

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to King of Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2013, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Indian Ambassador



NAY PYI TAW, 22 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 Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham at the Presidential Palace, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the Vice-

President were Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and officials concerned.

During the meeting, the Indian Ambassador expressed words of thanks for the help of the Union government, the people and officials of the ministries during his tour of duty.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party pose for documentary photo together with Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. V.S Seshadri.—MNA

Significant night temperatures (22-2-2013)

Putao	6°C
Loilem	6°C
Haka	7°C

Industrialists voice their concerns about sustainability of industrial zones

A shortage of electricity happens to Myanmar in summer not because of growing electricity consumption as a result of a change in lifestyle of Myanmar civil society but because of continuing reliance on the system of generating electricity from hydropower plants as a developing country.

Although it is likely to be a nationwide electricity demand in March, April and May 2013, needing nearly 2060 megawatts, the Ministry of Electric Power is taking necessary measures not to be a reoccurrence of a dearth of electricity occurred in last summer. According to recent reports, more electricity are being delivered to the public while factories and plants of industrial zones which are divided into two groups have to enjoy electricity supply on alternative five

hours like a method used in last summer.

I have a chance to make a roundtable discussion with responsible persons of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone management committee on productivity of the industrial zone based on limited amount of electricity supply and challenges they have to withstand for sustainability of industrial zones.

U Myat Thin Aung (Chairman of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone management committee)

Starting from 1 January, industrial zones are currently not allowed the use of electricity from 4 to 11 pm. The factory which violates the rule will be earmarked for closure. Although electricity supply is in progress in the remaining hours, it is not on a regular basis.

It was very convenient to have 24-hour electricity in rainy season. There was



U Myat Thin Aung, Chairman of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone Management Committee

only four months with full electricity throughout many years ago. Now there is a drop in electricity supply. So we have to reduce our productivity, maintaining workforce. According to the market demand, diesel-powered generators are to be used. There has been a rise in production cost.

The main thing I would like to say is to deliver electricity to the industrial

zones for nine hours in daytime. It means nine out of 24 hours.

The public will be provided with electricity in the remaining 15 hours. We do not want to ask for 24-hour electricity supply. Only nine-hour electricity supply in daytime is required the whole year. We want to have full electricity for nine hours in succession.

If so, we will be okay to run our business in an exact way. I would like to say the far-reaching impact of electricity. Some factories saw temporary closures when labour issues arose in the previous rainy season. At that time, we have full electricity thanks to the emergence of new hydroelectric project.

It was convenient for factories to produce more goods. Thanks to cost efficiency in production, a pay increase could be made to a certain extent

for workers who were demanding. Working time after 5 pm was extended to 8 or 9 pm. Workers were happy when they did about for four hours' overtime a day and got overtime pay.

Their demand on pay rise meets a success.

Overtime is impossible



Dr Khin Maung Oo, Committee General Secretary

when the electricity is off. If we are asked to run the business with the use of diesel, diesel price will go up four times.

There will be an increase

in energy consumption for production compared with the world nations'. The advantage of the use of electricity is cost efficiency, thereby contributing towards low price in the market. So, we need nine-hour electricity supply now.

It will be okay not only for us but also for workers to work overtime if we have electricity from 7 am to 10 pm when the time comes to supply electricity as it is expected.

The next thing I would like to say is about the experience of South Korea where there are five different rates for one unit of electricity. We have two kinds of electricity bill. One is for the public and another is for the businessmen. It is complete opposite there. Industrial zones are allowed to enjoy low price. There are different rates for

(See page 9)

LOCAL NEWS

Cash assistance for peace group members and their families in Hpa-an



NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin accompanied by the Kayin State Social Affairs minister visited a nursery school in Hpa-an and met with officials at Kayin State social Affairs department on 15 February.

Next, the Union minister attended the ceremony to assist cash for social organizations at Hill Region Missionary Youth Development Centre in ward-5. She said that the ministry provided social organizations the far and wide of the nation with K 547.8 million this year, vowing to make more assistance for the associations in the next year.

Then the Union minister visited the office of Kayin State Relief and Resettlement Department

where she inspected relief aid warehouse.

On 16 February, the Union minister together with Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min attended the cash and kind donation ceremony at Zweekabin Hall in Hpa-an. The Union minister explained that the government had poured millions into the rehabilitation works for Rakhine State and Kachin State as a drive for rural region development and poverty alleviation scheme initiated by the President. Peace groups and their families would be provided with K 500 million as a drive for peace-making implementation process in Kayin State. Victims of tornado-hit Naungkyan village would also be provided with cash and

kind, he added. She assured that cooperation in harmony could be made by ministries concerned, Kayin State government, UN agencies and INGOs and NGOs.

In the afternoon, the Union minister visited Mon State Social Welfare Department, nursery schools, vocational training school and youth centre in Mawlamyine.

On 17 February, the Union minister attended the ceremony to present cash assistance to social organizations at Taungwaing Home for the Aged in Mawlamyine and oversaw relief aid warehouse of Mon State Relief and Resettlement Department.

On 18 February, the Union minister addressed the annual meeting of Day Care Centre held at Myanmar Medical Association (Central) on Theinbyu street in Yangon.

MNA

Overtaken light truck hurts driver near 8th-Mile Junction in Yangon



YANGON, 22 Feb — The road accident happened to a light truck driven by U Saw Ta Lin, electrical staff, of Mayangon Township, causing it overturned

Yan Naing Oo and Zin Min Aung — led by coach U Than Maung to Tokyo of Japan to be able to take a joint training from 1 to 31 March.

Kyemon

Pyinmana gets new tarred streets



NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — The ceremony to open new tarred streets was held at Shwechi 4th street, U Bwar street and Yonegyi street in Pyinmana on 18 February.

First, an official gave an account of newly-built tarred streets and a local spoke words of thanks.

Next, Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Myint Maung Than, Pyinmana Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Hla Myint Oo and member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Myo Aung formally opened the new

tarred streets. Then they strolled along the streets.

Upgrading of streets were carried out, spending K 65 million for 3650 feet long Shwechi 4th street, K 16.3 million for the 1600

feet long U Bwar street and K 31.1 million for 1800 feet long Yonegyi street. Thanks to the newly-upgraded tarred streets, local people will be able to use the new streets the whole year round. —Kyemon

Bamboo truck accident claims three lives in Pyu Township

PYU, 22 Feb — A vehicle carrying bamboos plunged down the embankment and overturned near Taungkalat pagoda in field No (11) of Kwan protected forest in Nyaungbintha region of Pyu Township in Bago Region at about 10 pm on 11 February, causing three dead and three wounded.

The six-wheeled truck

driven by U Me Lay plunged down the embankment while driving along a downward path of Bago mountain ranges to Pyu. Ko Min, 31, Ko Chit Lwin, 36, Ko Chit Thein, 42, were killed in the fatal car accident. The other three suffered injuries and they were transported to Pyu Township Hospital.

Kyemon

Stimulant tablets seized in Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 22 Feb — Stimulant tablets were seized in Mawlamyine on 15 February.

Police Inspector Maung Maung Kyaw of Mon State Police Commander Office and party seized 170 WY

stimulant tablets, a handset and K22300 while conducting a search of Myo Thura Naung (a) Naung Naung, 31, on a pavement near Strand Hotel in Mayangon ward in Mawlamyine.

Kyemon

Head-on collision claims two lives on motorbike in Heho

HEHO, 22 Feb — A head-on collision between a bus and a motorbike occurred in Heho of Shan State (South). The crash claimed lives of two men on the motorbike.

The motorbike driven by U Mya Hmwe together with his companion collided head-on with a Taunggyi-

Mandalay express bus of Shwetaungyoe bus line on the motorway near Kantali monastery in Nankon ward of Heho at about 7.30 pm on 18 February. Police opened a case about the road accident in which two men were pronounced dead.

Kyemon

Cartoon show to mark 111th birthday of cartoonist U Ba Gyan in Nyaungdon

NYAUNGDON, 22 Feb — In commemoration of the 111th birthday of cartoonist Alinkar Kyawswa U Ba Gyan, a cartoon show and literary talks will be conducted in the compound of Atula Marazein Buddha Image in Nyaungdon, birthplace of the late cartoonist, of Ayeyawady Region on 22 and 23 February.

Movie stars and artists — Director Academy Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin, Academy Wai Lu Kyaw, Academy May Thinzar Oo, actor Aye Yar, scriptwriter Su Aw Chal, Nyaungdon Htay Win, artist Win Myint Moe, poet Tint Lwin Oo (Institute of Economics) and Pantaya Htay Htay Win who were born in Nyaungdon — will

contribute their star powers in the commemorative event. To mark the 111th birthday of Sayagyi U Ba Gyan, 111 cartoons out of his works will be on display at the show.

Artist Hla Tin Win (Win Pa), writer Maung Tha Cho and Cartoonist Win Aung will give literary talks on 23 February.

Kyemon

Myanmar Judo athletes in intensive training for XXVII SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaug Htaik spoke words of encouragement in meeting with Judo athletes who are receiving intensive training for the XXVII SEA Games at Training Centre-2 in Lewe yesterday.

The deputy minister called on them to make more efforts in training sessions, keeping high spirit, to be able to achieve success in the upcoming event. Plans are underway to send a five-member Myanmar Judo athletes — Kat Kyin Paung, Hein Latt Zaw, Thura Zaw,



WORLD

Another Republican senator backs Hagel for Pentagon chief



Former US Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) testifies during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on his nomination to be Defence Secretary, on Capitol Hill in Washington, on 31 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb —Chuck Hagel's path to confirmation as President Barack Obama's new secretary of defence became more secure on Thursday when Republican Senator Richard Shelby said he would support the nomination. Shelby joined almost every other Republican senator a week ago in delaying a vote on confirming Hagel in order to allow colleagues more time to examine Hagel's record, said spokesman Jonathan Graffeo.

The White House said it still supported Hagel and expected he would be

confirmed. The Senate is expected to vote next week.

Shelby's support for Hagel was first reported by the *Decatur Daily* newspaper. "He's probably as good as we're going to get," he told the *Alabama paper*. Democrats control 55 votes in the 100-member Senate, and none has come out against Hagel. While he has long looked likely to garner the 51 votes he needs, his backers feel it will strengthen him as Pentagon chief to have as much bipartisan support as possible. Hagel would succeed Leon Panetta as defence secretary.

Many Republicans have fiercely opposed Hagel's nomination as civilian chief at the Pentagon since it was announced on 7 January.

The White House blasted what it called continued political posturing by Republicans.

"We firmly believe that Senator Hagel will be confirmed, but the waste of time is of consequence," White House spokesman Jay Carney said at his daily news briefing.

"There are 66,000 men and women in uniform in Afghanistan and we need our new secretary of defence on the job to be part of the significant decisions that have to be made as we bring that war to a responsible end," he said.

Many of the 15 senators who signed the letter have been among Hagel's most vocal opponents. They included half of the 12 Republicans on the Senate armed services panel — James Inhofe, the top Republican on the committee, as well as Lindsey Graham, Roger Wicker, David Vitter, Ted Cruz and Mike Lee.

Reuters

France's Hollande wins Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize

PARIS, 22 Feb — French President Francois Hollande has been awarded the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize "for his valuable contribution to peace and stability in Africa," the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said on Thursday.

"Having assessed the dangers and the repercussions of the

situation on Africa, and on Mali in particular, as well as on the rest of the world, the Jury appreciated the solidarity shown by France to the peoples of Africa," Joaquim Chissano, the president of the Jury said.

"The Jury therefore decided to award the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize to Mr Francois Hollande, President of the French Republic, for his

great contribution to peace and stability in Africa," added Mozambique's former head of state.

Created in 1989, Felix-Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize, worth 150,000 US dollars, aimed at paying tribute to efforts made either by individuals or institutions to promote and restore peace in conformity with UNESCO charter.

The award ceremony

French, Malian forces fight rebels in Gao

GAO, (Mali) 22 Feb — French and Malian troops fought Islamists on the streets of Gao and a car bomb exploded in Kidal on Thursday, as fighting showed little sign of abating weeks before France plans to start withdrawing some forces.

Reuters reporters in Gao in the country's desert north said French and Malian forces fired at the mayor's office with heavy machineguns after Islamists were reported to have infiltrated the Niger River town during a night of explosions and gunfire.

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told a news conference in Brussels that Gao was back under control after clashes earlier in the day.

"Malian troops supported by French soldiers killed five jihadists and the situation is back to normal," he said.

French troops dispatched to root out rebels with links to al Qaeda swiftly retook northern towns last month. But they now risk being bogged down in a guerrilla conflict as they try to help Mali's

weak army counter bombings and raids.

"There was an infiltration by Islamists overnight and there is shooting all over the place," Sadou Harouna Diallo, Gao's mayor, told Reuters by telephone earlier in the day,



A Malian soldier runs past smoke from a petrol station on fire during fighting with rebels in Gao on 21 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

saying he was not in his office at the time.

French troops in armoured vehicles later joined the battle as it spilled out into the warren of sandy streets, where, two weeks ago, they also fought for hours against Islamists who had infiltrated the town via the nearby river.

Helicopters clattered

over the mayor's office, while a nearby local government office and petrol station was on fire.

A Gao resident said he heard an explosion and then saw a Malian military vehicle on fire in a nearby street.

Residents reported a bomb in the east of Kidal on Thursday.

"It was a car bomb that exploded in a garage," said one resident who went to the scene but asked not to be named.

"The driver and another man were killed. Two other people were injured," he added.

Reuters

Egypt parliamentary elections to begin on 28 April

CAIRO, 22 Feb — Egyptian parliamentary elections will begin on 28 April and be held on four stages, Ahram online reported on Thursday.

Earlier in the day, the Shura Council (upper house of the parliament), which temporarily holds legislative power, endorsed an amendment referred by the constitutional court over the parliamentary election law.

The amendment came after the constitutional court on Monday had rejected the parliamentary election law, deeming some of its articles as "unconstitutional."

Egypt's lower house of parliament was dissolved last year due to unconstitutionality of its vote. The Shura Council will hold full legislative authority until the lower house of the parliament is elected.

Xinhua



French President Francois Hollande

of the peace diploma and the laureate." the statement said.

Xinhua

Czech PM advocates for close partnership with Germany's Bavaria

MUNICH, 22 Feb — Czech Prime Minister Petr Necas advocated here on Thursday for a close partnership between Czech Republic and south German State Bavaria, expressing regret at wrongs caused by the post-war transfer of Sudeten Germans at the same time.

The common past obliged both sides to work for a common future, Necas said in his speech in the Bavarian parliament.

In addition, Necas

mentioned the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans after the Second World War. He regretted that innocent people suffered a lot of sorrows and injustice.

On the decrees issued by the then President Edvard Benes, about 2.5 million Germans were transferred from the then Czechoslovakia, mainly the border regions Sudetenland, after the Second World War and their properties were confiscated.

Xinhua

UN chief, Greek FM meet on renewed talks on major issues

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday met with Dimitris Avramopoulos, the foreign minister of Greece, and the two discussed the prospects for renewed negotiations to "find a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus" and other long-standing issues concerned with Greece.

During the meeting, Ban and the visiting foreign minister "exchanged views on the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and also focused on prospects for renewed negotiations to find a comprehensive

settlement in Cyprus and to resolve the Greece-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 'name' dispute," UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters here. "The Secretary-General underlined the importance of accelerating progress in both processes and reiterated his personal commitment to that end," Nesirky said.

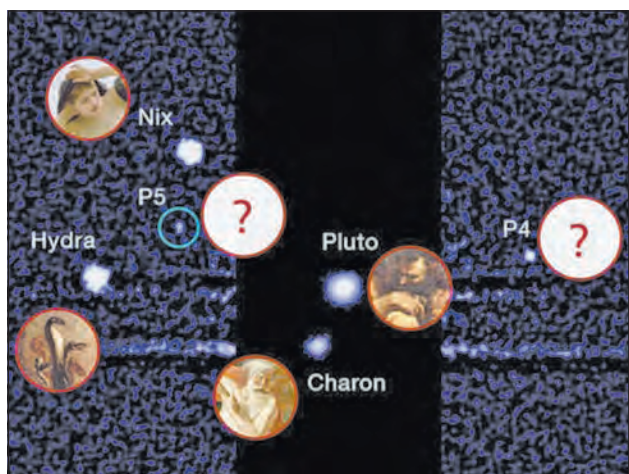
The United Nations has been making great efforts to accelerate the negotiations to seek proper settlements of the long-standing disputes on Cyprus and Macedonia's name, respectively. On

the issue of Cyprus, talks between the two parties — the Turkish and Greek Cypriots — began in 2008, under the UN auspices, with the goal of creating a bizonal, bi-communal federation, with political equality and a single international personality that will accommodate both communities.

The island state has been divided by a military buffer zone since 1974, when Turkish forces invaded and occupied the north after a Greek-led coup attempted to make the land part of Greece.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mini planet found far beyond Earth's solar system



“Vulcan” has big lead in bid to name Pluto’s newly discovered moons

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — “Star Trek” star William Shatner and tens of thousands of the show’s fans are leading a charge to name one of Pluto’s newly discovered moons after the character Spock’s home planet.

Shatner, who played Captain James T Kirk on the Starship Enterprise on the programme launched in 1966, proposed the name earlier this month in response to an appeal from scientists for help in choosing the names of two newly discovered Pluto moons.

Vulcan is among 21 names in the running in an online poll organized by the California-based SETI Institute, whose team of astronomers discovered the moons. As of Wednesday, Vulcan was the clear front runner, receiving more than 100,000 out of more than 330,000 votes cast.

Shatner, who starred along with Leonard Ni-

moy, who portrayed the Vulcan science officer Spock on the long-running TV sci-fi show, rallied support for Vulcan on Wednesday on his Twitter account, writing: “We are approaching 120K votes for Vulcan on PlutoRocks.com! Have you voted today?” Until now, the two moons, each of which are about 15 miles to 20 miles wide, have been known as P4 and P5. The P4 moon was discovered in 2011 and P5 a year later.

Before the discoveries, astronomers had identified and named three of Pluto’s moons — Charon, Nix and Hydra. Voting for the names of the new moons ends on 25 February.

The selected names will be submitted to the International Astronomical Union (IAU) for consideration. “Let’s hope the IAU thinks Vulcan is a good name,” Shatner said in another tweet.

Reuters

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 22 Feb — Astronomers have found a mini planet beyond our solar system that is the smallest of more than 800 extra-solar planets discovered, scientists said on Wednesday.

The planet, known as Kepler-37b, is one of three circling a yellow star similar to the sun that is located in the constellation Lyra, about 210 light years away. One light year is about 6 trillion miles (10 trillion km). “We see very large planets and they’re uncommon. Earth-sized planets seen to be pretty common, so our guess is that small planets must be even more common,” said Thomas Barclay, with NASA’s Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, California. The smaller the planet, the more difficult it is to find. Kepler-37b, as well as two

sibling planets, were discovered with a NASA space telescope of the same name, which studies light from about 150,000 sun-like stars.

The Kepler telescope works by detecting slight dips in the amount of light coming from target stars caused by orbiting planets passing by, or transiting, relative to the observatory’s line of sight. The smaller the planet, the less pro-

nounced the dip. Of the 833 confirmed planets found beyond the solar system, 114 were discovered by the Kepler science team, according to the project’s website. Nearly 3,000 more Kepler candidate planets are being analyzed. Planets located in “habitable zones” around their host stars, where water can exist on their surfaces, are of particular interest. Water is believed to be nec-

essary for life.

A planet positioned about where Earth orbits the sun would take a year to fly around its parent star. At least two, and preferably three or more, orbits are needed to confirm that a transit spotted by the Kepler telescope is indeed a planet and not a star flare or some other phenomenon. Kepler-37b flies about 10 times closer to its star than Earth circles the sun, which gives it a surface temperature of about 800 degrees Fahrenheit (427 degrees Celsius). “This particular one is nowhere near habitable,” University of Florida astronomer Eric Ford said. Mercury is the closest planet to the sun in our solar system, so scientists compared Kepler-37b to a mini Mercury.

Reuters



NASA’s artist’s illustration compares the planets in the Kepler-37 system to the moon and planets in the solar system.— REUTERS

Tech luminaries announce 33 mln USD life science awards

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 Feb — Silicon Valley technology luminaries on Wednesday announced the launch of the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, awarding 11 scientist 3 million US dollars each for their groundbreaking achievements in life sciences research. The prize, announced at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), is administered by the non-profit Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences Foundation, led by board chairman Art Levinson, who is chairman of Apple Inc. and also chairman of biotech giant Genentech.

Founding sponsors include Russian venture capi-

talist Yuri Milner, Google co-founder Sergey Brin and wife Anne Wojcicki, and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and wife Priscilla Chan. Besides the 33 million dollars for inaugural winners, they have agreed to put another 15 million dollars every year for five prizes going forward. “I think our society needs more heroes, more scientists, more researchers, more engineers,” said Zuckerberg at the event. He noted that while the prize would recognize researchers with groundbreaking achievements, it also intended to inspire future scientists.—Xinhua

Google posts preview of Google Glass wearable headset

BEIJING, 22 Feb — Google has posted a video preview of its forthcoming Google Glass wearable headset, providing a fresh and more realistic look at the device’s user interface. Since announcing its wearable computing project last year, Google has slowly worked up excitement for the device.

Wednesday’s video showed off a whole host of features including the ability to search the web through voice. Other features displayed in the video include the previously announced ability to send hands-free messages, including video chat.

One segment showed

a person running to catch a plane, the flight information displayed in the upper-right hand of the screen. There’s no solid release date or price set for Google Glass as of yet. Google recently started selling development versions for 1,500 dollars and the company is still hoping for a public launch in early 2014, reported Imagine Games Network.—Xinhua



NASA Mars rover ready to eat, analyze rock powder

CAPE CANAVERAL, 22 Feb — NASA’s Mars rover Curiosity, dispatched to learn if the planet ever had ingredients for life, drilled its first bit of powder from inside a potentially water-formed ancient rock, scientists said on Wednesday. The robotic geology station, which landed inside a giant impact basin on 6 August for a two-year mission, transferred about a tablespoon of rock powder from its drill into a scoop, pictures relayed by the rover on Wednesday showed. “We’re all very happy to get this confirmation and relieved that the drilling was a complete success,” Curiosity engineer Scott McCloskey of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, told



reporters on a conference call.

On 8 February, the rover used its powerful drill, the first instrument of its type to be sent to Mars, to bore inside a flat, veined piece of bedrock, which appears to contain minerals formed by flowing water. The sample, retrieved from at least 2 inches beneath the surface of the rock, will be sieved and portions

of it processed inside two onboard science instruments. The gray powder is strikingly different than the ubiquitous red dust that covers the planet’s surface, a result of oxidation from solar ultraviolet radiation. “Having a rock-drilling capability on a rover is a significant advancement,” said Louise Jandura, chief engineer for Curiosity’s sample system.—Reuters

The first sample of powdered rock from Mars extracted by the NASA’s Curiosity rover drill is pictured in this 20 Feb, 2013 NASA handout photo.

REUTERS

IBM launches enhanced mobile services offering

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — International Business Machines unveiled its expanded mobile strategy on Thursday in an effort to gain an advantage over rivals amid a proliferation of devices such as smartphones and tablets.

The technology services company will offer

customers a portfolio of products for security, device management as well as analytics and application development, the company said. Using what IBM calls MobileFirst, “businesses can now streamline everything from the management of employee’s mobile devices, to the creation of

a new mobile commerce app”, the company said.

Lopez Research analyst Maribel Lopez said any company who wanted to succeed in the future needed to be strong in mobile. “This is critical for IBM because the future of computing is based on a couple of technologies: cloud, mobile and big data,” she said. “If IBM can actually educate the market that it has a pretty comprehensive (mobile) suite, that positions them really well,” she said.

Currently, only German business software maker SAP was closest in offering a comparable comprehensive mobile strategy, Lopez added.

Reuters



A worker is pictured behind a logo at the IBM stand on the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover on 26 Feb, 2011.

REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Volvo Car to cut 1,000 jobs for saving plan



STOCKHOLM, 22 Feb — Volvo Car Company announced on Wednesday to lay off 1,000 employees including consultants by the end of this year to help implement its saving plan of 1.5 billion Swedish kronor (about 238 million US dollars).

"We have to adapt the company to the reality. We have done it with our workshops and now we have to do it with our offices," Hakan Samuelsson, CEO

and president of Volvo Car, was quoted as saying at an interview by the Swedish Television SVT. Samuelsson would not make any comments on the actual effects of the job reduction on the company but he said those strategically important models would not be affected.

"We don't see it as dramatic and rather we are just trying to balance our resources and make most of what we have,"

Magnus Sundemo, Swedish engineer was quoted as saying by the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter*. He added that it was good for the company to ensure the present workforce for the company as there had been too many consultants compared to permanent employees in the company.

In the summer of 2012 Volvo Car let go about 800 employees working in the factories and in November last year the company was working on a comprehensive cost saving package plan, in which further job reduction was included as development of new models slowed down. At the beginning of 2013, Volvo Car's sales plummeted by 16.8 percent in the European market in January, nearly two times as Europe's average.—Xinhua

FDA approves new silicone breast implant from Allergan

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — Health regulators said on Wednesday they have approved a new silicone gel-filled breast implant made by Allergan Inc.

The US Food and Drug Administration said it approved Allergan's Natrelle 410 implants to increase breast size in women 22 years and older and to rebuild breast tissue in women of any age.

The silicone gel in the Natrelle 410 implant is designed to be firmer than that in Allergan's previous Natrelle implant.

The FDA requires Allergan to conduct a series of studies after the product is approved to assess the long term safety. It must follow about 3,500

women for five years and conduct a 10-year study of more than 2,000 women receiving the implant.

The agency based its approval on seven years of data from 941 women.

Most complications

were similar to those found in previous breast implant studies, including tightening of the area around the implant, re-operation, implant removal and infection.

Reuters



Bullied children can suffer lasting psychological harm as adults

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — Bullied children grow into adults who are at increased risk of developing anxiety disorders, depression and suicidal thoughts, according to a study led by researchers at Duke University. Using the Great Smoky Mountain Study, the research team tapped a population-based sample of 1,420 children ages 9, 11 and 13 from 11 counties in western North Carolina. Initially enrolled in 1993, the children and their parents or caregivers were interviewed annually until the youngsters turned 16, and then periodically thereafter.

At each assessment until age 16, the child and caregiver were asked, among

other things, whether the child had been bullied or teased or had bullied others in the three months immediately prior to the



interview. A total of 421 child or adolescent participants — 26 percent of the children — reported being bullied at least once; 887 said they suffered no such abuse. Boys and girls re-

ported incidents at about the same rate. Nearly 200 youngsters acknowledged bullying others; 112 were bullies only, while 86 were

both bullies and victims.

Of the original 1,420 children, more than 1,270 were followed up into adulthood. The subsequent interviews included questions about the participants'

psychological health. As adults, those who said they had been bullied, plus those who were both victims and aggressors, were at higher risk for psychiatric disorders compared with those with no history of being bullied. The young people who were only victims had higher levels of depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, generalized anxiety, panic disorder and agoraphobia.

Those who were both bullies and victims had higher levels of all anxiety and depressive disorders, plus the highest levels of suicidal thoughts, depressive disorders, generalized anxiety and panic disorder.—Xinhua

Ozone levels linked to cardiac arrest

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — Cardiac arrests are more likely when levels of air pollution — especially soot-like particles and ozone — have been high in recent days or even hours, according to a large study from Texas.

Evidence already links airborne particles with heart disease and lung problems but the new findings are the first to show that high ozone may immediately raise the risk that a person's heart will stop beating. "Heart patients should consider when there are high ozone levels that they should take

be caused by electrical problems in the heart muscle, sudden trauma or longstanding disease. Previous studies have found that living in polluted cities or near highways for many years can raise the risk of heart disease in general, but they mainly point the finger at small airborne particles.

Ozone is more often associated with short-term worsening of asthma and other lung diseases. To see whether various air pollutants have any direct effect on cardiac arrest rates, Ensor and her colleagues compared a



Century City and downtown Los Angeles are seen through the smog on 31 Dec, 2007.—REUTERS

extra care of themselves," lead author Katherine Ensor of Rice University in Houston told *Reuters Health*.

About 300,000 Americans experience cardiac arrest — when the heart abruptly stops and therefore can't get blood to the rest of the body — outside of hospitals each year and less than 10 percent survive. Cardiac arrest can

database of cardiac arrests that took place outside of hospitals in Houston with air quality records for the city between 2004 and 2011.

Among the more than 11,000 cardiac arrests without an obvious cause (such as a traumatic injury), researchers found a slight rise when ozone levels were higher than usual.

Reuters

Adults cut back fast food, but US kids still eat too much fat

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — American adults have made a little progress in recent years in cutting back on calories from fast food, but children are still consuming too much fat, US health researchers say. French fries, pizza and similar items accounted

for about 11 percent of US adults' caloric intake from 2007 to 2010, on average, down from about 13 percent between 2003 and 2006, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said in one of two reports released on Thursday.

Younger adults, black

Americans and those who are already obese consumed the highest amounts of such food, which is often high in fat, salt and calories that can doom waistlines.

The CDC found in a separate report that while American children, on average, are consuming fewer calories overall than they used to, the percentage of their calories from artery-clogging saturated fat was still above optimal levels.

Recommended US guidelines suggest that no more than 10 percent of one's daily calories should come from such fat, but American youth took in between 11 percent and 12 percent from 2009 to 2010, data from the CDC's

National Centre for Health Statistics showed.

Americans' diets and weight is a source of constant scrutiny and research in a country where two-thirds of the population is considered overweight or obese. According to the CDC, 36 percent of US adults, or 78 million, and 17 percent of youth, or 12.5 million, are obese. Another third are overweight. The slight decline in fast food consumption among adults reflects a growing trend toward healthier options. Many food and beverage companies have revamped their products or created new, healthier options to account for the shift in consumer tastes.—Reuters



Pizza is shown for sale in the cafeteria at a middle school in San Diego, California on 7 March, 2011.—REUTERS

WORLD



Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni (2nd L) and his mother, former Queen Norodom Monineath (1st L) are seen off at Phnom Penh International Airport in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, on 21 Feb, 2013. Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni and his mother, former Queen Norodom Monineath left here on Thursday morning for Beijing for routine medical checkup.—XINHUA

Russian PM visits Cuba to boost ties

HAVANA, 22 Feb—Russian Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev arrived in Cuba on Thursday to boost the comprehensive relations between the two countries.

Medvedev's agenda includes meeting with Cuban leader Raul Castro, signing several bilateral agreements and visiting the 22nd Havana International Book Fair, according to Cuba's foreign ministry.

Russian diplomatic sources said seven inter-governmental and inter-departmental documents, including a cooperation

agreement in the fields of space research and a memorandum of understanding between Russian corporation Rosatom and Cuba's National Nuclear Security Centre, were expected to be signed during the prime minister's visit.

Russian Foreign Minister Serguei Lavrov announced on Monday that the two countries had planned to conduct joint research in outer space, in the hope of promoting their cooperation in telecommunication, satellite navigation, space probe, space medicine and biology, as well as the train-

ing of Cuban personnel.

Cuba and Russia established diplomatic relations in October 1942.

The ties were suspended in 1952 by Dictator Fulgencio Batista and resumed in 1960 by then Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

The two countries have been pursuing closer collaboration and political ties since 2005. Raul Castro visited Moscow on 14 July last year and met with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, Medvedev and Nikolai Patrushev, head of the Russian Security Council.—Xinhua

Major snowstorm moves into US Midwest, threatens New England

KANSAS CITY, 22 Feb—A major winter storm moved into the US Midwest on Thursday, blanketing states from Minnesota to Ohio with a mix of blinding snow, sleet and freezing rain.

The same storm dumped more than a foot of snow in Kansas, stranded motorists on highways and forced airports to cancel hundreds of flights.

The storm is expected to eventually reach the East Coast this weekend, delivering heavy snow to parts of New England for a third straight weekend, from northern Connecticut to southern Maine.

Kansas bore the brunt of the storm, with up to 15 inches of snow in some parts of the state, according to the National Weather Service. A 200-mile (323-km) stretch of Interstate 70 in central Kansas was closed and strewn with cars stuck in snow.

"When there is thunder

and lightning, it's a pretty screaming clue that you are going to have massive snowfall," said Andy Bailey, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and Kansas Governor Sam Brownback declared states of emergency because of hazardous travel and possible power outages. Brownback ordered

state offices closed because of the storm.

Kansas City International Airport was closed on Thursday while crews cleared runways. It was unclear when the airport would reopen, spokesman Joe McBride said.

At the Denver International Airport, some 55 commuter flights were canceled overnight, spokeswoman Laura Coale said.

Reuters



Stranded motorists are seen during a blizzard in Overland Park, Kansas, on 21 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Gunmen hit military helicopter in Papua, evacuation delayed

JAKARTA, 22 Feb—A crew member was wounded on Friday when unknown gunmen shot at a military helicopter flying 7 casualties of Thursday's attack in Sinak, Papua, forcing the military to delay the evacuation, an officer said here.

Thursday's attack also killed one soldier and injured another in Tinginambut, Papua, bringing the death toll in two separate attacks to 8 soldiers with two other soldiers injured, Iskandar Sitompul, spokesman of Indonesian military said. "This morning a helicopter *Superpuma* flying the 7 victims in Sinak was shot. The bullet hit left hand of a soldier in the helicopter and caused a problem to the helicopter," Sitompul told *Xinhua* by phone. "So, we can not evacuate the bodies until the situation is conducive to do so," he said. Previously, the spokesman said the attacks on the military post in Tinginambut and soldiers conducting patrol and carrying logistics in Sinak on Thursday morning killed 5 soldiers and seriously injured 2 civilians.—Xinhua



An amphibious tourist bus enters the water in Tokyo's Koto Ward on 22 Feb, 2013, as reporters were offered a ride before the vehicle is put into service in March.

KYODO NEWS

US slams Iran's installation of new centrifuges

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb—The Obama administration on Thursday denounced as "yet another provocative step" Iran's latest installation of new centrifuges at its main uranium enrichment plant, calling on the Islamic republic to engage in "serious and substantive" talks with the world powers over its disputed nuclear programme. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland called Iran's move "a further escalation and a continuing violation of Iran's obligations" under the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board.

"So it would mark yet

another provocative step," she said at a regular news briefing. An IAEA report released earlier in the day said Iran has started the installation of IR-2m centrifuges, a new model of its centrifuges which could significantly boost its uranium enrichment capacity, at its Natanz plant.

Iran, however, stressed that the advanced centrifuges would be applied to produce five-percent enriched uranium. "We're obviously concerned that Iran continues to flout its international obligations and has refused to halt its enrichment activities and in fact is taking steps to expand its capacity," Nuland said. "It already has enough

uranium to fuel the Teheran research reactor for at least a decade, and its recent actions would allow it to increase its stockpiles, you know, well beyond the civilian need," she added.

Iran insists that its nuclear programme is for power generation and medical use only, but the West regards it as a cover for making nuclear weapons.

The latest installation came as Iran has agreed to resume talks with Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany, the so-called P5+1, over its nuclear project next Tuesday in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Xinhua

UN to hold special session on population next year

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Feb—The UN General Assembly (UNGA) on Thursday decided to hold a special session next year on the follow-up to a plan adopted at an international conference nearly two decades ago to slow the world population explosion. "A special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development will be held on 22 Sept, 2014 in New

York in the most efficient and cost-effective manner," said a Press release issued here by the UNGA.

Adopting a resolution on the issue without a vote, the 193-member Assembly urged all UN member and observer states and observers to consider being represented at the special session at the highest political level, including head of state or government. According to the Press release, the plenary meetings of the special

session next year will feature statements by the UN secretary-general, UNGA president, executive director of the United Nations Population Fund, UN member states, observer states and observers, as well as five selected representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, chosen with due regard for geographic balance.

Xinhua



Wu Bangguo (R), chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, listens to the introduction on the city planning in Macao Tower in Macao, south China, on 21 Feb, 2013. Wu is in Macao to attend celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar, Luxembourg to cooperate in tourism module

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Deputy Minister for Education Dr Ba Shwe held talks with a delegation led by Director-General of Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Mrs Martine Schommer at his

office here this afternoon.

They held discussion on cooperation in tourism subject to be included in education sector.

MNA

Artistes, wellwishers for fund-raising entertainment honoured in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 22 Feb—A ceremony to honour the artistes who participated in the fund-raising entertainment for earthquake victims in Mandalay Region was held at Oriental House on 9 February afternoon.

Chairman of the Artistes Social Service Programme Writer Thaik Tun Thet and Writer Hsu Hnget spoke words of thanks.

They handed over K 20 million obtained from the fund-raising entertainment

to Deputy Director U Than Win of Mandalay Region Government. Next, officials presented certificates of honour to the artistes and wellwishers who contributed to the entertainment.

Myanma Alinn

Winning teams awarded in Men's Open Volleyball Tournament

MANDALAY, 22 Feb—The final match of the Mandalay Region Volleyball Subcommittee Chairman's Cup Men's Open Volleyball Tournament took place at the volleyball sports ground in Chanmyathazi Township on 12 February.

In the final match, Nandwin Youth team emerged champion with a 3-0 result over its opponent.

Afterwards, Mandalay Region Women's Teams (A) and (B) met in the tune-up match. And, the former beat the latter 3-0. Chairman of the Volleyball Sub-committee U Myint



Oo, Secretary U Myint Swe and Chairman of Township Volleyball Subcommittee U Saw Hla Tun presented best player award to Aung Ko Latt from Nandwin Youth Team and first, second and third prizes to the winning

teams.

Chairman of the Region Volleyball Subcommittee Dr Hla Kywe awarded first prize winning Nandwin Youth team and Region's tentative-ly selected women's team.

Myanma Alinn

Traditional medicine kits distributed

TAUNGGYI, 22 Feb—Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat made a speech at the ceremony to hand over traditional medicine kits to villages of Shan State at the office of Myanmar Medical Association in Taunggyi on 9 February.

The Chief Minister, the Deputy Minister for Health and the chairman of Nippon Foundation, the deputy speaker of Shan State Hluttaw and officials presented the medicine kits to responsible persons of villages.

Myanma Alinn

Pre-primary students take part in skill contest

MYEIK, 22 Feb—Myeik District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Myeik Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association jointly organized the physical and mental skill contest for pre-primary schools at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on 13 February morning.

Students from Phayangahsu Pre-Primary School, Kaungsan Modern Pre-Primary School, Self-

reliant Pre-Primary School of Township MCWA, Tun Modern Pre-Primary School, Myittamon Pre-Primary School and Maung Maung Pre-Primary School showed off their brilliant skills in the contest.

Chairperson of Myeik District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Phyu Phyu Win and wellwishers presented prizes to winner students.

Myanma Alinn

Loans disbursed to 206 vendors for second time



NYAUNGLEBIN, 22 Feb—Nyaunglebin Township Development Affairs Committee disbursed loans to 206 vendors of markets in Nyaunglebin, Pyuntaza, Madauk and Peinzalok of the township in Bago Region at Thiri Yadana Hall on Azarni Road on 20 February.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Thi Han Soe made a speech.

Executive Officer U M Hla Thaung of Nyaunglebin Township DAC explained disbursement of loans from the Government to the vendors with reasonable

interest for alleviation of poverty.

In-charge of the markets U Khin Maung Aye read the disciplines of loan disbursement.

Bago Region Hluttaw representative U Soe Paing, the Township Administrator, the executive officer of DAC and Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Tin Moe Thu presented loans to vendors.

The Head of Township IRD handed over 5 per cent tax to the Township DAC.

NLM

Merit sharing for new building held in Mandalay

SINGAING, 22 Feb—A ceremony to share merit gained for construction of Aye Nyein Chan Tha two-storey building was held at KyunU Monastery in Singaing Township of Mandalay Region on 12 February morning.

At first, disciples donated robes and alms to 90 members of the Sangha from Maga Parahita Monastic Education School of the monastery and presented exercise books and stationery to students.

The new building of the school was constructed at a cost of K 32.5 million contributions of U Hla Tun-Thudhamma Theingi Daw San San Wai (Shan



Pyomei Traditional Medicine Industry) from Mandalay.

Myanma Alinn

Invitational Football Tournament wraps up in Sagaing

SAGAING, 22 Feb—In commemoration of the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the Shwe Zeyar Cup Invitation Football Tournament, Volleyball, Sepak Takraw Contest, Tennis and Long-range Race were held at the sports ground in Sagaing and other designated places with the assistance of Thiri Pyanchi U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister (Rtd) for Construction, on 12 February.

In the football event, Sagyin Youth team emerged champion with a 3-1 victory over its opponent Foster Youth team.

Chairman of the Township Football Subcommittee U Tin Tun (Thamadi) presented medal and cash awards to winners

in the race, Sepak Takraw and Tennis events.

On behalf of Thiri Pyanchi U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister (Rtd) for Construction, U Thein Soe (Sports In-charge) gave Shwe Zeyar Trophy to football first prize winning Sagyin Youth team.—Myanma Alinn

Japanese Govt's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

YANGON, 22 Feb—Under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) of Japan Government two humani-tarian programmes namely US\$ 86,605 for construction of Dayeloo Village Basic Education Middle School Branch in Kungyangon Township and US\$ 77,293 for construction of Kaytharawati Nunnery Primary School in Thanlyin Township were launched.

The handing over ceremony and opening

ceremony of each school was held on 13 and 14 February.

Mr Kiyotomi Tada, second secretary of the Japanese Embassy, District and Township education officers, respective school management committee members and local people attended the ceremonies.

A total of 12 teachers are nurturing 550 students at Dayeloo BEMS Branch.

About 300 students are learning education under teaching of 17 teachers at Kaytharawati Nunnery.

NLM

Lwe-eik Parahita Association to donate blood

YANGON, 22 Feb—Lwe-eik Parahita Association will collectively donate blood at Insein General Hospital on 24 February.

It will be the fourth time for the association.

The association was established in early 2010. So far, the association has recruited over 10000 members in addition to 100

permanet members.

The association sets an aim to provide assistance for needy persons, orphanages, the aged and monastic education schools.

Those wishing to donate refreshment for blood donors may contact 09-73213951 of Ko Tin Myo Zaw.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 23 February, 2013

Responsible country

Nowadays, Myanmar is taking significant steps towards re-entering into international monetary market and economic community, and is gaining more ground.

And thanks to the harmonious efforts of the government and the people, Myanmar is witnessing greater progress in multiple sectors than ever before. For international loan assistances, the government can make successful coordination with major donor countries apart from WB, IMF and ADB. The result is that Myanmar could reduce a very large amount of international debts in terms of US dollars with the cooperation of Paris Club member countries including Norway and Japan.

But the important thing here is that all the stakeholders and the entire national people should always strive in unity with magnanimity to overcome any kind of crisis and go forward with might and main towards the democracy goal.

At the same time, we need to place special focus on political stability, internal peace and stability and national unity to make success of our reform as the ongoing peace process has reached delicate and sensitive stage. In fact, losses as the consequences of ongoing conflicts and the trauma locals from conflict regions suffer are also the losses of our society.

It is undeniable that the present political achievements are attributable to collaboration of the government, the parliament, the Armed Forces, civil society organizations and the entire people. Democracy cannot be practiced just by holding elections. It means the knowledgeable entire people can make their own choices without suppression and restrictions.

Now our country can get international loans. And the funds of dollars in millions will be used for multiple sectors involving poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, construction of schools, hospitals, roads and bridges, power generation and supply of potable water and so on as a responsible country, for standing tall among the world nations.

Dentists give dental, oral care

BAGO, 22 Feb—Hailing the World Oral Health Day which falls on 20 March, Chairman Dr Kyaw Sein of Myanmar Dental Association (Bago Branch), Secretary Dr Khin Zaw Thaung and 14 member dentists made a field

trip to Kalitgatga Village of Bago Township on 16 February.

They provided dental and oral care services to over 300 local people and gave toothpaste and tooth brushes to them.—*Myanma Alinn*



NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann held a coordination meeting with committee chairmen, secretaries and commission members at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, this evening.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivered an address and committee chairmen, secretaries and commission members reported on their ongoing tasks. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets committee chairmen, secretaries and commission members at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building.—MNA

UEC Chairman meets Democracy Program Director

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received a delegation led by Democracy Program Director Dr David Carroll of the Carter Center of the United States of America at his office, here, this afternoon.

The Chairman of UEC discussed arrangements being made to hold free

and fair election and preparation made for holding 2015 election and sharing of experience on holding free and fair election. The Democracy Program Director also discussed monitoring system in election and international- standard election system. They then exchanged views.

Present at the call together with the Chairman of UEC were members U Myint Naing, U Aung Myint, Dr Myint Kyi, U Win Kyi, U Nyunt Tin and U Win Ko, Commission Secretary U Tin Tun and departmental personnel.

MNA

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye shakes hands with Democracy Program Director Dr David Carroll of the Carter Center of US.—MNA



Union FM meets Director of Carter Center, Chinese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin received a delegation led by

Dr. David Carroll, Director of Democracy Program of The Carter Center, at his office, here, this morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed

matters related to cooperation between Myanmar and The Carter Center. The Union Minister also received Chinese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua who has completed his tour of duty at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, this afternoon.

MNA

Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) to be opened in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo held talks with Task Force Team led by Mr. S. Ramadorai, Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Republic of India at his office here on 20 February morning. The meeting focused on subjects

to be lectured at Myanmar Institute of Information Technology, lab materials for the institute, teaching aids, internet facilities, infrastructures and opening of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) in Mandalay with the assistance of India. Technical

training courses for undergraduate and post-graduate trainees will be launched at Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT). Moreover, it will include Research Centre for e-Commerce and e-Governance, Centre for Communication, English

and Soft Skills, Centre for Network Management, Centre for Corporate Professional Development and Centre for Community Learning Management departments for implementing the major functions of the institute.

MNA

NATIONAL

Investment ceiling under hot debate as FDI bylaw put on table at Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann delayed this afternoon's parliamentary session as he had a closed door meeting with cabinet members including Deputy National Planning and Economic Development Minister U Set Aung for about an hour on the bylaw derived from the landmark Foreign Investment Law passed in the previous November was put on table.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency promptly proposed the delay of the discussion of the bylaw by the parliament and indicated three provisions in the drafted bylaw which deviate from the law, calling it "unconstitutional".

The Pyithu Hluttaw

Speaker turned down the proposal, saying the bylaw had already been discussed by line ministries, respective committees and representatives for several times.

Bill Committee, MPs and the deputy minister proposed a number of amendments.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker assigned the bill committee to review the provision that the committee and the deputy minister could not reach a consensus.

"The law isn't perfect. We know it. But we aren't looking for it. It's all about flexibility," the deputy minister told *The New Light of Myanmar*.

"Our stand is to help small holder farmers establish joint ventures with foreign investors," he added.



19th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.

MNA

The debate is apparently focused on the ceiling of foreign investments in limited areas whether the

foreign investors should be allowed 49 percent or 80 percent of investment ratio.

NLM

Bill Committee submits two reports to Amyotha Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Bill Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw today submitted two reports on Bill Amending Property Transfer Act and Bill Revoking 1945 Immovable Property Act —

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Dr Maung Maung Htay making clarification.

MNA



both were approved and sent to the Pyithu Hluttaw — with go-ahead.

The proposal of U

Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency (5) urging the Union government to open youth



Dr Maung Maung Htay.

Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State Constituency (6) and U Hmat Gyi of Mandalay Region Constituency (9) submitted proposals on urbanization of border town

Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye from Kayin State Constituency (6) submits proposal. — MNA

Muse and kidney donation. The Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposals.

NLM

Union Defense Minister meets Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Union Minister for Defense Lt-Gen Wai Lwin received Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association and former MP of the Japanese House of Councilors Mr Hideo Watanabe and Acting Chairman of Executive Committee of Japan-Myanmar friendship

Association former MP of the Japanese House of Representatives Mr Yoshito Sengoku at the Ministry, here, this morning.

Their discussion focused on military affairs.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw and officials.

MNA

Union FM felicitates Brunei FM and Trade Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — On the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February, 2013, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam. — MNA

Industrialists voice their...

(from page 1)

the public. The minimum price goes to the ordinary people who are provided with electricity sold at a loss. There will be double pay the use of electricity that has exceeded the prescribed amount of electricity. There will be a high price to pay for air-con users.

SMEs are subdivided. There can be losses for small industries. Then, electric bills for medium and heavy industries are collected. For instance, power consumption amount up to K 5,000 is K 35 and more than that amount, threefold. The collection rate is more than that of factories. So, we have to switch off power and aircons whenever we go outside. The

charges for the hotels are even higher. Soon, we are going to compete with FDI and foreign countries.

Dr Khin Maung Oo

General Secretary of Committee

One unit cost with generator is more than fourfold, but with electric power is K 75. Small industries cannot afford to use generators. And they cannot make manufacturing when power is out. Some SMEs have generators. The industries with no generators have to pay salaries to their workers while stopping for a break. They would have to face a decrease in production. They can stand although power shortage lasts four or five months in a year. In the

long-run, they might face difficulties. In Hlinethayar Industrial Zone, but the number of medium industries is more than SMEs. The industries here see more progress. Electricity is the lifeblood of industries. It is impossible to compete with foreign countries as one unit charge is between K 300 and K 400.

U Aung Shwe

Committee Secretary-1

Electricity is essential for industries. There should not be power cut. Computers and machines could break down if power is not full. I cannot run the oil mill not having electricity. The major requirement is electricity. And it also needs clean water and smooth transportation in addition to better infrastructures. Only then, it

can reduce transportation charges and compete with the other countries.

It is difficult to predict the current production capacity. Because I have to operate my oil mill with generator when power is out. It is impossible to stop production.

The workers have no jobs and go back to their homes when the mill is not in operation. They might be in other factories and places if they are called to come back here when the power resumes. This is the consequential matters. This is the duty of factory's owners. Traders might not face such kinds of problems. U Aye Tun

Committee Secretary-2

In the world, these small industries become bigger



Committee Secretary-1

U Aung Shwe.

ones. Industries in Myanmar are SMEs in terms of money and workers, compared with the international. To promote SMEs, it needs to make the changes in policy, law, technology and human resources development. As our country's power consumption is a bit low, it is impossible to support the industries. To sum

up, Myanmar industrial development is interrelated with State-level policy, rules and regulations, trade policies, banking policies, human resource development programme, development of infrastructures including fuel energy.

Thus, above mentioned points should be taken into consideration for Myanmar industrial development. Our country lacks industry-based companies and technology-based companies.

I wrote this article for emergence of Myanmar national-owned industry-based companies and technology-based companies in the future.

Myanma Alinn:

22-2-2013

Trs: YM+MT

Mongolia opens international coal conference

ULAN BATOR, 22 Feb—An international coal conference opened here on Tuesday, drawing 740 participants from more than 10 countries.

Mongolian Mining Minister Davaajav Gankhuyag told the participants that the conference was aimed at attracting foreign investment and boosting international cooperation.

Mongolia also planned to promote environmentally friendly technology and enhance the global competitiveness of Mongolian coal exploring, mining and processing during the two-day conference, he said.

Mongolia's coal reserves were estimated at 173.3 billion tons, with 21.5 billion tons having been explored. At present, Mongolia has more than 300 coal mines, ranking among the world's 10 largest coal countries.

The turnover of the coal industry stood at 600 million US dollars in 2012.

Xinhua



Huang Diying (R), a researcher with the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, presents fossils and restoration pictures of Strashila, an extinct insect dating back to the Mesozoic era, through slideshow during a Press conference to introduce the new research of the insect in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 20 Feb, 2013. According to the latest research by Huang Diying and his group, who published their result on academic journal Nature, Strashila, the most puzzling insect species known to paleontologists, is likely a member of Diptera, an order of insects that includes normal house flies and mosquitoes. This result bases on their study on 13 new specimens found in Ningcheng County in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Huang and his group's new conclusion denies belief of some scientists that Strashila greatly differs from all known insects and cannot be placed in any insect orders.—XINHUA

5.4-magnitude quake hits Papua New Guinea

HONG KONG, 22 Feb—An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Bougainville region, Papua New Guinea at 1950

GMT on Thursday (0350 on Friday at local time), the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 60.10 km, was

initially determined to be at 6.3718 degrees south latitude and 154.8467 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

Vietnam set to further facilitate trade with Africa this year

HANOI, 22 Feb—Vietnam plans to further facilitate trade with Africa, a potentially populated market with over 1 billion people. It expects to pocket about 3.12 billion US dollars from the exports to this continent in 2013, an increase of 20 percent year on year, local Press has reported.

In recent years, the annual two-way trade between Vietnam and Africa has increased over 20 percent on the average.

Specifically, in 2012, Vietnam earned 2.6 billion

dollars from its exports to 55 African countries, among whom 10 major markets accounted for 82 percent of the total export value including South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Angola, Mozambique and Morocco, local Vietnam Economic Times reported on Wednesday.

Vietnamese exports to Africa mainly included rice, coffee, pepper, seafood, computers, electronic products and appliances, phones, transport vehicles

and spare parts, equipment and machines, garments and footwear.

During 2011-2013, African markets are estimated to annually consume 24 to 24.5 million tons of rice, of which about 10 million tons will be imported. This provides a large room for Vietnamese rice exporters.

In 2012, Vietnam exported rice to 32 African countries, earning 900 million dollars, up 22 percent year on year. It also exported phones and appliances worth 264 million dollars,

up 104.7 percent, mainly to South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Angola and Tunisia, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT).

Africa is a potential market which supplies diverse products to Vietnam. Currently, Vietnam imports cotton in service of its garment sector from 21 African countries, mainly from Mali, Togo, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Benin and Senegal, the ministry said.—Xinhua

Thai PM to visit S Korea, Hong Kong

BANGKOK, 22 Feb—Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is scheduled to visit South Korea this weekend to attend Park Geun-hye's inauguration as president and will later visit Hong Kong on Monday, Thai News Agency reported on Thursday.

Yingluck will visit South Korea on Sunday and Monday at the invitation of President-elect Park Geun-hye to attend her presidential inauguration, a significant event showcasing women's engagement in the administration of state affairs.

Thai prime minister will take this opportunity to congratulate the female president of South Korea and will call on Park to jointly promote the development of women's empowerment in the region.

This year marks the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and South Korea.

Moreover, the Thai prime minister also plans to invite the new South Korean president to attend the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit to be hosted by Thailand in May.

Yingluck will also pay a courtesy call on outgoing

President Lee Myung-bak at the presidential residence to bid him farewell, and attend dinner hosted by the speaker of South Korea's National Assembly, Kang Chang-hee, in honour of the Thai prime minister.

On Monday evening and Tuesday, Yingluck will pay a visit to Hong Kong. Yingluck will take the opportunity to emphasize investment opportunities between Thailand and Hong Kong, and will also present Thailand's potential as the major regional connectivity hub.

In addition, the Ministry of Finance together with the Board of Investment of Thailand will hold a parallel event under the theme "Hong Kong Roadshow Thailand's Strategies: A Road Map for Real Opportunities."

The event's activities include a keynote speech by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Kittiratt Na Ranong on investment opportunities in Thailand, a seminar to promote investment in Thailand, and meetings between Thailand's executive bankers and financiers and their Hong Kong counterparts.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 21 Feb, 2013 shows an aircraft during the full dress rehearsal for the Indian Air Force's Iron Fist 2013 military exercise in Pokhran of the state of Rajasthan, India.

XINHUA

Leftist rebels release two kidnapped gov't soldiers in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 22 Feb—Leftist rebels on Thursday released two government soldiers they kidnapped last month in southern Philippines, a military official said.

Private First Class Jezreel Culango and Police Officer Ruel Pasion were released by their New People's Army captors at the hinterlands of Kapalong, Davao del Norte Province

past 1:00 pm local time and turned over to several religious and non-government organization's people, according to Captain Nathaniel Morales, spokesperson for the 1003rd Infantry Brigade.

The kidnap victims were then fetched by local officials led by Davao City Vice Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and flown in to the regional army and police

headquarters here around 4:00 pm Morales told Xinhua. Morales said the victims were going through a stress debriefing.

New People's Army (NPA) rebels snatched Culango and Pasion from a checkpoint along a village road in Laak town, Compostela Valley on 17 January.

The NPA's Merardo Arce Command said in a

statement the two "prisoners of war" have been freed as a humanitarian gesture despite that they were found guilty of "lesser offenses" against the rebel movement.

The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces since 1969.—Xinhua



Passengers carry their bags on the square of the train station in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 21 Feb, 2013. Many people started their trips back to their working places after the Spring Festival holiday in recent days.—XINHUA

REGIONAL



A MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor Aircraft is seen during the Cobra Gold exercise in Sukhothai, Thailand, on 21 Feb, 2013. The 11-day multinational military exercise ended on Thursday. An estimated 13,000 servicemen from seven countries were participating in the Cobra Gold exercise, including those from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, the United States and Thailand.

XINHUA

Singapore sets up inter-agency office to grow space industry

SINGAPORE, 22 Feb—Singapore has set up an inter-agency office to develop the local space industry, a government minister said on Thursday.

A local firm also announced at the Global Space Technology Convention that it plans to launch the first Singapore-made commercial satellite in 2015.

The Office for Space Technology and Industry is a programme office established under the Economic Development Board, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Trade and Industry S Iswaran.

It will coordinate resources and efforts by government agencies such

as the Agency for Science Technology and Research, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the National Research Foundation.

Iswaran said the inter-agency office will plan and execute economic strategies to drive the growth of the local space industry. It will work with various industry stakeholders to help them realize their satellite business and innovation initiatives.

"We believe Singapore will become a compelling location for satellite-related companies to grow their businesses, develop their technologies and ex-

port new solutions to the world," said the minister.

The Economic Development Board, citing a report, said the global space economy grew by 12.2 percent year on year to 290 billion US dollars in 2011, driven largely by the satellite industry, which grew by an annual rate of 10.9 percent since 2006 to hit 177 billion US dollars.

"The Asian satellite industry is poised for growth. The rising affluence of the Asian consumer and increased usage of sophisticated satellite technologies by businesses are fueling the demand for satellite services in the region," said Gian Yi-Hsen, director of the inter-agency office.

Xinhua

Vietnam, Laos, Thailand boost transport cooperation

HANOI, 22 Feb—Transport ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Thailand gathered at a conference here on Thursday to discuss objectives and solutions to enhance trilateral transport cooperation in the coming time.

At the first-ever event, the three ministers agreed to quickly complete internal procedures for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the three governments on adding national roads No 8 and No 12 on Vietnamese and Lao territories to Protocol No1 of the Greater Mekong Sub-region Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Agreement (GMS-CBTA). The opening of these routes to cross-border movement will reduce transport time and costs, thus attracting transit goods

from northeastern Thailand and central Laos to Vietnam's Vung Ang and Hon La ports in central Ha Tinh and Quang Binh Provinces, especially those transported to Northeast Asia.

Once implemented, the MoU will facilitate the movement of the three countries' vehicles from the East-West Economic Corridor to Vietnam's Hanoi and Hai Phong cities, Vientiane of Laos and Lam Chabang of Thailand. The ministers also agreed on an action plan to realize the agreement between the three governments on land tourism transport which mentions the establishment of subcommittees on transport, tourism, immigration and customs to assist the operation of the three countries' joint committee.—Xinhua

New Zealand PM pledges to build one of world's best cities two years after Christchurch quake

WELLINGTON, 22 Feb—New Zealand Prime Minister John Key on Friday marked the second anniversary of the earthquake that killed 185 people in Christchurch by pledging that the country's second city would be rebuilt as "one of the best and most livable cities in the world."

"Out of these broken streets, which have been likened to a war zone, a new Christchurch will emerge," Key said in a published speech at a service to commemorate the magnitude 6.3 quake that devastated

the city and the surrounding Canterbury region.

"The magnitude of the destruction means it will take some time for the region to fully rebuild and recover. But much progress has been, and will continue to be made," said Key.

"I want to take this opportunity to reiterate to the people of Canterbury today that the government remains absolutely committed to standing beside you."

He said the government understood the frustration at the slow pace of the rebuild.

"But this job is unprecedented in the world and we should judge ourselves not only by how far there is to go, but by how far we've come," he said.

"This year will also see the rebuilding of the central city going full steam ahead as we move from demolition to construction."

This year, the government expected to have cleared the site and made decisions to begin construction of the planned convention centre precinct, one of the key anchor projects for the rebuilding of the central

business district.

The government would also invest 1 billion NZ dollars (834.72 million US dollars) in restoring schools and the education sector over the next 10 years.

In April, the new Christchurch Airport terminal would be officially opened after an overhaul costing 237 million NZ dollars. And the government was planning the largest hospital build in the history of New Zealand's public health system, "costing more than half a billion dollars," he said.—Xinhua



Rescue workers look for survivors after a two-storey building collapsed at the Tahirpur area, east of New Delhi, India, on 20 Feb, 2013. A man and his daughter were killed and another dozen people were injured in the incident.—XINHUA

1.51 million ASEAN people visit Cambodia in 2012

PHNOM PENH, 22 Feb—Cambodia received about 1.51 million visitors from its ASEAN member countries last year, up 37 percent year-on-year, according to the statistics of the tourism ministry released on Thursday.

The figure represented 42 percent of total foreign tourists to the country last

year, the report said.

Among the countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Vietnamese tourists to Cambodia topped the chart with its 763,100 citizens visited Cambodia last year, followed by Laos with 254,000 people came to the country.

Thailand came at third

with 201,400 tourists, while Malaysia and the Philippines came at fourth and fifth with 116,800 tourists and 97,500 visitors respectively, it said.

In addition, last year, some 53,200 Singaporeans, 22,550 Indonesians, 4,750 Myanmar nationals, and 950 Brunei citizens had visited Cambodia.—Xinhua

23 million Chinese escape poverty in 2012

BEIJING, 22 Feb—The number of people living below the poverty line in China was greatly reduced in 2012, as the country increased efforts to boost people's income, new data has showed.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced on Friday that last year saw some 23.39 million rural dwellers edge above the poverty line, currently set at 2,300 yuan (about 365.83 US dollars) in annual net in-

come per capita.

The decrease brought the total number of impoverished rural residents to 98.99 million by the end of 2012, the data showed.

Rural poverty has been one of the major hurdles for the world's second-largest economy and most populated country. In 2012, however, China boosted its rural residents' average per-capita net income to 7,917 yuan, up 10.7 percent year on year in real terms, according to data released earlier by the NBS.

Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu on 18 January announced a set of poverty-fighting plans for major regions including Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Hebei, Shanxi, Hunan, Jiangxi.—Xinhua



Relatives of injured children gather outside emergency ward of a hospital in Lahore, eastern Pakistan, on 21 Feb, 2013. At least 21 school children and a teacher were treated for burn injuries as fire erupted in a classroom at a school in Shadara area of Lahore on Thursday, local media reported.—XINHUA

Sailors on capsized Cambodian ship off S Korean waters rescued

SEOUL, 22 Feb—Twelve crew members aboard a Cambodian-flagged ship that capsized off South Korea's east coast earlier on Thursday have all been res-

cued, local media reported.

The sailors, including three South Koreans and nine Chinese nationals, left a Japanese port two days ago en route to a port in Sokcho,

South Korea, according to broadcaster YTN. The 296-ton vessel capsized in waters some 550 kilometres north-east of the South Korean island of Ulleung.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (200)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (200) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 CMA CGM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FORE SIGHTER VOY NO (8)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORE SIGHTER VOY NO (8) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MATTYS VOY NO (1308)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATTYS VOY NO (1308) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-2.2013 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 CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (023)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (023) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 ORIENT OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Chinese artist Dong Wenhua sings "the Story of Spring" at the "Cultures of China, Festival of Spring" performance in Auckland, New Zealand, on 20 Feb, 2013. A group of Chinese artists organized by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the Chinese State Council and China Overseas Exchanges Association presented a performance here on Wednesday to celebrate the Chinese lunar new year.—XINHUA

Three dead, two wounded in Nigeria suicide bomb attack

MAIDUGURI, 22 Feb—Three people including a suicide bomber were killed after the explosion on Wednesday in Nigeria's northeastern city Maiduguri, local military confirmed.

Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa, spokesman of the Joint Task Force (JTF) said the suicide bomber suspect-

ed of links to the West African country's Boko Haram sect targeted a patrol team at Post Office Round About in Maiduguri metropolis.

"An Improvised Explosive Device targeted at JTF patrol team exploded at Post Office roundabout in Maiduguri metropolis at about 1:00 pm today," he said in a statement reach-

ing *Xinhua*. The explosion led to the death of 3 people including the bomber and wounded two others, he said, adding the JTF vehicle was damaged.

Musa declined to give further details of the incident as efforts are being made to clear the debris and rescue the affected persons.—*Xinhua*

Liberian president signs pledge to end violence against women, girls

MONROVIA, 22 Feb—Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has signed a pledge to end violence against women and girls, making her the 19th Head of State to sign on to the

pledge. A presidential statement reaching *Xinhua* on Wednesday said the Liberian leader's signing of the commitment is in keeping with the UN Secretary-General's campaign code named: "UNITE to End Violence again Women."

UN Women is leading a commitment drive for governments to publicly express their commitment and dedication to ending violence against women and girls.

The statement said President Sirleaf concurred with the global campaign that it is the responsibility of all governments to protect their citizens while

intensifying efforts to end impunity against violence. "I am committing Liberia to three pledges: adopt domestic violence legislation and ensure its implementation by relevant state authorities; ensure that funds are allocated in the National Budget for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence; and upscale efforts with the Liberian Justice System to improve women and girls' access to justice and to end impunity for violence against women and girls," the statement quoted the Liberian leader as saying.—*Xinhua*

Sudanese army loses restive area in Blue Nile to rebels

KHARTOUM, 22 Feb—The Sudanese army on Wednesday said it lost an area in Blue Nile state to fighters of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)/northern sector only two days after regaining it from the rebels.

"The army has moved out from Mafo area in Blue Nile State after inflicting heavy losses on the fighters who attacked the area," said Al-Sawarmy Khalid Saad, Sudanese army spokesman, in a statement.

A mixed force of the South Sudanese army and the SPLA/northern sector, likely supported by foreign elements, attacked Mafo area wearing bulletproof vests and driving tanks earlier on Wednesday, he added.

He further said the Sudanese army is preparing for an operation to retake the area as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the Sudanese army spokesman denied that there was fighting taking place in the outskirts of the strategic town of Al-Kurmuk in Blue Nile state.

On Monday the Sudanese army announced it had taken full control over Mafo area in southwest Blue Nile state, which has witnessed armed clashes between the Sudanese army and the rebels of the SPLM/northern sector since the separation of South Sudan in July 2011.

Xinhua



**ASEAN
FOUNDATION**

The ASEAN Foundation (AF) is an inter-governmental, non-profit organisation established by the ten ASEAN Member States with the mandate to promote greater awareness of ASEAN among the general public and help address poverty and socio-economic disparity issues in the region. It now invites applications from nationals of ASEAN Member States for:

Executive Director

Detailed information can be obtained from :
<http://www.aseanfoundation.org>
Only short listed candidates will be notified.



People perform dragon dance in firecrackers in Binyang County of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 20 Feb, 2013. The Binyang-style dragon dance is a derivative of traditional dragon dance in which performers hold dragon on poles and walk through floods of firecrackers. The dance, dating back to over 1,000 years ago, was listed as a state intangible cultural heritage in 2008.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Vanessa Hudgens



Worst time of my career, says Vanessa

LONDON, 22 Feb — Vanessa Hudgens has for the first time opened up about the scandal where her intimate nude pictures were illegally leaked online, calling it the “worst moment of her career”.

The 24-year-old is pushing boundaries today playing edgy roles including a prostitute and violent teen in her movie “Spring Breakers”.

But she says it was difficult to deal with the whole scandal in 2007, reported *Daily Mail*.

“That was just a really bad situation that sucked”.

PTI



Mumford & Sons pose with their awards for Album of the Year for “Babel” and Best Long Form Music Video for “Big Easy Express” backstage at the 55th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 10 Feb, 2013.— REUTERS

Singer Emeli Sande wins big at predictable BRIT awards



British singer Emeli Sande performs during the BRIT Awards, celebrating British pop music, at the O2 Arena in London on 20 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 22 Feb — Scottish singer Emeli Sande won the coveted best album honour at the BRIT Awards on Wednesday for “Our Version of Events”, confirming her status as favourite going into British pop’s big night of the year.

The 25-year-old, who received a major boost by appearing at the Olympics opening and closing ceremonies last summer, also picked up the best British fe-

male artist on a night of few surprises in terms of winners and on-stage antics.

“I think I’m a very unlikely pop star,” an emotional Sande told a packed O2 Arena in London on receiving the best album prize. “This is an album I wrote because I didn’t have the confidence to sing these things in person. This is a dream, really, so thank you for this year and thank you for this award. I’m so grateful.” Sande capped her success by performing a medley of “Clown” and “Next to Me” to close the ceremony, broadcast live on commercial channel ITV. The other multiple winner was singer-songwriter Ben Howard, who picked up two of the dotted statuettes designed by Damien Hirst, for British breakthrough act and British male solo. Among the most popular triumphs was that of Frank Ocean, American R&B star who beat acts including Bruce Springsteen and Jack White to land the international male solo artist prize.—Reuters

Dj dismisses Lindsay Lohan romance rumours

LOS ANGELES, 22 Feb — A New York-based Dj Julian Cavin has



dismissed rumours linking him to Lindsay Lohan, insisting he is “just friends”

with the actress.

The “Mean Girls” star was rumoured to have struck up a romance with club star Cavin after they were spot-

ted spending time together during nights out in NYC in recent weeks, reported TMZ Online.—PTI

Lindsay Lohan

Victoria Beckham loves making art with Harper

LONDON, 22 Feb — Singer-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham says her “secret pleasure” is taking 19-month-old daughter Harper to a private family club for arts and crafts sessions.

The 37-year-old said

during her time off she loves nothing more than buying new stationery and taking her youngest child for some creative play, reported Contactmusic.

PTI

Singer-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham



people.

The album was released in September 2012 and shot to the top of the Billboard 200 chart as one of the biggest-selling debuts of the year. It was ranked No 4 last week before again claiming the top spot after its Grammy boost. The official “2013 Grammy Nominees” compilation album, featuring songs by The Black Keys, Kelly Clarkson, Katy Perry and Gotye, landed at No 2 this week, with 87,000 copies sold.

Grammy performers also saw their albums return to the top 10, with Bruno Mars’ “Unorthodox Jukebox” at No 3, Taylor Swift’s “Red” at No 4, The Lumineers’ self-titled debut record at No 6, FUN.’s “Some Nights” at No 7 and Maroon 5’s “Overexposed” at No 10. The digital songs chart also saw an impact from Grammy performances but none of the artists were able to oust indie rapper Macklemore and Ryan Lewis’ “Thrift Shop” from the top spot, which sold more than 412,000 downloads.

Reuters

Jennifer Hudson, Zeta-Jones to sing in Oscars musical tribute



Catherine Zeta-Jones

LOS ANGELES, 22 Feb — Oscar winners Russell Crowe, Jennifer Hudson and Catherine Zeta-Jones will perform at the Academy Awards in a tribute to the resurgence of big-

screen musicals, organizers said on Wednesday. The performance, which will also feature Oscar nominees Anne Hathaway and Hugh Jackman from “Les Miserables,” is part of the

several musical acts at the annual Hollywood awards on Sunday.

“We are pleased to have been able to amass so much talent to create the celebration of musicals of the last decade that we envisioned,” Oscars producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan said in a statement. “We are thrilled that so many talented actors have agreed to bring our vision to life.” Musicals have had a revival

over the past decade in Hollywood.

Death row drama “Chicago” won six Academy Awards in 2003, including top prize Best Picture, and girl-group drama “Dreamgirls” scored two Oscars in 2007 while television’s “Glee” has won six Emmy awards since 2010.

Reuters



Jennifer Hudson

SPORTS



Gary Cahill (L) of Chelsea defends Ladislav Krejci(R) of Sparta Prague as Peter Cech, goalie of Chelsea saves during the UEFA Europa League round of 32 second leg match between Chelsea and Sparta Prague at Stamford Bridge in London, Britain on 21 Feb, 2013. The match ended with a 1-1 draw and Chelsea reached the last 16 with a 2-1 score in total.—XINHUA

Harvick, Kyle Busch win Daytona qualifying races

NEW YORK, 22 Feb—Kevin Harvick positioned himself as one of the favourites for Sunday's Daytona 500 by winning the first of two qualifying races on Thursday to claim the inside lane in the second row for the season-opening NASCAR race. Danica Patrick had already clinched pole in qualifying trials last weekend to become the first woman to achieve that distinction, with Jeff Gordon alongside her on the first row.

Patrick played it safe on Thursday, racing with the pack early in the first 'Duel', one of two 150-

mile, 60-lap races that finalized the grid for the Daytona 500, before easing back and finishing 17th out of 23 drivers, staying out of trouble to save her car for the race. Harvick, who five

the race. Greg Biffle, Juan Pablo Montoya, Jimmie Johnson and Kurt Busch rounded out the top five in the first 'Duel'.

Scott Speed finished 15th, the final spot that



Kevin Harvick takes the checkered flag in his number 29 Chevrolet to win the first NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Budweiser Duel at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida on 21 Feb, 2013. —REUTERS

days ago won The Sprint Unlimited exhibition race at the Daytona International Speedway, passed leader Trevor Bayne on Lap 37 and led the remaining 23 laps.

'We didn't come here to run 10th or 12th, wherever we were running,' said Harvick, who made his move on the inside lane. 'We wanted to make something happen.' Kyle Busch won the second race to secure the fourth spot on the grid alongside Harvick.

Gordon had led for the first 40 laps before cruising through the last third of

guaranteed an entry into the Daytona 500. Finishing behind Busch in the second race were Kasey Kahne, Austin Dillon, Clint Bowyer and Matt Kenseth.

Both qualifiers had relatively peaceful racing, with the only caution flag coming on Lap 52 in the first race when Denny Hamlin bumped Carl Edwards, triggering a four-car crash.

The crash included Bayne, who had led for the majority of the race but will go to a back-up car and start from the rear on Sunday.

Reuters

Munich bids for one of Euro 2020 host cities

BERLIN, 22 Feb—Munich handed its application on Thursday to the German Football Federation to bid for one of the host cities of the 2020 European Championship.

Munich wants to host the final and semifinals, as well as three group games and a knockout match, according to Munich's representatives including Bavarian governor Horst Seehofer and Munich Mayor Christian Ude. 'Bavarians have proved on innumerable occasions that they are very tolerant hosts. That's the strongest asset,' said Bay-

ern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. Munich has been the first applicant bidding to be the country's host city for Euro 2020. The German federation has until September to nominate candidate cities to UEFA.

It was announced in January by the sport's European governing body UEFA that 13 countries will host Euro 2020 matches, with each providing a single stadium for the 24-team tournament. Euro 2020 host cities are to be chosen in September 2014 by UEFA.

Xinhua



Super Cup provides Hiroshima, Kashiwa with key ACL warm-up



TOKYO, 22 Feb — Sanfrecce Hiroshima and Kashiwa Reysol will have one eye on their upcoming Asian Champions League openers when they meet on Saturday in the Fuji Xerox Super Cup, the curtain-raiser for the 2013 J-League season.

The cup clash at Tokyo's National Stadium will serve as a final tune-up for league champions Hiroshima and Emperor's Cup holders Kashiwa, who along with Vegalta Sendai and Urawa Reds will be looking to restore national pride in the ACL after disappointing showings by Japanese clubs in recent seasons.

Hiroshima will be competing in the ACL for the second time having been eliminated in the group phase in 2010, while Reysol went out in the round of 16 in their continental debut last season.—Kyodo News

Big NBA names stay put on dull deadline day

TORONTO, 22 Feb—The big names rumoured to be on the move at the National Basketball Association's trade deadline went nowhere on Thursday as teams opted for tweaks over blockbusters. The Orlando Magic (15-39), with the second worst record in the Eastern Conference, pulled the trigger on the day's biggest swap, shipping sharpshooting guard JJ Redick to the Milwaukee Bucks in a multi-player deal, according to media reports.

Redick, who is among the league's top three-point shooters, averaging a career-high 15.1 points this season, was sent to Milwaukee along with Gustavo Ayon and Ish Smith in return for Tobias Harris, Beno Udrih and Doron Lamb. But the Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett, Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol and Dwight Howard, Toronto Raptors' Andrea Bargnani and Atlanta Hawks' Josh Smith remained in their current uniforms when the trade window slammed shut at 3 pm ET.

All were among the high-end, high-priced tal-

ent being shopped around in the media, but making a trade under the NBA's new collective bargaining agreement can be expensive with a punishing luxury tax being partially blamed for the dull deadline day. Two title contenders, the Miami Heat and Oklahoma City Thunder tinkered with their rosters. The Thunder grabbed small forward Ronnie Brewer from the New York Knicks for a second round pick, then

sent backup point guard Eric Maynor to the Portland Trail Blazers for the rights to Greek forward Georgios Printezis.

The Heat will not have South Beach buzzing about their latest deal, sending backup centre Dexter Pittman and a second round pick to the Memphis Grizzlies for the draft rights to Ricky Sanchez, who currently plays for Libertad Sunchales in Argentina.—Reuters



Orlando Magic's guard JJ Redick (L) looks to pass the ball while being defended by New York Knicks' guard JR Smith (R) and Knicks forward Amar'e Stoudemire in the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, on 30 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

McGrady finishes his first CBA season

QINGDAO, (China), 22 Feb—Former NBA star Tracy McGrady finished his first Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) season and left Qingdao on Thursday.

McGrady left Qingdao by flight KE846 for Incheon of South Korea and then he will fly back to the United States. About 200 fans saw him off and dozens of safeguards maintained order at the airport.

Waving to his teammates and fans, McGrady shouted: 'I'll be back!'

McGrady averaged 25 points and 7.2 rebounds per game in his first CBA season though his Qingdao Eagles finished the regular season as the bottom team. The seven-time NBA all star, who had played for Toronto Raptors, Orlando Magic and Houston Rockets in NBA, joined the Qingdao Eagles of CBA in October last year.

Xinhua



Former NBA star Tracy McGrady

GENERAL

Beautiful Chaung Thar Beach in Myanmar

Chaung Thar Beach is located 40 km to the west of Patheingyi (Bassein) in Ayeyarwaddy Division. It is about 5 hrs drive from Yangon to Chaung Thar Beach. It is an attractive wide beach with a muddy delta look. Not only coconut palms but also casuarinas trees can be found at the back of the beach. Two small islands can be seen offshore. The crab dishes of Chaung Thar Beach are also delicious and well-known. Fresh coconut juice will make relax here.

There are bungalow



type hotels along the beach with modern facilities.

While listening to the whispering of the wind in the trees and among the palm fronds and to the regular sleep inducing beat

of the oceanbreakers as you relax in your rattan chair amidst the balmy breezes you will find yourself visibly relaxing and your cares and tensions slipping away.—NLM

Bolt to race in Copacabana beach sprint

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 Feb—Usain Bolt will next month compete in a 150m race on Rio de Janeiro's iconic Copacabana beach, according to a statement on the six-time Olympic champion's website.

The 26-year-old will compete against four

other elite sprinters in the 31 March event dubbed Desafio Mano a Mano, meaning Hand-in-Hand Challenge in Portuguese. It will be Bolt's second trip to Rio, having visited the city last year as part of a promotional tour organized by his sponsor Puma.

Bolt won gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay events at both the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the London Games last year. Paralympic sprint champion Oscar Pistorius had accepted an invitation to attend the Rio event before being arrested for allegedly murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on 14 February.—Xinhua



Usain Bolt

Winnipeg Jets defenceman Redmond sliced by skate in practice

NEW YORK, 22 Feb—Winnipeg Jets defenceman Zach Redmond was taken to hospital towards the end of Thursday's warmup ahead of their game against the Carolina Hurricanes after being cut on the back of the leg. The 24-year-old Redmond, who has a goal and three assists in eight games this season, was taken to hospital to close a deep gash above his knee that left a pool of blood on the ice.

Winnipeg (6-8-1) are battling to get into the playoffs, standing four points out of the eighth Eastern Conference berth. "We were trying to get our extra players conditioned, and there was a 1-on-1 battle at the net where he (Redmond) tripped up and landed on his back," Jets coach Claude Noel told reporters.

"(Another) player

happened to step on him and cut him just above the back of the knee. It's a fairly wide cut," added Noel, who said he believed Redmond would be all right. The incident followed a serious cut that ended the season of Norris Trophy winner Erik Karlsson of the Ottawa Senators last week.

Reuters



Winnipeg Jets' Zach Redmond celebrates his goal against the Toronto Maple Leafs during the second period of their NHL hockey game in Winnipeg on 7 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-2-13 09:30 am ~

24-2-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * 24th Gangaw Village Art Exhibition
- * Good Prospects for Future Economic Experts
- * News
- * Myanmar Music Concert & Variety Show
- * News
- * As a White Candle
- * News
- * "Flying without Wings" My Great Limitless Adventure (Bagan)
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * Developing People: Shaping Future
- * News
- * Hledan Overpass People's Voice
- * Implications for FDI Laws, Revised?
- * Falam Vocational Training School
- * News
- * "Taste of Myanmar" Flat Wheat Noodle
- * News
- * Myanmar Japan Economic Co-operation
- * Myanmar Movies "The Concealed Love"

Myanmar TV

(23-2-2013, Saturday)

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|--|--|
| 7:00 am | 4:05 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw | 16. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:25 am | 4:15 pm |
| 2. Health Programme | 17. Cultural Dances |
| 7:30 am | 4:30 pm |
| 3. Morning News | 18. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Chemistry) |
| 7:40 am | 5:00 pm |
| 4. International News | 19. Road to 27th SEA Games "Myanmar Archery Federation" |
| 7:45 am | 5:20 pm |
| 5. People Talks | 20. Beautiful ASEAN |
| 8:00 am | 5:25 pm |
| 6. Documentary | 21. States Traditional Orchestra and State Traditional Orchestra |
| 8:05 am | 6:20 pm |
| 7. Sea Games (Teleplay) | 22. Celebrity and Dinner |
| 8:30 am | 6:50 pm |
| 8. Poem Garden | 23. TV Drama Series |
| 8:50 am | 7:00 pm |
| 9. Musical Programme | 24. News |
| 11:00 am | 8:00 pm |
| 10. Opening Song | 25. News |
| 11:25 am | 26. Myanmar Series |
| 11. Game For Children | 27. TV Drama Series |
| 11:55 am | 10:00 pm |
| 12. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News | 28. News |
| 1:15 Pm | 29. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |
| 13. Teleplay | |
| 1:45 pm | |
| 14. Choice of Vocalist (Myo Myint lay) | |
| 2:40 pm | |
| 15. One Village & One Product | |

Aussie swimmers admit using sedative

SYDNEY, 22 Feb — James Magnussen and his team mates from the Australian men's 4x100m freestyle relay squad have admitted using a sedative banned by their national Olympic committee in a bonding session before the London Games.

The prescription drug Stilnox was banned by the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) just before the 2012 Games and the athletes now face sanctions from the governing body for breaching their Olympic team membership agreement.

"We stand here today to admit that we took Stilnox following a day of bonding for the relay team at the training camp in Manchester," the six swimmers said in

a statement read out at a news conference in Sydney on Friday. The Olympic silver medalist and his team mates Matt Targett, Eamon Sullivan, James Roberts, Cameron McEvoy and Tommaso D'Orsogna apologized for their actions, which they said followed a "tradition" in the Australian relay team.

The statement said the drug had been prescribed before the AOC ban and the swimmers had then indulged in "childish" and "stupid" pranks such as knocking on the doors of other athletes. "I think one of the reasons I agreed to go along with it was all the pressure I was under," said Magnussen. "Completely inappropriate in hindsight." Misuse of prescription drugs along with allegations

of drunkenness, breaching curfews, deceit and bullying were highlighted in a review published on Tuesday, which said slack



management had allowed a "toxic" culture to develop in the team.

The relay squad arrived in London confident of winning gold but ended up fourth in the final as the swimming team produced Australia's worst

Australia's James Magnussen reacts after his men's 50m freestyle heat during the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Aquatics Centre on 2 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS

results in the Olympic pool for two decades. "If I thought it would affect our performance, there's no way we would have taken it," said Sullivan. "I believe there's no way it affected our performance."

Reuters

McIlroy and Woods go out on day of upsets

MARANA, (Arizona), 22 Feb—World number one Rory McIlroy and three-times winner Tiger Woods were both sent packing in stunning fashion in the snow-delayed first round of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship on Thursday. Northern Irishman McIlroy, a losing finalist last year, was ousted

1-up by his good friend Shane Lowry of Ireland while Woods was eliminated 2&1 by fellow American Charles Howell in fading light at Dove Mountain.

Once again the elite World Golf Championships (WGC) event lived up to its reputation for wild unpredictability and there were 14 upsets from the

30 matches which finished at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club. Two matches will have to be completed on Friday, a knock-on effect from Wednesday when just three-and-a-half hours of play was possible because of driving rain, sleet and then snow. The premature departure of McIlroy in his first PGA Tour appearance

of the year was stunning, but Lowry always believed he had the game to pull off an upset win. "Deep down I knew I could beat him," the 25-year-old Irishman said after chipping in for birdie at the 11th and 12th to take control of the match. "I'm not here for no reason. I'm not here to make up the numbers.—Reuters

Vice-President U Nyan Tun meets sports federations' chiefs



Patron of XXVII SEA Games Organizing Leading Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun meets with presidents of sports federations.—MNA

YANGON, 22 Feb— Patron of XXVII SEA Games Organizing Leading Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun met with presidents of sports federations in Myanmar at National Indoor Stadium (1) here this afternoon.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman of the committee Union Sports Minister U Tint

Hsan, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon region ministers, departmental heads, presidents and vice-presidents of Myanmar sports federations.

The Vice-President said he was encouraged by the preparations for the SEA Games.

Eight sports would be played in Yangon, he added.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan said about 1400 athletes are undergoing training for the games to be hosted in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Ngwehsaung beach.

Next, the Presidents and responsible persons of federations reported on their respective works and requirements to the Vice-President who attended to

their needs.

Then the Vice-President presented sports gear worth K 1159.165 million to the federations.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice-

President said the XXVII SEA Games was a sports competition Myanmar was going to host for the first time in more than forty years and called for collaborative efforts to

be able to hold the event successfully, assuming it as an opportunity to promote the image of the nation whatever there would be difficulties and challenges.—MNA

Schools, bridges and health care facilities for Chin and Naga brethren

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb— Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win met Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri, who has completed his tour of duty at his office here this morning.

Both sides exchanged views on education, health and infrastructural buildings to be implemented in Chin State and Naga

Self-Administered Zone with the assistance of Indian government and cooperation in providing educational aids to both communities in Rakhine State.

Indian ambassador raised questions about the plan to be carried out by the Ministry of Border Affairs which will be provided with US\$ 25 million by India government starting

from 2012-2013 to 2016-2017 financial years. The Union Minister replied that the ministry has already arranged to construct eleven basic education primary schools, nine rural health care centers and five bridges above 180-ft in Chin State and ten BEPSs, eight rural health care centers and three bridges above 100-ft in Naga Self-Administered Zone.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents sports gear to officials of respective sports federations.—MNA

Success awaits Myanmar shooting team in intensive training



Shooting is one of the sports which is always sure

to bag gold medals for the Myanmar sports contingent

in SEA Games which is held every two years. But

Myanmar shooting team failed to bring success in 2011 Indonesian SEA Games. That's why, athletes are under intensive training for the XXVII SEA Games that Myanmar will host to be able to achieve success.

"Members of Myanmar shooting team are being provided with adequate training in Nay Pyi Taw. The tentatively selected team is formed with old and new shooters alike. Among old shooters, Maung Kyu, Aung Nyein Ni, Aung Thura, Lin Aung, Than Than Saw and Lay Zar Zar Hlaing Myint

are former gold medalists in shooting event of SEA Games. Maung Kyu is one of the record-breaking SEA Games medalists.

The tentatively selected shooters are given training twice a day to be successful in upcoming event. Reserved shooters are also undergoing training to be ready for substitution of the injured and those with low performance", coaches U Khin Aung Htoo and U Myint Aung said.

While undergoing training, shooters are allowed to do their training with the use of live bullets. They used to face many difficulties while competing in the contests as they did not get comprehensive

training. Nonetheless, the Myanmar shooting team put in an excellent performance at the previous competitions.

"We will be at the advantage in the event as our shooters are being provided with training with the use of live bullets.

Only when they use live bullets in their training, will they be the best in the competition. We would like to express our thanks to the Union Minister for Sports and the President of Myanmar Shooting Federation who fulfilled our requirements", they added.

Kyemon (22-2-2013)

Trs: YM