangon on 27 January. Wellwishers from Kyaunggon and Yangon served the blood donors with breakfast, fruits, snacks and medicines. The association was established in 2004 with about 1500 members. During nine-year period, the association has donated over 4500 bottles of blood.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 22 February, 2013

Quality health care

Health is very precious one for our human beings. If we have money, we can buy everything we want, but healthy life. Everybody wants to enjoy healthy life. Both mental health and physical health are crucial for our human beings. Everybody wants to live longer without any physical and mental illness. The country should have better health care system. We can measure the health standard of a country by the different parameters. In doing so, it needs to review its overall system.

The majority of the people is used to review it based on their practical experience, mostly on health care service they receive. Here, the quality of care is of prime importance. The problem Myanmar is now facing is the shortage of quality doctors.

There is no balanced ratio of patients and doctors. While there is weakness in the quality of care, diagnostic tests are poor. We frequently hear the news that medical check-up results are wrong. These days, private hospitals are mushrooming one after another.

But the majority has no access to them because of high costs. Only the rich can receive medical treatment there. Everybody should have access to social security system. People from grass-roots level cannot afford to go to such special clinics and hospitals. And they have to rely on the government hospitals. So, these hospitals should give quality health care to people with low costs. Now the country is on the track to democracy. We can build up the country only with healthy person.

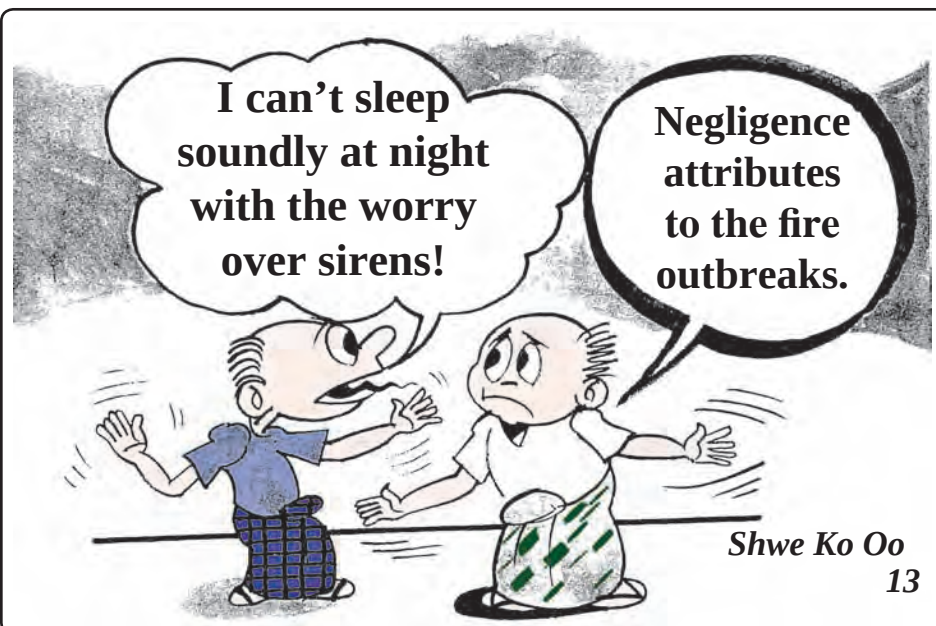
Union Foreign Affairs Minister discusses cooperation between Myanmar and Serbia

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—At the invitation of U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Serbian delegation led by Mr. Ivan Mrkic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia paid an official visit to Nay Pyi Taw, capital city of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, today.

Union Minister for

Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ivan Mrkic held bilateral talks at 9.30 hrs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed matters related to strengthening of the existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. The two ministers also exchanged

views on regional and international issues. Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin briefed his counterpart on the implementation of democratization and the efforts on national reconsolidation in Myanmar. In the evening, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Serbian delegation at Mount Pleasant Hotel.—MNA



NATIONAL

Get-together to mark 65th Anniversary Chin National Day held



Get-together to mark the 65th Anniversary Chin National Day in progress.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—A get-together to mark the 65th Anniversary Chin National Day was held at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC), here, yesterday evening.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi extended the greetings.

Pyithu Hluttaw

representative Thura U Aung Ko presented certificates of honour to Chin nationals who got Ph.D during 2011-2012.

Those present were served with Chin traditional foods and entertained with dance and songs.

It was also attended by

Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Deputy Speakers U Nanda Kyaw Swa and U Mya Nyein and Hluttaw Committee chairmen, national races Hluttaw representatives and Chin nationals.

MNA

USAID Director calls on Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights and Democracy and Human Rights Committee



Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights and Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo receives Director of US Agency for International Development Dr. David Yang.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights and Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo received a delegation led by Director of US Agency for International Development Dr. David

Yang at Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Hall No. (1), here, this noon.

The meeting focused on human rights, transitional and flexible legislative affairs, progress of human rights being practiced in and out of the Hluttaws,

the Hluttaw committees' work programmes, efforts being made for ensuring national reconsolidation and prevalence of peace and stability in the country including international relations.

MNA

NATIONAL

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Min Htein of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Proposed members of constitutional tribunal unveiled

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, notified the parliament of the President's message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker on formation of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.

The proposed members—three by the President, three by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and three others by the Amyotha Hluttaw—of the new tribunal are retired Attorney-General's Office Deputy Director-General U Myint Win, Legal Advisor to the President U Than Kyaw, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Daw Hla Myo Nwe, Retired Director-General of the Union Supreme Court U Mya Thein, Notary Public Advocate U Mya Thein, Notary Public Advocate U Myint Lwin, Retired Director-General of Union Attorney-General's Office U Tin Myint, Retired Deputy Director-General of Union Attorney-General's Office Daw Kyin San and Retired Director of the Union Attorney-General's Office U Myo Chit.

Parliamentarians are to file complaints, if any, with firm evidences by 23 February afternoon.—NLM

Local energy demand expected to increase steadfastly till 2015, deputy energy minister

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Local demand of crude oil is estimated to increase by 7.3 percent yearly and that of natural gas by 4.5 percent up to 2015-2016 FY, Deputy Minister for Energy U Htin Aung said at today's Pyithu Hluttaw regular session in his answer to U Kyi Tha of Gwa Constituency.

The MP said the number of vehicles would be doubled in 2015 with 13 cars in each 10,000 citizens, pointing out the need of more fuel supply.

The deputy minister said the ministry is seeking alternative energy sources to satisfy the growing demand.

The country's current energy demand per day is barrels of oil equivalent to 60,000 barrels of crude oil and about 500-600 cubic feet of natural gas, he added.

Bids have been invited for 18 petroleum blocks since 17 January and joint ventures would be



U Kyi Tha of Gwa Constituency taking part in discussion.

MNA

formed with international energy companies, the deputy minister updated the parliament on the ministry's bid for energy sufficiency.

Tenders for new liquefied petroleum gas ports have been invited on 3 February through dailies.

He said, "The utilization of firewood and coal will be reduced by 58 percent



Deputy Minister for Energy U Htin Aung replies to questions.

MNA

by 2020 and 46 percent by 2030."

A National Energy Security Strategy will be drafted by National Energy Management Committee headed by the Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the deputy minister added.

Deputy Industry Minister U Thein Aung



Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung responds to questions.

MNA

updated the parliament on the ministry's efforts to cover sufficient anti-venom vaccines in his answer to the question of U Than Myint of Salingyi Township.

The parliament discussed and approved the Pyithu Hluttaw Rules and Myanmar Citizens Investment Bill.

NLM

No plan to build nuclear power plant: Dy EP Minister



18th day session of Amyotha Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Seven representatives held discussions on the proposal on urging the Union government to implement power generation from atomic energy in Myanmar as the country is not only a ASEAN member country as well as IAEA member, which is submitted by Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8, at the 18th day session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

"Japan and the Republic of Korea have reached the developed countries status thanks to power generation from nuclear power plants. Myanmar should have at least one nuclear power plant

by taking the examples of other countries," said U Win Naung of Yangon Region Constituency No.5.

U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No.12 pointed out that Myanmar should build a nuclear power plant so as to have static electric power and to keep abreast of neighbouring countries. In the long run, it has cost-effectiveness. And it should be implemented as quickly as possible.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oosaid that although Myanmar has hydropower, wind power and other renewable energy sources, building up a

industrialized country might face difficulties in fulfilling high power demand in the long-run. Preliminary study should be conducted for construction of nuclear power plant although there is no plan to build a nuclear power plant at present. That proposal was rejected with 29 "Yes" votes and 110 "No" votes. "It is not right time to carry out power generation from atomic energy. Priority should be given to establishment of industries and businesses and creation of job opportunities as it can cost a lot. Research on renewable energy and other energy sources should be conducted," said U Tin

Maung Win of Mandalay Region Constituency No.3.

Dr Myint Kyi said that he submitted that proposal assuming that it can contribute much towards political and economic development of the country.

With regard to the question of U Saw Taw Pa Lae of Kayin State Constituency No.7 on Thaukyaykhat (1) hydro-power project, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myint Zaw replied that the ministry has no plan to implement Thaukyaykhat (1) hydropower project at present. The meeting continues at 10 am tomorrow.

MNA

Union Attorney-General receives US Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—US Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Mr Michael Posner and party paid a call on Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, at the hall of the Union Attorney-General Office, here, this morning.

At the meeting, Mr Michael Posner asked measures for the rule of law

in Myanmar. The Union Attorney-General elaborated on duties of the Union Attorney-General's Office, supervision of Region/State Advocate-General Offices and protecting people's rights with five writs under the Constitution. They held a discussion on human rights convention that includes in Universal Periodic Review and private lawyers.—MNA

This is another step for...

(from page 16)

NLM: Why the opium yield survey is important?

MT: Well, as there is the illicit drug problem there is also the opium yield survey, and that is the main point. The survey will help expose the root cause. So, we will have the data on the opium poppy sown acreage, the largest opium poppy cultivation areas, and per acre yield. Based on this data, we will find better ways to combat and eradicate the problem. CCDAC cannot do the job alone. Demand reduction in other countries is also required. And there must be the cooperation of our people.

NLM: Any more

information for the readers?

MT: We had already conducted joint opium yield surveys for ten times with the US. Anyhow, the work was suspended after 2004. Now we have resumed the work. We hope we will have more such cooperation in the future.

NLM: As a MOFA official what is your message for the people?

HL: As our minister stated in his speech, the resumption of the bilateral cooperation with US is an encouraging sign. This anti-drug cooperation will lead to broader relations and deeper friendship between the two countries. This is my belief.

NLM

Serbian parliamentary group visits Chinese Embassy in Belgrade

BELGRADE, 21 Feb — The group of Serbian-Chinese friendship of Serbian Parliament visited Chinese Embassy in Belgrade on Wednesday, and they attended a cocktail under invitation by Ambassador Zhang Wanxue.

The visit was arranged as the friendship group has recently doubled its size to enhance links with China, said Zhang.

"I wish to use this opportunity to thank you on your untiring work and significant contribution to bilateral relations of Serbia and China," said the ambassador. Parliament Speaker Nebojsa Stefanovic surprised his colleagues and embassy staff when he has thanked Zhang in Chinese language.

"I personally plan to continue learning Chinese,

and I think that every man who wishes to progress should learn as much as possible. China is one of the most important countries in the world," he said.

"We wish to reinforce our cultural cooperation, promote learning of Chinese language in Serbia, but also greater presence of Serbian language in China," said Stefanovic.

Xinhua



Children, evacuated from Fukushima Prefecture to Tokyo after the 2011 nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, stand on the stage as models as part of a fashion show of a new collection by Japanese bridal fashion designer Yumi Katsura at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan hall on 20 Feb, 2013. South Korean actor Lee Seojin (2nd from L) and Mongolian grand champion Hakuho (3rd from L) also appeared on stage.—KYODO NEWS

Brazil, Russia enhance ties in defence, agriculture

BRASILIA, 21 Feb — Brazil and Russia agreed on Wednesday to negotiate the purchase of Russia's anti-aircraft defence systems, jointly develop defence products and transfer technology to Brazilian defence companies without restrictions. The agreement was reached during the talks between Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and visiting Russian Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev, who arrived in Brazil on Wednesday for a three-day visit.

Brazil is interesting in buying Russia's medium-range surface-to-air Pantsir S1 combined missile and artillery batteries and Igla-S shoulder-held missiles, in part to beef up security during the World Cup soccer tournament next year and the 2016 Olympic Games. Contract negotiations are expected to begin in March.

The two countries have sought to deepen defence cooperation since they signed a Strategic Partnership Action Plan in December during Rousseff's visit to Moscow. Under the document, Brazil and Rus-

sia will strengthen cooperation in defence industry and training while setting up partnership for the purchase of defence systems.

During their talks on Wednesday, the two leaders also agreed to exchange information on organizing major sporting events. Russia is to host 2014 Winter Olympics and the World Cup in 2018.

In addition, Russia agreed to collaborate with Brazil's "Science Without Borders" scholarship programme by opening slots in graduate and post-graduate courses for Brazilian students in Russia.

On agriculture, the two countries sealed two agreements to eliminate trade barriers for Brazil to sell soy bran for animal feed in Russia and establish phytosanitary measures for Russian wheat exports to Brazil.

During their talks, Medvedev and Rousseff also discussed the ongoing global financial crisis and the political unrest in Syria, according to official sources from the Brazilian presidency.—Xinhua

Twelve European foreign ministers meet in Poland on cooperation

WARSAW, 21 Feb — Twelve foreign ministers of the Visegrad Group countries, the Baltic States and the Nordic countries met in Gdansk (North Poland), the Polish foreign ministry said in a Press release on Wednesday.

According to local media reports, the meeting was to combat the economic crisis and ways of making Europe more competitive in the world and the Eastern Partnership agenda.

The Wednesday meeting in Gdansk was attended by foreign ministers of the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, and Sweden.

Poland Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski

said they are a very diverse group of countries but they have common interests.

Sikorski also said that the course of the debate proved that this is a good formula. The present financial perspective will finally allow them to implement what Central European leaders have outlined in Visegrad centuries ago — the building of north-south infrastructural and transport links.

During the meeting, the ministers also discussed the Eastern Partnership programme.

Sikorski said that the year 2013 may prove to be groundbreaking for the Partnership. He hopes that they will sign an association agreement with Ukraine and possibly end

negotiations of agreements with three other Partnership countries Moldova, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The Eastern Partnership programme embraces Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Sweden's Foreign Minister Bildt assessed that the implementation of the Eastern partnership is difficult due to the diversity of the states covered by the programme.

They will help those countries to modernize their economies. Under the certain conditions—the countries involved must be governed by rule of law, open to the world and follow values observed in the EU.

Xinhua

Capital to expand public transportation

BEIJING, 21 Feb — Beijing is planning to further develop its public transportation network, and 46 percent of residents are expected to travel by subway and bus this year, authorities said. In 2012, more than 20 million daily journeys were made by public transport in the capital, and 44 percent of commuters used public transportation, according to the Beijing Commission of Transport.

The proportion was the highest in the country in 2012, and it is expected to reach 50 percent in 2015, *Beijing Daily* reported on 5 December. However, during bad weather and holidays, Beijing's traffic system often experiences delays.

The traffic congestion index within the Fifth Ring Road, Beijing's main urban area, will not rise above 5 in 2013, the commission said on Wednesday in a statement. The index, introduced in 2007, indicates the general traffic situation with a number from 0 to 10, with

10 indicating the heaviest traffic. On 28 December, snow caused heavy traffic on city roads in the late afternoon, and by 6 pm the traffic index within the Fifth Ring Road reached 9.5. To ease traffic congestion, Beijing will develop a rapid public transport network of more than 600 km including subway lines and a bus system, the commission said.

Tong Lihong, a manager at Beijing MTR Construction Administration Corp, said on Wednesday that at the end of 2013, extensions of lines 8 and 14 and a connection line between Line 8 and Changping Line will be opened.

Construction of the last two stations of Line 10 is scheduled to be completed in May, making it Beijing's second subway loop line and the longest in the city, Tong said.

According to Beijing Commission of Transport, the capital now has 442 km of subway lines, the longest in China. By the end of

2013, the length will reach 465 km. To make public transportation more attractive, Beijing will continue to develop park-and-ride lots, with up to 10,000 spaces for vehicles.

According to the plan, the parking lots will be mainly located around subway stations in the rural-

Texas college evacuated over bomb threat

HOUSTON, 21 Feb — A college in the US state of Texas issued a Code Maroon alert and closed a stadium and adjacent facilities on Wednesday after receiving a bomb threat. Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas, said on its website on Wednesday that university authorities were notified about 10:50 am that a threat was "written on a wall of a non-academic facility on campus."

"An investigation was launched immediately, and a Code Maroon emergency message was subsequently issued," the university said.

Approximately 700 people were evacuated from Kyle Field, Reed Building, G Rollie White, Neetum Steed, and the Bright Athletics complex, and those evacuated buildings will "remain closed the rest of the day," it said.

Texas A&M authorities continue to investigate the incident, and federal agencies have been contacted to aid in the on-going investigation, the school said. Code Maroon is the university's emergency notification system, which uses multiple methods of contacting students, faculty and the community.—Xinhua



US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, on 20 Feb, 2013. He stressed the importance of extending overseas aid in his first public speech.—KYODO NEWS



Workers of power supply bureau refuel the emergency generator truck at a landslide site in Longchang Township, Kaili City, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 20 Feb, 2013. Five coal mine workers and their relatives, including two children, are believed to have been buried by a landslide which occurred around 11 am here on 18 February. Rocks have blocked a nearby river with a rising water level, forming a barrier lake. The water level has decreased for 1.5 metres as of 5:00 pm on Wednesday.—XINHUA

REGIONAL



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (L) lights a candle during a ceremony in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 20 Feb, 2013. Cambodia held a traditional ceremony on Wednesday to begin the construction of a commemorative copper statue of the late King Father Norodom Sihanouk near the capital's Independence Monument.—XINHUA

China's top microblog site boasts 500 mln users

BEIJING, 21 Feb— Sina Weibo, the Chinese equivalent of Twitter, had attracted over 500 million users by the end of 2012, a year-on-year increase of 74 percent, Sina Corp announced on Wednesday.

Sina Weibo's active daily users have exceeded 46.2 million, the company said.

The site's revenues totaled 66 million US dollars in 2012, of which 23 percent came from surging income from value-added services.

The other 77 percent came from advertising, the revenues of which exceeded

50 million US dollars.

The company plans to further improve its user experience and expand its services while veering its focus to mobile Internet, said Cao Guowei, CEO and president of Sina.

Some 75 percent of Sina Weibo's active users log in using mobile devices.

Sina also issued financial reports for the last quarter and full fiscal year of 2012 on Wednesday, showing that its net revenues hit 529.3 million US dollars with a year-on-year increase of 10 percent.

Xinhua

Vietnamese top legislator meets with IPU Secretary General in Hanoi

HANOI, 21 Feb— The Vietnamese National Assembly will try its utmost to meet all requirements and successfully host the General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 2015.

The statement was made here on Wednesday by Vietnamese top legislator, NA Chairman Nguyen Sinh Hung, at his reception for IPU Secretary General Anders B Johnsson during the latter's visit to Vietnam.

While warming wel-

coming the visit by IPU official the first foreign guest to Vietnam in the traditional lunar New Year, Hung informed the guest of the country's situation in various areas.

Hung said that in recent years, Vietnam has maintained stable politics, security and national defence. The Vietnamese National Assembly has implemented renewals in forms and contents of its activities towards promoting democracy, perfecting legal sys-

tem and strengthening the law-governed principles. It has performed well as a representative of the people, ensuring gender equality and better protecting the human rights.

Hung also highly evaluated the role and achievements that the IPU has achieved in promoting democracy throughout the world, as well as supporting parliaments in handling challenges during their development.

Xinhua

Cambodia's listed water supplier records revenue up 25 pct last year

PHNOM PENH, 21 Feb— The listed Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority (PPWSA) earned total revenues of 36.9 million US dollars in 2012, up 25 percent year-on-year, according to the firm's unaudited financial statement on Wednesday.

The report said that the firm's net income after tax was 8.56 million US dollars last year, a 39 percent rise from 6.16 million US dollars in a year earlier.

Speaking during the 1st annual meeting of the PPWSA on Wednesday, the firm's chairman Meng

Saktheara said the remarkable growth in revenue was attributed to good management and increase in water supply to customers. The firm predicted that it would make revenue of about 37.5 million US dollars in 2013. The PPWSA is a state-owned enterprise.—Xinhua

SKorea to raise natural gas prices by 4.4 pct

SEOUL, 21 Feb — South Korea planned to raise prices of natural gas used by households and industries by 4.4 percent on average this week as debts of the state-run gas supplier increased amid a hike in costs of materials, the economy ministry said on Wednesday.

Prices of natural gas for household heating and cooking will rise by 4.3 percent, while those for industrial purpose will be hiked by 4.6 percent, according to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy.

The hike will be effec-

tive from 22 February.

Korea Gas Corp (KOGAS), the state-run gas provider, was in a financial distress as the gas prices have been frozen since July 2012 to help stabilize consumer prices. KOGAS's debt-to-equity ratio increased to 397 percent last year from 348 percent a year before.

The ministry said the hike was made to reflect rising costs of materials and sustain financial healthiness of the gas supplier, forecasting that it will lift the monthly gas bill of each household by 1,127 won

(1.05 US dollar).

The Knowledge Economy Ministry approved a request from the state-run Korea Electric Power Corp (KEPCO) to hike electricity rates by an average 4 percent in early January. The move was estimated to lift the consumer price inflation by 0.04 percentage point and the producer price growth by 0.105 percentage point. The country's producer prices rebounded 0.2 percent in January from a month earlier after falling 0.3 percent in the prior month due to the hike in electricity prices.—Xinhua



Missile destroyer Harbin (R) sail close to the supply ship Weishanhu at South China Sea, on 20 Feb, 2013. The supply ship Weishanhu reinforced the missile destroyer Harbin and the frigate Mianyang on Wednesday with fuel, fresh water and other materials. The 14th naval squad, sent by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, departed Saturday from China to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters for escort missions. The fleet comprises three ships — the missile destroyer Harbin, the frigate Mianyang and the supply ship Weishanhu — carrying two helicopters and a 730-strong troop.—XINHUA

Vietnam ranks 7th worldwide in overseas remittances last year

HANOI, 21 Feb— Vietnam ranks 7th in the world in overseas remittances in 2012 when the country received over 10 billion US dollars, reported local Vietnam News on Wednesday quoting sources from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Since 1991, overseas remittances to Vietnam have contributed 60 percent to 70 percent of the country's foreign capital

inflows, which contributed to the national economic development, supported foreign exchange rate stability and increased foreign currency reserves, said the report.

According to the Vietnam State Commission for Overseas Vietnamese Affairs, the remittances were sent home by over 4 million Vietnamese people living in more than 100 countries and territories worldwide.

A large proportion of remittances came from 400,000 Vietnamese guest workers working mostly in Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, China's Taiwan, the Middle East, the United States and Europe.

Overseas remittances to Vietnam in 2012 hit a four-year record high, with an increase of over 10 percent year on year, reported the commission.

Xinhua

Staffs of the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) inspect a five-year-old female Asiatic black bear at Singapore Zoo in Singapore, on 20 Feb, 2013. Three bears exchanged from Xiangjiang Safari Park in Guangzhou, southern China are currently undergoing quarantine and will be introduced to audience at a new exhibit after the quarantine ends on 8 March.

XINHUA



ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (010)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (010) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (495)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (495) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (537)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (537) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Japanese industry minister Toshimitsu Motegi (R) and his Kazakh counterpart Asset Issekeshiev sign a joint statement in Tokyo on 19 Feb, 2013.— KYODO NEWS

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking applications from dynamic and highly motivated Myanmar nationals for the following vacancies with UNDP Yangon. Detailed terms of reference are available at the bulletin board at No. 6, Natmouk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon.

Functional Title	: National Project Manager/ Senior Economic Statistician
Grade	: SC-9
Type of Contract	: Service Contract
Duration of Assignment	: One year with the possible extension
Duty Station	: Based in Yangon (Frequently travel to Nay Pyi Taw and survey sites as required)

Competencies Required: Demonstrating/safeguarding ethics and integrity; Demonstrates corporate knowledge and sound judgment; self-development, initiative-taking; acting as a team player and facilitating team work; facilitating and encouraging open communication in the team, communicating effectively; creating synergies through self-control; managing conflict; learning and sharing knowledge and encourage the learning of others. Promoting learning and knowledge management/sharing is the responsibility of each staff member; informed and transparent decision making.

Qualifications: Master Degree in Applied Statistics, Development Studies, and Applied Economics or other relevant development master degree with at least minimum 2 years experience in survey design, price surveys; Knowledge and experience of project management and 1993/2008 System of National Account is highly desirable. Experience in project management, excellent knowledge and experience in large scale statistical survey design and analysis, experience in prices data collecting methods, expert user of database software such as Access and SPSS and relevant experience with government department and agencies. Fluency in both written and spoken English is a must. Female candidates are encouraged to apply. Candidates should clearly indicate the post title in their application, and should submit them together with complete P-11 Form. Applications should be addressed to Deputy Resident Representative (Operations) Attention: Human Resources Unit, No. 6, Natmouk Road, UNDP, Yangon or apply on line through application.mm@undp.org

Only those candidates in whose qualifications and experience the Organization has further interest will be contacted for subsequent interview(s). UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. UNDP regrets its inability to reply individual or attend to telephone queries on the advertised posts. **Closing Date: 11 March 2013**



Seafood company Rumi Japan on 19 Feb, 2013, holds a yellowtail tasting event for Israeli food industry officials at the official residence of the Japanese ambassador to Israel, serving a variety of dishes using the fatty white-fleshed fish, known as "hamachi" in Japan. The company has started exporting frozen yellowtail to Israel.

KYODO NEWS

Civilian casualties in Afghanistan drop for first time in six years

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Feb—Civilian casualties in Afghanistan's armed conflict decreased for the first time in six years, the United Nations said here on Tuesday, but attacks on women and children, and threats on perceived government supporters, are on the rise.

UN spokesman Martin Nesirky made the remarks at a daily news briefing here, citing the annual re-

port of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

The report, which was released on Tuesday, was compiled in coordination with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

"The report says that there was a 12 percent drop in civilian deaths last year,

compared with 2011," Nesirky said.

"The report says that the reduction in civilian casualties in 2012 was the result, among other things, of fewer civilian deaths and injuries from ground engagement among parties to the conflict, as well as a decline in suicide attacks and reduced numbers of aerial operations."

Xinhua

Bulgaria bombers not transit through Romania

BUCHAREST, 21 Feb—There are no elements or indications so far that the persons identified in the attack in Burgas, Bulgaria would have carried out preparatory activities in Romania, the Romanian Intelligence Service said on Tuesday.

The agency underlined

in a Press release that Romanian authorities have no legal means to act preventively in case of people who have no travel restrictions, or those who do not appear on the international lists with terrorism suspects and who transit Romania.

Bulgarian Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov

said in a recent interview that it is believed that three accused would have come to Romania from different parts of Europe and entered Bulgaria crossing on foot the border between Romania and Bulgaria a few days ahead of the anti-Israeli attack on 18 July, last year.

Xinhua



Former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori (C) is seen at Narita airport, near Tokyo, before his departure for Russia on 20 Feb, 2013. Mori will visit Russia as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's special envoy for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin, planned for the following day in Moscow.

KYODO NEWS

Horsemeat found in beef lasagna in Slovenia's supermarket

LJUBLJANA, 21 Feb—Slovenia has found horsemeat mixed up in beef lasagna sold in local supermarket, a senior government official told reporters here on Tuesday.

Following a recent horsemeat food contamination scandal in some European countries, Slovenian food security authorities have checked all products in different retailers that could potentially contain horsemeat.

Of all 29 products tested at the National Veterinary Institute, 28 tested negative for horsemeat, while one sample was found positive in the testing, said Jernej Drofenik, acting director general of the Food Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection Administration.

The sample in question is a 450-gram beef lasagna, manufactured by Trada, a company in Luxembourg, distributed by Croatian company Ledo, and found in local retailer Interspar, according to the official.

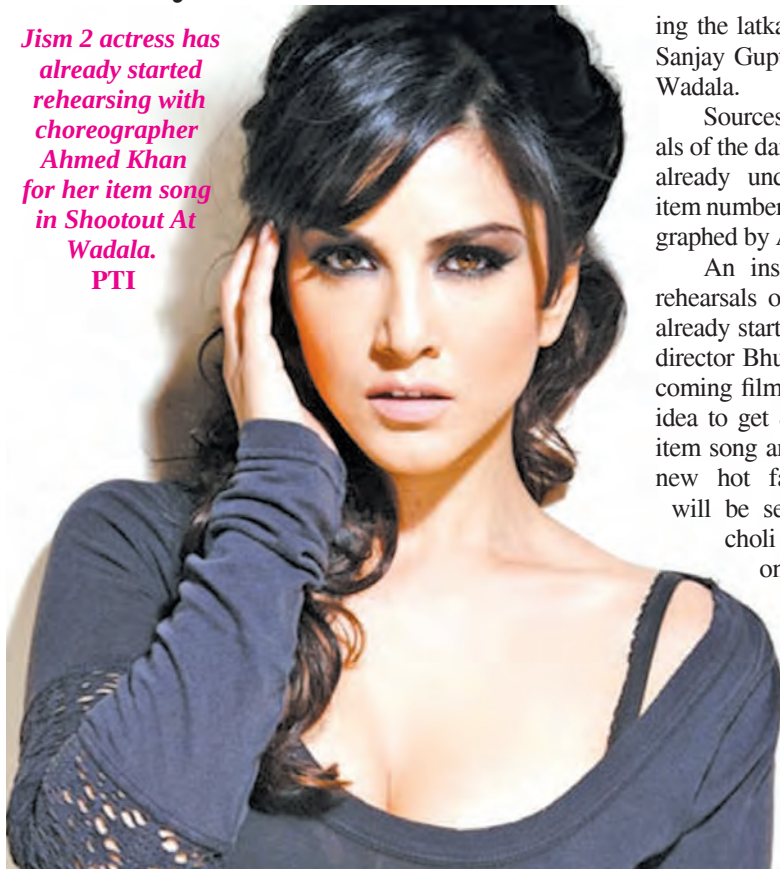
Further analyses are under way, he added.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Sunny Leone to do her first item number

Jism 2 actress has already started rehearsing with choreographer Ahmed Khan for her item song in Shootout At Wadala. PTI



MUMBAI, 21 Feb — Get ready to see Sunny Leone in her first ever Bollywood

item number. The film star, who set the mercury soaring in Jism 2, will be seeing do-

ing the latkas and jhatkas in Sanjay Gupta's Shootout At Wadala.

Sources say the rehearsals of the dance sequence are already underway and the item number is being choreographed by Ahmed Khan.

An insider says, "The rehearsals of the song have already started on the sets of director Bhushan Patel's upcoming film. It was Gupta's idea to get Sunny to do the item song and Ahmed is the new hot favourite. Sunny will be seen in a ghagra choli for the first time on screen."

The track will be shot with over 50 male dancers. Ahmed says, "I was impressed with Sanjay's idea. Sunny is quite an obedient student." As it is her first item song, it will be interesting to see her thumkas. — PTI

Oscars in Hollywood cliffhanger over Best Picture, Director

LOS ANGELES, 21 Feb — Sunday's Oscar ceremony is set for a cliffhanger ending after a topsy-turvy awards season that has left the two top prizes — Best Picture and Best Director — too close to call. With just days to go before the movie industry's highest honours are handed out on 24 February, awards watchers are keyed up for one of the most exciting nights in recent Academy Awards history. Despite entering the Oscar race with a leading 12 nominations in January, the front-runner Best Picture status of Steven Spielberg's presidential drama "Lincoln" has been undermined by a slew of awards picked up Ben Affleck's Iran hostage thriller "Argo." But an "Argo" win despite Affleck's omission from the Best Director shortlist would defy the conventional wisdom that says the Oscar

for Best Film usually brings a trophy for its director.

"Argo" would be the first movie to take home the statuette for Best Picture without its director winning even a nomination

saying what does it mean?" said Matt Atchity, editor in chief of movie review website Rotten Tomatoes. After beating "Lincoln" at the Golden Globes, Screen Actors Guild, directors, pro-



Ben Affleck in a scene from the film "Argo." REUTERS

ducers and writers guilds, "Argo" now has the edge in the Best Picture race.

"Even if 'Argo' wins for Best Picture, which is kind of a foregone conclusion at this point, it still feels exciting because 'Argo' has managed to keep this underdog status even though it has been winning every award," Dave Karger, chief correspondent for Fandango.com told Reuters.

Reuters

128 designers to participate at upcoming WIFW 2013

NEW DELHI, 21 Feb — About 128 designers, including leading and upcoming, are set to take part in the autumn-winter 2013 edition of the Wills Lifestyle India Fashion Week.

The five-day fashion event will be held from 13 to 17 March, with designers showing their collections through a total of 32 shows.—PTI



Paul McCartney tops Bonnaroo music festival lineup

NASHVILLE, (Tenn), 21 Feb — Paul McCartney will perform at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Tennessee in June along with Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, Mumford & Sons, Bjork and Wilco, festival organizers said on Tuesday.

"Top to bottom, this is one of the strongest lineups we have ever had," Bonnaroo spokesman Jeff Cuellar said in an interview. "Looking at the festival landscape out there ... no other American festival has Mumford & Sons, Paul McCartney and Bjork all under one roof." Bonnaroo is among



Musician Paul McCartney performs during the "12-12-12" benefit concert for victims of Superstorm Sandy at Madison Square Garden in New York, on 13 Dec, 2012. —REUTERS

the top live music gatherings of the year, much like the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in

California and the Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary

porary Performing Arts in Britain. Up to 100,000 fans flock to the annual festival in Manchester, Tennessee, to see singers, comedians, art and films. The 2013 concert lineup announced on Tuesday also included R Kelly, Wu-Tang Clan, David Byrne & St Vincent, ZZ Top, "Weird Al" Yankovic, Gov't Mule and Dwight Yoakam. Tickets for the festival go on sale at 23 February on bonnaroo.com.

Reuters



"Slumdog Millionaire" star Freida Pinto

Freida Pinto to host pre Oscar bash

LOS ANGELES, 21 Feb — "Slumdog Millionaire" star Freida Pinto will host a special pre Oscar party where she will promote the issue of girl child education.

A week-long celebration leading up to the Academy Awards by Vanity Fair magazine is one of the most attended and sought after celebratory events and the 28-year-old beauty is the first Indian origin actress to host the event. — PTI

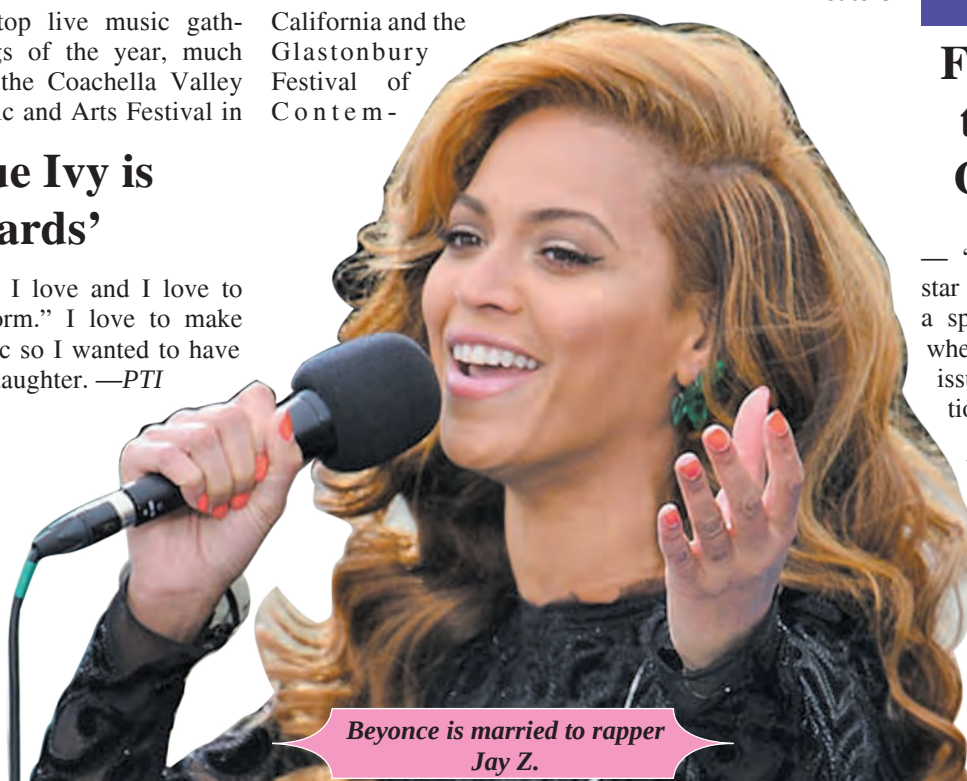
Beyonce reveals baby Blue Ivy is 'already reading flashcards'

LONDON, 21 Feb — Pop star Beyonce has revealed that her 13-months old daughter Blue Ivy is already reading 'scratch-cards'. "She's very smart. She's already reading flashcards. She's beautiful," Beyonce told chatshow host Oprah Winfrey. The singer made these revelations about her intimate life, during her interview to promote her documentary "Life Is But A Dream", the Daily Mail reported. Beyonce also opened up about

the miscarriage she suffered prior to falling pregnant with Blue Ivy. "It was the saddest thing I've ever been through," she said.

Music megastar also talked to Oprah about the joys of becoming a mother for the first time. She said, "It's what I'm most proud of and it just made everything make sense to me. I couldn't imagine my life if I did not have my daughter." "I definitely want another child but it was also important for me to do

what I love and I love to perform." I love to make music so I wanted to have my daughter. —PTI



Beyonce is married to rapper Jay Z.

SPORTS

Weary Marino bids farewell to WTA and cyber-bullies



Rebecca Marino of Canada

TORONTO, 21 Feb—Canada's Rebecca Marino, a rising star in women's tennis,

stepped away from the sport in search of a normal life on Wednesday, weary of battling depression and cyber-bullies.

Ranked number 38 in the world two years ago, the 22-year-old admitted she had long suffered from depression and was no longer willing to make the sacrifices necessary to reach the top.

"After thinking long and hard, I do not have the passion or enjoyment to drive myself to the level I would like to be at in professional tennis," Marino explained in a conference call. "I have previously been number 38 on the WTA singles rankings so I realize the amount of work and sacrifices that have to be put in and at this point I do not think it is worth sacrificing my happiness. I feel there is more to life than just tennis."

Big and powerful, Marino appeared destined for a promising career on the WTA circuit and under-

scored her potential in a hard fought second round clash with Venus Williams at the 2010 US Open. "Now I know what it's like to play myself," Williams told reporters after winning the match 7-6, 6-3. The following season, Marino backed up that potential by reaching her first career WTA final in Memphis and advancing to the third round of the French Open. But the climb up the rankings had already begun to take its toll on the Canadian and in February 2012 she took a seven month break from the sport citing mental and physical fatigue.—Reuters

Rival countries join forces in bid to reverse IOC decision

TEHRAN, 21 Feb—Officials from 10 of the world's top wrestling nations including Japan met on Wednesday in Iran in a bid to reverse the International Olympic Committee's decision to drop wrestling from the 2020 Games, *The Associated Press* reported.

Delegations from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, the United States, Russia and Turkey will gather to discuss how to reverse the IOC's decision, the report said.



International wrestling officials join hands in Teheran on 20 Feb, 2013. They held a meeting in the Iranian capital on the sidelines of the Greco-Roman wrestling World Cup, in a bid to reverse the International Olympic Committee's decision to drop wrestling from the 2020 Games.

KYODO NEWS

US freestyle coach Zeke Jones said those countries were chosen because they finished in the top 10 in the freestyle competition at the 2011 world championships, the last time team scores were held at a major international meet, according to the AP.

Kyodo News

Neymar's agent hits out at Pele

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb—The agent of Brazil starlet Neymar has accused Pele of hypocrisy and jealousy after the football legend's stinging attack on the 21-year-old's attitude. In a controversial news-



Neymar

paper interview published on Wednesday, Pele said Neymar had become an "ordinary player" for Brazil's

national team. He added the striker needed to be more of a team player and focus less on his haircut and public image.



Neymar's representative Wagner Ribeiro said Pele had no right to comment on the star's lifestyle. "He shouldn't stick his nose in other people's personal lives, because his

own is a mess," Ribeiro said. "He should worry about taking care of his grandsons instead of talking about Neymar's life. He has never been affectionate with them. This is jealousy. He should look after his own family."

Ribeiro said the three-

time World Cup winner would not be as good as Neymar if he played in the current era. "If Pele played today he would be inferior to Neymar because in his era defenders were slow and players' physical conditions were different. That's why he was Pele. Today the defenders fly and Neymar still manages to be one of the best in the world."

Normally a frequent user of social media, Neymar maintained his silence on Wednesday amid a gathering media storm.

His Santos teammate, Arouca, was charged with fielding questions from a throng of journalists at the club's training base. "Pele has his opinion, just like everybody else," Arouca said. "Neymar is mature enough to deal with it and overcome it."

Xinhua

Sabres fire head coach Ruff after 16 years in job

NEW YORK, 21 Feb —Lindy Ruff's long run as head coach of the Buffalo Sabres came to an end on Wednesday when the National Hockey League (NHL) team fired him after 16 years at the helm. Ron Rolston, coach of the Rochester Americans, Buffalo's American Hockey League affiliate, will serve as interim coach of the NHL team for the rest of the season starting with Thursday's game against Toronto, general manager Darcy Regier said.

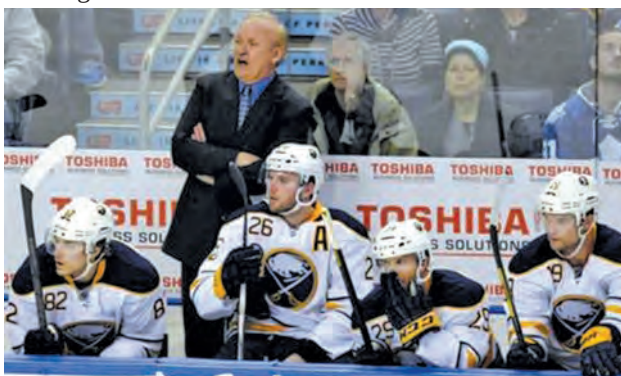
Regier said allowing Rolston to coach the rest of the season "will provide us and him the opportunity to get to know each other, and if things go well, he'll have the opportunity to become the head coach." The moves followed a loss to the Win-

nipeg Jets on Tuesday that left the Sabres with a 6-10-1 mark and at the bottom of the Northeast Division with 13 points. Ruff, who also played most of his NHL career in Buffalo, began coaching the Sabres in 1997-98 and was the longest-tenured coach in

the league.

"The hockey world knows how I and the entire Buffalo Sabres organization feel about Lindy Ruff not only as a coach but also as a person," Sabres owner Terry Pegula said in a statement.

Reuters



Buffalo Sabres coach Lindy Ruff watches from the bench during the second period of their NHL hockey game against the Toronto Maple Leafs in Buffalo, New York on 29 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Australia avenge Olympic defeat, Hammer wins fifth title

MINSK, 21 Feb—Australia got a measure of revenge for losing the Olympic gold to Britain by beating their arch-rivals in the men's team pursuit final at the world track cycling championships on Wednesday.

The Australian quartet of Glenn O'Shea, Alexander Edmondson, Michael Hepburn and Alexander Morgan completed the

4,000 metres at the wooden velodrome in the Belarus capital in three minutes 56.751 seconds to clinch the gold medal.

However, the result was well short of the world record of 3:51.659, set by the British at the London Games last August. Britain only had two riders, Steven Burke and Ed Clancy, returning from London, with newcomers Samuel Harrison and Andrew Tennant replacing Geraint Thomas and Peter Kennaugh. The new quartet could only manage the time of 4:00.967 in the final.

Denmark beat Spain in the consolation final to win

the bronze in 3:59.821. Earlier, American Sarah Hammer won her fifth



Sarah Hammer of the US rides to win the gold medal during the women's individual pursuit final at the 2013 UCI Track Cycling World Championships in Minsk on 20 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

world title in the women's individual pursuit over 3,000 metres while France's Francois Pervis clinched his first in another non-Olympic event — the men's one kilometre time trial. — Reuters

Grizzlies edge Raptors to extend win streak

Toronto Raptors Amir Johnson (15) dunks the ball near Memphis Grizzlies Marc Gasol (33) during the first half of their NBA basketball game in Toronto, on 20 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

TORONTO, 21 Feb—The Memphis Grizzlies, playing against Rudy Gay for the first time since trading their top scorer to Toronto, scored an 88-82 win over the

Raptors on Wednesday.

The Grizzlies (35-18) limited Gay to 13 points, one of his lowest outings since joining Toronto last month, en route to a fifth straight victory that strengthens their bid for homecourt advantage in the playoffs.

Zach Randolph had a team-high 17 points for the



Grizzlies, who tightened their grip on fourth place in the NBA's Western Conference.

A fierce fourth-quarter rally was not enough to give the Raptors (22-33) their first six-game winning streak since 2009. Toronto were limited to 36.6 percent shooting in the loss.—Reuters

GENERAL

Motor cycle thief caught in Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 21 Feb — Motor cycle thief was caught at Myineyadanar Market in Mawlamyine by SIP Khin Maung Zaw of Myoma police station.

The fugitive was Aung Htet(a) Zar Ni Aung from Bo Myat Tun street Bo Tun Zan ward Dawbon Township. He was formally convicted with panel code 379(bicycle) and got seven years sentence in prison.

Kyemon



Federer plays big brother to village children

GOVHU, (South Africa), 21 Feb—"Big brother Roger," as the village schoolteachers call him, smiles at the small children and asks them to guess which sport he plays.

Most of the bright-eyed three-year-olds have no idea who their visitor is but one, quicker than the rest, pipes up: "You play tennis!". Delighted, Roger Federer turns his palms up to reveal a badly calloused right hand punished by 23



Roger Federer of Switzerland attends a news conference after he was defeated in his men's singles semi-final match by Andy Murray of Britain at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 26 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

years of holding a racquet, showing the children the difference from the smoother left one.

There are few parts of the world where the man considered as the greatest ever tennis player and holder of a record 17 grand slam titles is not instantly recognized.

Here, in rural South Africa where he is visiting one of the village pre-schools his charitable foundation supports, the Swiss is unfamiliar to the children but commands their attention and curiosity.

In a small, cool, classroom, the toddlers sheltering from the heat stand with heads tipped upwards and eyes fixed on the towering champion as he hits a tennis ball against a wall, demonstrating how to swing a racquet.

Federer looks composed in the sweltering heat of Limpopo province, on the border with Zimbabwe, even though his bright red shirt, wet with sweat by noon, gives him away.

Deep in the densely vegetated village some 20 kilometres from the nearest paved road, the ground is parched and dust flies into the air as brightly-costumed Venda women dance to entertain their world-famous guest. "My heart is in South Africa, through my mum," Federer, the son of a Swiss father and a South African mother, told Reuters.

"My mum being from here, me spending a lot of time here as well, I feel most connected to this part of the world." The Roger Federer Foundation supports 40 pre-schools in the area and spends over \$3 million a year on educational projects in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ethiopia and Federer's home country Switzerland.

Over 50,000 children benefited from the foundation's efforts in 2012 to improve quality education in pre-schools and primary schools.

Reuters

Serena pulls out from Dubai with back injury

DUBAI, 21 Feb—Serena Williams withdrew from the Dubai Championships because of a lower back injury just minutes before she was due on court for a second round match against Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli on Wednesday.

The American's withdrawal means that the world's two best players are both out of the tournament after Victoria Azarenka, who beat Williams in the Qatar Open final on Sunday, also pulled out earlier in the week with a foot injury. Williams, the newly installed world number one, aims to return

at the Sony Ericsson Open, which starts in Miami on 18 March. "I've just had some back problems the past couple weeks," Williams told a hastily arranged Press conference.

"I thought it would get better as the week went on but it didn't. I don't want to keep

Serena Williams of the US listens during a news conference at the WTA Dubai Tennis Championships in Dubai on 20 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

pushing it and make it worse." Williams, 31, said her back also troubled her in last week's Qatar Open.

"It's not at a level where I can compete where I feel comfortable to not make it worse," said Williams,



MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-2-13 09:30 am ~ 23-2-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
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- * Today Popular Fancy
- * News
- * Record Album
- * News
- * Those who never give up (Part-I)
- * News
- * Myanmar Customs & Naming System
- * News
- * Cross the Roads from Zebra Crossing
- * Providing Safe Life Support to Children
- * News
- * "Hiker's Journey" Episode-6 (Yangon City) (Part-2)
- * Chinese Lion Dance
- * News
- * IWT....Getting Ready for the People and the Country (Part-2)
- * News
- * 2nd Anniversary of Taw Win Center & Award Giving Ceremony
- * Myanmar Movies & People's Voice
- * Myanmar Movies "Happy Birthday"

Myanmar TV

(22-2-2013, Friday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 7:00 am | Examination (Myanmar) |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw | 5:30 pm |
| 7:25 am | 13. India Drama Series |
| 2. Health Programme | 6:00 pm |
| 7:30 am | 14. Evening News |
| 3. Morning News | 6:15 pm |
| 7:40 am | 15. Weather Report |
| 4. International News | 6:20 pm |
| 7:55 am | 16. Amazing World |
| 5. Road to 27th SEA Games | 6:50 pm |
| 8:30 am | 17. TV Drama Series |
| 6. Musical Programme | 7:00 pm |
| 8:40 am | 18. News |
| 7. Teleplay | 7:10 pm |
| 4:00 pm | 19. TV Drama Series |
| 8. Opening Song | 8:00 pm |
| 4:05 pm | 20. News |
| 9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit | 21. People Talks |
| 4:10 pm | 22. Documentary |
| 10. Myanmar Language | 23. Golden Music Of Old Stars |
| 4:25 pm | 10:00 pm |
| 11. Song of National Races | 24. Nostalgia to Myanmar Cultural Arts |
| 4:30 pm | |
| 12. 2013 University Entrance | |

Pele urges Neymar to choose Barcelona over Man City

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb—Brazil legend Pele has urged starlet Neymar to choose Barcelona over a move to Manchester City or Real Madrid. His comments followed reports the Premier League outfit was preparing a bid to offer Neymar's club Santos 55 million British pounds to sign the striker in the European summer. Usually a staunch supporter of Neymar's decision to resist offers from European



Brazil legend Pele

clubs, Pele claimed the 21-year-old's lack of top-level experience had made him a "regular player" for the Selecao.

"He is an excellent player but he doesn't have any experience outside Brazil," the three-time World Cup winner told Estado de S. Paulo on Wednesday. "In every game he plays outside Brazil, he doesn't do well. Everybody thinks Neymar can solve the Selecao's problems, but he isn't ready for that burden. We have a great deal of confidence in him but he has become a regular player for the national team."

When asked which

European club would be the ideal destination for Neymar, Pele replied: "The game is tougher in England, Italy and Germany because the referees usually let play go on. Barcelona would be ideal for him. Santos need him and for that reason I don't think he should leave but if he must go it should be to Barcelona." The 72-year-old said Neymar's long list of off-field commitments and celebrity status in Brazil have affected his form.

Neymar's face can be seen on magazine covers, billboards and television commercials across the South America's biggest country.—Reuters

Only when there is an increase in trade volume, will national development undertakings be realized through income tax: Vice-President



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called for heightening awareness of environmental conservation in meeting with officials at the meeting hall

of the supervisory committee of establishment of Hpa-an Industrial Zone in Kayin State yesterday.

On his arrival at Myawady Trade Zone

where he met with officials, responsible persons of border trade association and townselders, the Vice-President stressed the need of mass participation in the fight

against illegal trade while six mobile teams were formed for elimination of illegal trade. Only when there is an increase in trade volume, will national development

undertakings be realized through income tax.

He stressed the need to ensure the legitimacy of border trade for development of border regions, saying that only remarkable progress in businesses could generate national income, thereby contributing towards national development.

Next, the Vice-President visited Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge and inspected functioning of staff of Myanmar border checkpoint. Then he proceeded to Myawady district hospital where he comforted patients.

In meeting with rectors, faculty members and students of Hpa-an University, University of Computer Science (Hpa-an), University of Technology (Hpa-an) and Institut of Education (Hpa-an) at Hpa-an University, the Vice-President called on faculty members to be proficient in their subjects as they are to turn out well-educated youths. Only when

qualified educated youths emerge, will the nation stand tall among the world nations. He called for competence in every sector as the nation has to face challenges of free flow of skilled workers, investment and information in 2015 when ASEAN Community is realized. He gave an account of yearly increased educational budget and cooperation with international universities. He assured those present of government's assistances to fulfillment of requirements.

Next, the Vice-President observed subject-wise publications, theses of faculty members and students and inspected construction of two three-storey buildings for the university.

On his arrival at Hpa-an Township people's hospital, he oversaw construction of three-storey building.

The Vice-President left Hpa-an by helicopter and arrived back in Yangon in the evening.

MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister signs MoU with US Ambassador



The Signing Ceremony of the Letter of Agreement on Cooperation with Counter-Narcotic Agencies between Myanmar and USA in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The Signing Ceremony of the Letter of Agreement on Cooperation with Counter-Narcotic Agencies

establishing the Opium Yield Survey and Other Purposes between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

and the Government of the United States of America was held, here, today.

The letter of Agreement was signed by U Wunna

Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Mr. Derek J. Mitchell, Ambassador of the United States of America to Myanmar on behalf of their respective governments.

By this agreement, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of United States of America will carry out a joint opium yield survey in early 2013 and re-establish channels of cooperation on counter-narcotics issues as a means of assisting law enforcement entities of Myanmar in addressing the production and trafficking of opium, and combat transnational crime.

MNA

This is another step for overall relationship: US Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—NLM conducted a short interview with US Ambassador Mr. Derek J. Mitchell, Police Col Myint Thein of CCDAC and Director U Htin Lin of Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw where the Letter of Agreement on Cooperation with Counternarcotics Agencies Establishing the

Opium Yield Survey and other purposes between the Myanmar and US governments was signed today.

NLM: Excellency, since we have established understating and peace agreements with our ethnic minorities what do you think the impact will be on our anti-drug drive?

DJM: Well, clearly, I think the fact that we

are going to be working together again after many years we were not working on counternarcotics. This is another step for overall relationships. We're very pleased for that. I am grateful for the foreign ministry and others with assistances here. This is another great day and another great step in our ever emerging negotiation and cooperation.

NLM: What is your

future programme with regard to the implementation process?

DJM: Well, take it to established time, I think next week the survey will start and we'll engage each other on the ground and then we will see what the next step will be. I think these things are seasonal because whether we will have to do this now or probably the next stage will be next year. It is part of the

overall momentum in the relationship. So we will see what will come up after this.

NLM: Your comments on today's auspicious ceremony.

DJM: I am just very pleased, very pleased and grateful for the continued partnership and rebuilding up the relationship.

NLM: Can you tell me the possible organizations that you are counting on

for the 2013 opium yield survey?

MT: As for an opium yield survey system, Myanmar is going to cooperate with the US government. Representatives of the CCDAC of the Myanmar government, the Armed Forces, the agriculture enterprise, and anti-narcotics special squad will be the participants.

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