

The New Light of Myanmar

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Farmers are to make agricultural reforms in five ways



President U Thein Sein views transplanting of paddy at modern mechanized farming(3000-acre) farm in Dekkhinathiri Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—To hail Peasants' Day, a ceremony to launch modern mechanized farming (3000-acre) farm plantation was held at the briefing hall of plantation project near Nyaunggon village in Kyuntatpae village-tract,

Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, this morning, in conjunction with a paddy-transplanting ceremony, with an address by President U Thein Sein.

It was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Committee Chairman U

Tin Htut, Union ministers U Aung Kyi, U Thein Nyunt, U Tin Naing Thein, U Kyaw Hsan, U Ohn Myint and U Aye Myint.

At the briefing hall, the President heard reports presented by Union Minister U Myint Hlaing

ways to change mind-set, to improve farmlands, to use quality strains, to apply better cultivation system and to transform into mechanized farming. Myanmar's population would reach about 100 million in next 30 years. Efforts are being made for food sufficiency of the current population. He urged the farmers to boost production for food sufficiency.

He pinpointed correctness and accuracy of data and outputs. Only then, farmers would implement triple-cropping pattern. Thanks to the farm equipment, production costs and wastes could be minimized. Farmers would get more agricultural loans ever than before. Livestock breeding and related businesses would be carried out at the extra time as the harvesting time

the country with the backup of the agro-industry. The President also underlined the need of higher education for new generations of the farmers.

He called on the farmers to show their unity and industry.

The President gave away gifts to staff of Irrigation Department, Agricultural Mechanization Department and Agriculture Department.

Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Committee Chairman U Tin Htut also presented gifts to farm workers.

The President and party viewed round sunflower plantations, vegetable patches, advanced agricultural machinery, thrashers, harvesters, SATAKE rice mills and other agricultural machinery in 3000-acre farm.

The reclamation of



President U Thein Sein presents gift to departmental staff at transplanting of paddy at modern mechanized farming (3000-acre) farm.

MNA

and Directors-General.

In his speech, the President said that the government has made a lot of political reforms for ensuring peace and stability, rule of law and eternal peace while making economic reforms for better socio-economic status of people. Emphasis was placed on the establishment of industrialized country based on agricultural sector, he added.

He pointed out that agricultural reforms would be made in five

could be reduced.

He stressed the need to turn to high-yield paddy strains and mechanized farming as a solution to minimize wastage.

He repeated his call for industrialization of

the farm by Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Nay Pyi Taw Council with the support of local farmers in Dekkhinathiri and Lewe Townships took three months.

MNA

Weather on special features

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—According to the observations at 12:30 hrs MST today, the tropical depression downgraded from the tropical Storm 'SHANSHAN' over South

China Sea and is centered at about 430 miles Southeast of Ho Chi Ming (Vietnam). It is forecast to move Southwest ward slowly.

NLM

LOCAL NEWS

UMFCCI to hold US-Myanmar Trade and Investment conference on 25 Feb

YANGON, 23 Feb — According to an official of UMFCCI, a conference on US-Myanmar Trade and Investment Relations will be held at the building of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, here, on 25 February.

The meeting will be aimed at boosting bilateral

trade and investment between Myanmar and the US. UMFCCI will jointly-organize a conference on "US-Myanmar Trade and Investment Relations: The Path Forward" with Washington-based American Trade Association.

UMFCCI President U Win Aung and the US Undersecretary for Economic Affairs will speak on the

occasion.

Members of the US association and representatives from US companies that are dealing with oil and gas, information and communication technology, energy, agro-business and livestock breeding, service and online shopping are expected to attend the conference.

Kyemon



Union Cup Games

From 28-2-2013 to 7-3-2013

Myanmar sees more globetrotters

MYITNGE, 23 Feb — As a result of reform processes and greater transparency in the country, more globetrotters have come in flocks to visit places of interest in Myanmar.

Places of interest—Maha Muni Buddha Image,

Mandalay Hill, Kuthodaw Pagoda, Atumashi Shwe Kyaungdaw, Kaunghmudaw Pagoda and Paleik Mway Pagoda—in Mandalay and Sagaing are always crowded with growing numbers of tourists. There has been an increase in arrival of

tourists at U Pein Bridge in Amarapura (a) Taungmyo compared with those the previous years.

A tour guide said tourists were very happy to visit scenically attractive areas in the country.

Kyemon

Road/bridge works gaining momentum in Shan State (East)



NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected road works of Kenglat-Tahlay-Kengtung road, construction of a concrete bridge on Tachilek-Kengtung road section and worksite for extended construction of

Kengtung University on 16 February.

On 17 February, the Union minister oversaw upgrading of Kengtung-Mongma-Mongla road section and Kengtung-Loimwe road section, and maintenance of Tarpin bridge.

In meeting with officials at the meeting hall in Kengtung, the Union minister called for systematic use of allotted budgets in construction abiding by financial rules and regulations and unity among the service personnel.— MNA

New school building for Dayeloo village in Kungyangon Township

YANGON, 23 Feb — The opening of new school building for Basic Education Middle School (branch) in Dayeloo village of Kungyangon Township of Yangon Region was held at the school on 13 February. The new school building was built with the humanitarian assistance of US\$ 86,605 given by Japan.

The middle school (branch) originated as a primary school in 1985 and it was upgraded into a middle

school (branch) in 2000. The cyclonic storm Nargis in 2008 caused severe damage to one of two buildings of the school, forcing students to continue to pursue their education in a makeshift building.

So Japanese government provided the storm-hit school with cash assistance and school furniture under its small grant assistance programme to be able to facilitate learning to students.— Kyemon



YANGON, 23 Feb — The oath-taking ceremony of the judges and judicial officers who are discharging duties at Yangon Region High Court and district courts in the region and who are taking a refresher course (No 5/2012) for District Judges at Training School of the Office of Chief Justice of the Union in Hlinethaya was held at

the Room No (2) of Yangon Region High Court at 9 am on 20 February. Likewise, the similar ceremony for the judges and judicial officers of Yangon Region High Court and township courts in the region was held at the same venue at 3 pm on that day.

Chief Justice of Yangon Region High Court U Win Swe spoke on the occasion.

Next, 60 district judges and judicial officers and 178 township judges and judicial officers totaling 238 took oath before the Chief Justice of the Region.— Kyemon

One more BEHS for Taunggyi

TAUNGGYI, 23 Feb — The ceremony to upgrade Basic Education Middle School No (1) to Basic Education High School No (8) was held at the school on West ring road in Seinban ward of Taunggyi on 17 February.

Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun formally opened the school and Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat unveiled

the signboard of the newly-upgraded school.

Then the state minister and the school head elaborated educational vision and ongoing tasks.

Afterwards, wellwishers handed over sets of computers and cash donation for the school to the school head who presented certificates of honour to them.

Kyemon

Kitchen fire costs K 8 million in Yinmabin Township

YINMABIN, 23 Feb — Fire started from the kitchen of a house of Kyundaw village in Yinmabin Township of Sagaing Region caused loss of property worth about K 8 million after reducing 39 houses to ashes on 18 February.

Fire crews accompanied by five fire engines and local people struggled to control the fire that broke out at about 1.30 pm and managed to bring it under control at about 2.30 pm. The fire totally died at about 5 pm.

Yinmabin Township police station filed a lawsuit against Daw Ngwe Yi for her fire negligence that attributed fire outbreak, causing property loss and burning 39 houses to the ground.

Kyemon



WORLD

US okays dealings with four Myanmar banks

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb — The Obama administration on Friday eased sanctions on four major Myanmar banks, allowing transactions with them and their access to American financial system.

The Department of Treasury issued a general license to Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank, Asia Green Development Bank and Ayeyarwady Bank, under which most transactions with American citizens and entities are authorized, including opening and maintaining accounts.

"This action will give US companies and non-governmental organizations greater access to some of the largest Myanmar banks and allow these financial entities to access the US financial system," the department said in a statement.

"Increased access to Myanmar's banking system for our companies and non-governmental organizations will help to facilitate Myanmar's continued social and economic development, serve as a model for responsible investment, and help to provide a better future for the Myanmar people," said David Cohen, the Treasury's under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, using the former name of the Southeast Asian nation.

Washington restored diplomatic relations with Myanmar and ended sanctions on investment there in July 2012, in response to the advances made in the country's reform efforts initiated by President U Thein Sein after he took office in March 2011.

Xinhua

Brazil's 2014 election campaign gets off to early start

BRASILIA, 23 Feb — Brazil's 2014 election season got off to an unusually early start this week with the unofficial launch of President Dilma Rousseff's re-election campaign by her mentor and predecessor, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Celebrating his Workers' Party's 10th year in power, Lula laid to rest speculation that he would run again by anointing Rousseff as the party's best option to stay in power.

The main opposition party PSDB went on the offensive and attacked the decade of Workers' Party (PT) rule for undoing its work in laying the basis for Brazil's financial stability under former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

"They can get ready, they can organize, but our reply will be the re-election of Dilma in 2014," Lula said on Wednesday in a packed Sao Paulo hotel ballroom.

The day before, Rousseff announced that she has almost met her promise to eradicate extreme poverty by expanding social programmes started by Lula. She spoke under a banner that looked decidedly like a campaign slogan: "Ending poverty is only the beginning."

Despite her failure to match the rapid economic growth enjoyed by Lula, Rousseff's popularity is in the high 70s and she is facing weak opposition. Barring a major scandal in her government or an economic downturn that brings high inflation and unemployment, she is seen as the odds-on favourite to win the 2014 vote.

Rousseff has vowed to continue the PT's social plans aimed at improving the quality of life of Brazil's poor, though her government has turned to private business to help rebuild the country's dilapi-



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff gestures during a meeting of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia on 6 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

dated infrastructure. Some of her policy moves, such as in the energy sector, have shaken investor confidence.

A PSDB victory in 2014 would restore more liberal policies that laid the ground for economic stability in the 1990s.

Rousseff's most likely opponent, PSDB Senator Aécio Neves, accused her of putting more effort into her re-election than govern-

ing the nation.

Neves took to the Senate floor on Wednesday to attack her, saying she had not delivered economic and industrial expansion, failed to draw investment that Brazil badly needs to upgrade its dilapidated infrastructure and undermined Brazil's fiscal credibility by juggling some government accounts.

Reuters

One dead as torrential rain floods Greek capital



A woman stuck in her car is rescued from flood waters by a resident during heavy rain in Chalandri suburb north of Athens on 22 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

ATHENS, 23 Feb — A woman died and dozens of commuters were trapped in their cars as torrential rain swamped Athens on Friday, the heaviest downpour the normally sunny Greek capital has seen in decades.

Power outages dark-

ened large parts of the city during the overnight cloudburst, a river broke its banks and traffic jams brought much of Athens to a standstill in the morning rush hour.

The capital's main roads and highways were

overflowing with water and public transport was severely disrupted as two subway stops were briefly shut.

"This is the worst storm since 1961. We're talking about 52 years without ever having seen such a heavy downpour in this area," meteorologist Yannis Kallianos told state television.

Police said a 27-year-old woman died of a probable heart attack after being trapped in her car in the northern suburb of Halandri.

A Reuters reporter saw another woman being rescued from her jeep as a gush of water more than a metre (yard) high swept her car away. At least five other cars in the same block were overturned and three were piled on top of each other.

Officials said more than 130 litres of rainfall per square metre swamped the neighbouring suburb of Papagou in just under three hours.

Reuters

US deploys about 100 military personnel to Niger

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb — US President Barack Obama said on Friday that his country has deployed about 100 military personnel to the West African country of Niger.

Obama said the deployment "will provide support for intelligence collection and will also facilitate intelligence sharing with French forces conducting operations in

Mali and with other partners in the region."

In a letter to the Congress, Obama said the last element of the deployment was completed on Wednesday, and the deployment was with the consent of the government of Niger.

The president added the US troops are equipped with weapons for their protection and security.

Xinhua

Schools, homes and public parks on frontline of Damascus war

DAMASCUS, 23 Feb — Syria's civil war has burst into central Damascus and its indiscriminate violence has put civilians in the firing line.

Thursday's powerful bomb which killed more than 60 people in the capital's Mazraa District may have targeted President Bashar al-Assad's ruling Baath Party or the embassy of his ally Russia.

But many of the victims were ordinary Dama-

scenes in the wrong place at the wrong time—including children packed into an elementary school directly behind the Baath Party offices. "It's in horrendous shape, it's a war zone," said the mother of a girl who attends Abdullah ibn al Zubair school, describing shattered windows and iron bars hanging from broken concrete.

Her daughter, wounded by shrapnel, may lose an eye and several of her

schoolmates were killed, she said. State media, which said 20 children died at the school, sought to whip up fury against rebels battling to overthrow Assad, repeatedly broadcasting gruesome footage of charred corpses, burning cars and angry condemnation of the attacks.

But on a day when activists say 90 people were killed in car bombings across Damascus, there was no need to manufacture rage.

Residents in the centre of the city, long isolated from a conflict which has killed 70,000 people in the last two years, fear that the violence which has devastated Homs, Aleppo and the outer districts of their own capital, is knocking at their door.

"OK fine, so the rebels want to make a point that they've arrived here in Damascus... How does that help their cause?" said a man in his 40s who is no supporter of Assad. "It's us civilians who are getting hurt. We're paying the price."

An elderly woman vented her anger on both sides. "They've gone crazy, all of them...I don't care what they want or who they think they're fighting, they're aiming their wrath at us. Damn them all," she said.—Reuters



Fighters from the Free Syrian Army's Tahrir al Sham brigade fire back at the Syrian army during heavy fighting in Mleha suburb of Damascus, in this 26 Jan, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

Two military pilots killed in Mexico's aircraft crash

MEXICO CITY, 23 Feb — A trainer aircraft crashed in central Mexico on Thursday, killing two pilots on board, the authorities said.

The plane, a single-

engine Porter PC-6 aircraft, was carrying out training flights when it crashed near No1 Military Air Base in central Mexico, the defence ministry said. The pilots were immediately

transferred to military medical facilities, but were later confirmed dead.

The ministry is investigating the accident. So far, the result remains unknown.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chinese scientists identify prehistoric species



Chinese scientists identify prehistoric species.
XINHUA

NANJING, 23 Feb — Chinese scientists have announced that they have identified an enigmatic prehistoric insect, with a research paper published by academic journal *Nature* on 21 February. The paper was written by Huang Diying, a researcher with the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and his group.

The well-known book "Evolution of the Insects" states that *Strashila*, an extinct insect dating back to the Mesozoic era, is one of the most puzzling insect species known to paleontologists.

tologists.

The insect was first reported in 1992 by a Russian palaeontologist. Some scientists believe that it greatly differs from all known insects and cannot be placed in any insect orders, while others have even suggested establishing a new order to accommodate it. Still others have theorized that the insect is an ectoparasite, or an animal that lives on the exterior of another organism.

However, 13 new specimens of *Strashila* found in Ningcheng county in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region have al-

lowed Huang and his group to more closely examine the insect and offer their own interpretation as to how it should be classified. Huang and his team said that the abdomens of the new female specimens resemble those of normal wingless flies and lack the features of an ectoparasite abdomen.

In addition, the new male specimens have large and broad forewings, a feature that is not found on ectoparasites, Huang said. Based on detailed studies, Huang said *Strashila* is likely a member of *Diptera*, an order of insects that includes normal house flies and mosquitoes.

Xinhua

Huawei, ZTE hold most patents in 2012



BEIJING, 23 Feb — Huawei Technologies Co and ZTE Corp were granted the most invention patents on the Chinese mainland in 2012, the intellectual property authority said on Thursday. Gan Shaoning, deputy director of the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), said at a news briefing that China granted 2,734 invention patents to Huawei, and 2,727 to ZTE, two telecommunication giants, last year.

A Shenzhen-based subsidiary of the Taiwanese Foxconn ranked third, with 1,099 patents. China's auto makers BYD and Chery were also among the top 10 company patent holders. Eight of the top 10 are in the private sector, indicating robust innovation vitality of the country's private companies.

A total of 217,105 invention patents to domestic and overseas applicants were

authorized in 2012, up 26.1 percent from the previous year, according to SIPO figures. Of the total invention patents, 143,847 were granted to domestic applicants, up 28 percentage points year on year. Companies played a more important role in technological innovation last year, accounting for 54.7 percent of domestic patent holders, up 2.8 percentage points year on year. Southern Guangdong Province was home to most patent holders last year, followed by Beijing and east China's Jiangsu Province. However, Gan said China's invention patents are still behind foreign countries in areas including optics, transportation, audio-visual technologies, medical and pharmaceutical technologies, semiconductor and engines. China has a lot to do to boost technological innovation in a number of key areas, Gan said.

Xinhua

Vietnam to launch 3rd satellite into orbit

HANOI, 23 Feb — Vietnam will launch its third satellite into orbit in the second quarter of 2013, according to a document approved by the Vietnamese Government Office.

Vietnamese media *Vn-Express* quoted Bui Trong Tuyen, vice president of Vietnam's Space Techno-

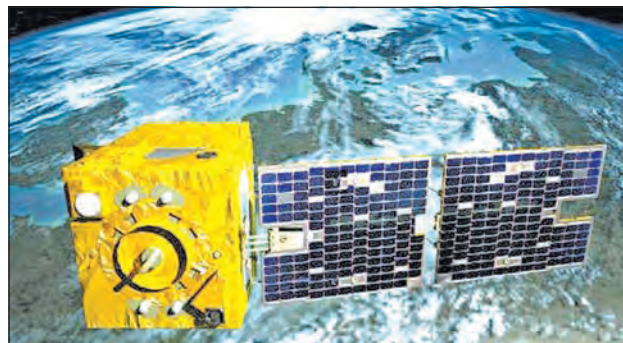
logy Institute, as saying that the *VNREDSat-1A*, an earth observation optical satellite, is designed for the service of earth observation, analysis of natural resources, environmental management and natural disasters monitoring.

VNREDSat-1A will be launched into sun synchro-

nous orbit (SSO) at an altitude of 670 km. The 120-kg remote sensing satellite is built by France's Astrium, which will supply to Vietnam the complete satellite system and ground receiving facilities. During the project, Astrium will help training 15 Vietnamese engineers in controlling the satellite.

The satellite, worth 70-million US dollars, will be launched by the Ariane-space at the Guiana Space Centre, French Guiana. Vietnam's two communication satellites *VINASAT-1* and *VINASAT-2* were launched into orbit in 2008 and 2012, respectively.

Xinhua



HP forecast beats Street, CEO says overhaul taking hold

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Feb — Hewlett-Packard Co's quarterly revenue and forecasts beat Wall Street expectations as it continued to cut costs under CEO Meg Whitman's turnaround plan, sending the No 1 personal computer maker's shares up over 5 percent. Whitman, who took the helm over a year ago after a failed bid to become governor of California, has launched a years-long turnaround to recapture some of the Silicon Valley icon's former growth trajectory.

She said on Thursday the company's efforts were gaining traction but "there's still a lot of work to do to generate the kind of growth we want to see." "The turnaround is on track, and we did better than we expected that we would," she told analysts on a conference call after HP reported its quarterly results. "The patient showed some signs of im-

provement, and I think we should be encouraged."

Whitman also said reiterated that HP has no plans for a break-up of the company and the PC business is one that the company needs to be in, but it needs to "reallocate resources from the core PC business to mobile" and other services.

HP's fiscal first-quarter revenue shrank 6 percent to \$28.4 billion in a flat to shrinking personal computing market, but it beat the \$27.8 billion Wall Street analysts had expected on average. Net income fell 16 percent to \$1.23 billion, or 63 cents a share, from \$1.47 billion, or 73 cents a share, a year earlier. HP is struggling to shore up its credibility on Wall Street while battling shrinking margins in an increasingly cut-throat PC market and cautious corporate IT spending. Like Dell Inc, HP is also struggling to sustain sales

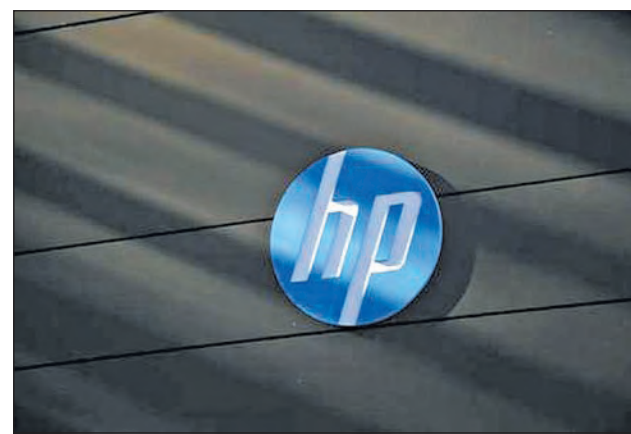
growth as smartphones and tablets surge in popularity.

Forrester analyst Frank Gillett said despite signs of progress, the business atmosphere — with PCs in decline — is challenging for HP. "For HP, it's a multi-year journey and this is just one step," Gillett said. "They have a long road ahead." Gillett said HP's data center business could

recover faster than its PC business.

Underscoring the severity of the industry's woes, Dell on Tuesday reported a 31 percent drop in profit as sales fell in virtually every major business division. CEO Whitman in October had warned of a tough 2013, with earnings set to decline steeply.

Reuters



A Hewlett-Packard logo is seen at the company's Executive Briefing Centre in Palo Alto, California on 16 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

India to launch mission to Mars this year, says president

NEW DELHI, 23 Feb — India will launch its first mission to Mars this year, President Pranab Mukherjee said on Thursday, as the emerging Asian nation looks to play catch up in the global space race alongside the United States, Russia and its giant

neighbour China. "Several space missions are planned for 2013, including India's first mission to Mars and the launch of our first navigational satellite," Mukherjee told parliament.

India will send a satellite in October via an un-

manned spacecraft to orbit the red planet, blasting off from the southeastern coast in a mission expected to cost about \$83 million, scientists who are part of the mission say.

The spacecraft, which will be made in India, will take nine months to reach Mars and then launch itself in an elliptical orbit about 500 km (310 miles) from the planet.

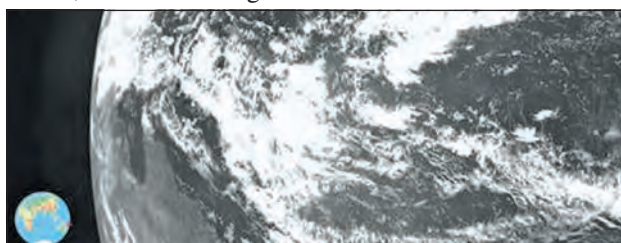
"The mission is ready to roll," Deviprasad Karnik, a scientist from the India Space Research Organization (ISRO), said by phone from the city of Bangalore.

India's mission to

Mars has drawn criticism in a country suffering from high levels of malnutrition and power shortages, and currently experiencing its worst slowdown in growth in ten years. But India has long argued that technology developed in its space programme has practical applications to everyday life.

India's space exploration programme began in 1962. Five years ago, its *Chandrayaan* satellite found evidence of water on the moon. India is now looking at landing a wheeled rover on the moon in 2014.

Reuters



This image of the Earth was taken by ISRO's Chandrayaan-1 mission while on its way to the Moon on 29 Oct 2008, at 03:30 CET.

REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Most women misunderstand IUD birth control



A medical worker explains a family planning method using the Intra Uterine device (IUD) to housewives in a local government health centre in Navotas, Metro Manila on 3 March, 2011. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 23 Feb — In a new survey, most women had inaccurate perceptions about the safety and effectiveness of intrauterine devices (IUDs) in preventing pregnancy, say US researchers, who urge doctors to talk more about the benefits of the devices. In particular, many of the study participants didn't know that IUDs are more effective contraceptives than the birth control pill and that

the devices don't increase the risk of getting a sexually transmitted disease.

"It's not clear whether women have an overly optimistic view of the effectiveness of the birth control pill or an overly pessimistic view of the IUD," said Dr Lisa Callegari, the study's lead author and a clinical assistant professor at the University of Washington. Whatever their source, these misperceptions lead to

underuse of "one of the most safe and effective methods" of birth control, said Dr Jeffrey Peipert, an obstetrics and gynecology professor at Washington University, who was not part of the study. IUDs, which include the brand name products ParaGard and Mirena, are small plastic or copper-and-plastic objects inserted into the uterus. They can be left implanted for years, and are more than 99 percent effective at preventing pregnancy.

In contrast, the birth control pill has been found in real-world practice to be about 95 percent effective. Callegari said that earlier studies have highlighted some of the mistaken beliefs women have about IUDs, and she and her colleagues wanted to get a better sense of how common they are among average women visiting primary care clinics. They surveyed more than 1,600 women between the ages of 18 and 50 who had visited one of four clinics in Pennsylvania.—Reuters

GM pledges \$7.3 billion investment in South Korea unit

SEOUL, 23 Feb — General Motors Co (GM.N) said it would invest \$7.3 billion in its South Korean unit over the next five years — an amount which will likely help relieve concerns that the US automaker was set to reduce its presence in the country. Fears of output cuts and layoffs had grown after GM said it was interested in gaining full control of GM Korea by buying a 17 percent stake from the unit's second-biggest shareholder, a move that was seen as possibly paving the way for restructuring steps.

Those worries intensified after GM Korea said late last year it would not

build its next-generation Chevrolet Cruze small car in South Korea. But GM said its 8 trillion won investment in improving manufacturing and engineering capabilities underscores South Korea's importance as a key production and development base, even if the domestic market is relatively small." GM Korea will continue to play a major role in our global growth plans," Tim Lee, head of international operations at GM, said in a statement. GM Korea, which has five manufacturing facilities in South Korea, said it will produce six upgraded versions of GM models currently built, in-



A security detail keeps watch at General Motors Orion Assembly plant as US President Barack Obama arrives to tour the facility with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak in Detroit, Michigan on 14 Oct, 2011. — REUTERS

cluding global mini, small and midsize cars. It reiterated it will build GM's first global full battery electric vehicle. South Korea exports Chevrolet-branded cars to Europe and other regions and accounts for

about a quarter of GM's Chevy production globally. It also has design and engineering centers in South Korea, which have developed the Spark and Aveo mini cars and the Trax sport utility vehicle.—Reuters

In US, flu vaccine worked in just over half of those who got it

CHICAGO, 23 Feb — A US government analysis of this season's flu vaccine suggests it was effective in only 56 percent of people who got the shot, and it largely failed to protect the elderly against an especially deadly strain circulating during flu season. The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said the findings underscore the need for more effective weapons in the fight against influenza, which kills between 3,000 and 50,000 people in the United States each year depending on the severity of the flu season.

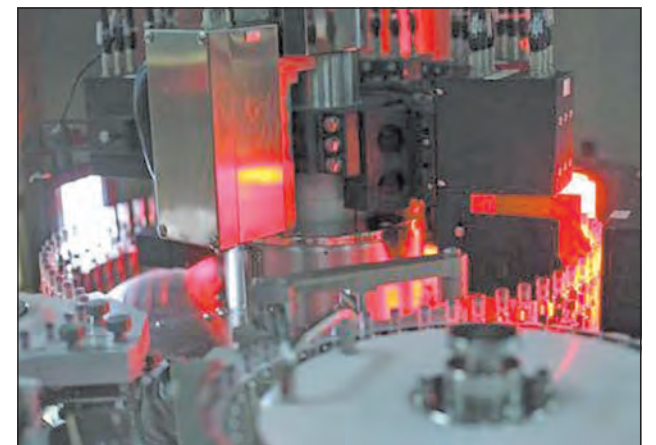
"We simply need a better vaccine against influenza, one that works better and lasts longer," CDC Director Dr Thomas Frieden said in a statement on Thursday. Experts generally estimate the effectiveness of flu vaccines to be between 50 percent and 70 percent, but this vaccine appears to have fallen on the low side of that range. The vaccine did cut the risk of medical visits caused by either

influenza A or influenza B by 56 percent, according to the study published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

It was more effective against influenza B, protecting 67 percent of those who were vaccinated. Against the influenza A (H3N2) strain, the vaccine protected only 47 percent. The protective benefits of the vaccine against influenza B were consistent across age groups. That

was not the case with the influenza A (H3N2) component of the vaccine, which protected 46 percent to 58 percent of people aged 6 months to 64 years, but only 9 percent of those 65 and older, a finding that was statistically insignificant.

The estimates are based on studies of 2,697 children and adults enrolled in the US Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Network between 3 December and 19 January.—Reuters



Vaccination containers pass through a machine that will individually photograph vaccines for quality control on the assembly line at the Novartis flu vaccine manufacturing facility in Holly Springs, North Carolina, on 23 Nov, 2009. — REUTERS

Jobs, factory, inflation data favour easy Fed policy

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb — A raft of US economic data on Thursday from claims for jobless aid to factory activity and consumer prices pointed to a still tepid recovery and supported the argument for the Federal Reserve to maintain its monetary stimulus. The Fed is currently buying \$85 billion in bonds per month and has said it would keep up purchases until the labour market outlook improves substantially, although officials are increasingly divided over the wisdom of that course.

"The economy is in a holding pattern. It's not going to strengthen sufficiently to justify an end of the

current programme," said Millan Mulraine, senior economist at TD Securities in New York. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 20,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 362,000, unwinding the bulk of the prior week's decline, the Labour Department said.

A second report from the department showed consumer prices were flat for a second straight month in January as gasoline prices fell and the cost of food held steady. In the 12 months through January, consumer prices rose 1.6 percent, the smallest gain since July.

Reuters

Chinese scientists find smoking-dementia link

BEIJING, 23 Feb — A research team led by Chinese scientists has linked smoking to higher risks of dementia, *Health News*, a national health-centric newspaper, reported on Thursday. The research results, published in the *British Occupational and Environmental Medicine* journal, concluded that Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), including smoking and passive

smoking, should be considered an important risk factor for severe dementia syndromes.

The research was conducted by a team with Anhui Medical University, in cooperation with British and American scientists. The team interviewed 5,921 people aged 60 and above in five provinces in China from 2007 to 2009. They used scientific models to calculate the relative risk of moderate

and severe dementia among participants exposed to ETS.

According to the results, 626 participants, or 10.6 percent of the total, had severe dementia, and 869, or 14.7 percent, moderate syndromes. Among them, 292 smokers or passive smokers, or 13.6 percent of participants exposed to ETS, had severe dementia, an incidence rate much higher than the 8.9 percent among the non-exposed

group.

The study further found that, among those exposed to ETS for over 40 years, the risk of severe dementia escalated to 19.3 percent, showing a positive association between intensity of ETS exposure and rate of severe dementia. The study did not find a correlation between ETS exposure and moderate dementia.

Xinhua



A woman fills out an application for one of the 300 available positions at a new Target retail store in San Francisco, California on 9 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS

WORLD

Five killed in militants car bomb attacks in north Mali

GAO, 23 Feb—Five people were killed in a remote Malian town on Friday in car bomb attacks by militant on Tuareg MNLA rebels with close links to French forces, a spokesman for the Tuareg fighters said.

Violence in northern Mali underscores the risk of French and African forces becoming entangled in a messy guerrilla war as they try to help Mali's weak army counter bombings and raids by al-Qaeda-linked militants.

Friday's car bomb attacks in In Khalil, 1,700 km (1,000 miles) northeast of the capital Bamako, came a day after a car bomb killed two people in the northern city of Kidal and French

and Malian troops killed 15 militant on the streets of the city of Gao.

Sporadic gunfire was also heard in Gao on Friday, and a Malian officer said a militant fighter was still holed up near the banks of the Niger River.

Moussa Ag Assarid, a Paris-based representative of the pro-autonomy MNLA Tuareg fighters, said suspected militant had first tried to drive into a building in In Khalil, but the car was destroyed by fighters ahead of impact.

A second car then drove into the group's local operations centre and exploded. Aside from the two bombers, Ag Assarid said three MNLA fighters

were killed and three others wounded. It was not possible to independently verify the report.

The MNLA swept across northern Mali in April, taking advantage of a power vacuum left by a coup in Bamako. But its revolt was eclipsed by a loose alliance of militant jihadists, including al-Qaeda's North African wing, AQIM.

France is six weeks into an offensive to clear fighters from Mali's north, which Paris said was in danger of becoming a springboard for attacks on the region and the West.

In the meantime, the MNLA says it has retaken control of Kidal and



A Malian soldier looks on during fighting with militants in Gao, on 21 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

towns around the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains, where militant are believed to be hiding near the Algerian border. France has established close links with Tuareg rebels on the ground and has set up a base at Kidal's airport but has kept a low profile in the town.

In Gao, the hub for French and Malian military

operations in Mali's north, Malian government troops were carrying out house-to-house searches on Friday after a day of fighting.

"The buildings must be filled with dead enemy who still have unexploded grenades, guns and Kalashnikovs in their hands," Colonel Massaoule Samake told Reuters TV.—Reuters

Ireland shuts down plant after horse meat mislabelling



Samples of minced meat are seen in the food control laboratory at Eurofins in Ebersberg, eastward of Munich on 18 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

DUBLIN, 23 Feb—Ireland's agriculture department has suspended production at a small meat plant after it said on Friday that it discovered the plant had sent horse meat to the Czech Republic incorrectly labelled as beef.

Europe's horse meat scandal, which has prompted product withdrawals, consumer concerns and government investigations, erupted last month after tests carried out in Ireland on beef products supplied to the likes of Tesco.

Irish producers and investigators have blamed Poland for raw materials that saw as much as 75 percent horse DNA included in its products — a charge Polish food safety agencies deny — but the department said the latest find was down to mislabelling.

"I am seriously concerned about this development and the Gardai (police) have been fully ap-

praised of this development and are working closely with my department," agriculture minister Simon Coveney said in a statement.

"The issue here is one of mislabelling and that will be the focus of the investigation."

B&F Meats, a southern Irish plant that debones beef and horsemeat and dispatches it via a UK-based trader, had sent some horsemeat to a single customer using a Czech label that, when translated, referred to beef, the department said.

Ireland, which holds the EU presidency, called a meeting of European ministers earlier this month that proposed increased DNA testing to assess the scale of a scandal.

Coveney said he has arranged a special debate in Brussels on Monday during a meeting of Europe's Council of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Feb—Governor of the US state of Washington said on Friday that underground tanks at a nuclear reservation in the state are leaking.

Washington Governor Jay Inslee told reporters that a total of six underground tanks at Hanford nuclear reservation are leaking and he was told there is no immediate safety threat from the leaks, according to reports from *The Seattle Times*.

Passenger plane makes safe emergency landing in Ukraine

KIEV, 23 Feb—A Russian Airbus A-320 passenger plane made an emergency landing early Friday at a southern Ukrainian airport without causing any casualties, local authorities said.

The aircraft encountered a technical problem with the engine after taking off, and then made a safe emergency landing at Simferopol airport, the State Service for Emergencies said. None of the 28 passengers and 4 crew members aboard the Simferopol-Moscow plane was injured, added the authorities.

An investigation is already under way.

Last week, a plane with 52 people aboard crashed while landing at the eastern city of Donetsk, killing 5 people.—Xinhua

Underground tanks at US nuclear reservation leaking

Inslee will be in Washington DC this weekend for a meeting with US Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

The Hanford site, a decommissioned nuclear production complex in south-central Washington, was home to the first full-scale plutonium production reactor in the world. Plutonium manufactured at the site was used in the first nuclear bomb and the bomb detonated over Nagasaki, Japan.

Today, nuclear waste is

stored in 177 underground tanks in Hanford, representing two-thirds of high-level nuclear waste in the United States. The complex has been the focus of the nation's largest environmental cleanup for years.

Last Friday, it was announced that a single-shell tank at Hanford was leaking up to 300 gallons a year of radioactive liquids, raising concerns about the integrity of other underground tanks.

Xinhua

Pentagon suspends F-35 flights due to engine blade crack

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb—The Pentagon on Friday suspended the flights of all 51 F-35 fighter planes after a routine inspection revealed a crack on a turbine blade in the jet engine of an F-35 test aircraft in California.

It was the second grounding of the warplane in two months and marked another setback for the \$396 billion F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme, the Pentagon's biggest weapons programme. The programme has already been restructured three times in recent years and may face further cutbacks if Congress does not avert budget reductions due to take effect on 1 March.

The F-35 programme office said it was too early to know if this was a fleet-wide issue, but it was suspending all flights until an investigation was completed. A total of 51 F-35 jets were affected, including 17

that are being used for testing and 34 in use for training in Florida and Arizona.

It said it was working closely with Pratt & Whitney, the United Technologies Corp unit that builds the engine, and Lockheed Martin Corp, the prime contractor for the radar-evading warplane, to ensure the integrity of the engine and return the F-35 fleet to flight as soon as possible.

The programme is trying to shore up orders from the eight foreign countries

that are helping to fund development of the jet.

"Given the political scrutiny they're under and given the concerns about cost and performance, this is not welcome news," said aerospace analyst Richard Aboulafia with Virginia-based Teal Group. Although it was not clear how serious the issue was, he said another long grounding could set back the programme's ability to complete an aggressive flight test schedule this year.

Reuters



A US Marine Corps F-35B lands at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona in this handout photo taken on 20 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

Fire preventive measures inspected on board oil tanker

MAWLAMYINE, 23 Feb—The talks on fire preventive measures and fire drill was held at Myanmar Petroleum Product Enterprise in Mupon in Mawlamyine of Mon State on 13 February.

The authorities inspected Yadana 3 oil tanker.

The talks was attended by Mon State Minister for

Electricity U Naing Lawi Aung, Head of State Fire Services Department U Thaung Htaik, Head of Township FSD U Zaw Win and Branch Manager U Thein Htwe of the enterprise together with staff.

The fire drill was practised with the use of one fire engine, one management vehicle

and one supporting vehicle. Then, officials inspected fire preventive measures at Yadana 3 oil tanker and gave talks about danger of fire to about 40 staff.

Head of Township FSD U Zaw Win demonstrated use of foam and practical work for fire fighting.

Myanmar Alinn

How much students know about milk



NAYPYI TAW, 23 Feb—A total of 26 students of basic education schools participated in the essay contest depicting feeding milk to students from basic education school

in Zabuthiri Township held at Basic Education High School No. 5 on 16 February morning. Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye and officials viewed round the

participation of students in the contest. The essay contest was held at basic education schools in regions and states on 16 February simultaneously.

Myanmar Alinn

Jaingphaw Yadana Cup for new generation footballers in Shan State (East)

KENG TUNG, 23 Feb—With the aim of turning out new generation footballers from townships of Shan State (East), Jaingphaw Yadana Cup Men's Open Football Tournament 2013, jointly organized by

Kengtung Township Sports and Physical Education Department and Jaingphaw Yadana Commodity Transport Service, will be launched at Myoma Sports Ground in Kengtung at 2.30 pm on 26 February.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament may register with Daw Tin Tin Win, Staff Officer of Kengtung Township Sports and Physical Education Department, not later than 23 February.—Myanmar Alinn

Union Cup Games

Dates and Venues for Sports Events

Nos	sport categories	Event Period		Venue	Remark
		From	to		
Opening ceremony		28-2-2013	-	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	
1	Track and field	3-3-2013	7.3.2013	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	
2	Badminton	23-2-2013	27-2-2013	TC-1 Badminton Training Hall (Zabuthiri Township)	
3	Basketball	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1, Basketball Training Ground (Zabuthiri Township)	
4	Billiards and snooker	23-2-2013	2-3-2013	TC-2 Billiards Hall, Lewe Township	
5	Physical fitness	12-2-2013	-	MCC (Yangon, Thingangyun Township)	
6	Boxing	24-2-2013	1-3-2013	TC-1 boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
7	Chess	26-2-2013	2-3-2013	Gold Camp (mess hall) (Zabuthiri Township)	
8	Cycling (Cross Country)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)	
	Cycling (Down Hill)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)	
	Cycling (BMX)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)	
	Cycling (Road Race)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1 Cycling training gym (Zabuthiri Township) Pinlaung road/ Taungkya Village and Leinli bridge	
9	Football (Men/women)	20-2-2013	7-3-2013	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)/ Paunglaung ground (Pyinmana Township) Training grounds (1) and (2) (Zabuthiri Township)	
10	Fustal (Men/women)	23-2-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1 Fustal training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
11	Judo	25-2-2013	27-2-2013	TC-2 Judo training gym (Lewe Township)	
12	Karatedo	4.3.2013	6-3-2013	TC-2 Karatedo training gym (Lewe Township)	
13	Sepak Takraw	25-2-2013	5-3-2013	TC-1 Sepak Takraw training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
14	Table Tennis	23-2-2013	27-2-2013	TC-1 Table Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
15	Taekwondo	1-3-2013	3-3-2013	TC-1 Taekwondo training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
16	Tennis	23-2-2013	28-2-2013	TC-1 Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
17	Pancek Silat	2-3-2013	6-2-2013	TC-2 Martial Arts training gym (Lewe Township)	
18	Traditional Boxing (Muay)	3-3-2013	5-3-2013	TC-1 Boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
19	Volleyball	27-2-2013	7-3-2013	TC-1 Volleyball training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
20	Weightlifting	1-3-2013	3-3-2013	Paunglaung Gymnasium (Pyinmana)	
21	Wushu	1-3-2013	3-3-2013	TC-2 Wushu training gym (Lewe Township)	
22	Wrestling	4-3-2013	7-3-2013	Paunglaung gym (Pyinmana Township)	
Closing Ceremony		7-3-2013	-	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	

Monk-led association opens library in Gangaw

GANGAW, 23 Feb—A ceremony to open Luthar Myitta Library located near the junction of Gangaw-Kalay Road, Gangaw-Haka Road and Gangaw-Pale Road in Myaukgon (Yaybok) Ward of Gangaw was held in front of the library on 13 February. Staff Officer U Khin Win of Gangaw District Information and Public Relations Department and townselder U Tin Oo formally opened the library.

The library was built

with the sponsorship of Luthar Myitta Parahita Association that was set up under the aegis of Tat U Monastery Sayadaw in December 2010.

The association provided cash assistance and school uniforms to 38 needy students in 2011 and 25 students in 2012. Moreover, the association presented K 30,000 each to 12 persons who faced difficulties to receive medical treatment at the hospitals.

Myanmar Alinn



Collegians meet in football tournament

MANDALAY, 23 Feb—The Inter-Major Men's Football Tournament for 2012-2013 academic year of Yadanabon University was held at its football ground on 15 February, with an address by Rector Dr Khin Maung Oo.

In the debut, defending champion Botany team beat Mathematics team 2-1 in the Group A.

In the group D, Industrial

Chemistry beat Library and Information Science 2-1 and Archaeology routed History 4-0. Law trounced Geography 5-0 in the group A.

The football tournament is being held at sports grounds of Mandalay University, Institute of Mandalay Sports and Physical Education and Yadanabon University from 15 February to 1 March.

Myanmar Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 24 February, 2013

In pursuit of opium free country

A matter of serious concern not only to Myanmar but also to the world is narcotics that poses a grave threat to the entire mankind. Narcotics can destroy the lifestyle of drug addicts. Narcotic addiction can devastate their economies, education and health. As abusing drugs in wide variety are mushrooming around the world, emphasis is being placed on drugs elimination efforts in every nation.

Counternarcotics activity is set as a national duty in Myanmar that is actively cooperating with international counternarcotics agencies, including the United Nations since decades long. In pursuit of its goal of becoming an opium free country, tactics of combating production and trafficking, eliminating drug abuse and ensuring law enforcement are being employed in a fight against narcotic drugs.

All the people are to make utmost efforts for exposing and preventing illegal import of chemicals, various forms and routes used in production and trafficking of narcotic drugs. Recently, a letter of agreement on cooperation with counternarcotics agencies establishing the opium yield survey and other purposes between Myanmar and the US was signed as another great step that leads to further cementing bilateral cooperation.

While underscoring the importance of eradication of production and trafficking, elimination of drug abuse and law enforcement, knowledge about danger of narcotic drugs are to be taught in combination with school lessons at universities, colleges and basic education schools the length and breadth of the nation. Moreover, educative talks through discussions and further assistance for the drive of addressing production and trafficking of opium and narcotic drugs are to be given to the poppy growers and local youths in border regions. It is also necessary to scale up conducting educative campaigns against HIV/AIDS, an evil consequence of narcotic drugs.

In speeding up the efforts to totally eliminate poppy cultivation and to improve living status of national races in border areas and poppy growers, earning sustainable incomes, it is required to introduce ways and means for growing of alternative crops, having access to market and better transport so that national races in poppy cultivated areas can enjoy higher living standards and generate greater incomes.

Although the world nations are making great strides in the fight against narcotic drugs, various kinds of narcotics and use of stimulant tablets spread rapidly and human society is still under the threats of narcotics. Thus, the entire people are to join hands with the government, contributing their effective commitments in counternarcotics activities.

Make hay while the sun shines.

ARTICLE

Puja at the Grassroots

Myanmar is a land of many festivals. Verily no month in the lunar calendar passes without at least one festival if not more than one, and in fact is really much much more indeed. For the Myanmar who profess Theravada Buddhism the prominent feature is the Pagoda festival. From centuries past, devout kings, royalty, ministers and laymen built and enshrined pagodas, stupas, temples and caves dedicated to the Self-Enlightened Lord Buddha. It is believed that no merit surpasses that of building pagodas and edifices of worship and veneration for propagation and perpetuation of Buddhism, and donors of these relics of worship earn the name: "PhayarDagar/PhayarAma", the highest and most prestigious title a person can ever cherish. Some pagoda festivals are centrally acknowledged by kings of yore, and of late by governments, notified as "Gazetted Pagoda Festivals". And there are many local pagodas where festivals were held by communal consensus, gazette or not.

There are also ethnic festivals as Myanmar is home to eight major ethnic nationalities and as many minor ethnic clans enumerated over a hundred. The varying ethnic festivals were indeed colourful and exciting. Their ethnic dresses designed on differing natural terrain, weather, heredity, culture and customs offer unending delights as much as their varying human and animation dances such as elephants, tigers, tonayar dragons, kannayi-kanniyar mythical birds, gaining unending applause from the spectators. And last but

not least ethnic food, exotic and delicious, tantalize their taste-buds like never before experienced.

Another endearing ceremony known as "obeisance ceremony or Puja" is one of features of the open season starting from October to the coming of spring showers preceding new monsoon in May/June. The most common ceremonies are focused on obeisance to teachers, writers, retirees and the oldies of the town and villages. A glance at the daily newspapers will convey news items of puja ceremonies to the teachers of the universities, colleges, high schools etc.

What the author is about to narrate is little publicized puja ceremony at the grassroots ward level, where this puja ceremony was celebrated, borne out of *cetana* generosity and respect of ward residents. It was sponsored by the Social Committee of Ward 23, Thuwunna. Thuwunna was a new settlement established after Independence as a National Housing project for government servants. Later it was expanded in two phases, assigning vacant land plots to retired senior civil servants with permission to build buildings of their own designs. At present there are 460 buildings, 381 households and 2762 residents.

This puja ceremony of the oldies of the Ward was the 35th held so far. The date of the ceremony was 12th February 2013. Not only in the ward, but nationwide and the world at large, the ageing population is growing at an alarming rate due to economic development improved medicine, nutrition and improved style of living, which add to longevity, a factor to be reckoned with. UN Population Day is designated at 1st October

every year, to remind the members of the UN family of the gravity of the problem. Even at the grassroots ward level the oldies of 80 years and above grew to 112 persons, 5% of the resident population. It was a communal fete where the ward residents pool cash and kind for the puja. The Executive members of the

BY BA THAN

Social Committee and the newly elected ward administrative officer U Aung Khine Oo all spontaneously offered their voluntary services.

On the Puja Day the invitees arrived slowly, as their metabolism had slowed down, and many carrying a third leg, the walking stick. Oldies and guests were treated to Mohingar, Myanmar sweetmeats and coffee before the ceremony. The EC and youth volunteers had already packed the presents neatly arranged on the long table, at the ready. The presents consisted of cash, and kind such as towels, toothpaste, booklets on Lord Buddha's teachings etcetera, borne out of general contributions. Some individual donors also offered presents separately. It was not the amount that matters but the *cetana* motivating such charity.

By 9 am the ward oldies who could honour the puja were comfortably seated on chairs facing the ward residents who came to pay puja. They were the sturdy lot reasonably fit and moving as age permitted, just one third of the number. Others less fortunate, were the feeble and the disabled who could not be present. The male oldies were mostly retirees, old friends and colleagues at work when young who were now retirees abandoned into life of recluse, meeting

occasionally on social parties. Now there was so much to talk among them as they shed some years and wrinkles reliving moments of the past.

Presently the ceremony began. The MC read out the agenda, and after kowtowing, and words of thanks, the Ward administrator, Chairman, EC members and young volunteers offered presents to each of the oldies. For those oldies who could not be present here, the presents will be given in their homes. After a word of thanks by a distinguished oldie the endearing ceremony came to close, as simple as it started, no fanfare, pomp or pageantry, and in minutes it was over.

A colleague of the author and close friend Sayagyi Sai Aung Tun, retired University Professor, renowned historian and reputable Shan Scholar recounted to me that last month he played host to Thai academics on visit to Myanmar historical sites on up-country tour. Being retired principal of Myitkyina College he was invited to Acariya Puja arranged by Myitkyina College old students at Monywa. As time and occasion was favourable Sayagyi invited his Thai professors to attend and observe the Myanmar ceremony. The visitors were astounded and fascinated by the respect and devotion of Myanmar students to their teachers, a unique experience never found anywhere in the world. Other foreign visitors concurred on this aspect. It was a true manifestation of Buddhist teachings, tradition, heritage and culture intrinsic to Myanmar society.

May this endearing tradition be perpetuated in this, our land of pagodas.

Kiradech Shines at Zaykabar Myanmar open presented by Alpine

YANGON, 23 Feb—Kiradech Aphibarnrat is in position of winning a second Asian Tour title after shooting a five-under-par 67 for a two-shot lead in the halfway stage of the Zaykabar

Myanmar Open presented by Alpine on Friday.

The Thai rising star, who was the co-overnight leader, struggled with his putting but scrambled to a 13-under-par 131 total at the US\$ 300,000 event

which is the curtain raiser for the 10th Asian Tour season celebrations.

Thai duo Thanyakon Khongpha and three-time Asian Tour winner Chawalit Plaphol, who shot a 67 and 66 respectively,

were a further two shots back on 133 at the Royal Mingalardon Golf and Country Club.

The professionals from Australia, Finland, Chinese-Taipei and Thailand, stood at the top positions in the second Asian Tour.

NLM

NATIONAL

Free eye care for patients given in Kyaukpadaung Township

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun held talks with members of the board of trustees on organizing alms-offering ceremony of MyoU Aung Pagoda in Kyaukpadaung Township on yesterday.

The Union minister and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint observed giving free eye care to patients in Kyaukpadaung by Sagawah Myay Foundation in cooperation with the Health Ministry and IBTC.

Next, the Union minister and the chief minister presented gifts and certificates of honour to wellwishers and those who took part in the free eye care service.



Union Minister U Hla Tun meets eye patients receiving medical treatment in Kyaukpadaung Township.—MNA

A total of 1581 patients with eye complaints were given free medical treatment in the three-day

tour of medical team of the met with ward and village administrators foundation.

In the afternoon, at the gymnasium in the Union minister Kyaukpadaung. — MNA

Accommodation for artistes from ASEAN countries coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— The work coordination meeting on accommodation of artistes from ASEAN countries who will present entertainment at opening and closing of 27th SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar took place at the conference hall of the Ministry of Culture, here this morning, addressed

by Preparation Training Committee Chairman Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu.

At the meeting, the officials from the ministry and Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone discussed matters related to accommodation of 35 artistes from each ASEAN country.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairman receives Canadian Lawmakers

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo received a delegation led by Canadian Parliamentary Center Chairman Mr. Jean-Paul Ruskowski at the meeting hall No. 1 of Hluttaw Building, here, yesterday

morning.

They frankly discussed ongoing legislative tasks of the Hluttaws, scrutinizing the budgets, rules and regulations of holding Hluttaw sessions and cooperation between the Hluttaws of the two countries.—MNA

Invitation of logos marking ASEAN chairmanship

As Myanmar will take on ASEAN chairmanship in 2014, we hereby invite submission of logos marking Myanmar's ASEAN chairmanship.

- The contest is open to anyone and the winner will be awarded K 1 million.
- The logo shall feature Myanmar's cultural characters and represent 10 ASEAN nations.
- It shall come together with the assurance that the work is the own creation. The first-in will be given the precedence in deciding the works with same ideas or designs.
- Each contestant may submit up to five logos with accounts on their logo designs.
- Unselected accounts may be withdrawn.
- As regards any argument arose from the winning designs, the decision of Liaison and Information Subcommittee on ASEAN chairmanship is final.
- The copyright of the winning logo is maintained by "Liaison and Information Subcommittee" for various applications.
- Potential contestants shall submit their names, Citizenship Scrutiny Card Nos, addresses, phones with 5 in x 5 in logo on A4-sized paper.
- A CD with a Photoshop file of high-resolution design for hoardings and billboards shall be submitted.
- The designs shall be addressed to U Kyaw Soe, Secretary-1, Liaison and Information Subcommittee on ASEAN Chairmanship, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Office No (7), Nay Pyi Taw, Ph-067-412385, by 4 pm on 30-4-2013.

Cooperation in e-Government system discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint received Executive Chairman of Malaysia-based Hei Tech Padu Berhad Co., Dato Mohd Hilmev Mohd Taib and party at

his office, here, yesterday morning.

They focused on cooperation of the company in e-Government programmes of the Ministry, sharpening skills of staff and assisting in e-Government technology.

MNA

As to temporary relocation...

(from page 16)

Chairman of Anti-relocation Committee U Min Ko Myint. Demonstration Committee Chairman U Aung Myat also said, "Some journals write the news on the move on 28 February. We do not make move on that day. We will continue to call for discussion. We all don't want to move. We have submitted the petition for making demonstrations in the front of Yangon Region Hluttaw on 26 February, City Hall on 27 February and on Kyundaw road in Kamayut Township on 28 February.

Car dealers who move to the old Thirimingala market said, "I move here as of 18 February. There is no place for us in Hanthawady car compound. We have to do it roadside. We don't want to do like that, but we have to. It is dangerous at night. Here, I would like to thank the government for its arrangement. I think I am so lucky that my business

is going well. Car dealers are also OK. There are more than ten car dealers here who have made car dealings in the Hanthawady compound. We are OK here for toilet, water and electricity. Arrangements should be made for the convenience of car-servicing here. It is not only for us."

Car-dealer Ko Kyaw Khaing who moves to the old Thirimingala market said, "It would be more convenient unless it moves to the old Thirimingala market. As a matter of fact, I have friends here. I get a place there by placing cars. We have to find a new market when moving to a new place. There are a few toilets in Thirimingala market. And it is inconvenient to see the cars when the power is out. This compound is the best. Those who do not want to make the move are making demonstrations. It would be more convenient for all of us thanks to this project. I don't want the collapse of market

due to it."

Taxi driver Ko Htin Lin from Sangyoung Township said, "The old compound has wide space. The old Thirimingala market has more flats for car parking and weather proof. But it would not be convenient for car-servicing businesses and there might be traffic jams because of narrow spaces." It is natural that there are supporters and



Scale model of Yangon Car Plaza.

opponents in all walks of life. I presented voices from both sides to review it by people themselves in the time of people-centered period.

Trs:YM+MT

Pakistan arrests militant leader over Quetta bombings

MULTAN, 23 Feb—Police said they arrested the leader of a banned militant group on Friday in connection with sectarian attacks in the northwestern city of Quetta that have killed nearly 200 people this year.

Police said they arrested LeJ leader, Malik Ishaq, in the town of Rahim Yar Khan at his home on Friday afternoon.

"LeJ has accepted responsibility for the recent Quetta blast and Ishaq is its supreme commander. That's why we have arrested him and 24 other LeJ militants," said Zafar Chattha, the district police officer.

The LeJ claimed responsibility for a blast that killed 85 people on Saturday in the provincial capital

of Quetta. It also claimed responsibility for blasts on 9 January that killed 96 in the same city.

It was unclear why authorities did not arrest Ishaq, who was living openly at his home protected by gunmen, after the LeJ claimed the first bombing.

Pakistani leaders have done little to contain hard-line Sunni groups which have stepped up a campaign of bombings and assassinations of Shi'ites in a bid to destabilise the nuclear-armed country and install a Sunni theocracy.

The LeJ, whose roots are in the heartland Punjab Province, wants to expel the Shi'ites, who make up about a fifth of the 180 million population. Human

Rights Watch says more than 400 Shi'ites were killed in sectarian attacks last year. Chattha said Ishaq was being held under public order legislation and would be held at least a month while investigators interrogated him.

Ishaq was released from prison in July 2011 after spending 14 years behind bars charged with 34 counts of culpable homicide and terrorism. He was released after the charges could not be proved — partly because of witness intimidation, officials said. Supporters showered him with rose petals when he left jail.

In an interview with Reuters last year, Ishaq said Shi'ites were the "greatest infidels on earth".

At that time he said he was a leader of Sipah-e-Sahaba, the LeJ parent group. He told Reuters that Shi'ites had insulted the Prophet Muhammad.

"Whoever insults the companions of the Holy Prophet should be given a death sentence," he said.

Many Pakistanis remain suspicious about the extent to which the LeJ has preserved its links with the country's powerful security services.—Reuters



Shi'ite groups hold lighted candles at the site of Saturday's bomb attack, to mourn for the victims, in Quetta on 21 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Chinese newspaper Global Times launches US edition

LOS ANGELES, 23 Feb—Popular Chinese daily newspaper *Global Times* launched its bilingual US edition this week, becoming the first newspaper from China's mainland that launches US edition of both Chinese and English daily at the same time.

The Global Times said the US edition would provide readers with sharp reporting and perceptive analysis. It seeks to cover world events from a Chinese perspective, and intro-

duce a dynamic, complex and changing China to the world in vivid, accurate reporting.

As China now stands under the glare of the global spotlight, the newspaper aims to showcase for a global audience real voices from across a transforming China, guiding it through China's fast-growing economy and ever-changing society, the newspaper said on Friday in a briefing.

The US edition also seeks to increase its cover-

age of the local communities in the United States to cater to the needs of American readers.

The English version of US edition of the daily has 24 pages while the Chinese one has 16 pages.

Founded in 1993, the Chinese version of *Global Times* has a daily circulation of over 2 million. It launched the English version in 2009 and quickly became one of China's most influential English-language media.—Xinhua

Mongolia to host 2013 World Environment Day

NAIROBI, 23 Feb—The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on Friday said that Mongolia will host the 2013 World Environment Day.

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner told a media briefing in Nairobi that the nation was selected during the close of the first governing council session under universal member-

ship. "Mongolia has taken a lead in the development of a less polluting and more sustainable national development strategy and is therefore a good choice for hosting the 2013 World Environment Day," Steiner said.

The day is the most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. Mongolia's

President Tsakhia Elbegdorj was one of the recipients of UNEP's Champion of the Earth 2012 Award.

"I am optimistic that as a global host of the environment day, it will demonstrate to the world that a transition to a green economy is possible when leadership and political will is translated to the ground," he said.—Xinhua



Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a Press conference at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 22 Feb, 2013. Abe began a visit to the United States on Thursday.

XINHUA

US Embassy in Senegal warns of bomb threat to Dakar

DAKAR, 23 Feb—The US Embassy in Senegal said on Friday it had received information of a bomb threat to the capital Dakar.

In a text message to US citizens, the embassy advised its nationals to stay away from the city centre until further notice but did not give any further details.

A Senegalese security source confirmed the threat and said the authorities had taken "necessary measures".

Reuters reporters in the city centre said there were

signs of a reinforced police presence, but that people were going about their business ahead of Friday prayers.

The United States and African governments are backing a five-week-old French military campaign against Islamist rebels in Senegal's neighbour Mali.

Senegal has sent several hundred troops to join an African force being deployed to Mali. Rebels group have threatened to strike back at anyone who supports the mission.

Reuters

Germany not to dominate Europe, Britain shall stay in EU

BERLIN, 23 Feb—German President Joachim Gauck said on Friday deeper integration in Europe would produce a "European Germany, not a German Europe."

During a keynote policy address at the presidential palace, President Gauck pointed out that the European Union (EU) was plagued not only by chronic debts woes, but also by "a crisis of confidence."

Gauke also urged Britain to stay inside the EU, responding to Prime Minister David Cameron's call for a 2017 referendum to decide whether to remain in the 27-nation bloc.

"We need your experience as the land with the oldest parliamentary democracy, your traditions, your sobriety and your courage," Gauck said. "It is also your Europe," he added, saying Britain had helped save Europe in World War II.—Xinhua



Passengers carry their children on the back as they wait at the railway station in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 22 Feb, 2013. As the number of travellers rises before the Lantern Festival, many children went back with their parents back to the workplaces.—XINHUA

Mozambique to rank 4th world position in coal export

MAPUTO, 23 Feb —The former Portuguese colony Mozambique will potentially overtake South Africa and the US in the export of coal in the coming 10 years, reaching the fourth position, the *Maputo News Sheet Correio da Manhã* re-

ported on Friday.

According to a study carried out by the Portuguese Bank Espirito Santo, to reach that position it will be necessary to take good advantage of the country's potential, invest in transport infrastructures to guar-

antee that the production is exported. The main line currently being used by the Brazilian mining company Vale and Rio Tinto, the Sena line, will be fully busy by 2020 when the companies reach their peak in coal production.—Xinhua

REGIONAL



Philippine policemen check the wreckage of a tourist bus at the accident site in the northern Philippine Province of Benguet, on 22 Feb, 2013. At least five people were killed and 32 others injured after a tour bus slammed into a cargo truck in the northern Philippine province of Benguet on Thursday evening, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC) said on Friday.

XINHUA

New Zealand navy to begin major deployment to Asia

WELLINGTON, 23 Feb—Two New Zealand Navy ships will set sail this week to launch a major international mission to Asia, the Royal New Zealand Navy announced on Saturday.

Anzac-class frigate HMNZS *Te Mana* would leave on Monday to visit ports in Australia, Singapore, Vietnam, China, South Korea and Japan, before returning to New Zealand in June, Maritime Component Commander, Commodore John Martin, said in a statement.

The deployment would cover a range of objectives and offer support to multiple government agencies,

as well as intense training exercises and diplomatic and trade duties.

"*Te Mana* will be working intensively in one of the world's busiest sea lanes. Exercises such as this ensure our navy is ready to respond effectively to any situation which may impact our economic livelihood," said Martin.

"New Zealand relies on the sea to transport 99 percent of its imports and exports," he said.

"Ensuring New Zealand's ocean lifelines remain open and secure is the navy's number one priority, and maintaining strong working relationships with

our partner navies is a vital component in achieving this." Fleet replenishment tanker HMNZS *Endeavour*, leaving Sunday, would join the *Te Mana* for the first three weeks, training together in Australian waters and providing support to both Australia and New Zealand as the on-duty regional response tanker.

"Overseas deployments are a chance to reinforce New Zealand's interests abroad. The navy is not just working at sea, our presence in foreign ports lifts New Zealand's international profile, and helps protect our national interests," said Martin.—Xinhua

Philippines pleasant to see Timor-Leste as new ASEAN member

MANILA, 23 Feb — The Philippine government is looking forward to welcoming Timor-Leste as the 11th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a senior government official said Friday.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario said that during his bilateral meeting with visiting Timor-Leste Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Jose Luis Guterres, the latter highlighted his country's campaign for

ASEAN membership.

"The Philippines looks forward to welcoming Timor-Leste into the ASEAN family," Del Rosario said in a statement.

During the bilateral talks, the two foreign ministers also discussed ways on further enhancing cooperation, particularly in the areas of education, defence, technical cooperation, and possible opportunities for trade and investment, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

Guterres also paid a courtesy call on President Benigno S Aquino III in Malacanang, the presidential palace, where they discussed South-South cooperation between the two countries, the department said.—Xinhua

Toy bomb kills two children in Pakistan's North Waziristan

ISLAMABAD, 23 Feb—A toy bomb killed 2 kids in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region on Friday evening, local media reported. A five-year-old child found the device while collecting woods in Tapi area and took it home.

The bomb exploded as his 12-year-old sister snatched the device, presuming the bomb as the cap of water cooler. Both children died on the spot, officials said. It was not clear as to who had planted the device in the field. The incident has raised concerns about the presence of live bombs in North Waziristan, which the United States claims is a base for remnants of al-Qaeda and Taliban.—Xinhua

Indian home minister visits blasts sites in southern city of Hyderabad

NEW DELHI, 23 Feb—Indian Home Minister Shil Kumar Shinde on Friday visited the sites of the two blasts which hit the southern state of Andhra Pradesh's capital Hyderabad on Thursday evening in a span of less than 10 minutes, killing at least 16 people and injuring 119 others.

"At this moment we cannot say anything. The matter is under investigation," the home minister told the media in Hyderabad where one of the critically injured succumbed to his injuries this morning, taking the death toll to 16.

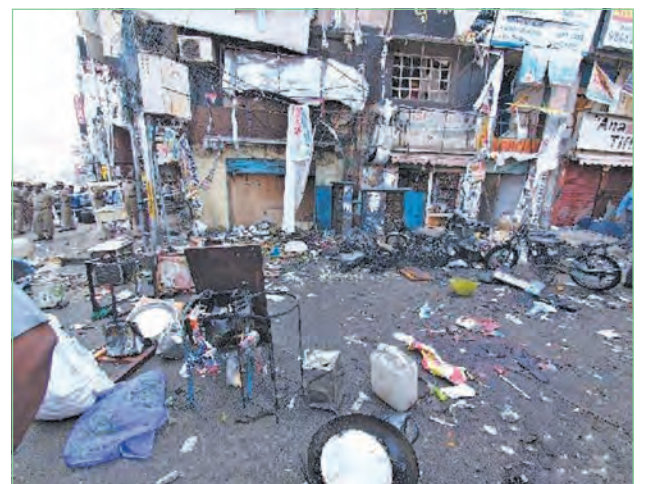
Apart from going to the blast sites in the Dilsukhnagar area, a busy commercial hub, Shinde also visited some of the injured admitted to a local hospital. "Of the 119 people injured, six

are in critical condition," he said, after talking to doctors treating them.

Meanwhile, the central government has launched a multi-agency probe into the terror attacks and put major Indian cities, including the national capital Mumbai and the eastern city of Kolkata, on high alert.

The home minister said on Thursday in the Indian capital that there were intelligence inputs about possible attacks in the country between 14 and 25 February, but no specific information as to where or when they might occur was available. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has described the blasts as a "dastardly attack" and said the "guilty will not go unpunished".

The United States and the United Nations' Secre-



The blast site is seen in Dilsukhnagar area of Hyderabad, India, on 22 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA

tary General Ban Ki-moon have strongly condemned the terror attacks, with the former even offering assistance in investigation if requested by India.

Though no terrorist outfit has claimed respon-

sibility for the attacks, local TV channels speculate that the blasts could be a fallout of India's execution of 2001 parliament attacks' main conspirator Afzal Guru earlier this month.

Xinhua

Six passengers killed as bus plunges into river in NW Pakistan



Pakistani people gather at a bus accident site in Pakistan's north-western Peshawar on 22 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA

ISLAMABAD, 23 Feb—At least six people were killed and twenty others

injured when a passenger bus plunged into a river in Pakistan's northwestern Pe-

shawar District on Friday, local media reported.

Xinhua

Vietnam to host 19th ASEAN Economic Ministers Retreat

HANOI, 23 Feb—The 19th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Retreat and related meetings will be held on 6-9 March in Vietnam's capital Hanoi, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday.

At the AEM Retreat, economic ministers from 10 ASEAN member countries will work together to map out directions for 2013 in order to boost regional economic integration towards building the ASEAN Community by 2015.

The 19th AEM Retreat will be held at the same time with the 3rd ASEAN-EU Business Summit (AEBS)

with the participation of high-ranking leaders of Vietnam, Vietnamese Minister of Industry and Trade, Minister of Brunei, EU Trade Commissioner and ASEAN Secretary General.

During the AEBS, a protocol on amendment of a number of ASEAN economic agreements on trade will be signed.

In addition, the 3rd AEBS will also discuss the establishment of a public-private dialogue forum and issues related to business activities as well as the regulations and the potential for cooperation between the two economic regions.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (008)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (008) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.2.2013 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 by-laws 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.

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Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Leung Chun-Ying (3rd R front), Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor (2nd L front), Chief Secretary for Administration of Hong Kong SAR, and other guests attend the Spring cocktail reception held by Chinese General Chamber of Commerce (CGCC) in Hong Kong, south China, on 22 Feb, 2013. XINHUA

WB provides 200 mln USD loan for water programme in Vietnam

HANOI, 23 Feb—The World Bank (WB) and the State Bank of Vietnam signed here on Friday a 200 million US dollars loan to fund the country's national target programme for water supply and sanitation.

The loan aims at supplying safe water for 1.7 million people and improving sanitation for 650,000 people in rural areas in Vietnam.

Victoria Kwakwa, WB's Country Director in Vietnam, said WB is delighted to support the Vietnamese government's

programmes in increasing access to clean water and sanitation conditions in the Red River Delta.

Improved sanitation and access to clean water will bring significant benefits to people's health. Moreover, the programme will also help strengthening the country's institutional system, improving sector planning and monitoring the implementation of water and sanitation programme in localities, said Kwakwa.

In the framework of the strategic partnership be-

tween the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the World Bank to support Vietnam in strengthening economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability and access to social and economic opportunities, the AusAID also pledged to provide 8 million Australian dollars by technical assistance to support the national target programme. This is the first time the State Audit of Vietnam will conduct an independent evaluation of the results of the programme.—Xinhua

German arms exports to Gulf states more than doubled in 2012

BERLIN, 23 Feb—Germany's weapons exports to the Arabian Gulf countries more than doubled in 2012 compared with one year earlier, reaching 1.42 billion euros (1.88 billion US dollars), a major local newspaper reported on Friday.

According to the Munich-based *Süddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper, Saudi Arabia spent 1.24 billion euros and was by far the biggest buyer among the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which also includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The newspaper said the information was released by the Economy Ministry after the opposition Left party submitted a request in the parliament. In 2011, the arms exports to the region amounted to 570 million euros.

German military exports have to be approved by a national security council chaired by Chancellor Angela Merkel that meets behind closed doors.

Proposed arms deals with Saudi Arabia have drawn intense domestic at-

tention and criticism. Social Democrat chancellor candidate Peer Steinbrueck said in December that it was "extremely dangerous that Germany has become the world's third largest exporter of weapons."

However, the Merkel administration views Saudi Arabia as a "stabilizing factor" in the region, while Merkel reportedly said in a speech last October that it is in Germany's interests to "enable partners to intervene effectively to preserve or re-establish security and peace in their regions."—Xinhua



Job applicants take part in a job fair in Changfeng of east China's Anhui Province, on 22 Feb, 2013. More than 36 companies participated in the job fair here on Friday with over 3,000 employment positions. XINHUA

Explosion injures three at Kazakh pipe factory

ALMATY, 23 Feb—Three people were injured after an explosion hit a pipe factory in western Kazakhstan on Friday, the regional emergency department said.

The explosion occurred at about 14:00 local time (0800 GMT). Three people were injured and one of them was in critical

condition, according to the department.

The "Arcelor Mittal Aktau" factory specializes in producing steel oil and gas pipes, as well as equipment in mining industry.

It is the only manufacturer of large-diameter steel pipes in Kazakhstan. Xinhua

Namibian women challenge police chief over mini-skirt ban

WINDHOEK, 23 Feb—Hundreds of Namibian women clad in mini-skirts demonstrated on Friday against a top policeman's comments about mini-skirts being "unAfrican."

Namibian Police Commissioner Sebastian Ndeitunga was quoted in one of the country's English dailies on Tuesday as saying the police would arrest women for indecency when they are seen in mini-skirts.

The three-hundred plus women gathered in central Windhoek's Zoo Park carrying placards, some of which read "How dare you mini-mise my freedom of choice" and "Arrest rapists and not fashionists."

The demonstration was organized by Women in Solidarity organization whose leader Rosa Namises addressed the crowd.

Although Ndeitunga has since denied the comments citing misquotation, he still insists that when and if women are found to be dressed indecently, they will be arrested.

His comments came after the arrest last December of 40 mini-skirted girls in Rundu, about 700 km north of Windhoek.

"Those who are behaving outside the normal tradition of an African will be dealt with. At Rundu, both traditional and political leaders were happy and supported our actions," he told a local newspaper.

Ndeitunga also said that those who wear mini-skirts should "cover the essentials."

"At least put on something, even if it's short it should cover the essentials. You can't walk in town while people can see your buttocks. I don't want to prescribe how people should wear, even if it's new fashion style, it should be within our tradition," he said.

While some elders have praised the police for acting on mini-skirts, some women, columnists and human rights activists have had a field day attacking the police chief.—Xinhua

Fire kills eight in east China city

HANGZHOU, 23 Feb—A fire that broke out early Saturday morning in Wenling City, east China's Zhejiang Province, has killed eight people before it was contained 4 hours later.

The city's fire department said the fire, which occurred at 2:59 am, burnt three residential houses in Zeguo Township.

An investigation is under way.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 23 Feb, 2013 shows a fire-stricken residential building in Muxi Village of Zeguo Town, Wenling, east China's Zhejiang Province. A fire that broke out here early Saturday morning has killed eight people before it was put out an hour later. Wenling's fire department said the fire occurred at 2:59 am (1859 GMT) and burnt three residential houses in Zeguo Town.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT



Kate Moss crowned 2013 Hat Person of the Year

LONDON, 23 Feb—Supermodel Kate Moss has been named the 2013 Hat Person of the Year.

The 39-year-old catwalk queen, who can often be seen wearing headgear in various styles, took the crown in an online poll conducted by The Headwear Association (THA) after gaining 40 per cent of the vote, reported Contactmusic.

“Kate Moss’ oft-imitated London street style is legendary, and she is well known for her love of hats. Hats off to you, Ms Moss.

PTI

Congolese teen actress gets US visa to walk Oscar red carpet

LOS ANGELES, 23 Feb —The teenage star of the Oscar-nominated Canadian drama “War Witch” will get to travel from her native Congo to the Academy Awards in Los Angeles after she received a last-minute visa, the film’s US distributor said on Thursday.

Amateur actress Rachel Mwanza, 16, who grew up an orphan on the streets of capital Kinshasa, received her visa to the United States earlier in



Congo’s actress Rachel Mwanza arrives at the news conference during the 62nd Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on 18 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

the week and will arrive in Los Angeles on Friday, two days ahead of Sunday’s Oscar ceremony, a spokeswoman for distributor Tribeca Film said.

The French-language film is nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at Hollywood’s annual Academy Awards.

“To have her (Mwanza’s) journey end on the red carpet is beyond anything she could have dreamed of,” director Kim Nguyen said in a statement. Mwanza will also visit Canada in the coming weeks for the Canadian Screen Awards and Quebec’s Jutra Award for Francophone cinema in

March.

“War Witch,” set in sub-Saharan Africa, focuses on Mwanza’s character Komona, who at the age of 12 is forced by anti-government rebels to kill her parents and fight as a child soldier.

Mwanza won Best Actress awards at the Berlin and Tribeca film festivals last year for the role. The film, titled “Rebelle” in French, touches on family, love and the possibility of finding happiness after years of trauma and war and has been praised by critics for its poignancy and sensitivity.

Reuters

Lady Gaga has hip surgery, calls injury “bump in the road”

LOS ANGELES, 23 Feb —Lady Gaga said she has undergone surgery to repair an injured hip that forced the pop singer last week to cancel the remainder of her concert tour. The “Born This Way” singer thanked fans in a blog post on her littlemonsters.com fan website on Thursday, saying the setback was “just a bump in the road.”

“As they wheeled me into surgery...I thought about all of your pain and perseverance, your unique

family situations, school environments, health issues, homelessness, identity struggles,” wrote Lady Gaga, who often engages with her fans about their personal problems. “So I thought to myself, ‘I’m alive; I’m living my dream, and this is just a bump in the road,’” she added.

The 26-year-old singer tweeted on Wednesday that she was heading into surgery to treat a labral tear of her right hip. No timetable has been set for Lady Gaga



to return to performing, and her tour operator said last week that she would need “strict downtime.” Lady Gaga has been on the road for two years, performing

concerts on six continents. The injury forced her to cancel some two dozen concerts in the United States as part of her “Born This Way Ball” tour.—Reuters

Good films need big idea, not budget

INDORE, 23 Feb—Actor John Abraham, who turned producer with the Shoojit Sircar-directed film ‘Vicky Donor’, says filmmakers don’t need to spend a lot of money to make a good film.

“Being an actor and film producer I feel that good ideas make big films, not the budget. A filmmaker does not need to spend crores to make a good film,” John told reporters here through video conferencing.

PTI



“Scary Spice” Mel B joins “America’s Got Talent” panel



Singer and former Spice Girl, Mel B

LOS ANGELES, 23 Feb —Former Spice Girl Mel B will join the judging panel on summer TV talent show “America’s Got Talent,” broadcaster NBC said on Thursday. The 37-year-old Briton, known by the nickname Scary Spice when she was part of the chart-topping 1990s British girl band, will replace Sharon Osbourne who quit the series in a dispute with NBC over their decision to drop her son Jack from another reality show.

Mel B, whose full

name is Melanie Brown, will join “shock jock” Howard Stern, who has agreed to return for his second season, and comedian Howie Mandel. “This exciting addition of the dynamic Mel B to our lineup of judges promises that fans will see a strong, talented and opinionated woman match up against our equally outspoken judges Howard Stern and Howie Mandel,” NBC president of alternative programming Paul Telegdy said in a statement.

Reuters

Daniel Craig is different to James Bond in “every way”

NEW DELHI, 23 Feb—44-year-old actor Daniel Craig insists the suave spy—who he has portrayed in three movies, Casino Royale, Quantum of Solace and Skyfall—is different from him and has “nothing” to do with him as soon as he stops playing the character.

When asked in what ways he is different to 007, he said: “Every way. Nothing—that man has nothing to do with me. Nothing at all, no.” While Daniel—who is married to Rachel Weisz—admits he has been typecast by a number of people for playing Bond, he has no plans to relinquish the role.

He added in an interview with Nuts magazine: “It’s working out for me at the moment. So I’ll keep at it, and there’ll be other stuff to do. When I accepted the job, I knew that it would have a major effect on my career.

“I mean, people would find it very difficult not to see me as Bond now, which I always knew would hap-

pen. But what can I do about it? “It was my choice to be Bond. So I’ve got to get on with it and try to be the best Bond I can.”—PTI



Daniel Craig has worked in three Bond films till date. PTI

Injured Casillas hopes to return earlier

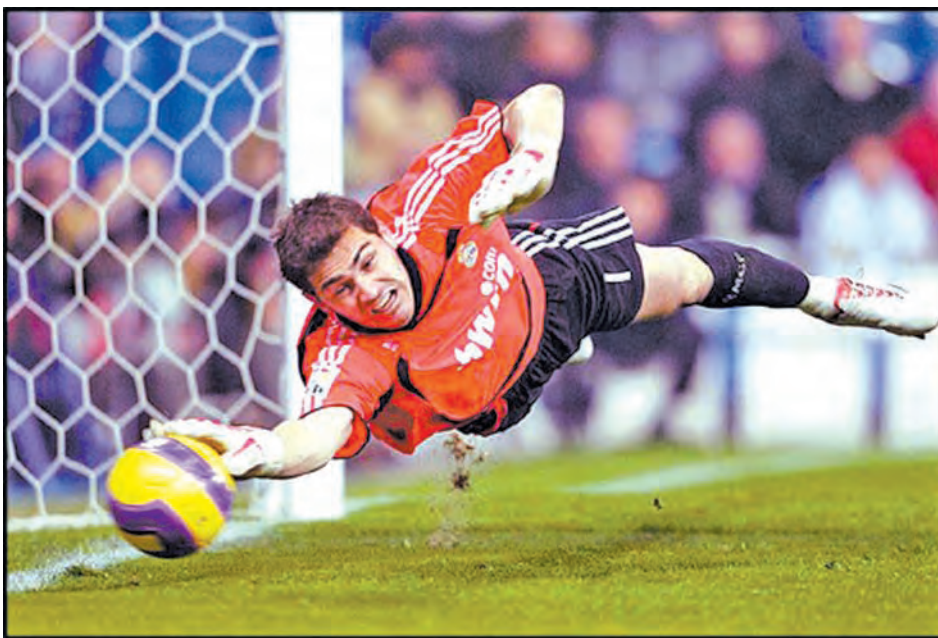
MADRID, 23 Feb — Real Madrid's Spain international goalkeeper, Iker Casillas has confirmed that he expects to be available for his team in around a month. Casillas was expected to be sidelined for around three months after he broke a bone in his left hand in Real Madrid's Copa del Rey quarterfinal away to Valencia in January.

His injury led his club to resign Diego Lopez from Sevilla as cover for what looked as if it was going to be an extended time on the sidelines as the goalkeeper underwent an operation and had his dam-

aged hand put in a cast. Now just a month after his injury Casillas is planning his return to action a month ahead of schedule. "I am improving all of the time. I didn't have much strength in my hand, but that is returning and I am at the halfway point of the recovery," he announced at a presentation at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

"I have very positive feelings about this: the doctor gave me the worst case scenario, which was three months, but the other day they took my cast off and were pleased with what they saw.

Now I am carrying out



Real Madrid's Spain international goalkeeper, Iker Casillas

active exercise and giving more mobility to my thumb in order to gain the

strength I have lost there," confirmed the goalkeeper, who admitted he had found

the first serious injury of his career difficult to deal with.—Xinhua

Freiburg, Frankfurt share points in German Bundesliga



BUNDESLIGA

BERLIN, 23 Feb — Stunning sides Freiburg and Frankfurt shared points at the opener of the 23rd round following a goalless draw on Friday. Frankfurt staged a better first half whereas Freiburg almost broke the deadlock at the second half owing to the promising chances. From the kick off, the visitors from Frankfurt took the reins and were nearly rewarded with 12 minutes into the match, but the score by Stefan Aigner was called offside.

The fast paced game by Frankfurt presented a problem for the hosts as Aigner had again a chance to open the scoring at the 16th min-

ute. Nonetheless Frankfurt were unable to convert their run on Freiburg's goal into a tangible reward within the first half. At the second half Freiburg were able to free themselves from Frankfurt's at-

tacks as Jan Rosenthal approached the visitor's goal dangerously by header.

A great save by Frankfurt goalkeeper Kevin Trapp denied Freiburg a late winner as Max Kruse failed to overcome the keeper following a pass into path by Jonathan Schmid. Also substitute Johannes Flum squandered the last chance to mark the winner when his header flew over the crossbar five minutes before the final whistle.

Both teams stay on their position, Frankfurt on the fourth with 38 points and Freiburg on the fifth with 35 points.

Xinhua

Steyn kicks Bulls to victory in Super Rugby opener

PRETORIA, 23 Feb — Springbok flyhalf Morne Steyn gave a faultless kicking display to punish the error-prone Stormers and give the Bulls a 25-17 win in the opening match of their 2013 Super Rugby campaign at Loftus Versfeld on Friday. Steyn kicked six penalties and a conversion against a Stormers side who

too many silly penalties in the dangerous places on the field. It is a big wakeup call for us," Stormers skipper Jean de Villiers said.

Both sides struggled at set-pieces during a disjointed first half with the Stormers, in particular, turning over possession in promising positions. They had their lineout poached

lowed Steyn three penalty shots at goal and he converted them all to give the home side a 9-0 lead at the break.

The Stormers had their opportunities, but flyhalf Elton Jantjies, on loan from the Lions, had an awful game with the boot, missing three penalties in the opening half.

"We were very lethargic in the first 40 minutes, we were watching the game rather than playing," De Villiers said. Steyn added his fourth penalty shortly after the restart to extend the Bulls advantage and, when Jantjies then missed a relatively simple penalty in the second half, the game plan of the visitors changed, leading to the game's opening try.

The Stormers received another penalty in a kickable position, but instead went for the attacking lineout and they built some phases in the Bulls 22 during a period of sustained pressure.

Reuters



made too many unforced errors and could not take their chances in a game that revealed plenty of rustiness in both teams. "We were beaten by the better team, we made too many mistakes and gave away

five meters from the Bulls' line in their only real attack in the Bulls 22 and, despite having the heavier pack, were second best at the scrums.

Repeated infringements in their own half al-

All three Ukrainian teams eliminated from Europa League

KIEV, 23 Feb — All three Ukrainian soccer clubs were eliminated from this season's UEFA Europa League after failing to get wins in their second legs of the last 32 in the tournament on Thursday night. FC Dnipro drew 1-1 with FC Basel in eastern Dnepropetrovsk city to set up the



team from Switzerland for the round of 16.

The 90 minutes of football saw two penalty kicks and two red cards handed out by referee Deniz Aytekin. Ukraine's Evgen Selezniyov scored at 75th minute through a penalty kick. However, 15 minutes later, Basel's Fabian Schar sent the keeper the wrong way to make it 1-1, and 3-1 on aggregate. Basel's 2-0 first-leg lead proved to be decisive.

In another game in Kharkov of Ukraine's east, Shola Ameobi's 63rd minute penalty handed Newcastle United a 1-0 win over Metallist Kharkov, after the first leg at St James Park last week had ended goalless. Dynamo Kiev, which faced Bordeaux in France, failed to translate their dominance on Stade Chaban-Delmas, losing 3-1 on aggregate.

Xinhua

Colsaerts thrives on tour with roadie days behind him

MARANA, 23 Feb — With his reckless night-clubbing days while living "like a roadie" now well behind him, Belgian Nicolas Colsaerts has relished his golfing success over the last two years. The power hitter from Brussels has triumphed twice on the European Tour during that time, made a stunning debut at last year's Ryder Cup and has flourished in the opening rounds of the elite WGC-Accenture

Match Play Championship this week.

Colsaerts thumped in-form American Bill Haas 5&4 in the opening round of the elite World Golf Championships (WGC) event and on Friday upset British world number six Justin Rose 4&2 to reach the last 16 at Dove Mountain. "I played pretty good the last couple of holes and made sure this game wasn't really going to go too far," the 30-year-old Belgian

told reporters after getting to five-under par after 16 holes.

Colsaerts was delighted to record another victory over Rose, having beaten the Englishman 4&3 in the last 16 of the 2012 European Tour's Volvo World Match Play Championship which he went on to win. "I felt pretty confident going out knowing, if I played my game, I would have a fair chance to do the job," the Belgian said. "But then

anything can happen.

"When you play somebody of the stature of Justin, it can always go very fast one way or the other."

Colsaerts, who lost in the opening round at Dove Mountain last year on his debut at the event, took control with three birdies in the first eight holes before sealing victory with a par at the short 16th, where Rose bogeyed.—Reuters



Nicolas Colsaerts of Belgium watches his second shot on the first hole during the second round of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament in Marana, Arizona on 22 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

GENERAL

Donation invited for new elevator at Kyeikthalan Pagoda in Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 23 Feb — Another elevator was rebuild at Kyeikthalan Pagoda in Mawlamyine for the convinience of people who want to paid homage the pagoda.

The pagoda was enshrine with tooth and Hair relics of Buddha. The new elevator was build at east stairway of pagoda. People who wish to donate for the elevator can contact ph 057-21344,25335,24193,09-5322300.— Kyemon



Corinthians appeal Libertadores fan ban

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Feb — Corinthians have appealed a decision by South American football's governing body Conmebol forcing the club to play its Copa Libertadores matches behind closed doors.

In a statement released on Friday night, Corinthians denied responsibility for Wednesday's death of 14-year-old Bolivian fan Kevin Beltran, who was struck by a flare allegedly thrown by fans of the Bra-

zilian outfit.

"Now we are going to wait. We hope that on Monday Conmebol can give us a response," Corinthians lawyer Luiz Alberto Bussab said.

Bolivian police have charged two Corinthians fans with homicide and 10 others with being accessories to the crime, which occurred during the defending champions' 1-1 draw with San Jose in the Bolivian city of Oruro.

Local prosecutor Abigail Saba confirmed the supporters were being investigated for "a crime with the death of a minor" following the visiting team's first-half goal.

Earlier, Conmebol said Corinthians fans would be prohibited from attending home and away matches for the remainder of the 2013 Copa Libertadores tournament, which finishes in July.

Xinhua

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- * Bamboo Parquet
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "Dramatic Film of Comedy, Which One do you like Best?"
- * News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Sports (Episode-8)
- * News
- * Photography: The Art of Framing the Nature
- * News
- * MI People's Celebrities "One and the Meaning of Housewife"
- * Urban Life and Electcity Consumption
- * News
- * Myanma Orchestra The Magic of Melodious Music (Episode-3)
- * News
- * ILBC Drama Concert
- * News
- * Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) in Myanmar
- * Myanmar Movies "By means of Love"

Myanmar TV

(24-2-2013, Sunday)

7:00 am	Versions
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	13:45 pm
7:25 am	15. Documentary
2. Health Programme	14:15 pm
7:30 am	16. Teleplay (Traffic)
3. Morning News	14:35 pm
7:40 am	17. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitons
4. International News	4:00 pm
7:50 am	18. Opening Song
5. (38) Phyar Mingalars	4:05 pm
8:05 am	19. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
6. SEA Games (Go for Gold) (Basket ball)	4:15 pm
8:30 am	20. Dance Of National Races
7. Muscial Programme	4:25 pm
8:50 am	21. Musical Programme
9. Martial Song	6:20 pm
11:00 am	22. Cartoon Series
11:10 am	23. TV Drama Series
11:20 am	8:00 pm
10. Musical Progamme	24. News
11. Round Up Of The Week's TV International News	25. International News
11:30 am	26. Wether Report
12. International News	27. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
11:35 am	28. TV Drama Series
13. Myanmar video	10:00 pm
13:30 pm	29. News
14. Singing In Different	30. Teleplay (Htar)

Neymar misconduct hearing postponed

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Feb —Neymar is free to play in Santos' 3 February clash against rivals Corinthians after a hearing into a misconduct charge against the striker was postponed by a Brazilian sports tribunal.

The charge relates to the 21-year-old's altercation with Ponte Preta defenders Artur and Cleber during Santos' surprise 3-1 defeat to the recently promoted Serie A outfit

in Brazil's Campeonato Paulista last Sunday. "We made a request for his case to be deferred and it was accepted," Santos' legal adviser Joao Vicente Gazolla told the club's website on Friday.

Neymar was sent off for the incident and could face a 12-match ban for "hostile behavior and physical aggression", according to Lancenet.

Xinhua



Neymar

More leading seeds fall at Match Play second round

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb — Bubba Watson came out the only survivor as other top 10 seeds all fell at Friday's second round of the Match Play Championship, following world No 1 Rory McIlroy and 14-time major champion Tiger Woods' exit on Thursday.

The eighth-seeded Watson missed two straight putts that would have won the match before he finally put away Jim Furyk in 22 holes. It was the first time since this World Golf Championship began in 1999 that only one top 10 seed was left after two rounds.

Luke Donald, the No. 3



seed, suffered his worst loss in this event, beaten 7 and 6 by Scott Piercy, fourth-seeded Louis Oosthuizen never led against Robert Garrigus, and Justin Rose, the No 5 seed, lost to Nicolas Colsaerts 4 and 2. Of the 16 players remaining, the Americans and Europeans each have seven players still alive.—Xinhua

Blackhawks set record for best start to season

RALEIGH, 23 Feb — The Chicago Blackhawks set a National Hockey League record for the best start to a season when they scored a point in a 17th consecutive game by defeating the San Jose Sharks 2-1 on Friday.

Brandon Saad's third-period goal delivered the game-winner as the Black-

hawks (14-0-3) remained undefeated in regulation play this season. All three of the Chicago losses have come in shootouts. The Anaheim Ducks set the previous record of 16 straight games with a point to open the 2006-07 season. Chicago tied that mark in a win on Tuesday.— Reuters



Chicago Blackhawks goalie Ray Emery (30) blocks the shot of San Jose Sharks left wing Martin Havlat (9) during the second period of their NHL hockey game in Chicago, on 22 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

World For World

"He's probably as good as we are going to get."



Richard Shelby
US Republican Senator

"We should judge ourselves not only by how far there is to go, but by how far we've come."

The MP said at the second anniversary of Christchurch deadly earthquake the second city would be built as "the best and most livable" city, admitting that his government was well aware of the slow pace of rebuilding process.



John Key
New Zealand Prime Minister

"I think our society needs more heroes, more scientists, more researchers, more engineers."

The founder of the social network made the comment at the launch of the Breakthrough Prize in Life Science. The prize will go to researchers with breakthrough achievements.



Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook Founder

- NLM -

Challenges of ASEAN Economic Community will be overcome if the government, industrialists and civil societies work in cooperation harmoniously



Vice-President U Nyan Tun views cold storage of Great International Fisheries Ltd in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — In meeting with industrialists at Kanaung Hall of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone Management Committee Office in Hlinethaya Township, here, this afternoon, Vice-President U Nyan Tun highlighted the importance of foreign investments, assuring that

four policies were formulated to protect local businessmen from the adverse impact of foreign investments. He called on SMEs to work harder to be able to keep their competitiveness with foreign companies in capacity and productivity, stressing the importance of SMEs while the nation is translating

its agro-based economy into industrialized one. He called for promotion of SMEs as the country has to follow the free trade agreement while ASEAN Economic Community was launched. He stressed the need of encouraging already-established SMEs while inviting foreign investments to fulfill the capital and technological requirements for economic growth and allowing free flow of investment, goods and services in accord with

Free Trade Agreement, providing assistance to banks and money lenders for availability of capital for SMEs, links with local and foreign organizations, market development and competitiveness, human resource development, more employment and information and research, he added.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said that Yangon Region had 29 industrial zones with more than 6000 factories and workshops and 260,000

Objectives of the 68th Anniversary

Armed Forces Day 2013

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



the agreements of ASEAN free trade area.

Efforts are to be made for development of SMEs, preventing the collapse of SMEs, promoting market competitiveness of investors that would flow into the country thanks to ASEAN

workers. For industrial zones development, Industrial development committee was formed.

Yangon Region Electricity and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo presented the report on operations of industrial zones, Chairman

of Myanmar Industries Association U Zaw Min Win, on difficulties of SMEs and Director U Myo Thaw of SMEs Development Department of the Ministry of Industry on SMEs. Chairmen of management committees of industrial

zones in Yangon Region briefed the Vice-President on facing challenges, electricity supply, water supply, taxation, loans and lands.

Deputy Ministers U Myo Aung, U Aung Than Oo, Dr Maung Maung Thein and U Soe Tint made clarifications.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun said the challenges must be changed into opportunities, attaching high importance to the rule of law. Challenges of ASEAN Economic Community will be overcome if the government, industrialists and civil societies work in cooperation harmoniously.

Dr Khin Maung Lwin, Managing Director of FAME pharmaceutical industry, conducted the Vice-President and party round the factory.

They also visited Great International Fisheries Ltd.

MNA

One-way traffic (from Pyay Road to Bagayar Road) on Dhammazed Rd

YANGON, 23 Feb—Yangon City Development Committee announced today that Dhammazed Rd (from Pyay Road to Bagayar road) in Sangyoung Township has been changed into one-way traffic as of 22 February, 2013.—MNA

As to temporary relocation of Hanthawady auto trading ground ...

Byline: Tha Nyan/Win Win Maw
Photos: Tin Tun Aung

Plans are underway to implement an urban modernization project in Yangon on the area of Hanthawady auto trading ground in Kamayut Township by Yangon City Development Committee.

With regard to the relocation of Hanthawady auto trading ground to the place of old Thiri Mingala market, it is learnt that there are two groups of those whose livelihoods depend on the compound. Those who are unwilling to relocate from the ground to the new place formed an anti-relocation committee.

News crews of Myanmar News Agency made a field trip there to listen to the voices of those people.

“The deadline set for relocation of Hanthawady auto trading ground shifted from 20 to 28 February with the aim of facilitating the relocation process. Now vehicles are allowed to enjoy free admission to the ground. If there are charges for admission to the ground, there will be reasonable admission charges. Arrangements will be made for officially-registered shops in the ground as much as we can.

Vehicles are allowed to park in the ground from 6 am to 6 pm free of charges and night parking for them will be allowed later,” an official of YCDC said.

“Auto trading programmes will be included in the urban modernization project. The name of the project is Yangon Car Plaza where there will be a 19030-square meter parking space that can hold more than 600 vehicles for residents of the plaza. For auto dealers, 52 auto showrooms where more than 600 vehicles will be on display and a 14228-square meter parking lot with a capacity of about 500 vehicles are also included in the project. Chairman of Myanmar



Central Association for Automobile Purchase and Selling (Yangon), U Aung Than Win of Hanthawady auto trading ground said that we had started our businesses on the former Kyandaw cemetery since

1997 and we lived on the graves. In May 2012, the Mayor and U Kyaw Soe had said the ground would be relocated temporarily while the development project is in progress. Upon construction works, those of the ground

would be given priority to purchase the apartments at reasonable prices.

But an announcement was issued by the YCDC on 16 February, saying that a deadline to move the (See page 9)