

Union NPED Minister discusses Japan-Myanmar Consortium for overall bilateral cooperation



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and delegates to the Third Mekong-Japan Meeting: Forum for Promotion of Public-Private Cooperation in the Mekong Region pose for documentary photo.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb — Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw attended the Third Mekong-Japan Meeting: Forum for Promotion of Public-Private Cooperation in the Mekong Region organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Seminar on Myanmar Investment Bylaws organized by Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 19 to 20 February.

During his tour of Japan, the Union minister met President Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka of International University of Japan (IUJ) on 18 February and held discussions on further cooperation in human resources development of Myanmar.

On 19 February, the Union minister held talks

with Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Shunichi Suzuki.

At the meeting with Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Fumio Kishida on that day, the Union minister explained establishment of special economic zones, inviting Japanese investors.

The Union minister also attended dinner hosted by Japanese MPs of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association and held talks with them.

On 20 February, the Union minister met Japanese Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Mr. Isshu Sugawara. They exchanged views on further Japanese investments in Myanmar.

The Union minister met Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Taro Aso on that day. They held talks on forming of Japan-Myanmar Consortium

for overall cooperation between the two countries, Japanese assistance for rural development in Myanmar and signing of the letter of agreement on investment between Myanmar and Japan.

Director-General Daw Than Than Lin of Foreign Economic Relations Department and President of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and members of the Myanmar delegation, attended a meeting under the banner of Myanmar Investment Law and Investment Prospects held at JCCI in Japan on 20 February.

MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates Amir, PM of the State of Kuwait

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and to His Highness Sheikh Jabar Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2013.—MNA

No. 17 Heavy Industry (Malun) manufacturing agricultural machinery

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint on 16 February met the factory manager and staff at No. 17 Heavy Industry in Malun of Minhla Township of Magway Region.

After that, the Union minister viewed round manufacturing of small-scale rice mill assembling workshop, test-running of milling rice, production of gears for power-tillers, rollers and paddy combined harvesters at gear production workshop, casting of iron wares for power-tillers,

rollers, trailers, combined harvesters and small-scale rice mill at the foundry plant, manufacturing of machine components for power-tillers, rollers, trailers, combined harvesters and small-scale rice mill at Machine Shop, productions of forging parts and press parts at Forging & Heat Treatment Shop, and manufacturing various machinery at the power-tiller assembling workshop, and the rollers and trailers workshop.

No. 17 Heavy Industry (Malun) is manufacturing 90-HP, 80-HP and 50-HP power-tillers, 4-ton and 2-ton trailers, paddy combined harvesters, 3 to 5 tons rice mills and 25-ton and 10-ton rollers. In addition, the industry is producing tuk-tuks that will facilitate to enhancement of transport sector.

MNA

Union Minister U Aye Myint at No. 17 Heavy Industry (Malun).

MNA



Shwechaung Bridge No (2) construction completed by 70 percent

By Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)

Construction of traffic jam.

Shwechaung Bridge No (2) The bridge lies near has been completed by 70 Pakokku-Kyunchaung-Seikpyu road.

percent in the third week of February. The construction of the bridge started on 11-11-2012 as the bridge day in day out to build No (1) was subject to Shwechaung bridge No (2).

The group is also undertaking construction of detour that will pass through the bridge,” said an official.

The detour will link the outskirts of Pakokku and Ayeyawady Bridge.

The bridge has the length of 540 ft and 24-foot-wide motorway flanked by

six-foot-wide sidewalks. It is of RC type.

The bridge will contribute towards socio-economic development of the region with rapid commodity flow.

Myanma Alinn:

24-2-2013

Trs: HKA



LOCAL NEWS

Work coord meeting of Mon State

Police Force

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb — A work coordination meeting of Mon State Police Force was held at the meeting hall of Mon State Police Commander's Office in Mawlamyine on 13 February, attended by the Mon State Police Commander and heads of district/township

police stations. Mon State Police Commander Police Col Myo Swe Win spoke on the occasion and those present reported on work progress and criminal and drug cases carried out in January 2013 and last year.

Next, the state police commander called for

further cooperation with ward administrators and townsenders in carrying out the tasks of curbing crimes, crackdown on gambling, preventive measures against possible occurrence of crimes and seizure of unlicensed vehicles.

MNA

Digging tubewells in progress in NyaungU, Kyaukpadaung Tsps



NYAUNGU, 24 Feb — Director Daw Lei Lei Aye of Rural Region Development Department and party on

17 February visited Ywatha Aye Village of NyaungU Township where a tubewell is being dug to relieve

water stress in coming summer. They supervised and provided necessary assistance there. They also visited Yin Hsan Village and Aye Aye Village in Kyaukpadaung Township where tubewells are also being dug.

Kyemon

Pyinmana Township organizes subject-wise talks for high matriculation pass rate

PYINMANA, 24 Feb — A subject-wise talks was given to students who are going to sit for the matriculation examination in conjunction

to the ceremony, Patron of Pyinmana Township Association (Yangon) Retired Ambassador U Hla Maung said he was very



with a book donation ceremony at Ngwehsaung cinema in Pyinmana on 22 February.

Ten private teachers gave talks on their respective subjects at the ceremony organized by Ashaeywa educational sphere for the first time. Next, wellwishers presented 1000 sets of subject-wise books to students from seven BEHSs in Pyinmana Township.

On his message sent

pleased to organize the talks for students who are playing a pivotal role in promotion of education sector that is a key to development of a certain country. U Pyae Son of Pyinmana Township Education Committee said the aim of conducting the talks was to encourage students to be able to sit for the examination with full of confidence after receiving helpful advice given by veteran teachers. —Kyemon

Poor harvest hurts grape growers in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 24 Feb — Grapes are grown on a wider scale in 24 villages of Ywadan station in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region.

This year, the grape harvest failed because of the drought caused by climate change and plant pests. Grape harvest can be made twice a year in the region. According to the market demand, local people are to rely on the harvest of grapes in summer. Due to a drop in grape yield and falling grape price in the market, grape

growers could not generate income as they expected this year. Of various kinds of grape strains, farmers plant No (3) grape strain with resistance to pests and bad weather in the region. Locally-grown grapes are transported to Yangon and Mandalay, Taunggyi, Muse and Mawlamyine.

"The price of one viss of grapes was K 2000 last year. Now the falling price is K 1000 per viss. A poor harvest of grapes hits our incomes," says a grape grower. —Kyemon



Htamane-making ceremony on 3 March in Thakayta Township

YANGON, 24 Feb — Under the aegis of Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammasara of Buddhatahtaung Minguntaung project, the tenth collective Htamane-making ceremony will be held at Mingun Dhammasara Pariyatti Sathintak on Aung Chantha street in ward-7/ west of Thakayta Township on 3 March (Sunday).

Wellwishers will offer alms to more than 1000 members of Sangha at 5 pm on that day. Those wishing to donate cash for the Htamane-making ceremony, please contact Ph: 450658, 09 5114609 and 450825 of the monastery.

Kyemon

Overturned ferry bus hurts 29 factory workers in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 24 Feb — From 1 to 15 February, eight fatal road accidents happened to passengers buses of the bus lines under all-bus line control committee (central), leaving six people dead and 71 wounded.

Among the car accidents, a ferry bus of No (85) bus line carrying workers of Gaba (1) garment factory in

Shwepyitha Township skidded and turned over while swerving sharply to avoid a motorcycle driving on the wrong side of the road in front of Shwepyitha cinema near Khamauk market on 7 February.

Out of passengers on the ferry, one man and 28 women totaling 29 suffered injuries in the car accident.

Kyemon

Rural people provided with health care



YEDASHE, 24 Feb — A medical team led by Dr Maung Maung Htwe of Jivitadhana free clinic in Swa Township and Daw Hnin Hnin of Swa Township Traditional Medicine Department gave free medical treatment to rural people at the ward administrator's office of Sipaing Village on the other side of Sittoung

river from Swa Township on 16 February. Members of Swa Township Blood Donation Association and townsenders took part in the activity.

The medical team provided more than 500 locals from Sipaing, Shansu, Thaphansin, Kyunkon, Padaukkon villages and other villages with free health care service. —Kyemon

Two houses burnt to ground in short circuit

YANGON, 24 Feb — An electric shock sparked a fire at a house in Aungcheint Village of Hmawby Township, here, on 13 February.

The fire started from the wire shock circuit at the mains of the house of U Shwe Htoo in the village. A shower of sparks from the electrical shock had set fire to other

materials and swept through the whole house. Then the fire spread the next house and burned the house of Daw Kyi Win to the ground.

Firefighters accompanied by one fire engine and local people put out the fire which reduced two houses to ashes.

Kyemon

WORLD

Patriots in Turkey send clear warning to Syria



Germany's Minister of Defence Thomas de Maiziere (L) and his Turkish counterpart Ismet Yilmaz, with the Patriot system in the background, are seen during their visit NATO German patriot troops at a Turkish military base in Kahramanmaraş on 23 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

KAHRAMANMARAS, 24 Feb—Germany's defence minister inspected Patriot missile batteries close to the Syria-Turkey border on Saturday and said they delivered a "clear warning" to Damascus that NATO would not tolerate missiles being fired into Turkey.

Thomas de Maiziere and his Dutch counterpart Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert travelled to the Turkish cities of Adana and

Kahramanmaraş to inspect the batteries provided by their countries at Turkey's request. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was scheduled to visit the same area on Sunday when she begins a two-day visit to Turkey.

The United States has also sent Patriots, which are capable of shooting down hostile missiles in mid-air.

"Our presence here serves to make sure that

Syria doesn't turn its capabilities into action," de Maiziere said, while also saying that the risk of attack was "minimal".

"We can see from here that Syria is using rockets—often several times a day."

Syria is believed to have more than 1,000 rockets with a range of up to 700 km, and around 1,000 tonnes of chemical weapons material.

Turkey is a staunch supporter of the nearly two-year uprising against President Bashar al-Assad and has harboured both Syrian refugees and rebels. Violence has sometimes spilled over the border.

Tensions increased in recent weeks after NATO said it had detected launches of short-range ballistic missiles inside Syria, several of which have landed close to the Turkish border. Turkey has scrambled war planes along the frontier, fanning fears the war could spread and further destabilise the region.—Reuters

Third straight weekend storm heads for New England

BOSTON, 24 Feb—New England faced a third straight weekend of storms dumping a messy mix of wet snow and freezing rain across the region, meteorologists said on Saturday.

Another storm in the West is rolling out of the Rocky Mountains this weekend and could create blizzard conditions in Colorado, according to a National Weather Service advisory.

Much of the Midwest is already blanketed with snow. More than a foot of snow was reported in Kansas on Thursday, forcing airports to cancel hundreds of flights and leaving motorists stranded on highways.

Starting on Saturday, the New England coast—from northern Connecticut to southern Maine—was expecting an extended mix of snow and rain, according to a National Weather Service advisory, while inland areas could see a significant accumulation of

snow.

Wet snow and freezing rain were expected on Saturday afternoon through Sunday evening in southern New Hampshire, northern Rhode Island and much of Massachusetts.

The Boston metropolitan area could see from 2 to 5 inches of snow, while parts of central Massachusetts may get up to 12 inches, said National Weather Service meteorologist John Foley.

The heaviest snowfall was expected on Saturday

night through Sunday morning, with 1 to 2 inches per hour possible, the weather service said.

Despite the forecasts, some residents were taking it in stride, wondering what all the fuss was about.

"Look, it's winter, it's New England, it snows. Happens every time!" said Steve Scardino, a software sales executive and lifelong New Englander from Hopkinton, Massachusetts.

But others were not so sanguine.

Reuters



A family digs snow out of their driveway during a blizzard in Overland Park, Kansas, on 21 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Iran announces uranium finds, days before nuclear talks

DUBAI, 24 Feb—Days before resuming talks over its disputed atomic programme, Iran said on Saturday it had found significant new deposits of raw uranium and identified sites for 16 more nuclear power stations.

State news agency IRNA quoted a report by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) which said the reserves were discovered in northern and southern coastal areas and had trebled the amount outlined in previous estimates.

There was no independent confirmation. With few uranium mines of its own, Western experts had previously thought that Iran might be close to exhausting its supply of raw uranium.

"We have discovered

new sources of uranium in the country and we will put them to use in the near future," Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani, head of the AEOI, was quoted as saying at Iran's annual nuclear industry conference.

The timing of the announcement suggested Iran, by talking up its reserves and nuclear ambitions, may hope to strengthen its negotiating hand at talks in Kazakhstan on Tuesday with the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. Diplomats say the six powers, known as the P5+1, are set to offer Iran some relief from international sanctions if it agrees to curb its production of higher-grade enriched uranium. The West says Iran's enrichment of uranium to a fissile purity

of 20 percent demonstrates its intent to develop a nuclear weapons capability, an allegation the Islamic republic denies.



Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani attends a conference to mark the martyrs of terrorism in Teheran, on 6 Sept, 2011.

REUTERS

The enriched uranium required for use in nuclear reactors or weapons is

produced in centrifuges that spin uranium hexafluoride gas (UF₆) at high speeds. The UF₆ is derived from yellow cake, a concentrate from uranium ore discovered in mines.

Reuters

Obama urges Congress to stop looming sequester

WASHINGTON, 24 Feb—US President Barack Obama on Saturday urged Congress to stop the looming sequester that will lead to harmful automatic cuts, and that could threaten thousands of jobs and affect national security.

In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama warned that the sequester, which will take effect on 1 March if no deal is reached to reduce deficit, will slow the US economy and eliminate good, middle class jobs because of a series of arbitrary, automatic budget cuts.

He also warned that if the sequester comes, it will force thousands of teachers and educators out of jobs, create travel delays across the country's airports and set back medical science for a generation.

Such cuts will also hurt national security by affecting the US ability to respond to threats in the world. For example, the Navy will be forced to delay the deployment of an aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf. The Pentagon has just announced that if these cuts go through, almost 800,000 defense employees will be

forced to take unpaid leave.

But the US president said the sequester can be averted if Congress can pass a balanced plan for deficit reduction.

"They can cut spending in a smart way, and close wasteful tax loopholes for the well-off and well-connected," he said.

The US president criticized Congressional Republicans for refusing to make compromise to allow tax hikes for the wealthiest Americans.

"These are the questions Republicans in Congress need to ask themselves. And I'm hopeful they'll change their minds. Because the American people have worked too hard for too long to see everything they've built undone by partisan recklessness in Washington," he said.

The Republicans have insisted for massive cuts in government spending to reduce the spiraling debt rather than increasing taxes for the wealthy Americans, citing this will hinder their ability to make new investments and create new jobs.

Xinhua

France offers India support to combat terrorism after Hyderabad blasts

NEW DELHI, 24 Feb—France has offered support and cooperation to India in fighting terrorism following the Hyderabad terrorist attack which killed 16 and injured 110, said local media on Saturday.

French President

Francois Hollande, who visited India recently, has expressed condemnation of the attacks in India while conveying his heartfelt condolences to the victims' families, reported Indo-Asian News Service.

Hollande expressed

"his complete solidarity with the Indian people and the government in the fight against terrorism, for which they can count on France's steadfast support and cooperation," a statement of the Elysee Palace was quoted as saying on Friday.

The French ministry of foreign affairs also said French Consul General in Bangalore has already visited Hyderabad "to express our solidarity with India and ensure the safety of the French community" there.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Vietnam's hi-tech park aims at 2.7 bln USD export revenue in 2013

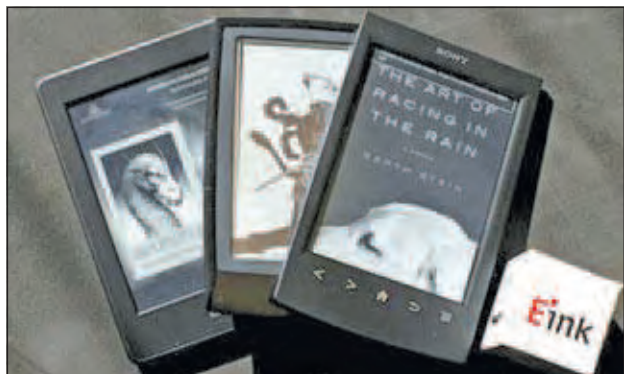
HANOI, 24 Feb — Vietnam's Saigon High-Tech Park (SHTP) targets export revenue of 2.7 billion US dollars in 2013, while attracting 6 to 10 investment projects with a combined registered capital of around 150 million dollars, according to SHTP's management board. In addition, SHTP will continue its efforts to boost exports and develop high-tech human resources training. Located in Vietnam's southern metropolis Ho Chi Minh City, the park has attracted 68 projects since established in 2002.

Over the last decade, export turnovers of firms operating in the park have reached 3.55 billion dollars.

Earlier this year, the city's people's committee signed on SHTP's 8.17 trillion Vietnamese dong (about 392 million dollars) second phase project, which covers 587 hectare in the city's District 9, bringing the park's total area to 913 hectare. SHTP is expected to receive foreign and domestic investment capital flow of 3 billion dollars in 2013-2018 period.

Xinhua

EU takes France, Luxembourg to court over low VAT on e-books



An Amazon Kindle (L-R), a Bookeen Cybook Odyssey, and a Sony Reader, all of which use technology developed by E Ink, are pictured at E Ink Corporation in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 25 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 24 Feb — The European Commission is taking France and Luxembourg to court for applying reduced tax rates on the sale of electronic books, which the EU executive says breaks current EU rules. Since January 2012, France and Luxembourg have applied reduced value added tax (VAT) rates to the sale of e-books of 7 percent and 3 percent respectively. Under EU rules, governments can apply reduced VAT rates to a limited list of goods and services which includes books, but currently not e-books.

"Failure to comply with this legislation by France and Luxembourg results in serious distortions of competition to the detriment

of traders from other EU member states," the Commission said in a statement on Thursday. The Commission has said similar goods and services should be subject to the same tax rates and that technological advances should be taken into account, but legislative proposals under a new VAT strategy are only expected by the end of 2013.

Rules on VAT on e-services that take effect from 2015 will end the unequal treatment of e-books and paper books, the Commission said. Digital publications such as e-books are designed to be read on mobile and other electronic devices, such as Amazon's Kindle or Apple Inc's iPad.

Reuters

Sharp revival plan unlikely to include Hon Hai capital

TOKYO, 24 Feb — Sharp Corp is unlikely to include a capital infusion from Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd in its turnaround plan as talks between the two companies have hit a snag, sources familiar with the matter said. The Japanese consumer electronics maker and its main lenders are drawing up a business plan to convince shareholders and creditors that Sharp can survive its ongoing difficulties with debt and fierce competition from foreign brands.

The tieup with the Taiwanese company, best known as one of Apple Inc's manufacturing partners, would have been the pillar of Sharp's revival efforts. But talks to sell a 9.9 percent stake to Hon Hai

have stalled over arguments about executive control, as the March deadline looms. "We cannot make a plan based on something that is uncertain. For us, it's over," said a banking source who declined to be identified because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Without a Hon Hai's capital infusion, the Osaka-based firm will need to devise other ways to boost its capital. It must also persuade its creditors to refinance debts. In October, it won a \$4.4 billion bailout from its banks to repay short-term loans and stave off failure. In December, chip maker Qualcomm Inc agreed to invest as much as \$120 million in Sharp. As part of that agreement,

Qualcomm said it would work with Sharp to develop new, power-saving screens based on Sharp's IGZO technology.

Sources said drawing up Sharp's business plan has fallen behind schedule as the company has yet to

come up with convincing growth strategies, and an announcement is not likely to come until after its new financial year which starts in April. A Sharp spokeswoman declined to comment.

Reuters



A sign hangs in the Sharp booth on the first day of the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 8 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Nokia to fight rivals with cheaper models

COPENHAGEN, 24 Feb — Finnish mobile phone maker Nokia is set to launch cheaper handset models in an attempt to fend off growing competition from Chinese rivals in the low-end market, company sources said on Friday. The new models, due to be unveiled at the Mobile World Congress industry convention in Barcelona next week, show Nokia is expanding its focus after concentrating in the past two years on catching up with Apple and Samsung in more expensive smartphones.

The sources said Nokia would introduce cut-price basic phones aimed at competing with the likes of Huawei and ZTE, as well as a new, lower-price model of its Lumia smartphones running on Windows Phone 8 software. Details such as exact pricing were not available, and a company spokesman declined to comment. Nokia, once the undisputed leader in the mobile phone industry, has struggled with growing competition in both smartphones and lower-end

handsets.

Its Lumia smartphone range was widely seen as a make-or-break product line for Nokia due to its high margins. Its success is seen determining whether Chief Executive Stephen Elop made the right decision two years ago in switching to Microsoft Windows software from its own Symbian system. Most Lumia phones cost over \$200, and the top-of-the-range Lumia 920 can cost over \$600 without a carrier contract in the United States and some European markets. By contrast, the average selling price of Nokia's mobile phones was 31 euros in 2012, down from 35 euros a year earlier.

But analysts estimate Nokia's market share in the smartphone business is still only around 5 percent, and that it needs to protect its position in basic phones if it wants to survive. Nokia's net sales of mobile phones fell 21 percent in 2012 to 9.44 billion euros, while sales of higher-end "smart devices" slumped 50 percent to 5.45 billion.

Reuters



Picture shows a Nokia logo at a shop in Warsaw, on 26 Jan, 2012.—REUTERS



An illustration picture shows a Google logo with two one Euro coins, taken in Munich in this 15 Jan, 2013 file photograph. Google Inc shares rose 1 percent to hit \$800 per share on 19 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

EU sees Google competition deal after August

PARIS, 24 Feb — EU regulators hope to resolve a two-year investigation into US internet company Google in the latter half of the year, the EU's antitrust chief said on Friday, although a rival expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of any solution. The European Commission —the EU's executive arm— has been examining proposals put forward by Google to resolve complaints from more than a dozen companies, including Microsoft, that Google was using its market dominance to block competitors.

"We can reach an agreement after the summer break. We can envisage this as a possible deadline," EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia told a *Concurrences Journal* conference. The Commission is closed for its summer break for most of August. Almunia said there would only be a decision "if everything was okay." Neither Google nor the EU antitrust authority have detailed what conces-

sions the US group has offered. If the EU authority accepts the offer, it would mean no fine for Google.

People familiar with the matter have previously told *Reuters* that Google offered to label its own services in search results to differentiate them from rival services, and also to impose fewer restrictions on advertisers. The Commission is expected to seek feedback from Google rivals and other third parties once it completes its examination of the concessions. However, British price comparison site and Google complainant Foundem had doubts about the efficacy of any proposals from the US company.

"We will withhold judgment on Google's proposals until we have seen them, but everything we have learned about Google makes us sceptical that it would volunteer truly effective remedies until it has been formally charged with infringement," said Foundem Chief Executive Shivaun Raff.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Spain, France to miss debt goals as euro zone stays in recession

BRUSSELS, 24 Feb—The euro zone will not return to growth until 2014 and struggling Spain and France will be among those who miss debt-cutting targets as a result, the European Commission said on Friday. Paris and Lisbon said they would seek more time from Brussels to reach their deficit goals. Madrid has already indicated the same.

The EU's executive said the euro zone economy, which generates nearly a fifth of global output, would shrink 0.3 percent in 2013 after a 0.6 percent fall last year, blaming a lack of bank lending and record

joblessness for delaying the recovery. That represented a marked downgrade of the Commission's prediction from November that the euro zone would grow this year. The euro slipped on the back of the forecasts.

The currency bloc is consolidating its public finances to regain market trust after excessive government spending, real-estate bubbles and lack of competitiveness triggered a sovereign debt crisis. "The ongoing rebalancing of the European economy is continuing to weigh on growth in the short term," EU Economic and Monetary

Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn said.

Under EU budget rules, sharpened at the peak of the crisis in late 2011, euro zone countries can face fines if they fail to take action to meet deficit targets set by EU finance ministers. Progress is uneven among the 17 countries sharing the euro.

The main laggard was Spain, which badly missed the 6.3 percent of GDP target for 2012 with a result of 10.2 percent. While that included 3.2 percent of GDP cost to recapitalize banks, even at 7.0 percent the deficit was above target.

Reuters



European Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn presents the EU Commission's interim economic forecast during a news conference at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels on 22 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Medicare drug costs to fall in 2014, but donut hole widens

CHICAGO, 24 Feb—There will be good and bad news next year for seniors using Medicare's prescription drug programme.

Overall, enrollees can expect a year of flat or decreasing Medicare prescription drug costs, according to data released last week by the federal government. The government said Medicare's per-beneficiary drug costs fell 4 percent last

Medicare, said last week that it will be \$310, down from \$325 this year (the numbers are proposed, and still could be revised).

And insurance plan premiums—which won't be known until this fall—could reflect the decline in drug prices. Although some Part D premiums jumped sharply in 2013, average rates have been flat for several years, ranging from \$37 to \$40,



Hospital beds in a file photo.—REUTERS

year. As a result, some of the most important numbers in the programme's 2014 Part D will drop by roughly the same amounts.

The number that will matter most to seniors is the standard annual plan deductible. The federal Centres for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which administers

according to Jack Hoadley, research professor at the Health Policy Institute of Georgetown University.

"Premiums are driven by insurance plan estimates of what their average cost will be to treat a patient, so it's fair to say we're likely to see relatively flat premium growth next year," he says.

Reuters

Experts issue guidelines for gene tests in kids



A young girl looks at school stationery in a supermarket in Nice on 23 August, 2012.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 24 Feb—Groups representing pediatricians and geneticists issued new recommendations on Thursday to provide doctors with guidance about when to test a child's DNA for genetic conditions. The recommendations are the first collaboration between the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics. Neither organization has issued guidelines for genetic testing of kids in over a decade, according to one

of the study's lead authors. "What we're trying to show is a unified and consistent message about genetic testing in children," said Dr Lainie Friedman Ross, the Carolyn and Matthew Bucksbaum Professor of Clinical Ethics at the University of Chicago.

"The first thing is what hasn't changed and the most important thing is (that) what is best for the child should be front and centre for everything in pediatrics," Ross said. That includes offering every parent the opportunity

to screen their newborn children for treatable genetic conditions—such as sickle-cell disease, which can lead to chronic health problems as well as fatal sickle-cell "crises." Newborn screening "shouldn't just be offered. It should be strongly encouraged, because the benefits far outweigh the risks," Ross said.

Testing children for diseases that don't affect people until adulthood, however, should be discouraged unless a childhood treatment may decrease the risk of complications or death, according to the experts.

For example, the new policy would recommend against girls being screened for the BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations, which put adult women at a higher risk for breast and ovarian cancer.

About one in 600 women in the US carry the mutations, and those women may decide to have their breasts and ovaries

removed later in life. There is no reason to test babies or children for those types of mutations because the results would not change how doctors treat the child, according to Ross.

"That's something you get pretty universal agreement on from the geneticist side, to not test children for adult onset conditions," said Dr David Sweetser, chief of medical genetics at MassGeneral Hospital for Children in Boston.

Reuters

Pepsi suddenly scarce in Thailand after bottler breakup



A customer walks past a shelf of soft drinks, including Pepsi and est sodas, in a supermarket in Bangkok on 28 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 24 Feb—The day after PepsiCo Inc's bottling deal in Thailand expired, its partner of 59 years launched its own soft drink that has knocked Pepsi off store shelves. Serm Suk Pcl, backed by the billionaire owner of Thai Beverage Pcl, Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, said its new soda called "est" garnered 19 percent of Thailand's \$1.8 billion cola market in just two months following its 2 November launch.

Pepsi's breakup with its bottler meant it also lost access to Serm Suk's vast

distribution network, which delivers drinks to about 200,000 stores, restaurants and vending machines serving Thailand's market of 67 million people.

The two companies had a non-compete clause that expired when their contract ended on 1 November. Pepsi has similar non-compete clauses with bottlers in other markets such as China, but the decision backfired in Thailand.

The following day, est hit the market, costing about the same as Pepsi and sold in the same bottles,

with a red, white and blue logo reminiscent of Pepsi's. Pepsi declined to comment on whether it was pursuing any trademark violation claim. "We did not deliberately set out to push Pepsi off the shelves but we have a very strong distribution network and if we stop distributing for one company, that company's products will disappear from the shelves," Pragnee Chaipidej, advertising manager at Serm Suk, said in an interview.

She declined to comment on similarities of est to Pepsi. Thailand was one of the few countries where Pepsi's cola drink outsold arch-rival Coca-Cola Co's, but Coke caught up in 2011 and built a lead last year, according to data from research firm Euromonitor International. Euromonitor's figures show Pepsi's share of the cola market dipped by 2.6 percentage points to 36.1 percent in 2012, compared with Coke's 40.1 percent.

Reuters

EU agency recommends Sanofi, Merck pediatric vaccine

LONDON, 24 Feb—The European Medicines Agency recommended approval of Hexyon, a new

6-in-1 pediatric vaccine from Sanofi Pasteur MSD, a joint venture between Merck and Sanofi, the

companies said on Friday.

The new vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis B, poliomyelitis and invasive infections caused by Haemophilus influenzae type b.

Recommendations for marketing approval by the EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) are normally endorsed by the European Commission within a couple of months.

Reuters

A view of the Merck & Co campus in Linden, New Jersey on 9 March, 2009.

REUTERS



WORLD

Cyprus votes for president as clock ticks on bailout deal

NICOSIA, 24 Feb — Cypriots vote in a runoff on Sunday to elect a president who must clinch a bailout deal so the island nation can avoid a financial meltdown that would revive the euro zone crisis. Conservative leader Nicos Anastasiades, who favours hammering out a quick deal with foreign lenders, is favoured to win against Communist-backed rival Stavros Malas, who is more wary of the austerity terms accompanying any rescue.

Financial markets are hoping for an Anastasiades victory that speeds up a joint rescue by the European Union and International Monetary Fund before the island runs out of cash and derails fragile confidence returning to the euro zone.

The 66-year-old lawyer took more than 45 percent of the vote in last Sunday's first round, easily beating Malas who took 27 percent. An anti-austerity candidate who finished third refused



Cyprus presidential candidate Nicos Anastasiades of the right wing Democratic Rally party (R) talks with left-wing backed independent Stavros Malas (L) before a televised debate in Nicosia on 22 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

to back either contender, boosting Anastasiades' chances.

The winner takes the reins of a nation ravaged by its worst economic crisis in four decades, with unemployment at a record high of 15 percent. Pay cuts and tax hikes in preparation for a bailout have further soured the normally sunny national mood.

"Whatever happens in this vote, the day after

is going to be very difficult for Cyprus," said Demetris Charalambous, a 56-year-old convenience store owner. "People are really depressed. Business is bad, we are at risk of shutting down." Prospects for a quick bailout that revives the sinking Cypriot economy - which the EU says will shrink a worse than expected 3.5 percent this year —have been equally grim.

Reuters

France warns of kidnappings, attack risk in Benin

DAKAR, 24 Feb— France said on Saturday its nationals were at risk of kidnappings or attacks in the West African state of Benin, warning of a specific danger close to neighbouring Niger.

The advisory came after a French family of seven, including four children, were abducted by suspected militants in Cameroon on Tuesday, the first case of foreigners being seized in the mostly Muslim north of the country.

It highlighted the threat to French interests in West Africa since Paris deployed thousands of troops to Mali to oust al-Qaeda-linked Islamists who controlled the country's north.

"Despite the Benin authorities committing to increase security in particu-

lar areas, the risk of kidnappings and attacks exists in Benin," the foreign ministry said in an updated travel advisory on its website.

It warned its 3,700 citizens in Benin to avoid going out at night and against all travel on the main road leading from Tchaourou, about 350 kilometres north of the capital Porto-Novo, to Malanville and the W National Park on the border with Niger.

The United States and African governments are backing the six-week-old campaign against militants in Mali, where Benin has also sent troops to join an African force being deployed.

Islamists have threatened to strike back at anyone who supports the mission.—Reuters



French President Francois Hollande attends a news conference during his visit to the 50th International Agricultural Show in Paris, on 23 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Italian election outcome uncertain, euro at stake

ROME, 24 Feb — Eurozone leaders and financial markets may hold their breath on Sunday and Monday when austerity-hit Italians flock to the polls for an election whose outcome could trigger a resurgence of the eurozone debt crisis.

Final opinion polls indicated that centre-left Democratic Party leader Pier Luigi Bersani would secure an overall majority in the lower house, but may fall short of a few seats in the Senate, thus the most likely appears to be a coalition government with the outgoing Prime Minister Mario Monti's centrist party.

The race is far from a foregone conclusion, with media mogul and ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi trailing in polls for the past month and comedian-turned-politician playing the wild card in the third place ahead of Monti.

But the Bersani-Monti alliance could be in the best

interests of Italy as well as the wider Eurozone, observers have said.

Josef Janning, an EU expert with the Berlin-based thinktank German Council on Foreign Relations, said that the market would become nervous and Italy's economic recession would deepen if there was no new coalition with strong backing for the government after the election.

"Italy is too big an economy to drift off and discredit the Eurozone. The EU would clearly prefer a government committed to the present reforms and close cooperation with European partners," Janning told Xinhua.

Back in the depths of Eurozone debt crisis in 2011, the country was on the brink of bankruptcy, which forced the then premier Berlusconi out of office and brought in Monti's technocrat government.

For over a year, Monti was fighting tooth and nail

to restore Italy's credibility with austerity measures and labour market reforms, until Berlusconi's party withdrew its support last December, prompting the dissolution of the parliament and the early election.

With a distant fourth place in the polls, Monti has little chance to win the election, but his role as a potential ally of Bersani has its own values, especially if Bersani fails to win the Senate. As the lower house, or the 630-strong "Chamber of Deputies," and the 315-member Senate have equal law-making powers, Italy's prime minister always needs the support of both houses to govern.

A supporter of Monti's reforms in the parliament, Bersani has pledged to continue with the former's discipline policy. But he intends to add his own priorities of employment and fairness to tackle pressing issues in the country.

Xinhua

Provincial governor escapes suicide bombing in Iraq's Diyala

BAQUBA, 24 Feb — The governor of Iraq's eastern Province of Diyala on Saturday escaped unharmed a suicide car bomb attack on his house, which killed a guard and wounded seven people, a provincial police source told Xinhua.

The attack occurred in the early morning hours when a suicide bomber driving an explosive-laden car tried to cross a security checkpoint outside the house of the Sunni governor Omer Aziz al-Hemiyari in the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The guards on the checkpoint opened fire on the attacker who blew it up before reaching the governor's house, killing a guard

and wounding three others, the source said. Four civilians, including a woman, were also wounded by the blast, which damaged the governor's house and several nearby houses, the source added.

Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iranian border east of the country, has been a volatile area since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 despite repeated US and Iraqi military operations against the militant groups.

Violence is still common in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease since its peak in 2006 and 2007 when the country was engulfed in sectarian killings.

Xinhua

Iran says it has brought down a foreign spy drone

LONDON, 24 Feb — Iran's Revolutionary Guards have brought down a foreign surveillance drone during a military exercise, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said on Saturday.

"We have managed to bring down a drone of the enemy. This has happened before in our country," the agency quoted war games

spokesman General Hamid Sarkheli as saying in Kerman, southeast Iran, where the military exercise is taking place.

The agency gave no details on who the drone belonged to.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman said he had seen the reports. He noted that the Iranians did not specifically claim that

the drone was American.

In the past, there have been incidents of Iran claiming to have seized US drones.

In early January Iranian media said Iran had captured two miniature US-made surveillance drones over the past 17 months.

Several drone incidents over the past year or so have highlighted tension in the

Gulf as Iran and the United States flex their military capabilities in a standoff over Iran's disputed nuclear programme.

Iran said in January that lightweight RQ11 Raven drones were brought down by Iranian air defence units in separate incidents in August 2011 and November 2012.

Reuters



Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi attends a news conference with Turkish President Abdullah Gul (not pictured) after their meeting at Presidential Palace "Qasr Al Quba" in Cairo on 7 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Egypt parliament election start moved to 22 April

CAIRO, 24 Feb — Egypt's parliamentary elections, previously scheduled to begin on 27 April, have been brought forward to start on 22 April, the presidential spokesman said on his Facebook page on Saturday.

Members of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority had criticised the planned timing of the elections because some voting would take place during their Easter holiday.—Reuters

LOCAL NEWS

Bhamo to get new concrete bridge for smooth transportation



BHAMO, 24 Feb—A construction near the wooden concrete bridge is under one in Hante Ward of Bhamo. The 90 feet long concrete floor bridge can withstand 60

tons of loads. The construction work started in June 2012 and a plan is set to complete the bridge in April 2013. At present, skilled workers and engineers from Special Project Group (2) of Public Works are making concerted efforts for timely completion of the bridge. It was estimated that the construction of the bridge would cost about K 300 million. The new bridge is located at the southern exist of the town. On completion, the local people can travel along Bhamo-Shwegu-Mandalay route and Bhamo-Mogok and Bhamo-Namhkam routes through the new bridge safely.

Myanma Alinn

Umbrella hoisted atop earthquake-hit pagoda



SAGAING, 24 Feb—The earthquake on 11 November 2012 fell the umbrellas down to the ground from Hsutaungya, Hsutaungpyae and Ayezedi Pagodas in Aungtha Village of Sagaing Township. Now, the umbrellas have been hoisted atop the pagodas respectively. A local said that the hoisting of umbrellas atop the pagodas were carried out

with K 200,000 assistance from Township General Administration Department and contributions of wellwishers. The structure of Ayezedi Pagoda has been renovated for the some cracks. In addition, the pagoda was gilt and the umbrella will be hoisted atop before the fullmoon day of Tabodwe.

Myanma 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)	

Concrete road leading to garages under construction



NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—As Nay Pyi Taw is dotted with government offices, garages and workshops for maintenance and servicing of vehicles are established near Myoma Market and Thabyegon. A total of 38 garages and one servicing workshop are in operation at Myoma Market. With the assistance of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, a 1700 feet long concrete road is under construction for satisfying demand of the garages. So far, about 500 feet long section of the concrete road has been completed, and the remaining section, 1200 feet long, is under construction.

Myanma Alinn

Bus line for pilgrims to Pujaniya of Minbu Shwesettaw Pagoda

MAGWAY, 24 Feb—Buddha Pujaniya of ancient Shwesettaw Pagoda was opened in Minbu Township of Magway Region on 15 February. As of that day, Aunggabar bus line launched its runs from Magway to the Pagoda. Mini Buses from the bus line leave Magway at 7.30 am and Shwesettaw at 3.30 pm daily with fare K 2500 per passenger. The bus line accepts the chartered transport for families and companies. At present, as the road from Magway to Shwesettaw Pagoda has been repaved, the pilgrims enjoy smooth transportation, said U Khin Maung Tint, former chairman of the Bus Line Committee. The Pujaniya of the pagoda will be held from 5th Waxing of Tabodwe to New Year Day of Tagu.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 25 February, 2013

Effective development cooperation

After the signing of the Nay Pyi Taw Accord, the development partners have agreed to take strategic direction from the conclusions of high level dialogue with the government of Myanmar, and to establish complementary dialogue with other partners, including the private sector, and to actively support manageable, Ministry-led, sectoral and thematic coordination mechanisms, organized around Myanmar government structures, avoiding the creation of an excessive number of working groups.

They also have plans for align development assistance with national, sub-national and local priorities based on Myanmar ownership, as set out in the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms, the National Comprehensive Development Plan and other official planning documents, undertake sustained and efficient dialogue with relevant national counterparts on strategies and programmes, and consult with civil society organizations, local communities and beneficiaries, especially women, minorities and so on.

Taking the unique local context in Myanmar as the starting point, the development partners are going to collaborate with each other and local and international institutions on diagnostic studies and sectoral reviews, build and make greater use of national capacity to collect, interpret, share and use development data, and support South-South cooperation and sharing experience from regional successes, especially within ASEAN.

Myanmar on her part has highlighted the need to deepen cooperation between her and development partners in multi sectors and in reforms in line with Framework on Economic and Social Reform while calling on development partners to cooperate in priority areas. Moreover, Myanmar has dedicated to working closely with private organizations, civil societies and international development partners to work in cooperation thoroughly and transparently and for effective development cooperation.

Myanmar's reform process turns two years. The world countries were keeping a watchful eyes on it when the reform process started. The beginning of it has met with a lot of hurdles. Some put blame on it at the time. In addition, the burden to be shouldered is huge. The country has had to practice new political system as well as to make overall changes in economic and social sectors. That is to say, it is the change not only in the government but also in all walks of life.

Myanmar has never faced such kinds of tasks before. Having been a long-isolated country, the country had lost contact with the world community for many decades. And the country is in urgent need of human resources and financial sources.

Myanmar's reform is totally different from other countries. After two years, the start of reform is like a dream. Some observers said that it will leave behind in the history if we lose sights on rapid changes in Myanmar even during one week.

Myanmar Spring is much smoother than the events from Arab Spring in Middle East and North African countries. Taking a look at peace and security, peace talks are being made with national races armed groups and sound of gunshots are kept silent the far and the wide of the nation.

Regarding the economy, efforts are being made for rural development and poverty alleviation and macro economic reform. Reforms in banking system and currency exchange policy have been made, which is the lifeblood for economic reforms. Now we see the fruits of these

reforms.

With regard to trade, import and export volumes have significantly increased thanks to more liberalization. The Long-awaited Foreign Investment Law had been enacted. Hotels are packed with foreign businessmen and flight schedules also full.

With respect to the international relations, many foreign heads paid visit to Myanmar. And Myanmar President and officials are also busy with meeting guests.

We have achieved these progresses in a short period of time. This remarkable progress was not achieved by the government alone. It

Ko Myanmar

is a product of government's efforts and mass participation of the people in the political reform processes being made with might and main.

It is impossible to produce better outcomes within the short period of time as much as the majority expects since complex and multifaceted problems are being addressed in a rush at the same time. It is needed to take a phrase "Rome was not built in a day" into consideration.

The present elected government is not only addressing old problems left by the former government but also tackling new challenges as a result of its overall reform process.

Problems, difficulties and challenges are in the nature of a task which is being undertaken. The important thing is to keep an eye on our goal and to adopt a right approach to challenges.

Two points essential for keeping an eye on our goal are far-sighted reasoning power and cautious approach.

A right approach is consisted of eight characteristics of correct view, opinion, words, work, living, effort, sense and integrity. On the other hand, it is a right approach taken with the genuine sense, staying away from being extreme.

As third phase of reform process, the President initiated a people-centered reform process in which people are to play a main role in the whole reform process. That's why, keeping an eye on the goal of achieving success in reform process and taking a right approach to implementation of tasks rest on the people. It calls on the people to take

more responsibility and accountability and to be equipped with more ability to take responsibility and accountability.

But on the other, people themselves are to accept the point that there are many requirements to be fulfilled. Due to various reasons in the successive periods, there has been necessity for the people, not only individually but also collectively, to have knowledge, technology, skills and capacity. It is required to restore a certain level of trust among the civil society and between the two groups and two communities. Likewise, reconsolidation of unity among the community's members of the civil society is also needed. Besides, it is also necessary to nurture democratic culture and practices that allows responsibility and accountability to go together.

According to the nature of reform process, liberty and right have come effective first before capacity building is in good shape. There arise activities based on a combination of mixed feelings while people's aspiration to embrace a long-awaited change, challenges and difficulties that occur in the transitional period and freedom of holding processing, freedom of expression, freedom of press and freedom of forming organizations were realized.

Labour issues, farmland disputes, conflicts between environmental degradation and development projects and communal strife produced a shower of sparks, causing highly sensitive issues. This requires an action to put out the shower of spark as soon as possible before they helped fuel the flames.

Although, in fact, democracy is a system of making rules determined by the people, democracy is noting more than mob rule where the majority of the people takes away the rights of the minority. It is a system of obeying the wishes of the majority, respecting the wishes of the minority. It is not a system of burgeoning mob rule that deliberately flouts the law and uses the people as a means to an end. It is not a system of demanding for own interest, making groups and getting into a series of heated confrontations in taking an approach to the problems. It is a system of negotiating at the table in accord with the laws. While establishing a

democratic society, only the healthy negotiation could lead the civil society to the goal. Those who are abusing liberty and rights given by the democracy for their own interest, arrogance and grudge are likely to meet a tragic end.

Nowadays, unscrupulous persons who are violating disciplines and committing mob violence under the name of the public have been seen.

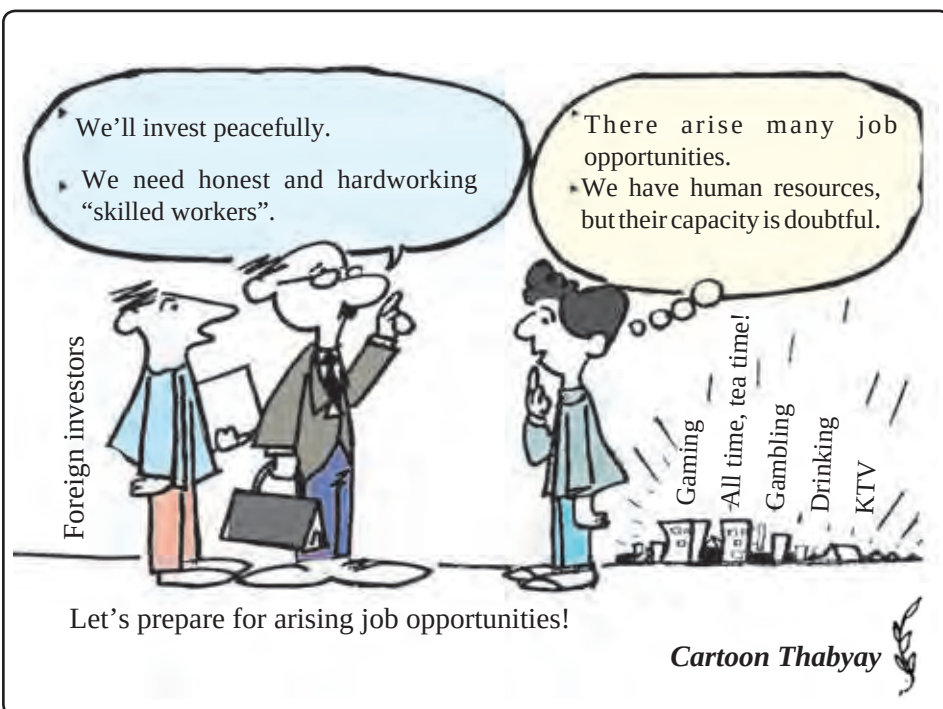
No sooner had news about housing development projects spread than encroachers rushed the designated project territories in time. Undisciplined behaviours of some people are seen on the roads. People are to walk on the busy roads, putting their lives at risk due to undisciplined vendors who are occupying the pavements. The instigators of the demonstrations and protests are seen as soon as problems in wide variety such as labour issue and farmland dispute erupted. Various kinds of evil deeds are coming from every corner.

Although the majority of the people aspire to the change, they understand that "Rome was not built in a day". Those who are upholding their own interest are a hindrance to reform process of Myanmar which is struggling to translate its reform process into a success. Their acts can destroy trusts of the investors in the country if the nation sees lack of the rule of law and instability.

If the nation faces the delay in flow of foreign investments or sees a certain amount of investments which is smaller than that of investments as expected, there will be an adverse impact on job creation and promotion of socioeconomic status of the people, thereby contributing towards frustrating delays in political reform process. It is required to realize that economy and politics are interdependent.

All in all, the role of the people is crucial to the success of the people-centered reform process. In order to not deviating from the right track, only when the people themselves are to take the right approach to the problems with reasoning power and tackle challenges and difficulties in a spirit of goodwill, will the overall reform process that includes political, economic and social sectors be realized.

Trs: MT+ YM



NATIONAL

Union Minister visits construction sites in Yangon

YANGON, 24 Feb—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin yesterday inspected maintenance works of Hlinethaya-Twantay road section and construction of Seik-kyikhanaungto Suspension Bridge.

He also visited the construction site of Bayintnaung Bridge No (2), calling on officials to stick to set standards and pay attention to safety.

MNA

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin at bridge construction site.

MNA



Soya bean harvested in University for Development of National Races in Sagaing



SAGAING, 24 Feb—Rector U Soe Tint and officials of University for Development of National

Races viewed collective harvesting of Yezin-6 high yield soya bean plantations on 10 acres of farmland in the

compound of the university on 16 February morning.

Five acres of farmland have been put under monsoon

paddy, 28 acres under summer paddy, 10 acres under soya bean and 4000 Seintalon mango plantation, 355 soap acacia plants, 220 Taiwan plum plants, 161 coconut plants, 100 Eugenia and 1000 pepper plants in 2012-2013.

Indeed, it is a subject to be conducted to trainees from the university practically and theoretically and to provide welfare services to the staff.

Moreover, the university undertakes breeding of 41 goats, six cattle, 40000 fish in three ponds and other livestock breeding tasks.

Now, the vegetables, fruits and meat produced from the farms of the university are sold to trainees at fair prices.

Myanma Alinn

Economic Zone will be opened in 2015. Japanese and Myanmar entrepreneurs will join hands for development of the economic zone and invite investment from international arena.

Myanma Alinn

Plan underway to open Thilawa SEZ in 2015

YANGON, 24 Feb—A master plan is being drafted by the government with the assistance of JICA for developing Yangon meeting international standard.

“Yangon will be upgraded for emergence of an international level city. In so doing, efforts will be made for supply of electricity

and potable water and better transport for the dwellers residing in the municipal area of Yangon,” said an official of Yangon City Development Committee.

With the assistance of Japan, plans are underway to build power stations, install power lines, implement Thilawa special economic

zone and its related infrastructures and supply clean drinking water for the people so as to upgrading the city. JICA will assist 20 Yen as loans. Thilawa Special

Cars in collision claim two lives, leaving one injured

PYAY, 24 Feb—A UD vehicle driven by Aung Aung, 30 from Aunglan to Pyay and XLF brand tuk-tuk driven by Po Lin, 30 together with passengers Ma Mi Nge, 32 and Ma Thet Thet, 28 head on in collision between mile posts 190/0 and 190/1 on Pyay-Aunglan Road near

Tituk Village at 12.20 pm on 13 February.

In the incident, driver Po Lin and Ma Mi Nge died on the spot and Ma Thet Thet was injured in a critical condition. Pyay Police Station No 3 opened a file of lawsuit against the traffic accident case. Driver Aung Aung of



UD vehicle managed escape from the scene. Policemen are

trying to arrest him.

Myanma Alinn

Union FM sends felicitations to Kuwaiti Deputy PM and Foreign Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—On the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.—MNA

Stolen motorbikes handed over to owners

SHWEGYIN, 24 Feb—Under the supervision of Commander of Shwegyin Township Police Force Police Major Tint Wai of Bago Region, a ceremony to hand over stolen motorcycles to owners was held at the office of the township police force on 12 February.

Deputy Commander

of Bago Region Police Force Police Lt-Col Zaw Khin Aung and Shwegyin Township Administrator U Khin Thein Maung presented motor-cycles to owners and certificates of honour and gifts to policemen who made relentless efforts in exposing the theft cases of motor-cycles.—Myanma Alinn

Pinlaung Township gets new rural health branch

PINLAUNG, 24 Feb—A ceremony to inaugurate the self-reliant rural health branch was held at Kaunghmi Village of Sintawng Village-tract in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of Shan State (South) on 14 February morning.

Member of the Leading Body of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone U Khun Hla Hsan and Deputy Township Administrator U Saw Maung Bwe made speeches. Township Medical Officer Dr Khin Thein Htwe explained emergence of the rural health branch.

Officials cut the ribbon to open the branch. The Township Medical Officer and party gave health care services to the local people.

Local people contributed to construction of the branch which is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide and one staff quarter and one toilet, costing K 8 million.

Thanks to the rural health branch, a total of 2805 local people from 545 houses from seven villages can enjoy fruits of health care services.

Taunghmi Village is located east of Pinlaung, 14 miles from Pinlaung. The village is sharing border with Lonkan Village of Nyaungshwe Township.

Local people faced difficulties in receiving health care services in the past because they went to Pinlaung and Nyaungshwe spending hours. Now, they have opportunities to enjoy health facility from the branch in a short time. That is why they thank the government for appointment of one health staff at the rural health branch to be able to give health care services to them, said Chairman of the rural health branch construction committee U Khun Tun Tun.

Myanma Alinn

Ayadaw people face difficulty for feedstuff

AYADAW, 24 Feb—Ayadaw Township of Monywa District is a drought and scarcity.

As monsoon has withdrawn from the dry regions early, local people are storing feedstuff for farming cattle as an important task more than food for families.

Farmers from Kyaukpauk Village of Ayadaw Township buy carry bundles of straw from

farmers from Shwepangon Village of Wetlet Township and carry them by bullock cart or small vehicle not to face difficulties in feeding their farming cattle with feedstuff.

It is because their village cannot grow any crops on their gravel-filled farmlands.

Straw is bought at K 60000 per trawlergy.

Myanma Alinn

Italy finds no trace of horse DNA in Nestle mince meals

ROME/ZURICH, 24 Feb — Italy's Health Ministry said on Saturday that tests had found no trace of horse DNA in minced beef meals by Swiss food giant Nestle that were removed from sale on Monday.

Nestle removed the ready-made beef ravioli and tortellini sold under its Buitoni brand from shelves in Italy and Spain and halted production of the meals after its own tests had found more than 1 percent horse DNA in the products.

Italian authorities seized 26 tonnes of affected beef products on Thursday after Nestle withdrew the meals — the latest company to become embroiled in the scandal that has highlighted the complexities of Europe's food chain.

"No trace of horse DNA has been found in Nestle cooked and frozen minced beef," the ministry said in a statement. It was not immediately clear what

the outcome was of the tests of the food seized in Spain.

The Italian tests were carried out on beef products that had been stored at the Safim plant near Turin, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, Italy also ordered the seizure on Saturday of about 6 tonnes of frozen beef lasagne made by Italian group PRIMIA after tests showed the presence of horse meat, an official with Italy's NAS, a police unit that monitors health and safety standards, told *Reuters*.

A Nestle spokesman welcomed the ministry's decision to release its products. "We are happy the ministry's tests came back negative," spokesman Chris Hogg said in an email to *Reuters*. "Our focus now though is on restarting production of these products today and tomorrow with a new supplier, using beef we have tested to ensure it con-



Packages of Buitoni meat ravioli are pictured on display on a supermarket shelf in Madrid, on 19 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

tains no horse DNA."

The Swiss company had suspended production of the affected goods at its Moretta factory, in Piedmont, on Monday, the spokesman said. Nestle had also suspended deliveries of all products using beef

from German subcontractor HJ Schypke. The pan-European scandal has prompted widespread product withdrawals, consumer concern and government investigations into the continent's food processing systems.

Reuters

Iran's Navy equipped with UAVs launched by submarines

TEHERAN, 24 Feb — Iran Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said that the country's naval forces are equipped with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), with different flying ranges, which can be launched by submarines, Press TV reported on Saturday.

The Navy UAVs are capable of carrying out defensive, offensive and reconnaissance missions and can be used wherever necessary and "proportional to the assigned missions," Sayyari

was quoted as saying. On Saturday, Deputy Chairman of Iranian Armed Forces' Chief of Staff Brigadier General Masoud Jazayeri said that the Islamic republic will never give in to Western threats and pressures. "It is impossible that the Islamic republic will ever stop pursuing its goals, ideals and policies as a result of pressure," Jazayeri was quoted as saying.

Iran is under numerous Western pressures over its disputed nuclear programme.—Xinhua

Clashes intensify near Aleppo's airport, Syrian capital's suburbs

DAMASCUS, 24 Feb — Intense clashes took place on Saturday in the vicinity of the international airport and other airbases of Syria's Aleppo and in restive suburbs of the capital Damascus, as part of the endless violence engulfing the country since almost two years ago.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights activists group said clashes were still ongoing between the government forces and the rebels in the perimeter of Aleppo's international airport and the adjacent al-Nirab military airbase.

Violent clashes have also raged on since dawn Saturday between the government forces and several

jihadi groups at the western part of Tal Hasel town located east of the Aleppo's international airport, the Observatory said.

It said the clashes at Tal-Hasan erupted as regular forces were trying to storm the town, adding that several neighbourhoods of Aleppo's old quarters were bombarded by regular forces during clashes with rebel fighters from several factions.

Clashes have also intensified in the vicinity of the Kweirs airbase in Aleppo as the rebels have been trying to push in and take over the base since several months ago, the Observatory said, adding that the police academy at Khan al-Asal town in the coun-

tryside of Aleppo has witnessed fighting between the rebels and the government troops.

The Khan al-Asal town has been ringed by the rebels over the past four days in an attempt to overrun it, the London-based watchdog said.

It added that the Tariq al-Bab neighbourhood of al-Ard al-Hamra area in Aleppo city was subject to surface-to-surface missiles overnight, adding that a child's body has been pulled off the wreckage.

Around the capital Damascus, meanwhile, the suburbs of Zamalka and Duma were bombarded by rocket launchers and mortar shells, the Observatory said, adding that the shell-

ing damaged houses and caused injuries.

It said clashes were still dragging on between regime forces and rebel fighters around the Zamalka, adding that casualties were reported from both sides. The Observatory also reported chaos and fighting in other hotspots nationwide. The intensification of violence came as the rebels, backed by jihadist groups, pushed to achieve territorial gains and to storm army bases and airports to empower their positions ahead of possible negotiations.

A day earlier, the main umbrella of the Syrian opposition in exile said that it would not attend next month's Friends of Syria meeting in Rome.—Xinhua



Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro (C) delivers an announcement in the facilities of the Military Hospital after a meeting with President Hugo Chavez in the city of Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 22 Feb, 2013. Hugo Chavez held a meeting with Nicolas Maduro, during which Chavez gave instructions on economy, according to the official news agency AVN. —XINHUA

Crisis in north Mali disrupts schooling of 700,000 children

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Feb — The education of some 700,000 children in Mali has been disrupted due to the violence in the northern part of the West African country, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday, stressing an urgent need to rebuild schools, train teachers and provide learning supplies.

"When a teacher is afraid to teach and when a student is afraid to go to school, the whole education is at risk," said the UNICEF's representative in Mali, Françoise Ackermanns.

Northern Mali has been occupied by radical Islamists after fighting broke out in January 2012 between

government forces and Tuareg rebels.

The conflict uprooted hundreds of thousands of people and prompted the Malian government to request assistance from France to stop the military advance of extremist groups.

Since the violence began more than a year ago, at least 115 schools in the north have been closed, destroyed, looted and sometimes contaminated with unexploded ordnance. Of the 700,000 children affected, 200,000 still have no access to school, the UNICEF said in a news release.

Many teachers were among those displaced and have not returned to north-

ern Mali. Instead, they are working in the already overcrowded schools in the south, which cannot cope with the amount of displaced students from the north.

In the north, only one in three schools is now functioning. In some towns, all schools remain closed, as is the case in Kidal, while in others a few have opened. Five percent of schools have now reopened in Timbuktu, the UN agency said.

The UNICEF noted that the violence has also had a significant psychological impact on children, who have reported hearing gunshots at school and at home.

Xinhua

Railway linking China, ASEAN becomes operational

KUNMING, 24 Feb — A railway that links southwest China's Yunnan Province with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries became operational on Saturday after seven years of construction, local railway authorities said. The railway between Yuxi and Mengzi is part of the eastern line of

the planned Pan-Asia Railway network.

The 141-km railway has a designed maximum speed of 120 km per hour. It passes through 35 tunnels and crosses 61 bridges, which together account for 54.95 percent of the eastern line's total length. The eastern line also consists of Kunming-Yuxi Railway, which had been in opera-

tion, and the Mengzi-Hekou Railway that is under construction and scheduled to be operational end of next year.

Upon the full completion of the eastern line, it will further open up China's southwest, improve transportation and boost economic development along the line, experts said.

Xinhua

A snow-covered dock is seen at Lake Bled in northwestern Slovenia, on 23 Feb, 2013. A heavy snowfall on Friday night shrouded the beautiful glacial lake, a popular tourist destination about 55km from the capital city Ljubljana. XINHUA



REGIONAL

Five dead, 10 injured in S Philippine floods, landslides

DAVAO CITY, 24 Feb — Five people died, 10 others were injured and thousands were displaced following a storm that hit southern Philippines recently, disaster officials said on Saturday.

The deaths were recorded in the provinces of Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley while the 10 got injured due to floods and landslides as Tropical Depression Crising dumped torrential rains in the southern Philippine region of Davao, according to disaster officials in these areas.

In Davao del Norte

Province, flood and landslides hit four towns as well as the provincial capital Tagum, with two people drowned in swollen rivers in Kapalong and Talaingod towns, Sonio Sanchez, provincial disaster officer told *Xinhua*.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) meanwhile said at least 27,000 families have been displaced due to the calamity throughout the region.

In the gold-rich Compostela Valley, one person

was killed and five others were hurt as a landslide hit the mining village of Mt Diwalwal in Monkayo town late Thursday evening, according to Raul Villocino, provincial disaster officer.

Two people also drowned in the towns of New Bataan and Montevista as the storm hit land on Tuesday, lashing the province with moderate to heavy rains. Elsewhere in Mindanao, five others were injured in a landslide in Lanao del Norte Province, officials said.—*Xinhua*



People light floating Chinese lotus lights during the 12th China-Philippines Traditional Cultural Festival and Suzhou Cultural Exhibition at the Rizal Park in Manila, the Philippines, on 23 Feb, 2013. The 12th China-Philippines Traditional Cultural Festival and Suzhou Cultural Exhibition opened here on Saturday, one day ahead of the Chinese Lantern Festival.

XINHUA

Roadside bomb wounds three police in northern Afghan town

KUNDUZ, 24 Feb — A roadside bomb struck police van in Kunduz province 250 km north of Kabul on Saturday, wounding three police personnel, provincial police chief Mohammad Khalil Andarabai said.

“A mine planted by anti-government militants struck a police vehicle at around 01:30 pm today injuring three policemen,” Andarabi said to *Xinhua*.

The incident, he added took place on the road leading to Shir Khan Bandar border town. Meantime, Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for the Taleban outfit in talks with media via telephone from unknown location claimed of responsibility, saying eight police were killed in the blast, a claim rejected by the police official as groundless.—*Xinhua*

Shallow strong quake strikes off eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 24 Feb — A shallow and strong quake with the magnitude of 6.2 jolted southwest Maluku in the eastern part of Indonesia on Saturday, but there were neither reports of damages and casualties nor a warning of tsunami in Indonesia, officials here said.

The Indonesian Me-

teorology and Geophysics Agency reported that the quake struck at 18:09 pm Jakarta Time (1109 GMT) with the epicentre at 163 km southwest Maluku and with the depth of 10 km under the sea bed.

“The quake centre is close to Timor-Leste. But in our country there are

no reports of casualties or damages so far,” Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of the national disaster management and mitigation agency, told *Xinhua* by phone.

Indonesia sits on a vulnerable quake-hit zone, the so called “the Pacific Ring of Fire.”—*Xinhua*

Thai PM urges Thais not to worry about power supply

BANGKOK, 24 Feb — Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Saturday urged Thais to have confidence in the government’s plans and measures to address the possible power supply crisis in April due to an expected disruption of natural gas supplied from Myanmar, *Thai News Agency* reported.

The premier, on her weekly TV programme “Yingluck Government Meets the People,” said that the government has urged the public to help save energy and is seeking additional power supply re-

serves to ease the impact of a possible power shortage on 5 April.

5 April was expected to be a peak period for electricity usage and risked blackouts in some areas of Bangkok and in some parts of southern region, she said.

The government has asked for cooperation from state enterprises and government offices to save energy by reducing the usage of power and raising the temperature setting of air conditioners, said the premier.

She added that the government has also requested

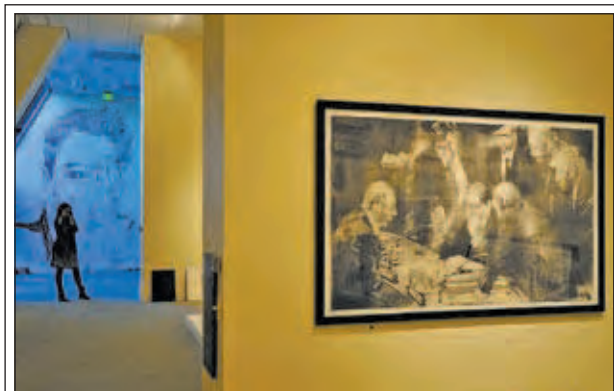
factories suspend their production on 5 April to reduce the burden on the power supply. Yingluck said she believed that after 5 April, the country would enter the holiday festival of Songkran and the power usage would be reduced.

She said the government has prepared measures in response to the worst case scenario by reserving bunker oil and diesel full to run supplementary power plants.

Myanmar will shut down the Yadana gas field during 5-14 April, cutting off the daily supply of 1 bil-

lion cubic feet, when power demand in Thailand is expected to peak. The shutdown will affect the operations of all six power plants in the west of Thailand with a combined capacity of 6,000 megawatts.

Each year, Thailand’s gas supply from Myanmar’s Yadana field is halted for pipeline maintenance during Songkran festival, or Thai Lunar New Year, when less natural gas is consumed. But this year the closure will begin on 5 April, before the Songkran holidays on 12-16 April.—*Xinhua*



A photographer takes pictures at the media preview of The Moment for Ink joint exhibition held at Chinese Culture Centre of San Francisco, the United States, on 22 Feb, 2013. The Moment for Ink joint exhibition featuring 150 ink paintings by 50 artists from China, the United States, Germany and Nigeria will be opened on 23 February at four venues in San Francisco. —XINHUA

Pakistan to seek Interpol help to extradite Taleban leader from Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, 24 Feb — Pakistan Interior Minister Rehman Malik on Saturday said that the country will demand handing over of Pakistani Taleban leader Maulvi Faqir Muhammad from Afghanistan through the Interpol. Afghan intelligence officials had earlier confirmed to the media the arrest of Maulvi Faqir, former deputy chief of Pakistani Taleban, in eastern Afghanistan this week.

Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday that Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar had talked to her Afghan counterpart Zalmay Rassoul on Friday night and hoped that the Taleban leader will be handed over to Pakistan as he is wanted for attacks on forces and the civilians.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman had refused to hand over the captured Taleban leader to Pakistan, saying there is no bilateral agreement for exchange of prisoners. After Kabul’s refusal, now Paki-

stan Interior Minister says that his government will approach the Interpol to seek Faqir’s extradition.

Talking to the media persons in Islamabad, he said Maulvi Faqir Muhammad arrested by the Afghan authorities is wanted in different cases in Pakistan.—*Xinhua*

3rd China-invested hydropower dam begins operation in Southwestern Cambodia

KOH KONG, 24 Feb — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Saturday inaugurated a hydroelectric plant with a capacity of 18 megawatts here, saying that the plant would help reduce power shortage and reliance on diesel-fueled electricity.

The Kirirom III Hydro Power Plant, invested and constructed by the State Grid Corporation of China, was begun construction in July 2009 and completed last year, he said, adding that the project cost 47.1 million US dollars.

“The dam is a new

achievement for Cambodia under the investment from China,” the premier said at the inauguration ceremony, which was attended by Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Pan Guangxue and senior Cambodian officials as well as about 2,500 locals.

Hun Sen hailed Chinese investors for their strong commitment to invest in Cambodia in all fields, saying that their investment is hugely contributed to developing Cambodia’s economy and society.

“The investment has

come from good relations and cooperation between Cambodia and China. On behalf of Cambodian government, I’d like to thank Chinese government for encouraging Chinese investors to Cambodia,” he said. “The plant will help the country not only to reduce electricity shortage, but also to cut reliance on oil-fueled electricity.”

“In the context of globally soaring oil price, electricity generated by hydropower plants is a sustainable source of electric power supply,” he said.

Xinhua



Security personnel perform security checks at the entrance of Hyderabad Airport in Hyderabad, capital city of south Indian state Andhra Pradesh, on 23 Feb, 2013. At last 16 were killed and over 110 injured in the twin blasts in downtown Hyderabad’s crowded Dilsukhnagar commercial area. Hyderabad and other cities in India have tightened security.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Civil Service Board
Vacancy Announcement
Announcement No. 9 / 2013
9th Waxing of Tabodwe 1374 ME

(19 February 2013)

1. The Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar) and the Department of Higher Education (Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education has issued an announcement of vacancies for the following positions-

Sr.No	Organization	Position	Vacancy	Educational Qualification
(a)	Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar)	Section Chief (Admin)	8	Any University Degree
		Section Chief (Finance)	4	B.Com/B.Com(Hons)/ B.Econ(Statistics)/ B.Econ(Hons)(Statistics)/ B.B.A/B.B.A(Hons)/ B.Act/B.Act(Hons)/BBM
		Assistant Registrar	8	Any Master Degree
		Assistant Engineer	15	B.E(Civil/EC/EP)
(b)	Department of Higher Education (Upper Myanmar)	Section Chief (Admin)	7	Any University Degree
		Assistant Registrar	7	Any Master Degree
		Assistant Engineer	15	B.E(Civil/EC/EP)

2. The applicants -

- (a) must be citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
- (b) must not be over 35 years of age (40 years if service personnel) on 20 March 2013.
- (c) must be in good health, must be physically fit and possess well intact limbs and capable of serving the duty at any assigned place.

3. Application forms are available at Office No.(17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw or the respective offices of the Region and States Government and it must be submitted to the above mentioned offices in person or through the mail service not later than 20 March 2013. **The applicant must specifically describe the desired exam centre to sit for written examination either at Nay Pyi Taw or the Region and States and if so who can get the admission for the proposed exam centre. Late submission of application will not be accepted.**

4. The applicant who wishes to apply for more than one position will have to pay extra examination fees and submit the application forms separately for respective positions.

5. With regards to filling in the application form, documents to be attached, mode of payment of Ks.500/ for examination fee, subjects to be studied for written examinations and personal interview, candidates applying for the vacant positions will have to follow the instructions manifested in the Guide Booklet published under Letter No. 950 / Selection (Main)/ 2012, dated 1 October 2012.

6. **For service personnel**, his or her original application altogether with the recommendation of the ministry concerned and a passport photo of the applicant must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw through the Head of Department. Another application form together with an extra passport photo must be sent to the Union Civil Service Board or the respective offices of the Region and States Government by 20 March 2013.

7. Written examinations will be held in **Nay Pyi Taw, Region and States Government**. Candidates will be examined in Myanmar and General Knowledge examination papers on 26 October 2013 (Saturday) and English examination paper on 27 October 2013 (Sunday).

8. Identity cards for candidates sitting for the examination will be issued at Nay Pyi Taw and the respective offices of the Region and States Government commencing on 24 October 2013.

9. For more information, applicants may contact Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw (067 - 409052, 067 - 409430) or the respective offices of the Region and States Government in person or by phone.

10. This announcement and the guide booklet for applicants may be browsed on Websites: ucsb.imis.com.mm and www.ucsb.gov.mm.



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Civil Service Board
Vacancy Announcement
Announcement No. 8 / 2013
9th Waxing of Tabodwe 1374 ME

(19 February 2013)

1. The Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction has issued an announcement of vacancies for the following position-

Sr.No	Position	Vacancy	Educational Qualification
(a)	Staff Officer(Civil)(Male)	2	B.Arch
	(Female)	1	
(b)	Staff Officer(Civil)(Male)	2	B.E(Civil)
	(Female)	1	

2. The applicants -

- (a) must be citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
- (b) must not be over 35 years of age (40 years if service personnel) on 20 March 2013.
- (c) must be in good health, must be physically fit and possess well intact limbs.

3. Application forms are available at Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw or the respective offices of the Region and States Government and it must be submitted to the above mentioned offices in person or through the mail service not later than 20 March 2013. **The applicant must specifically describe the desired exam centre to sit for written examination either at Nay Pyi Taw or the Region and States and if so who can get the admission for the proposed exam centre. Late submission of application will not be accepted.**

4. With regards to filling in the application form, documents to be attached, mode of payment of Ks.500/ for examination fee, subjects to be studied for written examinations and personal interview, candidates applying for the vacant positions will have to follow the instructions manifested in the Guide Booklet published under Letter No. 950 / Selection (Main)/ 2012, dated 1 October 2012.

5. **For service personnel**, his or her original application altogether with the recommendation of the ministry concerned and a passport photo of the applicant must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw through the Head of Department. Another application form together with an extra passport photo must be sent to the Union Civil Service Board or the respective offices of the Region and States Government by 20 March 2013.

6. Written examinations will be held in **Nay Pyi Taw, Region and States Government**. Candidates will be examined in Myanmar and General Knowledge examination papers on 26 October 2013 (Saturday) and English examination paper on 27 October 2013 (Sunday).

7. Identity cards for candidates sitting for the examination will be issued at Nay Pyi Taw and the respective offices of the Region and States Government on 24 October 2013.

8. For more information, applicants may contact Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw (067 - 409052, 067 - 409430) or the respective offices of the Region and States Government in person or by phone.

9. This announcement and the guide booklet for applicants may be browsed on Websites: ucsb.imis.com.mm and www.ucsb.gov.mm.



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**Don't
Smoke**

Gas explosion kills two in Minsk

MINSK, 24 Feb—Gas explosion killed at least two people in a nine-storey building in Minsk, capital of Belarus, on Saturday.

Two were killed and five injured on Saturday in an apartment building in Minsk, presumably as a result of the explosion of domestic gas, Emergency Ministry press-service said.

The Emergency Ministry received the report of an explosion and fire in

several apartments on the ninth floor of the house on Plekhanova Street on Saturday evening.

Representatives of the Emergency Ministry arrived at scene of accident immediately and rescued from the fire 9 people while evacuating 22.

In one of the apartments the bodies of two people were found. They are badly burnt and are impossible to identify visually, not even their gender.—Xinhua



Tourists visit a market fair in the field of cole flowers in Luoping County in Qujing City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 19 Feb, 2013. Luoping County is well-known for its cole flower scenery with its 800,000 mu (53,333 hectares) of cropland planted with cole. In 2012, the county saw its cole flowers industry bring more than one billion yuan (about 16 million US dollars) of revenues.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Civil Service Board
Vacancy Announcement
Announcement No. 7/2013
9th Waxing of Tabodwe 1374 ME
(19 February 2013)

1. The Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department and the Department of Labour Relations under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has issued an announcement of vacancies for the following positions-

Sr.No	Organization	Position	Vacancy	Educational Qualification
(a)	The Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department	Staff Officer (Factory)	5	B.E (Mechanical)
			5	B.E (Electrical Power)
			3	B.E (Civil)
			5	B.E (Chemical)
		Staff Officer (Law)	4	LL.M
			2	M.A (English)
			2	M.A (English) (U.F.L)
(b)	The Department of Labour Relations	Staff Officer	8	LL.M
			1	M.A (English)

2. The applicants -

- (a) must be citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
 (b) must not be over 35 years of age (40 years if service personnel) on 20 March 2013.

(c) must be in good health, must be physically fit and possess well intact limbs.

3. Application forms are available at Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw or the respective offices of the Region and States Government and it must be submitted to the above mentioned offices in person or through the mail service not later than 20 March 2013. **The applicant must specifically describe the desired exam centre to sit for written examination either at Nay Pyi Taw or the Region and States and if so who can get the admission for the proposed exam centre. Late submission of application will not be accepted.**

4. The applicant who wishes to apply for more than one position will have to pay extra examination fees and submit the application forms separately for respective positions.

5. With regards to filling in the application form, documents to be attached, mode of payment of Ks.500/ for examination fee, subjects to be studied for written examinations and personal interview, candidates applying for the vacant positions will have to follow the instructions manifested in the Guide Booklet published under Letter No. 950 / Selection (Main)/ 2012, dated 1 October 2012.

6. **For service personnel**, his or her original application altogether with the recommendation of the ministry concerned and a passport photo of the applicant must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw through the Head of Department. Another application form together with an extra passport photo must be sent to the Union Civil Service Board or the respective offices of the Region and States Government by 20 March 2013.

7. Written examinations will be held in **Nay Pyi Taw, Region and States Government**. Candidates will be examined in Myanmar and General Knowledge examination papers on 26 October 2013 (Saturday) and English examination paper on 27 October 2013 (Sunday).

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9. For more information, applicants may contact Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw (067 - 409052, 067 - 409430) or the respective offices of the Region and States Government in person or by phone.

10. This announcement and the guide booklet for applicants may be browsed on Websites: ucsb.imis.com.mm and www.ucsb.gov.mm.

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR OPENED TENDER

Tender No. Myanmar- Lao Friendship Bridge/2012-2013/NPT / ST 003

This Notice of Invitation for opened tender is launched by the Ministry of Construction on behalf of the Myanmar -Lao Friendship Bridge Construction Project receiving financial support from the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of Lao PDR.

Qualified Contractors are invited to submit bids for the detailed design (including the erection procedure), fabrication, supply of materials and erection equipment and supervision of erection of the steel truss bridge superstructure for the above project at Kyaing Lap Township, Tachileik District, Shan State, Myanmar.

- Object of Contract : detailed design (including the erection procedure), fabrication, supply of materials and erection equipment and supervision of erection of the steel truss bridge superstructure for the above project at Kyaing Lap Township, Tachileik District, Shan State, Myanmar.
- Eligibility and evaluation criteria
 - Origin: No restriction on origin.
 - Eligibility: Open internationally.
 - Evaluation: The lowest administratively and technically complaint tender will be granted the contract.
- Site and deadlines
 - Location of the Project: Kyaing Lap Township, Tachileik District, Shan State, Myanmar and Houykhoun village, Long District, Luangnamtha Province, Lao PDR.
 - C.I.F: Bridge site either side, Myanmar side or Lao PDR side.
 - Contract period: 6 months.
 - Validity period of tender: 3 months from the deadline for receipt of tender.
- Tender dossier
 - Type: open internationally.
 - How to obtain the dossier: the dossier may be obtained against payment of a non refundable amount of one thousand US Dollars (1,000 USD) from 28 February 2013 to 14 March 2013 at:
 Bridge Division,
 Public Works,
 Ministry of Construction
 Building No.11, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
 And
 Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)
 Lane Xang Avenue
 PO Box 2158
 Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.
 - Any request, consultation and communication must be sent to the same address as mentioned above.
- Tender information
 - Language: English.
 - Currency: US Dollars.
 - Address for receipt and opening: one technical and one financial envelope to each country, Myanmar and Lao PDR at the same address as mentioned above.
 - Deadline for submission: 14 May 2013 at 16:30 pm local time at the same address as mentioned above.
 - Date and time of public opening session: Technical proposal will be opened in each country of tender submission, while the financial proposal will be opened together at Yangon, Myanmar.

Managing Director
 Public Works
 Ministry of Construction

Kyaw Linn

Address for inspection, purchasing and submission of Tender Documents:

Mr. Shwe Lay, Chief Engineer (Bridge)
 Public Works
 Ministry of Construction
 Building No.11, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
 Tel. No.:+95-67 - 407602, +95-67 - 407276, +95-67 - 407082
 Fax. No.:+95-67 - 407514
 Email: mrshwelay@gmail.com

Madhuri Dixit is likely to announce something of interest to budding dancers soon.—PTI



Madhuri Dixit has a "huge surprise" for budding dancers

MUMBAI, 24 Feb—Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit says there is a "huge surprise" for dance enthusiasts in the country. "We have a huge surprise in store for all you dancers and budding dancers! Watch for news on Monday," Madhuri tweeted on Friday.

Perhaps it could be the

announcement of a new season of a dance reality show she has judged before. For now, she is heading to Lucknow to shoot for Vishal Bhardwaj's *Dedh Ishqiya*. There are also rumours that Madhuri is likely to feature in a fiction TV show. However, there is no confirmation on the front.—PTI

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (15th Term Supply Tender)

- Sealed Tenders are invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel 1.034 M bbls $\pm 10\%$, Jet A1 0.658 M bbls $\pm 10\%$ and MOGAS (92 Ron) 0.047 M bbls $\pm 10\%$
- Tender Closing Date : 19-3-2013 at (12:00) noon.
- Tender Opening Date : 19-3-2013 at (13:00) hrs.
- Delivery Time : 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014
- Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 25-2-2013 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
- Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
 Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

SPORTS

Kvitova claims 10th tour title with Dubai victory

DUBAI, 24 Feb—Former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova claimed her 10th singles title after defeating Sara Errani 6-2, 1-6, 6-1 in the final of the Dubai Championships on Saturday. The Czech started as favorite after winning her previous three meetings with the world number seven and the 22-year-old sought to assert her dominance from the off. “It was very tough, up and down—she can catch a lot of balls and get them back... I tried to stay focused and calm in the last set,” Kvitova said in a courtside interview.

She broke twice to race into a 3-0 lead in under 10 minutes as the diminutive Errani struggled to handle the world number eight’s fearsome forehand. The Czech, who did not drop a

set in beating 2012 champion Agnieszka Radwanska and former world number one Caroline Wozniacki in earlier rounds, suffered a wobble

as two double faults helped Errani to narrow the deficit to 4-2, but the left-hander broke again to seal the set. After such a stroll, it was easy to for-

get that claycourt specialist Errani was actually the higher-ranked player and few among the crowd would have expected anything but a similar procession for Kvitova in the second set.

The indefatigable Errani had other ideas, however, and with the crowds firmly supporting her, 2012 French Open finalist switched to a serve-and-volley approach. That enabled her to break three times and she also held her own serve with increasing ease, winning six games in a row to square the match as more errors crept into Kvitova’s game. “She was hitting so strong, making winners everywhere—I had to change something to try to win the match, to be more aggressive,” Errani, 25, told reporters. —Reuters



Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic kisses the winner's trophy after her women's singles final match against Sara Errani of Italy during the WTA Dubai Tennis Championships, on 23 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS



Ryan Giggs(L) of Manchester United vies with Jamie Mackie of Queens Park Rangers during the Barclays Premier League match between Queens Park Rangers and Manchester United at Loftus Road Stadium in London, Britain on 23 Feb, 2013. Manchester United won 2-0.—XINHUA

Jack powers Warriors past road-weary Spurs

RALEIGH, 24 Feb—Jarrett Jack came off the bench to score 30 points as the Golden State Warriors rallied past the road-weary San Antonio Spurs for a 107-101 overtime victory on Friday.

The win snapped Golden State’s 16-game losing streak to San Antonio. The Warriors last

beat the Spurs in 2008. Jack came up big in the fourth quarter and overtime, scoring 17 of his 30 points. He finished the game with 10 assists.

David Lee broke loose for 25 points and 22 rebounds for the Warriors, who trailed by 13 points midway the fourth quarter. Stephen Curry added 19

points. The come-from-behind victory ended a five-game winning streak by the league-leading Spurs, who have not played a home game since 2 February. Tim Duncan had 19 points and 13 rebounds for San Antonio with Danny Green finishing with 20 and Tony Parker 18.

It took a layup by San Antonio’s Manu Ginobili on a pass from Duncan with four seconds left in regulation to force overtime. Then, after Tiago Splitter’s inside shot had given San Antonio its last lead with two minutes remaining in the extra session, Golden State scored in streaks.

The Warriors ran off six consecutive points, four by Jack, and never trailed again, scoring the game’s final five points on free throws after San Antonio had pulled with one.

Reuters



San Antonio Spurs Matt Bonner (L) guards Golden State Warriors Draymond Green (23) during the first half of their NBA basketball game in Oakland, California 22 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Poulter, Mahan to meet in tasty semi-final

MARANA, (Arizona), 24 Feb—Defending champion Hunter Mahan and 2010 winner Ian Poulter set up a mouth-watering showdown in the last four of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship by winning their quarter-finals on Saturday. American Mahan triumphed 1-up after a tight match with US Open winner Webb Simpson while Briton Poulter advanced with a commanding 3&2 victory over American veteran Steve Stricker on a sun-splashed afternoon at Dove Mountain.

Sunday morning’s other semi-final will be contested between American Matt Kuchar and Australian Jason

Day, at 25 the youngest player left in the draw. Kuchar became the first player to reach the last four, beating compatriot Robert Garrigus 3&2, before Day battled past Northern Ireland’s Graeme McDowell 1-up in a closely contested encounter. Most eyes, however, will be firmly focused on the battle between Mahan and Poulter who are both bidding to reach the Match Play final for a second time.

Poulter will be a little fresher, having gone 4-up on 2001 Match Play champion Stricker after 12 holes before wrapping up his win by sinking a 10-foot par putt at the short 16th. The flam-

boyant Englishman, who is renowned for his matchplay grit and superb putting, went ahead for the first time at the par-three third where he sank

a double-breaking 40-footer for birdie while Stricker missed his attempt from seven feet.

Reuters



Ian Poulter of England watches his approach shot on the 11th hole during the quarterfinal round of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament in Marana, Arizona on 23 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Ruiz Castillo gives Spain first downhill win

MERIBEL, (France), 24 Feb—Carolina Ruiz Castillo put Spain back on the alpine skiing map by winning the women’s World Cup downhill in Meribel on Saturday, the first victory in the sport’s blue riband event by any Spaniard. At 31, the Chilean-born skier who trains in France outpaced the leading favourites to clinch her first World Cup victory, 13 years after her only podium to date in a giant slalom in Sestriere.

Ruiz Castillo won in one minute 42.56 seconds to bridge a seven-year gap since the last top spot earned by compatriot Maria Jose Rienda Contreras in a giant slalom in Hafjell seven years ago. It was almost a home win for popular speed specialist Ruiz Castillo as

she regularly trains with the French team and had the chance to practice on the Meribel course, which had not been used on the World Cup circuit for 19 years.

“It’s a formidable

achievement after all the commitment and hard work for so many years in difficult conditions,” she said. Fortunately, this year I had the opportunity to train well with the French and I knew I had the potential as I’m really strong in practice. “It’s a great day for me as the conditions suited me ideally,”



the Spaniard added referring to the smooth technical course.

Reuters

Carolina Ruiz Castillo of Spain reacts after winning the Women's World Cup Downhill skiing race in Meribel, in the French Alps, on 23 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Kobe scores 40 points to lead Lakers to beat Trail Blazers 111-107

LOS ANGELES, 24 Feb —“Do it for Dr. Buss”, and Kobe did it. With 15 of 23 from the floor and 9 of 9 behind the free throw line, Kobe Bryant donated 40 points for Los Angeles Lakers, helping the team to win a 111-107 victory against the Trail Blazers on Friday night.

The Lakers owner Jerry Buss died of cancer at age 80 on Monday. He purchased the Lakers, ice hockey’s Los Angeles Kings, their arena and a ranch from Jack Kent Cooke for 67.5 million US

dollars in 1979. Friday’s game was Kobe’s fifth 40-point game this season, and the 117th of his career. Dwight Howard also had a standout game, finishing with 19 points and 16 rebounds.

The Trail Blazers’ JJ Hickson had a strong game as well, shooting 11-for-15 and finishing with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Rookie Damian Lillard played with a great attitude, contributing 19 points and seven assists for the Trail Blazers.

Xinhua

GENERAL

Old lamp post replaced with new concrete lamp post

KYAUNGCON, 24 Feb— With the aim of prevention from electric shock and to get full power supply Kyaunggon Township MEPE is replacing Old lamp post with new concrete lamp post at Bogyoke street in No(3)ward Kyaunggon.—*Myanma Alinn*

Daytona Speedway crash injures driver, 28 fans

NASCAR driver Tony Stewart (bottom R) avoids a crash on the last lap to win the NASCAR Nationwide Series DRIVE4COPD 300 race at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida on 23 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS



ORLANDO, 24 Feb—At least 28 fans and one driver were injured after a multi-car crash at the Daytona speedway on Saturday when car debris flew into the crowd near the end of the Nationwide NASCAR race. Race officials said 14 fans were sent to nearby hospitals, with another 14 being treated at the Florida speedway, which will host the prestigious Daytona 500 race on Sunday.

Driver Michael Annett of the Richard Petty Motorsports team was being treated at the Halifax Health Medical Center in Daytona Beach and would be kept for observation, the team said in a statement.

Joie Chitwood, president of the Daytona International Speedway, said Sunday's main race would go ahead despite the incident. "First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers are with our race fans," Chitwood said. "Following the incident, we responded appropriately according to our safety protocols

and had emergency medical personnel at the incident immediately. "We transported 14 people off property and 14 were treated at our on-track care centre. We are in the process of repairing the facility, and we will be ready to go racing tomorrow," added Chitwood.

Debris from the 10-car crash flew into the spectator area and amid chaotic scenes, some fans were taken away on stretchers. The crash sent driver Kyle Larson's car airborne, although he climbed out of the wreckage afterward unhurt. Dayton Police Department spokesman Jimmie Flynt said 11 people were taken to Halifax Health Medical Centre, two of them with serious injuries, and one patient to Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Centre in Daytona Beach. Florida Hospital spokeswoman Lindsay Rew said three more patients were expected there.

Annett was

transported to a hospital after complaining of pain in his chest and sternum and was treated for bruising on his chest and underwent a CT Scan. NASCAR's vice president of race operations, Steve O'Donnell, said that the fencing, which was ripped through by the flying debris, was being replaced and the incident would be reviewed.

"We're very confident that we'll be ready for tomorrow's event with the 55th running of the Daytona, but as with any of these incidents, we'll conduct a thorough review, we'll work closely with the tracks as we do for all our events, learn what we can and see what we can apply in the future," he said.

Tony Stewart won the race on Saturday, which is the curtain-raiser for American stock car racing's biggest event on Sunday, which will feature Danica Patrick as the first woman to start on the pole position.

Reuters

Old west lives again as Rodeo parade rolls into Houston

HOUSTON, 24 Feb—Houston, the fourth largest US city, was transformed from a modern city into a down-home celebration of western heritage as the annual Rodeo parade rolled down its streets on Saturday.

A 74-year tradition, the downtown parade brings Houstonians and out-of-

town spectators together in one of the city's most popular annual celebrations.

Decorative floats intermingled with thousands of men and women on horseback amid skyscrapers and freeways, filling the streets with hoof beats and marching bands.

However, nothing brings to mind the Old West

like a modern-day trail ride, which is an important component of the Houston rodeo parade.

Pioneers created trails as they moved west in search of a dream and cowboys created trails to take cattle to major market centers.

While these routes are no longer a necessity

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-2-13 09:30 am ~ 26-2-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * "Read to enrich Your Mind with Knowledge" the magic of ThinkingBig by Kyi Shun
- * Music
- * Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakoku) that will string the loves
- * News
- * Conversation with Chief Economist for Asia Pacific Mr Bert Hofman
- * News
- * Welcome to golden region of Thabeikkyin
- * News
- * Book Fair & Literary Talk
- * News
- * Best Brands Expo 2013
- * Myanmar Traditional Sticky Rice Festival
- * News
- * Kid's Talent "Mi maw Lwin" (Xylophone)
- * Happy Valentine's Day Dancing Contest
- * News
- * Buddha's Foot Print
- * Myanmar Movies "One precept"

Myanmar TV

(25-2-2013, Monday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 7:00 am | 5:15 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venarable MinGun Sayadaw -Uppatathandi Paritta | 13. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe) |
| 7:30 am | 5:35 pm |
| 2. Morning News | 14. Myanmar Language |
| 7:40 am | 5:55 pm |
| 3. International News | 15. Documentary |
| 8:05 am | 6:00 pm |
| 4. pagoda Programme | 16. Evening News |
| 8:15 am | 6:15 pm |
| 5. Song Of National Races | 17. Weather Report |
| 8:20 am | 6:20 pm |
| 6. Cute Little Dancers | 18. Teleplay (Sea Games) |
| 8:40 am | 6:50 pm |
| 7. Myitta Pawana By MinGun Sayadaw | 19. TV Drama Series |
| 4:00 pm | 7:00 pm |
| 8. Opening Song | 20. News |
| 4:05 pm | 8:00 pm |
| 9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit | 21. People Talks |
| 4:10 pm | 22. Cartoon Series |
| 10. Dance Variety | 23. ASEAN Economic Community (ACE) Workshop "Supporting Needs SMEs" |
| 4:20 pm | 10:00 pm |
| 11. Musical Programme | 24. News |
| 4:30 pm | 25. India Drama Series |
| 12. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Biology) | |

Jeremy Lin(1st L), Carlos Delfino(3rd L) of Houston Rockets and Deron Williams(2nd L) of Brooklyn Nets competes for the ball during the NBA game between Houston Rockets and Brooklyn Nets in New York, the United States, on 22 Feb, 2013. Rockets won 106-96.—XINHUA



Tribal spokesman killed in C Philippines

BORACAY ISLAND, (Philippines), 24 Feb—A spokesman for an aboriginal group in Central Philippine resort island of Boracay was shot dead by unidentified armed suspects on Friday

night in Barangay Manoc Manoc, Boracay, local police said on Saturday.

Police authorities identified the victim as Dexter Condez, the spokesperson for Boracat Ati Tribal Organization (BATO). Companions of the victim immediately brought him to the Boracay District Hospital after the incident happened, the police said, but he was declared dead on arrival.

Delsa Justo, chief of BATO, said Condez have been actively calling the government to provide them the piece of land promised to them by the National Commission on

Indigenous Person (NCIP).

The Philippine Department of Interior and Local Government had come over last month to investigate the claims of the indigenous people. According to BATO, the piece of land promised to them after decades-long struggle were being blocked by an influential businessman.

Xinhua tried to interview the Boracay Tourists Assistance Centre of the Philippine National Police but got no comment. Police officials said they are still investigating the incident.

Xinhua

Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham felicitates Crown Prince of Kuwait

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Nawwaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2013.—MNA

Lost Buddha Image returned



The handing over and Donation of Buddha Image to National Culture and Fine Arts University in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 24 Feb—The US returned a stolen Buddha Image to Myanmar thanks to Permanent Representative to UNESCO U Kyaw Swar Min and Myanmar families

in the US. Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu attended the ceremony to

hand over the Buddha Image from the US to Myanmar at National Museum in Yangon this evening.

Associate Professor Dr Catherine Raymon of Northern Illinois University (NIU) and Dr Padetha Tin of National Centre for Space Exploration Research briefed on the conveyance of the Buddha Image.

Dr Catherin Raymon handed over the Buddha Image to Rector U Kyaw Oo of National Culture and Fine Arts University.

Dr Padetha Tin donated cash through the rector for the university.

The Buddha Image was stolen in 1989 from Kyaukgu Umin Pagoda in Bagan and will be kept at National Museum in Yangon.

MNA

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

Sagaing Region Chief Minister inspects machinery

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye on 20 February inspected machinery for development works of the region in region Irrigation Department office.

He also attended a coordination meeting with special project groups and engineers at region Public Works Office on 21

February. In-charges of BOT companies elaborated on progress of works of each company and region road transportation minister U Tin Ngwe drew a conclusion.

The chief minister then attended another coordination meeting with staff officers of district, township and sub-township.—MNA

More power plants under construction to fulfill electricity demand of people

YANGON, 24 Feb—The Ministry of Electric Power is implementing short- and long-term plans to fulfill the increased electricity demand of the State.

As short-term plan, one 120 megawatt turbine out of two turbines donated by Thailand and constructed in the compound of Ywama gas plant was arrived here on 15 February. The fixing of the gas turbine and related materials were being installed by the engineers from the Ministry of Electric Power in cooperation with Sri U Thong Fortum Engineering (STFE) of Thailand.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe inspected



Photo shows new generator being installed at yard of Ahlon Power Station.—MNA

the fixing of gas turbine yesterday morning.

Another one 120 megawatt turbine will arrive in March 2013. The short-term plan is aimed at fulfilling the electricity demand of the people in coming summer and of holding 27th SEA Games and ASEAN Summit to be hosted by Myanmar.

Then, the Union Minister inspected arrival of materials in 120 megawatt power plant, installation of No.1 gas turbine LM-6000

PC, construction of switch yard to be linked with 230 KV Ahlon main power station and implementation of concrete foundation to fix No 2 gas turbine being constructed by Toyo-Thai Com at Ahlon Power Plant.

Out of the newly-constructed power plants, No.1 turbine will be generated electricity 41.5 megawatt on 31 March and No.2 turbine the same megawatt on 30 April. The whole project will be completed in

September 2014 and would be distributed electricity 120 megawatt. The ministry is also striving to distribute electricity from Ywama, Hlawga and Thakayta power plants each of which could produce 50 megawatts to the national grid in summer.

Moreover, the ministry is making concerted efforts for supplying electricity to enable the students to study lessons conveniently from 5 pm to 5 am daily starting from 1 March.—MNA

Significant night temperatures (24-2-2013)

Putao	7°C
Machanbaw	7°C
Haka	7°C
Loilem	7°C

Deadline for SEA Games Broadcasting proposals 10 March

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—It has been announced in the daily newspapers that proposals from local and foreign companies to carry out broadcasting services such as Live broadcasting of the opening and closing ceremonies; working for the IBC (International Broadcasting Center); and

Live broadcast of (7) Sports events should reach the Director-General, Myanma Radio and Television (NPT Tatfone) not later than 28 February, 2013.

However, the deadline has been extended to 10th March, 2013, enabling local and foreign companies to have more time for

preparations. RFP (Request For Proposal) will have to be issued on 28th February, 2013 and all service providers are to contact to MRTV to get the RFP at MRTV, Nay Pyi Taw. The date for meeting in person will be further notified too.

MNA