The New Light of Myanmar
THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU
Volume XXI, Number 297 | 8th Waxing of Tabodwe 1375 ME | Friday, 7 February 2014

Taking lessons of past experiences, all people are to make efforts for ending conflicts and peaceful coexistence of all national races

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—*President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein sent a message on the occasion to mark the 67th Anniversary Shan State Day which falls on 7 February 2014. The translation of the message is as follows:-*

Esteemed national people and national brethren in Shan State.

I am taking pride on sending my message to the celebration of the 67th Anniversary Shan State Day which falls on 7th February, 2014.

The birth of the Shan State Day in 1947 during the struggle period for the independence has become a milestone of our country's political history.

While our national leader General Aung San was holding talks serious with the British colonial government over gaining independence, Shan chieftains sent a telegram to the England and informed the British colonial government that General Aung San did not represent Shan State. To foil the attempt of the chieftains, the people of Shan State held a mass demonstration demanding to gain independence under one flag of the hilly regions and the mainland. Thanks to the successful mass demonstration, the people of Shan State led by General Aung San could decisively make the resolution to gain independence under one flag of the hilly regions and the mainland. Therefore, General Aung San held talks with leaders from hilly regions in Panglong, Shan State, and could try to reach the agreement that they all would work together with the mainland to achieve together the independence from the Britain. Thence, General Aung San held talks seriously with political leaders from Shan State and could make a resolution that "they will work together with the mainland for independence from the Britain speedily." In honour of the date 7 February, 1947, the historic resolution was made, 7th February is celebrated as the Shan State Day. "Shan National Flag" and "Shan National Anthem" were designated on the same day.

"Shan National Day" is a significant day not only for the Shan national races but also for all national races. This is the day on which our national leader General Aung San and national races leaders reached an agreement for the country's independence struggle and could build the trust through "the Panglong Agreement". That is to say, "the Panglong Agreement" is an important milestone for Myanmar's regaining her independence as well as standing as a starting point for national unity in the modern history of Myanmar's independence struggle.

Since regaining her independence, Myanmar society had suffered a series of bitter experience due to the conflicts based on political splits. Taking the lessons of these past experiences, all our people are to make efforts for ending these conflicts and a peaceful coexistence of all national races.

All people are urged to pursue the fundamental principles that emerged from "the Panglong Agreement" through "the Union Spirit" called "the Panglong Spirit".

Here I would like to add that the government, the Hluttaws, political parties and forces, the business organizations, the civil societies, Tatmadaw, armed national races groups and all citizens are to join hands in the country's reforms and peace-making processes. The government has reached ceasefire agreements with the majority of armed national races in Shan State. And plans are underway to hold a political dialogue there. I strongly believe that people in Shan State would play their parts for success of that dialogue.

All our national races are to establish the national unity based on "the Panglong Spirit" and then march towards a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation through a federal system.

Myanmar prepares to host third BIMSTEC Summit, related meetings in Nay Pyi Taw

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaking at the coordination meeting.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — A work coordination meeting of the central committee for holding the Third Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit and related meetings took place at the President Office, here, today, with an address by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

In his speech, the Vice-President said Myanmar has seen an opportunity to take the lead role of the regional organizations as the country has undergone sweeping reforms. As Myanmar, the alternate ASEAN's Chair, is going to hold ASEAN Summit and third BIMSTEC in the near future, 2014 is an important year for Myanmar.

He stressed the importance of sharing experiences and suggestions at the coordination meeting for successful holding of the Summit and related meeting that will be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 4 March.

Next, the vice-chairman and the joint secretary of the central committee explained work programs and central committee member Union ministers presented their respective matters.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice-President called for wide media coverage of BIMSTEC Summit at home and abroad, calling on those present to take care of their respective sectors.

The First and Second BIMSTEC Summits were held in Thailand in 2004 and India in 2008. Although Myanmar has assumed BIMSTEC's Chair since 2009, there has been a delay in approval of members for Myanmar that tried to host the third Summit in 2012 and 2013. The 13th ministerial level meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw in 2011 approved Myanmar to host the third BIMSTEC Summit and related meetings.— *MNA*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order No. 16/2014

7th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1375 ME
(6 February, 2014)

Formation of Investigation Commission

1. Regarding the incidents occurred at Ducheertan village and Ducheertan west village in Maungtaw Township of Rakhine State on 13 January and 28 January, 2014, an "Investigation Commission" comprising the following persons has been formed in order to disclose the real cause of the incidents.

(a)	Dr Tha Hla Shwe Chairman Myanmar Red Cross Society	Chairman
(b)	U Tun Aung Chein Member Myanmar National Human Rights Commission	Member
(c)	Dr Ngun Kyon Lyan International Law expert	Member
(d)	Dr Tin Thein Lwin Vice-Chairman Interfaith Friendship Group	Member
(e)	U Tin Oo Retired Ambassador	Member
(f)	Haji U Tin Maung Win EC member Interfaith Friendship Group	Member
(g)	U Win Ti EC member Interfaith Friendship Group	Member
(h)	U Tha Pwint (Townselder) Sittway, Rakhine State	Member
(i)	U Hla Thein (a) Mawji Hullah (Townselder) Maungtaw, Rakhine State	Member

(See page 8)

LOCAL NEWS

Cold season crops plantations thriving in Kanma Tsp

KANMA, 6 Feb— Cold season crops such as groundnut and beans and pulses plantations on alluvial lands and croplands along both banks of Ayeyawady River and Mindon Creek are thriving in Kanma Township of Thayet District in Magway Region.

As there were higher rainfalls this year than that of the previous year, the river and creek overflowed their banks.

In the aftermath of the inundation, the alluvial lands emerged there and the lands became fertile.

Among the cold season crops plantations, there are 9287 acres of groundnut and 4223 acres of bean.

A farmer from Shwedaw Village said that as this yeardid not occur bad wather, it can be estimated that beans and pulses can be produced higher production. Groundnut plantations may produce 60-70 baskets per acre.—*Kyemon-Kyaw Zeyar Win (IPRD)*

Photo shows thriving crops Plantations with mountains in the background in Kanma of Magway Region.

Finance

MIZUHO Bank shares economic, financial knowledge to MBA students

YANGON, 6 Feb— MIZUHO Bank Ltd of Japan shared knowledge on economic and financial matters to MBA students of Yangon Institute of Economics-YIE at Padamya hall of YIE in Hline Township, here, recently.

It was aimed at technically supporting development of financial sector in Myanmar.

The students got knowledge on information technology for economics and monetary changing processes due to the development of Myanmar.

MIZUHO Bank Ltd has opened over 400 branches in Japan and over 90 branches across the world and links with over 30 countries for banking services.

MNA

Low-priced SIM cards sold through draw lot system

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb— Low-priced SIM cards were sold to the people through draw lot system at the office of Saungyan Village-tract of Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 3 February.

A total of 27 CDMA 800 SIM cards, 16 GSM cards and 18 WCDMA cards, totalling 61 were sold to the local people.

A total of 1056 local people from Saungyan Village participated in the draw lot system.—*Salai Ton Hsi (Ottara District IPRD)*

K 100 million allotted to Pakokku for development tasks

Development

PAKOKKU, 6 Feb— Pyidaungsu Hluttaw allotted K 100 million to Pakokku Township for undertaking development tasks.

Hluttaw representatives of Pakokku Township shared the fund to implementation of seven water supply tasks, five rural bridges and roads, repairs of 29 education building and three people requirements, totakking 44.

The development tasks will be carried out in wards and villages.

MMAL-102

Nay Pyi Taw Council member inspects conditions of rural roads

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Phone Zaw Han inspects progress of roads in Ottarathiri Township.

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Phone Zaw Han together with Township Administrator U Ye Myat Tint of Ottarathiri Township, here, inspected preparations for construction of the rural road linking Setkon Zalaung (North) Village and Nyaungbinwaing Village to Magway-Kanbya Road, Phayataung-Potet-Thayettaw inter-village road in Ottarathiri Township on 3 February.

Township IPRD

World-Myanmar history subject discussed

YANGON, 6 Feb—A skill demonstration on comprehensive knowledge about history subject was held at EC Private High School on Shwetaunggyar Road in Bahan Township on 31 January.

Headmaster Dr Saw Hla Phyu made a speech. A total of 13 students of Eighth Grade discussed Myanmar and World history subject and replied to queries raized by the students.

The papers on eighth grade history covered establishment of Konbaung Dynasty, falls of Third Myanmar Empire, military affairs in late Konbaung Dynasty, Konbaung Dynasty administration and kings of Konbaung Dynasty.

Seventh standard students compiled their papers as a researchers and read their works as resource persons.

After the skill demonstration, Headmaster Dr Saw Hla Phyu presented first prize to Ma Shin Thant Shweyi, second to Honey Soe, third to Su Mon Wai and other prizes to outstanding resource person students.

Aung Thura

WORLD

*A poster of the presidential candidate Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai is seen during an election campaign in Kabul, Afghanistan on 5 Feb, 2014. Afghanistan's third presidential election campaign since the collapse of Taleban regime in late 2001 has formally kicked off in the conflict-plagued country amid tight security as the militant group vowed to disrupt the polling process.—*XINHUA

Liquefaction occurred in 9,700 zones during 2011 quake

TOKYO, 6 Feb — The March 2011 deadly earthquake in Japan triggered ground liquefaction at 9,678 zones in 189 municipalities in 13 east and northeast Japan prefectures, a research showed on Thursday.

While many affected areas were reclaimed land in coastal areas, some were inland areas along rivers as well as developed lands, according to the study by Kazue Wakamatsu, professor at Kanto Gakuin University and expert in disaster prevention, and Shigeki Senna, a researcher at the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention.

At least 91 zones "liquefied anew" amid the 2011 huge quake after liquefying in the past, according to the researchers. "It is found that liquefactions were observed in wider areas than anticipated," Wakamatsu said. "It is necessary to measure the degree of (liquefaction) risk nationwide to prepare for future disaster." Ground liquefaction is a phenomenon in which ground with considerable water content assumes a fluid-like condition during an earthquake.

It damages buildings as well as underground water and gas pipes. The two researchers compiled the data by interviewing local officials and analyzing aerial photos. They calculated the number of liquefaction zones by creating a map separated into 250-square-meter patches. Most of the 9,678 zones were rocked by strong tremors measuring upper 5 on the Japanese seismic scale to 7. Among them, a zone in Hiratsuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, was farthest from the epicenter of the quake — some 440 kilometers away.

Kyodo News

India extends visa-on-arrival facility to 180 countries

NEW DELHI, 6 Feb— India has extended visa-on-arrival facility to 180 countries, except eight nations including Pakistan, Iran and Sri Lanka, local media reported on Thursday.

"We have decided to extend visa-on-arrival to tourists from 180 nations. It will take five to six months to put the infrastructure in place. We hope to implement this from the next tourist session beginning October," Indian Planning Minister Rajiv Shukla was quoted by *The Times of India* newspaper as saying.

He added "This move will provide a major boost to the country's tourism sector. This is historic."

The visa-on-arrival facility will be initially offered at nine airports across India for a period of 30 days, then it will be extended to other airports as well.

India currently offers visa-on-arrival to nationals of 11 countries, including the Philippines, Singapore and Japan.—*Xinhua*

Syria can meet 30 June chemical weapons deadline

SOCHI, 6 Feb— United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Thursday he was confident Syria would meet a 30 June deadline to eliminate its entire chemical weapons programme under a US-Russian plan.

Syria has missed a 5 February deadline to hand over its stockpile of chemical weapons, prompting fears it could fail to fulfill on time the plan which helped avert a US-led missile strike against President Bashar al-Assad's government.

"About these chemical weapons, I believe the process has been moving on rather smoothly even though there have been some delays," Ban told reporters after addressing a meeting of the International Olympic Committee in the Russian city of Sochi.

"Our target is 30 June this year. This may be a very tight target, but I believe that it can be done with the full support of the Syrian government," said Ban, who will attend the opening of the Winter Olympics in Sochi on Friday.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (R) holds a joint news conference with UN-Arab League Envoy to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi (not pictured) in Montreux on 22 Jan, 2014.
REUTERS

The agreement on the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons was reached after a sarin gas attack near Damascus last year killed hundreds of civilians.

Damascus blames delays in implementation of the plan on security problems and the threat of rebel attacks as the weapons are transported out of Syria.

The Syrian government has requested additional armor and communications equipment but the United States and the United Nations, which is jointly overseeing the destruction programme with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, has said Syria has sufficient equipment to carry out the plan.

Ban, who called for a truce in Syria during the Olympics, said he had received promises over the plan's fulfillment from Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem last week during talks in Geneva.

Reuters

Egypt army chief Sisi says will run for president

*Egypt's Defence Minister Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is seen during a news conference in Cairo on the release of seven members of the Egyptian security forces kidnapped by Islamist militants in Sinai, 22 May, 2013.—*REUTERS

CAIRO, 6 Feb — Egyptian army chief Field Marshal Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has said he will run for president, a *Kuwaiti* newspaper reported on Thursday. Al-Seyassah quoted Sisi as saying that he had no alternative but to meet the demands of the Egyptian people for him to run in the elections, which are due within six months.

In July, Sisi toppled Egypt's first freely elected president, Islamist Mohamed Mursi, after mass protests against his rule.

Mursi and his Muslim Brotherhood movement accuse Sisi of staging a coup and undermining democratic gains made since a popular uprising ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011.—*Reuters*

US freezes assets of Pakistan-based Haqqani militants

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — The Obama administration, under pressure from Congress to act against Pakistan-based militants blamed for fueling violence in Afghanistan, moved on Wednesday to freeze the assets of three suspected militants linked to the hard-line Haqqani network.

The Treasury Department said that Saidullah Jan, Yahya Haqqani and Muhammad Omar Zadran had been named "specially designated global terrorists," meaning that assets belonging to the men within US jurisdiction would be frozen.

US citizens are also barred from doing business with the three men.

The Obama administration has been struggling to contain the Haqqani network, which it blamed for involvement in a number of bold, high-profile attacks on US and Western interests in Afghanistan, for years.

The group is believed to be based in tribal regions of Pakistan, near the border with Afghanistan.

"Today's action underscores our resolve to continue targeting any potential means of support for the Haqqanis," David Cohen, a senior Treasury official, said in the statement.

Muhammad Omar Zadran was also named for having links to the Afghan Taliban. In 2011, the United States' former top military official, Mike Mullen, made waves by calling the group a "veritable arm" of Pakistan's powerful intelligence service, ISI. In September 2012, the State Department officially designated the group as a "foreign terrorist organization."

Some in Congress have pushed the administration in recent months to go after the network more aggressively. In November, six members of Congress, including Mike Rogers, chairman of the House intelligence committee, and Ed Royce, chairman of the House foreign affairs committee, sent Obama a letter asking him to document US steps against the group and calling efforts to date "woefully insufficient."

Reuters

Japan ruling bloc to start talks in April on SDF's territorial defence

TOKYO, 6 Feb— The Liberal Democratic Party and the coalition partner New Komeito party plan to start negotiations in April on a possible expansion of Self-Defence Forces operations and a new legal framework for defending territory even when the country is not under armed attack, a ruling party lawmaker said on Wednesday.

A high legal hurdle stands in the way of the SDF using armed strength for defense. When Japan has not been under armed attack, the SDF can only conduct operations within the limits of policing, and the use of armed strength is banned.

The parties are seen as choosing to tackle the issue of whether to give the SDF new legal grounds for the use of armed strength, which would require revisions to the relevant laws specifying SDF operations, before taking up the more controversial agenda of collective self-defence.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is waiting for a report, expected to be released in April by a government panel on security policy, to decide whether Japan should tweak the interpretation of the pacifist Constitution and lift a ban on exercising the right of collective self-defence, or defending allies under armed attack.

Kyodo News

WORLD

Two Koreas to hold family reunions 20-25 February

*Lee Duk Haeng (R), head of the South Korean working-level delegation, shakes hands with his North Korean counterpart Park Yong Il at the end of their meeting at Tongilqak on the North Korean side of the border village of Panmunjom on 5 Feb, 2014.—*KYODO NEWS

SEOUL, 6 Feb — North and South Korea agreed on Wednesday to hold another round of reunions of families separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War from 20 to 25 February, according to the South's Unification Ministry.

Following preliminary talks at the border village of Panmunjeom, the ministry released a statement saying that 100 people from each side will be selected to take part in the reunions at Mt Kumgang, a resort on North Korea's east coast near the border with the South.

If held, the reunions would be the first since late 2010. "We hope that the agreement will serve as an occasion to resolve the suffering of separated families," South Korea's chief delegate Lee Duck hang told reporters after returning from Panmunjom, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

From Friday, officials from the South Korean side will travel to Mt. Kumgang to inspect the reunion facilities. North Korea's official *Korean Central News Agency* also reported the agreement by both sides to hold the reunions.

There had been speculation that the North would make the scrapping of annual joint military exercises between South Korea and the United States, due to begin later this month, a condition for the holding the reunions. However, according to the South's delegates, although the North touched on the exercises in a roundabout manner by calling for an end to "hostile military acts," it did not demand that Seoul drop its plan to hold the military exercises.—*Kyodo News*

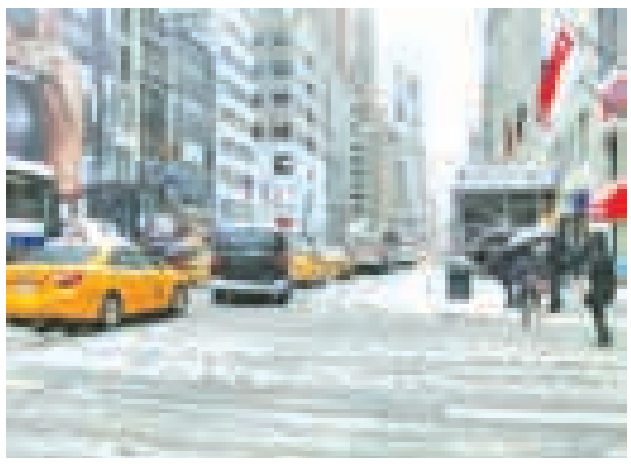
New York State Governor declares state of emergency for snowstorm

NEW YORK, 6 Feb — New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday declared a state of emergency for all of New York State, effective immediately as a winter storm continues to bring heavy snow, ice, and freezing rain to communities in both the upstate and downstate regions. "This is a significant winter storm impacting all regions of the state and we are taking all necessary steps to keep New Yorkers safe," Cuomo said.

"New Yorkers in affected regions should stay off the roads, check on their neighbours and loved ones, and stay inside their homes until the worst of the storm has passed," added him.

Under a state of emergency, critical resources that are normally restricted to State use are mobilized to assist local governments and laws and regulations that would otherwise impede their rapid response are suspended. Hundreds of mass transit commuters were left stranded early Wednesday after the winter storm that dumped snow and ice across the New York area has caused icy conditions, signal problems and other issues in the state.

More than 1,000 flights at the three major airports in the New York area have also been cancelled due to the heavy snow. The flight-tracking website FlightAware reported that by 12:00 pm, 457 flights have been canceled at LaGuardia Airport, 286 canceled at John F. Kennedy International (JFK) Airport, and 521 canceled at Newark Liberty International Airport.



Vehicle run slowly on snow-coated street in New York City, the United States, on 5 Feb, 2014. — XINHUA

New York city Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Wednesday that plows and salt spreaders have been out in force since snow began to fall. He said the city's primary roads are now "in good shape," but he's still urging people to stay off the streets. This is the second major winter blast in three days that hit a large swath of the country hard, creating treacherous driving conditions from the Midwest to the Northeast.

Xinhua

Soldiers lynch man at army ceremony in Central African Republic

BANGUI, 6 Feb — A group of soldiers in Central African Republic's capital lynched a man on Wednesday whom they suspected of having been a rebel, minutes after hearing the new president promise to restore security at a ceremony to reinstate the divided country's armed forces. Meanwhile Human Rights Watch (HRW) warned that rebels who have fled the capital Bangui in recent weeks are regrouping in the country's northwest where they have launched renewed attacks against civilians.

*Francisco Soriano (C), general of the French peacekeeping military operation in the country, listens as the interim president of the Central African Republic Catherine Samba-Panza addresses Central African Army Forces (FARCA) soldiers at the National College of Administration and Magistrature in the capital Bangui on 5 Feb, 2014.—*REUTERS

A *Reuters* witness saw about 20 uniformed soldiers accuse a member of the crowd at a training centre in the capital Bangui of having belonged to Seleka, the mostly Muslim rebel group that seized power in a coup last March.

They then stabbed him repeatedly until he was dead. A soldier stamped on the lifeless body, which was then dragged through the streets, dismembered and set alight as residents looked on and took photographs.

Ten minutes earlier, about 20 meters (yards) away, the new interim president, Catherine Samba-Panza, had addressed the crowd of at least 1,000 soldiers at a ceremony meant to re-introduce the army to the nation after it effectively disappeared from view during Seleka's rule.

Reuters

China fights corruption through stricter audits

BEIJING, 6 Feb — China will impose stricter audits in key areas to intensify its crackdown on corruption, according to the National Audit Office. "Auditing plays an important role in supervision, and auditing bodies at various levels should be sharp-sighted in detecting problems of power abuse and corruption," said the office.

The audits will focus on five areas, including fiscal fund management, public project construction, extension of bank loans, land transfer and state asset management, according to the office. Auditors nationwide spotted over 1,400 signs of possible malpractice in the first 11 months of last year and transferred the cases to judiciary or discipline inspection organs for further investigation.—*Xinhua*

UNESCO official warns of damage to sites of cultural heritage in Syria's civil war

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Feb — An official of the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Wednesday said the ongoing civil war in Syria "has hit cultural heritage in all its forms at an unprecedented level."

"The country is undergoing a very bad conflict that has hit cultural heritage in all its forms at an unprecedented level," said Francesco Bandarin, assistant director-general for culture of the UNESCO, while speaking at a briefing to reporters here.

He listed some of the sites damaged including those placed under the protection of UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites. There were the toppling of the 11th century minaret of Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo's ancient walled city, the destructive fire in the Souk, or 17th century marketplace, in Aleppo; bombing of the preserved medieval Crusader Castle of Krak de Chevalliers, built during the 12th and 13th centuries, and damage to the city of Palmyra, which dates back to the second millennium.

Aleppo is Syria's largest city and believed to be one of the world's oldest continuously populated cities. "The situation in Syria, unfortunately, is certainly not only dominated by the conflict .. but also the loss of control of the territory by governments, local governments, central governments," he said. "The consequence has been massive development of a phenomenon which we think is extremely dangerous for cultural heritage and I would say lethal to cultural heritage."—*Xinhua*

Rwandan woman kills husband over AIDS fear

KIGALI, 6 Feb — A Rwandan woman recently killed her husband after he inherited a widow whose husband is suspected to have died of the incurable AIDS, the local media reported on Wednesday.

In the bizarre incident that occurred in Gisagara, a district in southern Rwanda, the middle-aged woman, Annonciata Kampororo, hatched a plot to kill her 48-year-old husband Anaclet Majyambere after he inherited his late brother's wife.

The local vernacular newspaper "Umuryango" quoted villagers and the police as confirming that the woman had strongly opposed her husband's plans to inherit the widow, fearing that she would also become infected.

But when the stubborn husband moved the widow to her home in accordance with traditional customs, she denied him his conjugal rights and demanded an HIV test first. He flatly refused the request, sparking constant friction and quarrels in the matrimonial home.

Fed up and determined to protect herself against possible infection, the woman, a traditional liquor seller, hatched up a plot with her son and sister who lived nearby, and hacked the husband to death.

On the fateful day, the husband had decided to refurbish the first wife's house, replaced old iron sheets with new ones and decided to spend the night in the house.

An argument ensued late at night, and in the ensuing commotion, the suspect's sister and son dashed to the house thinking that the couple was under attack.—*Xinhua*

Nepalese man dies after drinking challenge

KATHMANDU, 6 Feb — A 47-year-old Nepalese man who drank a 750-millilitter bottle of whiskey in five minutes to win a bet died on Tuesday after nearly three weeks of agony, police said on Thursday.

Pancharam Bishwokarma, who ran a gold jewelry shop about 300 kilometres east of the capital Kathmandu, won the bet but lost his life, according to police inspector Sanjeev Khadka.

On 16 January, Bishwokarma was challenged by his drinking buddy Tshering Sherpa to empty a 750-ml bottle of Royal Stag, a local whiskey brand, within five minutes. Sherpa offered to pay for the whiskey and also give Bishwokarma 1,200 rupees (about $ 12) should he win the bet.

"They had been drinking since the morning that day," Khadka said. "Bishwokarma accepted the challenge and drank the entire content of the whiskey bottle within five minutes at around 4 pm.

After returning home, Bishwokarma fell ill and was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

In the days that followed, he was referred to three more hospitals before doctors gave up hope of saving him.

He was then taken to his ancestral home in Taplejung District where he died on Tuesday.

"We briefly detained Sherpa for questioning. But there is no law that says betting is illegal. Also, Sherpa didn't force Bishwokarma to drink. Therefore, we released Sherpa," Khadka said.

The Himalayan Times daily quoted doctors at one of the hospitals as saying that Bishwokarma's kidneys and liver had been severely damaged by the drinking binge.

Deep Shumsher Rana, police chief of Panchthar district where the incident occurred, told *Kyodo News* that police are investigating whether the alcohol was adulterated.

"Alcohol adulteration is rampant in the district, so we are investigating whether the alcohol Bishwokarma drank was adulterated," Rana said.

Bishwokarma's family had to take out loans to pay for his treatment costing 300,000 rupees ($3,000).

Nepalese have an average annual income of 750 US dollars.

Bishwokarma is survived by his wife, son and three daughters.

Kyodo News

Photo shows a worker during painting of the Olympic Rings on a judging tower in Sochi, Russia, on 5 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Swiss President Didier Burkhalter (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 5 Feb, 2014, prior to their talks.—KYODO NEWS

New York State to use social media to catch wanted individuals

NEW YORK, 6 Feb — New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo said Wednesday that the New York State Police will use social media to locate and arrest wanted individuals across the state.

New York State Police (NYSP) will launch "Warrant Wednesday" on its Facebook page asking for the public's help to track down people who have warrants out for arrest. Beginning 5 February, wanted posters will be added to the NYSP Facebook page each Wednesday featuring posters of wanted persons with arrest or bench warrants from across New York State. "New York State is using new and creative tools to help make our streets and neighborhoods safer," said Cuomo. "Social media's broad appeal can help the State Police track down those wanted in connection with crimes and bring them to justice."

Each "Warrant Wednesday" posting will include a poster of a wanted individual contributed by State Police Troops across the state. Each poster will include a photo, information about the subject, what they are wanted for, and a contact number for the appropriate State Police station. This will appear as a "photo album" on the State Police Facebook page.

Previous wanted postings on the State Police Facebook page, and the public's assistance, have led to the identification and arrest of several individuals.

The NYSP said it needs the public's assistance in this initiative and to help locate these wanted persons. The public is also encouraged to look at, share the postings each week.

It is also advised by the police that anyone with information as to the whereabouts of the individuals not take any police action themselves and instead contact state police.—*Xinhua*

14 killed in bus accident in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 6 Feb — At least 14 people were killed and seven injured Thursday in western Nepal after a passenger bus skidded off a road and plunged into a river, police said.

According to district police chief Shiva Kumar Shrestha, the incident occurred at 2:45 am when the bus fell 300 metres from a road in the hills of Palpa District, about 200 kilometres west of the capital Kathmandu.

"It is possible there were more people on the bus at the time of the accident, so we are searching for more bodies," Shrestha said, adding that four of the injured are in a serious condition.

The cause of the accident is under investigation, with police saying they are questioning the survivors.

The fate of the bus driver remains unknown.

Kyodo News

Mexican convicted of murder for ramming US Coast Guard officer

LOS ANGELES, 6 Feb — A jury convicted a Mexican man of murder on Wednesday for ramming his suspected smuggling vessel into a US Coast Guard inflatable boat, killing an officer on board off the coast of Southern California in 2012, prosecutors said.

Chief Petty Officer Terrell Horne III, 34, was the first Coast Guard officer murdered on duty since 1927.

A federal jury in Los Angeles found Jose Meija-Leyva, 42, of Ensenada, Mexico, guilty of murder, two counts of failure to yield to a Coast Guard command and four counts of assaulting federal officers with a deadly and dangerous weapon, namely the so-called "panga" fishing vessel he was piloting.

His shipmate, Manuel Beltran-Higuera, 44, was convicted of two counts of failure to yield and four counts of assault as an accessory after the fact, US prosecutors said in a statement.

The two men were suspected of using their panga boat to smuggle marijuana, said Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the US Attorney's Office.

In December 2012, four Coast Guard officers in an inflatable boat approached the panga off the shore of Santa Cruz Island in Southern California. Meija-Leyva rammed the inflatable with his panga, throwing Horne and another officer into the water, prosecutors said in a statement. Horne died from a boat propeller strike to the head and the other officer escaped with a cut on his knee.—*Reuters*

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (C) greets children during a ceremony to pay homage to late President Hugo Chavez, eleven months after his death, at the Mountain Barracks, in Caracas, Venezuela, on 5 Feb, 2014.
XINHUA

At least eight dead in S African gold mine accident

JOHANNESBURG, 6 Feb — Rescuers recovered eight bodies and continued to search for another missing worker on Thursday after a fire and rock-fall at a Harmony Gold mine near Johannesburg, the worst accident in South Africa's mines in nearly five years.

Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu ordered an investigation into the incident at the Doornkop mine, 30 km west (20 miles) of the city, after initial reports that the fire was triggered by a small earthquake on Tuesday evening.

"The situation is deeply regrettable," Shabangu said in a statement. "We must ensure that we do all we can to get to the bottom of what caused this incident in order to prevent similar occurrences in future."

It is the most serious accident in South Africa's mines since nine workers died in a rock fall at a platinum mine in July 2009. Shares in Harmony, South Africa's third-largest bullion producer, fell 3 percent at the start of trade.

Rescue teams battled through smoke and debris nearly a mile underground on Wednesday to reach eight other miners who had managed to flee to a refuge bay equipped with a telephone and other survival gear. They were brought to the surface unharmed.

South Africa's gold mines are the deepest in the world and were ranked as some of the most dangerous during the apartheid era.

Since the end of white-minority rule in 1994, the government, unions and companies have worked to improve safety, but 112 people were still killed in 2012, the last year for which records are available.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google improves antitrust offer, EU says deal in sight

BRUSSELS, 6 Feb — Google has offered further concessions to address regulatory concerns about its search technology, the European Commission said on Wednesday, effectively settling a three-year investigation and avoiding a fine of up to $5 billion.

The world's dominant search engine has been the focus of a Commission investigation since November 2010, when more than a dozen complainants across Europe accused the company of promoting its own services at their expense.

Google has now made three attempts to resolve the case, with the latest moves looking like they will be enough to settle it, although there will still be a chance for Google's competitors to provide further input.

"I believe that the new proposal obtained from Google after long and difficult talks can now address the Commission's concerns," European Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said in a statement. The Commission said it would make a final decision after obtaining feedback from Google's rivals. Google's offer only covers Europe and would be valid for five years.

In a statement, Google said it hoped to draw a line under the case soon. "We will be making significant changes to the way Google operates in Europe," said General Counsel Kent Walker. "We have been working with the European Commission to address issues they raised and look forward to resolving this matter."

Reuters reported on 29 January that the EU's competition authority and Google were close to a deal to resolve the investigation. Google's success in escaping possibly heavier sanctions mirrors a similar outcome in the United States last year, where Google received only a mild reprimand from the Federal Trade Commission.

European Union Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia speaks during a news conference at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels on 5 Feb, 2014. REUTERS

Almunia, who has been in charge of antitrust issues at the European Commission since 2009, has developed a track record of resolving cases via settlements rather than fines.

Reuters

Google's Schmidt gets second $100 million stock award

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 Feb — Google Inc Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt will be awarded $100 million in restricted stock units, the company said on Tuesday, marking the second time in less than three years that the Internet company's former chief executive officer has received an equity award of that size.

Google said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday that Schmidt will also collect a $6 million annual discretionary cash bonus next week.Schmidt handed the CEO reins to Google co-founder Larry Page in 2011, after a decade leading the Internet search company.

After the job change, Google bumped Schmidt's salary up from $1 a year to $1.25 million annually and awarded him a $100 million equity award comprised of stock and options, which vest over a four-year period.

Google said at the time that the size of the original equity award was determined, based on "market benchmarks for his new role as Executive Chairman and in recognition of his past service as CEO."

The current $100 million in equity vests over a four-year period, beginning in May 2015, Google said. The award was approved on 29 January by the Leadership Development and Compensation Committee of Google's board.

In his role as executive chairman, Schmidt focuses on government outreach and deals.

Google said the $6 million cash bonus is in recognition of Schmidt's contributions to Google's performance in 2013. Google's stock price rose 58.4 percent in 2013, breaking the $1,000 mark for the first time, while annual revenue increased 21 percent to $55.5 billion.

Reuters

Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt speaks during a talk titled "Connecting with the World: Empowering Young Entrepreneurs for the New Digital Age'' at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 4 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Madagascar's tiny 'sucker-foots' give old bat new meaning

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — You can call them the contrarians of the bat world. While nearly all bats roost upside down from tree limbs or cave ceilings, two species of tiny "sucker-footed" bats currently found only in Madagascar roost head-up, typically in the furled leaves of a tree known as the traveler's palm. But these oddballs of the bat world once were much more common than they are today. Scientists reported on Tuesday the discovery in a desert in Egypt of the fossilized remains of two earlier extinct species of these bats — one that lived 37 million years ago and the other 30 million years ago. The discovery indicates that "sucker-footed" bats swooped out of trees on the African continent for millions of years before being consigned to Madagascar, an island off Africa's coast known for its unique collection of animals, they said.

These types of small, insect-hunting bats — about the size of a human thumb, with a wingspan measuring up to 6 inches — have two unusual characteristics. They not only do not hang upside down but they possess unusual sticky footpads that help them roost on slick surfaces."—*Reuters*

Israel unveils unmanned combat marine system

File photograph released by Israel Aerospace Industries on 4 Feb, 2014 shows the newest addition to its line of unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) — a combat marine system named KATANA for homeland security.—XINHUA

JERUSALEM, 6 Feb — Israel Aerospace Industries unveiled on Tuesday the newest addition to its line of unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) — a combat marine system named KATANA for homeland security. KATANA's features include autonomous navigation and a collision avoidance system, and it is fitted with various payloads including electro-optic and infrared cameras, line-of-sight and none-line-of- sight communication, radar and weapon systems, the state-owned IAI said in a statement.

IAI said the craft, developed by its Malam factory, supports a wide range of missions, protection of exclusive economic zones (EEZ), maritime borders and offshore gas rigs and pipelines, as well as port security, shallow waters patrolling, and electronic warfare. It can also provide real-time intelligence imagery by identifying, tracking and classifying targets both far and near, and engage them if required, according to the statement.

It is capable of fully-autonomous operation or can be remotely controlled by a human operator, the statement added. "We are proud to present the newest member of our USV family. It is the result of an ongoing development process which lasted many years," an IAI executive told *Xinhua*.—*Xinhua*

US mobile data traffic to jump nearly eight-fold by 2018

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — The volume of data crossing US mobile networks will grow almost eight-fold by 2018, and demand for Internet-connected devices will also skyrocket, according to a report released on Wednesday that poses questions about US spectrum policy.

US consumers will download and upload more data on their smartphones in 2018 than they did on their laptops in 2013, according to a forecast by Cisco Systems Inc. Americans will continue to lead the world as earlier and faster converts to new smart devices and networks, the Cisco report said. "It's more people, more connections, faster speeds on the networks and then more rich content, which in this case is video, video, video," Robert Pepper, Cisco's vice president for global technology policy, told *Reuters*. Cisco, one of the leading makers of networking equipment, studies the use and speed of devices, connections and data for an annual forecast of mobile data traffic trends.

US wireless networks will continue to experience a steep increase in so-called machine-to-machine communications, as Americans seek the convenience of devices that talk to each other and the Internet, like remotely operated thermostats or smart anti-theft sensors, according to Cisco's forecast.Internet-linked devices will keep spreading at a fast clip, with some 271 million connections between gadgets and the Internet forecast for 2018 — an eight-fold jump from 35 million in 2013 that is driven by the predicted boom in wearable devices like activity-tracking wristband Fitbit, Pepper said.

Reuters

A woman uses a smartphone in the financial district in San Francisco, California on 6 Nov, 2013. REUTERS

HEALTH & BUSINESS

US government, drug companies team up to develop new medicines

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced on Tuesday it's teaming up with 10 big drug companies in an effort it called "unprecedented" to identify biological targets that could lead to new diagnostics and medicines. The first diseases targeted by the public-private partnership, known as the Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP), are Alzheimer's disease, type 2 diabetes, and two autoimmune disorders, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus).

The NIH said that AMP partners will invest more than 230 million US dollars over five years on these first projects, which could set the stage for broadening the partnership to other diseases and conditions. The data and analyses generated by the venture will be made publicly available to the broad biomedical community, it said.

"Currently, we are investing a great deal of money and time in avenues with high failure rates, while patients and their families wait," said NIH Director Francis Collins. "All sectors of the biomedical enterprise agree that ... this challenge is beyond the scope of any one of us and it's time to work together in new ways to increase our collective odds of success."

Xinhua

Israeli researcher links sleep fragmentation to higher cancer risk

JERUSALEM, 6 Feb — Poor sleep can speed cancer growth and increase tumour aggressiveness, according to a new study led by an Israeli researcher.The tumors could grow in a shorter amount of time compared to cancer in patients who get a good night's sleep, the research shows.

The study was conducted by the University of Chicago and the University of Louisville in the United States, led by Dr Fahed Hakim, a pediatric specialist in lungs and sleep from the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, the largest city in northern Israel.Hakim and his colleagues studied two different sets of rats. One group was allowed an uninterrupted night's sleep while the others were disrupted various times during the night for one week."After a week of these sleeping patterns, we injected both groups with cancer cells and observed their growth over a period of four weeks," Dr Hakim told *Xinhua*.

"We continued with the same sleep configuration during the four weeks and we observed afterwards that those mice in the sleep-deprived group had grown tumors twice as big as the other group," he said.The tumors grew not only bigger in the sleep-deprived group but also much more malignant, as they penetrated much deeper into the tissue and at a much faster rate than cancer in those rodents that had a normal sleep, according to the research."We found that disrupted sleep affects the immune system and the cells called macrophage, which have to fight the cancer, actually begin helping it grow," the researcher said.

The study was published in December's issue of *Cancer Research journal* and was originally begun two years ago as a research into sleep apnea, a condition in which the airway in the throat is blocked by soft tissue during sleep.—*Xinhua*

Adidas sues Under Armour over patent infringement

BANGALORE, 6 Feb — German sportswear maker Adidas (ADSGn.DE) sued Under Armour Inc (UA.N) in a US court over alleged infringement of patents governing fitness training and tracker devices, a court filing showed.

The lawsuit relates to products sold by fitness technology company MapMyFitness, which Under Armour bought for $150 million in November.

miCoach fitness training devices manufactured by Adidas offer real-time audible coaching and a web application to help people optimize their workout sessions.MapMyFitness provides users with the ability to map, record and share their workouts utilizing GPS and other technologies, which is contested by Adidas.In a lawsuit filed with the Delaware court on Tuesday, Adidas said Under Armour and MapMyFitness "willfully infringed" the German company's ten patents.

Adidas also said that both the companies had prior knowledge of the patents but still went ahead with their offerings.

The German firm has sought damages as well as jury trial, according to the filing.

Under Armour could not immediately be reached for comment by *Reuters* outside of regular US business hours.

Reuters

***The Adidas logo is pictured on a shirt during the company's annual news conference in Herzogenaurach on 7 March, 2013.—*REUTERS**

Deutsche fires three New York forex traders

NEW YORK, 6 Feb — Deutsche Bank AG DBKGN.DE has fired three New York-based currency traders, in the latest sign that a probe over alleged manipulation of foreign exchange markets is gathering steam, according to a source familiar with the situation.

Diego Moraiz, Robert Wallden and Christopher Fahy were terminated by the bank, which told trading floor staff of the development on Tuesday, according to the source.

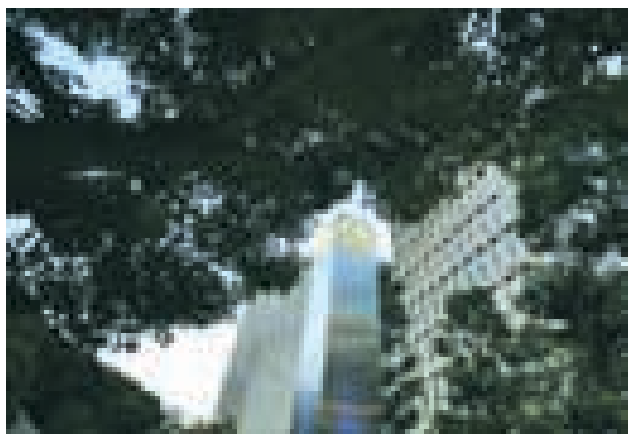
The three traders could not be reached for comment. "Deutsche Bank has received requests for information from regulatory authorities that are investigating trading in the foreign exchange market," a bank spokeswoman said in an emailed statement.

"The bank is cooperating with those investigations, and will take disciplinary action with regards to individuals if merited."

The terminations come as authorities around the world, including Britain's Financial Conduct Authority and the US Justice Department, investigate possible manipulation in the $5.3 trillion-a-day global forex market.

Investigators are looking at activity around benchmark foreign exchange rates, often referred to as fixes, which are used to price trillions of dollars worth of investments and deals and relied upon by companies, investors and central banks.

Reuters



***Logos of Deutsche Bank AG are seen in Tokyo on 9 Sept, 2013.—*REUTERS**

About 30% of cancers in Kenya caused by HIV

NAIROBI, 6 Feb — About 30 percent of all cancers cases in Kenya are caused by HIV, the country Aids control body said on Tuesday. National Aids Control Council Deputy Director Sobbie Mulindi told *Xinhua* that the government is now scaling up interventions to reduce sexually transmitted diseases. "Cervical cancer, penile cancer and other forms of cancer are related to HIV infections," Mulindi said on the sidelines of a ceremony where Kenyan corporations signed declarations against cancer.

He said that medical male circumcision reduces HIV transmissions and in turn the onset of some forms of cancer. He added that Kenya is currently facing double burden of HIV and cancer. Mulindi said that the Human Papillomavirus, which is sexually transmitted, causes cervical cancer. According to the deputy director, other forms of cancer are associated with the use of Anti-retroviral drugs. "These drugs are very toxic and could cause negative side effects to the body," he said.

NACC said that the government has taken measures to allocate more resources to combat both cancers and HIV in the current financial year but a lot more needs to be done. Data from the ministry of health indicates that approximately 22,000 Kenyans lost their lives to cancer in 2013 while another 28, 000 were diagnosed.—*Xinhua*

Brain-dead Canadian woman kept on life support to save fetus

VANCOUVER, 6 Feb — A 32-year-old Canadian woman who has been declared brain dead is being kept on life support in a Victoria, British Columbia hospital, with doctors working to keep her alive long enough to deliver her unborn son. Robyn Benson was just 22 weeks pregnant when she complained of a headache and then collapsed on her bathroom floor, according to postings on a blog and fundraising site by her husband Dylan Benson.

Her fetus, already named Iver Cohen Benson, has continued to grow in the womb.

"On December 28th, I lost my wife to a sudden hemorrhage of blood to her brain," Benson wrote. "Based on my decision, they are attempting to keep her body alive for up to 7 more weeks ... Incredibly, they have been successful in doing this for 5 weeks now." The goal is to wait until the fetus reaches 34 weeks, giving the baby a greater chance of survival, according to Benson. He wrote that doctors plan to deliver his son via cesarean section and that the baby will spend his first few weeks in hospital. That sets up a bittersweet deadline for the family, who will welcome a new baby and then take the mother off life support.

"It is very difficult to know that our son will grow up never meeting his wonderful mother, and that we will have to say our goodbyes to Robyn within hours of seeing Iver for the first time," Benson wrote.

Reuters

Robyn and Dylan Benson pose in this wedding photo taken in Victoria, British Columbia on 13 July, 2013.
REUTERS

OPINION

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 7 February, 2014

Work heartily, as working for your own

Generally, there are three types of job. They are government job, company job and own business. They come in different forms and types. Efforts invested in these jobs are also differ. So, degrees of success vary in accord with effectiveness and efficiency. The fact of the matter is how much effort put into the work.

Government job needs a principled approach to meeting its aims and objectives. In the nature of things, such work requires a good eye and a steady hand while moving towards success. In other words, works can be done in accord with rules and regulations. It is impossible to go beyond the rules and regulations. That's why, progress may be slow in a government-owned business compared with that of a company or a private-owned business. In spite of low success rate, it is rare for it to be failed or unsuccessful.

What a difference between the two types of job is that a company can pull out of its unprofitable business. A change of tactic that tends towards success can be made at once. It can turn the poor success rate into a better stage. It is an advantage of the private-owned business. Now is the time when Myanmar is on the right track to democracy and the government is widely encouraging privatization. Privatization acts as a major partner of democracy. Competency-based privatization is the fast way to prosperity for a democracy. Both blue-collar and white-collar workers who are members of a certain company are to share a common purpose, focusing on the interest of the company owner. Despite certain improvement in company job, owning a business is better than working at a company.

It is necessary to invest a great deal of efforts in setting up an own business. It is absolutely imperative to run an own business with special care. There is no job better than your own business. As success or failure of your own business depends on you, you have to do your best. It is an advantage of running an own business. Whatever you do, work at it with all your efforts and the utmost care, as working for your own business so that the highest degree of success could be achieved. If not so, progress will be slow. Only high expectation could enable success. That's why, we have to work heartily, as working for our own business whatever we do.

NATIONAL

MWAF holds Annual General Meeting

Honorary patrons of MWAF Daw Khin Khin Win, Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Daw Khin Aye Myint view round showrooms of domestic products.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Feb— Honorary patrons of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Khin Win, Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Daw Khin Aye Myint attended the annual general meeting of MWAF for the year 2013 at its hall of the federation, here, today.

Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin made a speech on the occasion. She said that the Ministry is joining hands with the federation for ensuring protection and women's rights for all Myanmar women. She invited suggestions to be able to contribute to implementation of national level strategic plans for development of women.

Afterwards, President of MWAF Daw Mya Mya clarified on the last year's activities and the future plans of the federation to be done in 2014.

Later, the attendees viewed round the documentary photos of the federation and showrooms of domestic products from regions and states.

MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Feb— The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Than Htay of Myanmar Correctional Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs on expiry of the one-year probation period.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Professor Dr Thet Khine Win of University of Medicine (1) (Yangon) of the Medical Science Department under the Ministry of Health as Rector of the University on probation from the date he assumes charge of duties.

Formation of Investigation ...

(from page 1)

(j) Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing — Secretary
Myanmar Egress

2. The investigation commission has to submit a report with comments after making investigation into the following incidents in order to disclose information that can reveal the real situation.
   (a) To investigate the root cause of the death of Police Sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein from Khayay Myaing Police Outpost at Ducheertan village on 13 January, 2014 and whether there is evidence of foul play in his death.
   (b) To probe the root cause of the fire outbreak at Ducheertan west village on 28 January, 2014 and to identify who had set fire the village.
   (c) To probe false and groundless reports of Ducheertan west village fire and who made the reporting.
   (d) Deaths and injuries and loss of property in the incidents.
   (e) Suggested measures to be taken to prevent such incidents from recurrence.
3. President Office and Rakhine State government are to make arrangements in management and security matters while the commission is carrying out investigations.
4. The commission has been granted the right to probe the incident in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act and has the power to summon witnesses, view documents and visit relevant places during the course of its investigation. The commission has to report to the President directly on 28 February 2014.

Sd/Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

23rd Myanmar Orthopaedic ...

(from page 16)

Korea, Thailand, India and ASEAN member countries attended the conference. The conference covers eight discussions, paper reading sessions, exchange of teaching methods and research works for promotion of orthopaedic treatments, as well as conducting orthopaedic surgeries by surgeons at home and abroad.

Operation theatre equipment, lab equipment, orthopaedic medicine and its related materials can be seen at 45 booths there.

The conference runs up to 8 February.

Myanmar has become a member of ASEAN Orthopaedic Association and Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association since 2013.—*MNA*

Agricultural development support projects to be initiated

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Feb— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, together with Deputy Minister U Ohn Than, held discussions on agricultural development support project in Myanmar with Mr. Paavo Eliste, leader of Teams of Reference Myanmar Proposed Irrigated Agriculture Development Project Preparation Mission of the World Bank, and party at the ministry this morning.

On the occasion, Mr. Paavo Eliste of the World Bank and Mr. Paulus van Hofwegen, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist and Co-team Leader, presented the proposal on projects for promotion of agricultural development in Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago (East) Regions and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The Union minister expressed words of thanks for technical assistance and low-interest loans provided by the World Bank for enhancement of agricultural development of the country.—*MNA*

Workshop on Improvement of Industrial Energy Efficiency in Myanmar held

Yangon, 6 Feb—National Inception workshop on Improvement of Industrial Energy Efficiency in Myanmar was held at the UMFCCI's Office on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street in Lanmadaw Township here this morning.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe extended greetings on the occasion.

Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung and Representative and Director of UNIDO Regional Office in Thailand Mr. Chin Pen Chua explained the purpose of the workshop.

It was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung, region ministers, Representative and Director of UNIDO Regional Office in Thailand Mr. Chin Pen Chua, UMFCCI Vice-President U Zaw Min Win, departmental heads, experts and distinguished persons.

MNA

Inter-village roads upgraded for smooth flow of rural commodities

KYAUKSE, 6 Feb— Kyaukse Township upgrades rural roads and repairs inter-village roads for development of socio-economy of the local people and swift flow of commodities in the township.

In 2013-14 FY, the Minsu-Sabeidaw inter-village road was upgraded to the asphalt road, and Ywapale-Okpo-Pellayhse-Paydawlay road is under construction.

Rural Development Department allotted K 112.9 million on upgrading the two-mile long Minsu-Sabeidaw Road to be asphalt one in 2013-14.

The department also builds Ywapale-Okpo-Pellayhse-Paydawlay inter-village road spending K 16 million in this year.

Thanks to the roads, the people from Thanchetgon, Pellayhse, Paydawgyi, Paydawlay and Yanbetlo villages can enjoy fruits of development in socio-economy for better transport of commodities.

Head of Township Rural Development Department said, "Construction of inter-village roads is aimed at enhancing socio-economy of the rural people. Kinetic Arts Co is taking responsibility for construction tasks. The department has planned to upgrade and repair the rural roads and bridges for rural development."

MMAL-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

National Objectives of 67th Anniversary Union Day 2014

- For all the national races to cultivate the Union Spirit to perpetuate the Union
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national recon-ciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Rules for matriculation examination clarified

MOHNYIN, 6 Feb—A ceremony to make clarifications on rules and disciplines for matriculation examination supervisors, joint supervisors and examinees in 2014 academic year was held at the hall in Basic Education High School No 2 in Mohnyin of Kachin State on 4 February.

It was attended by township education officers, assistant directors, school heads and teachers totalling 320 from Mohnyin and Nanma regions.

District Education Officer U Ma Rwe made a speech.

Assistant District Education Officer U Than Tun, Headmistress Daw Than Than Swe of Basic Education High School No 2, Township Education Officer Daw Khin Khin Nwe explained duties and functions and disciplines for examination examinees and supervisors.

Similar clarifications will be held in Hopin Sub-Township and Indawgyi region.

MMAL-063

UNDP, MSR jointly organize Township Governance Self-Assessment Workshop

THANTLANG, 6 Feb—United Nations Development Program and Myanmar Survey Research-MSR jointly held the Township Governance Self-Assessment Workshop at the hall of Thantlang on 4 February.

It was attended by service personnel, chairpersons from committee, religious and economic groups, Women's Affairs Organization and funeral servce associations.

At first, Township Administration U Kyaw Win and Area Office Management Specialist Mr Moses Tumusiime of Chin State UNDP made speeches.

Those present at the workshop discussed challenges and difficulties in development tasks and things how to overcome these challenges.

Similar workshops will be held in six townships of Kayah and Chin States. Findings from the workshops will be submitted to state government and the Union government.—*MMAL-Township IPRD*

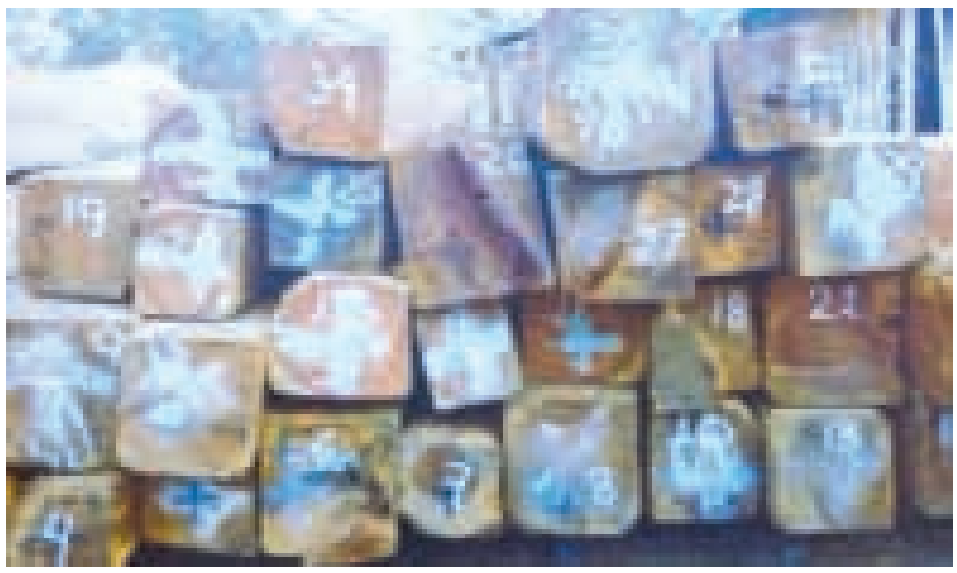
Crime

Illegal sawn timber seized in Shwebo Tsp

SHWEBO, 6 Feb—A staff team led by Staff Officer U Ye Lwin of Forest Department and police squad led by SIP Nay Yu Maung seized illegal sawn timber from a vehicle near the junction of Shwebo-Myitkyina Industrial Zone in Shwebo of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region on 2 February.

They seized 34 pieces of tamalan sawn timber weighing 2.7146 tons and two logs over two feet long weighing 0.1472 ton on board.

Shwebo Court opened a file of lawsuit against driver/owner U Min Aung of Ward 10 from Shwebo under the law.—*MMAL-KhinU Soe Wai*



Fire drills practised

MYAUNG, 6 Feb— Fire fighting drill was practised on the road to Pauktaw Village of Myaung Township, Sagaing Region, on 2 February afternoon.

It was attended by Village administrator U Myint Aung, Chairman of the supportive committee U Tin Myint and auxiliary fire fighters and local people.

MMAL-Myint Naing Soe (Htihlaingmyay)

WORLD

Fire prompts evacuation of US nuclear waste facility

Houston, 6 Feb — An underground fire at a storage facility for nuclear waste in the US state of New Mexico prompted evacuations on Wednesday, US media reported.

The incident happened Wednesday morning when a truck hauling salt underground caught fire at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad in southern New Mexico, the website of the *Albuquerque* Journal said.

WIPP, an underground radioactive waste disposal site, was immediately evacuated. Roger Nelson, a spokesman for the site, told the Journal that all employees were accounted for and no injuries were reported.

Nelson said the fire was not near nuclear materials and none of the radioactive waste was affected.

The haul truck that caught fire is not used to carry radioactive waste, another site spokesperson Sona Herrick confirmed.

No waste containers were breached, although waste operations have been suspended, Herrick said.

Another local media *KOB* reported six workers were taken to an area hospital for smoke inhalation and were discharged a short while later.

It was not immediately known what sparked the fire or when the plant will resume operation.

WIPP stores "transuranic waste" leftover from nuclear weapons research and testing from the country's past defense activities, according to the Department of Energy website. That waste includes clothing, tools, rags and other debris contaminated with radioactive elements, largely plutonium.

Xinhua

Police elements check the weapons seized during a police operation, north of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 4 Feb, 2014. According to the local Press, the objective of this operation in which at least 10 persons died, was to arrest the traffickers of the command that participated in an attack on Sunday on the Peacemaker Police Unit.—Xinhua

El Salvador top court orders probe of civil war massacre

San Salvador, 6 Feb — El Salvador's Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the country's top prosecutor to investigate the alleged massacre of dozens of civilians in 1981 by army troops during the nation's bloody civil war.

The court ruled General Prosecutor Luis Martinez had to reopen a previous investigation that had fizzled out without any charges being filed. The court demanded prosecutors charge any guilty parties and release publicly the results of its probe.

The ruling is an unprecedented move by the court to order the probe into a particular case relating to the country's 1980-1992 civil war.

The Supreme Court said that the prosecutor's office dragged its feet in the original investigation and the justices ruled that the prosecutor had violated the rights of a group of citizens who had been filing legal complaints about the massacre since 2006. Military troops allegedly killed about 45 people, including women and children, in the community of San Francisco Angulo.—*Reuters*

A railway policewoman uses video monitoring system in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 5 Feb, 2014. Measures have been taken by railway policemen to guarantee the security of the travel rush after Spring Festival in the city.—Xinhua

US murderer of Chinese students sentenced to life in prison

Los Angeles, 6 Feb — A Californian court on Wednesday sentenced one of the two suspects involved in a double murder of Chinese students to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Bryan Barnes, 21, pleaded guilty to shooting dead Ying Wu and Ming Qu, two Chinese graduate students from the University of South California(USC), according to the Superior Court of California for Los Angeles County.

Co-defendant Javier Bolden, 21, is due back in court on 12 March for a pretrial hearing. Prosecutors have not yet decided whether they will seek death penalty against Bolden.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Stephen Marcus told the victims' parents that he was "deeply sorry" for their loss and hoped the court proceeding would help them "get some measure of justice." "This was a horrific tragedy," the judge said after ordering Barnes to serve two consecutive life prison terms without parole, plus 50 years to life.

In their statement on court, Wu's parents and Qu's father called for death penalty for the two murderers.

Wu's father said his family has waited almost two years for justice for his daughter, who came to the United States with a dream and great expectation for her future.

"Every life deserves respect, and he has no right to take away my daughter's life. My daughter is gone, so is my hope," he said, adding that the only thing that sustained him was to see the murderer receive his due punishment.

Qu's father described his son as a straight-A student and brilliant young man, who came to the United States with beautiful dreams but only died a tragical death.

"After my son passed away, my wife and I always wake up crying at night. In our dreams, our beloved son is covered in blood, crying out to us to get him justice," he said.

Yuan Dong, education consul from the Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles, said the final judgment shows the justice of law.

He also urged local authorities to strengthen public security and improve protection of the life and property of Chinese and other minorities living in the area.

Wu and Qu, both 23 years old, were graduate students majoring in electrical engineering. They were shot dead in their car near the USC campus at midnight on 11 April, 2012 .

Xinhua

Disagreement over EU bid not hamper trade between Turkey, Germany

Ankara, 6 Feb — Although Turkey and Germany still remain at odds over the former's European Union (EU) membership bid, they agree to boost economic ties during a recent visit of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Germany. Earlier this week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed reservations over Turkey's EU membership bid in a meeting with Erdogan in Berlin.

"Germany, just like France, is not favoring full EU membership for Turkey. Merkel has always advocated the idea of 'privileged membership' for Turkey," Turkish foreign policy expert Sami Kohen said.

Privileged membership is a term referring to a halfway measure that falls short of full membership, a notion that has been rejected by Turkey. Merkel always said that Turkey should first solve its domestic issues for further progress, referring to two major incidents that have shaken Turkey, including Turkish government's handling of anti-government protests last year over a controversial urban project in Gezi Park in Istanbul and the recent corruption scandal.—*Xinhua*

Brazil to seek extradition of ex-bank chief from Italy

Rio de Janeiro, 6 Feb — The Brazilian government intends to request the extradition of Henrique Pizzolato, a former Banco do Brasil director who was convicted of bribery and arrested in Italy, the justice minister confirmed on Wednesday.

"It is up to Brazil to request extradition and we will do so," Jose Eduardo Cardozo told a press conference, saying Brazil will abide by any decision Italy makes regarding the extradition request.

Pizzolato, who has dual Brazilian-Italian citizenship and was wanted by Interpol, was arrested early Wednesday in Italy.

At the time of his arrest, Pizzolato was found carrying a false passport of his deceased brother, and 15,000 euros and 2,000 US-dollars in cash, according to the authorities.

The former marketing director of the bank was convicted in Brazil last year of running a bribery scheme dubbed "Mensalao."

He was found guilty of corruption, embezzlement and money laundering in what became known as "the trial of the century," which led to the conviction of 25 people, including politicians, businessmen and bankers.

Pizzolato, who was sentenced to 12 years and seven months in prison, was the only one of the 25 who managed to flee the country in November. His lawyer later announced his departure.—*Xinhua*

A firefighter cries at the site of a warehouse fire in Barracas, Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 5 Feb, 2014. At least five firemen and two rescuers died on Wednesday when they were extinguishing a fire at a warehouse of bank documents owned by the Iron Mountain in the capital city.

Xinhua

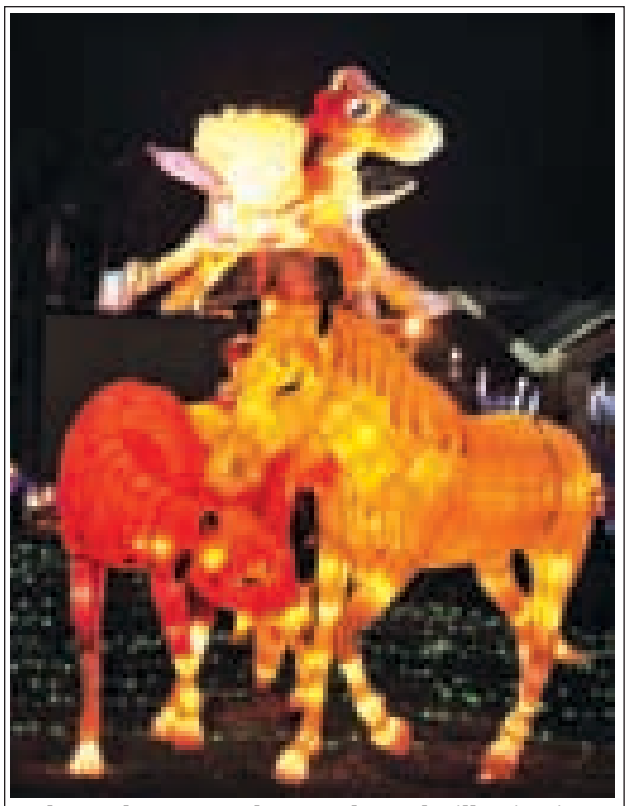


Photo taken on 5 Feb, 2014 shows the illuminations during a lantern fair in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan. A test run of a lantern fair for the upcoming Lantern Festival was held here Wednesday and will formally open on 7 February.—XINHUA

Gov't hints allowing construction of 3 nuclear reactors to proceed

TOKYO, 6 Feb — Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi suggested on Thursday the government will allow the completion of three planned nuclear reactors in western and northeastern Japan. Motegi said while the government does not expect any "new" reactors to be built for the time being, the three already-approved reactors, including Tokyo Electric Power Co's No 1 unit at the Higashidori plant in Aomori Prefecture, are not considered "new."

TEPCO suspended the construction of the Higashidori plant in the wake of the devastating accident at its Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in 2011.

The two other units are the No 3 reactor at Chugoku Electric Power Co's Shimane plant and a reactor at Electric Power Development Co's Oma nuclear plant in Aomori Prefecture.

Chugoku Electric has nearly finished the construction work of the No 3 reactor, while Electric Power Development, known as J-Power, resumed the work to build Oma plant's reactor in October 2012.

For reactors in Japan to operate, they have to clear a set of new safety requirements, introduced in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear crisis.

There are currently 48 commercial reactors in Japan, but none have so far passed the Nuclear Regulation Authority's safety assessment process that started last July.—*Kyodo News*

Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko wave to local people as they take a stroll on a beach near the Hayama Imperial Villa in the town of Hayama, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 5 Feb, 2014. They will stay in Hayama for a break until on 9 February.
KYODO NEWS

Manila calls on HK to be 'sober' in dealing with bus tragedy

MANILA, 6 Feb — The Philippines on Wednesday called on Hong Kong officials to have a clear head and orderly mind in dealing with the botched Manila bus hostage crisis that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead in 2010.

"We call on the Hong Kong authorities to be sober and to reflect rationally on this issue," Raul Hernandez, a spokesman for the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, said in a statement.

"We have done everything possible to resolve the issue and reach agreement," he said. "It will be unfortunate if the victims and their families will not be able to accept more generous gestures of solidarity from the Filipino people."

If Hong Kong will "signify acceptance" of such gestures, Hernandez said, "the Philippines is willing to convey these gestures for the benefit of the affected families as soon as possible."

"In line with Philippine foreign policy, we are committed to protecting and promoting the interests and welfare of overseas Filipinos in Hong Kong," Hernandez said.

The hostage taking was carried out by a dismissed police officer in an attempt to get his job back. He hijacked a tour bus carrying 25 people, including 20 tourists from Hong Kong.

The 11-hour hostage drama ended with the deaths of eight Hong Kong nationals and the lone hostage taker in a bungled police rescue. On Thursday last week, the Philippines said it regrets Hong Kong's decision to impose sanctions against it for refusing to formally apologize for the tragedy.

Under the sanctions announced by Hong Kong on 29 January, the 14-day visa-free arrangement for Philippine diplomatic and official passport holders visiting Hong Kong will be suspended from 5 February.

Xinhua

Thai polling chiefs try to work out how to fix disrupted election

BANGKOK, 6 Feb — Thai election officials met on Thursday to try to shore up a disputed weekend ballot that was disrupted by anti-government protesters who blockaded the streets of the capital, stopping some people from voting or candidates from registering.

Sunday's poll has been challenged by the main opposition Democrat Party, which boycotted voting, and the Election Commission is already investigating possible campaigning irregularities in a long-running political conflict that shows no sign of ending.

The election would likely return caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to power if it is not annulled but, whatever the result, it will not change the dysfunctional status quo after eight years of polarization and turmoil.

Consumer confidence, which reflects views on the economy, job opportunities and future income, hit a 26-month low in January, data released on Thursday showed.

"Today's meeting will cover just about every issue to do with the election including the election itself and advance voting that faced disruptions on 26 January," commission secretary-general Puchong Nutrawong told reporters.

"We'll also discuss what to do about constituencies where candidates were unable to register," he said. Some 28 electoral districts in the south, a stronghold of the Democrat Party, failed to register candidates after protesters blockaded candidate-registration centres in December. It was unclear how the commission would ensure that registration could take place in those districts but it has the authority to call in troops to guard voting booths.—*Reuters*

Masked anti-government protesters look out from behind a barricade near the Interior Ministry building, after a group of policemen who came to talk to them left, in Bangkok on 5 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Philippine Navy to recruit 4,000 troops

MANILA, 6 Feb — The Philippine Navy announced on Wednesday that it is recruiting 4,000 new members in the next two years.

Navy spokesman Lt Cmdr. Gregory Gerald Fabic said the Navy needs additional personnel to man new ships being acquired by the Philippine government as part of its modernization programme.

The Philippine Department of National Defence is in the process of acquiring two brand new frigates and two strategic sealift vessels. Fabic said the enlistment of 4,000 Navy personnel is part of the 20,000 additional soldiers whom the Armed Forces of the Philippines is planning to recruit in the next three years.—*Xinhua*

Lao delegation to participate in conference against illegal wildlife trade

VIENTIANE, 6 Feb — Lao PDR will send a delegation to London for the largest ever global conference on the illegal wildlife trade. The Lao delegation supported by the British Embassy Vientiane and led by Lao Vice Minister for Agriculture and Forestry Phouangparisck Pravongviengkham will attend the conference which runs from 11-13 February.

"We're bringing together around 50 countries from around the world," British Ambassador to Laos Philip Malone told *Xinhua* at an awareness-raising event here in Lao capital Vientiane on Wednesday.

"Lao PDR is one of those transit countries so we're very keen to involve them in this process so they can be part of the work to undermine the networks that feed on this sort of criminal trafficking," he said. The conference aims to reframe illegal wildlife trade as a multi- billion dollar criminal enterprise as opposed to a purely environmental issue.—*Xinhua*

Visitors read books at a book expo in Taipei, southeast China's Taipei, 5 Feb, 2014. The 2014 Taipei International Book Exhibition kicked off here on Wednesday.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(3/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-181(2013-2014)	30 Ton (6x4) NGV Tractor (1) No with 30 Ton Cascade Trailer (3) Nos	(1) Lot	US$
(2)	IFB-182(2013-2014)	Skid Mounted Engine Driven Air Compressor	(1) No	US$
(3)	IFB-183(2013-2014)	Cummins Engine with Gear Box	(1) Set	US$
(4)	IFB-184(2013-2014)	Assorted Sizes of Seamless Casings	(10) Items	US$
(5)	DMP/L-058(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT D 3512 Engine Ex D 3 T 2 SR-I & II Rigs	(4) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-059(2013-2014)	Spares for FA 1600 Triplex Pump Ex Emsco Rig	(1) Lot	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-060(2013-2014)	500 KVA Trasformer and Dual Transformer	(2) Items	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-061(2013-2014)	1.5 HP Air Conditioner Split Type and Floor Standing Type Air Conditioner	(2) Items	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 5-3-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5th February, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th FEBRUARY 2014 (Union Day). Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (020)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project
Credit No: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: international Procurement Specialist
Reference No.: MEPE-CS-6

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The Services of the above assignment is expected to be carried out over a period of twelve months, starting in April 2014. More information can be found on MEPE website **moep.gov.mm** and UNDB website

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by February, 17th, 2014.

Material Planning Department
Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)
Office Building No.27
Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar
Email: polar barli76@gmail.com
Phone : 067: 410282,
Fax: 067: 410391

Death toll from Colombian prison fire climbs to 14

BOGOEA, 6 Feb — The death toll from a prison fire in Colombia's northern city of Barranquilla has climbed to 14, city health authorities said on Wednesday.

Last week's fire, which initially killed 10 inmates at the city 's Modelo Prison, started when inmates set fire to mattresses after wardens used tear gas to try to control a clash between members of rival gangs. Some 37 inmates were injured by the fire on 28 Jan.

On Wednesday, Alma Solano, local health secretary of Barranquilla, confirmed the death of Jorge Issac Carranza Mercado and Jose Luis Solano, two inmates who have been hospitalized for fire injuries in Camino Adelita de Char hospital, local daily *El Tiempo* reported.

The report also said that 22-year-old inmate Jhonatan del Castillo died on Tuesday. Ramon Quintero, director of the private hospital where del Castillo died, said the inmate had severe burns over 50 percent of his body, as well as smoke damage to his lungs.

Xinhua

A woman poses for a photo under a cherry tree at a park in Nanning, capital of southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 2 Feb, 2014.
XINHUA

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES- FIRMS SELECTION)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project
Credit No.: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: Myanmar Power Sector Financial Analysis and Viability Action Plan
Reference No,: MEPE-CS-2

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the following scope:

1. Review recent financial, commercial, and relevant operational performance of Myanmar's electricity enterprises;
2. Review recent budgetary arrangement and budgetary statistics of Myanmar's Ministry of Electric Power and electricity enterprises in recent fiscal years. This includes the sources of revenues and financing, key expenditures, and net budgetary positions;
3. Review Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise's existing financial model and develop an integrated financial model(s) for forward-looking financial analysis of the power sector, covering generation, transmission and distribution subsectors. Where necessary, the financial model(s) will also cover natural gas *and* other energy sources as inputs for power generation;
4. Prepare draft financial viability action plan, facilitate consultations on the draft plan, and help finalize the plan.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of nine months, starting in May 2014.

The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. The interested consultingfirms should have previous experience in the area of power utilities financial advisory, analysis and modeling in developing countries;
2. A minimum of 10 years of experience in carrying out Consulting Services as a consulting firm in the field of assignment;
3. At least 3 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past 5 years; and
4. Experience of working in the Client's country or similar country environment.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the .World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection methodset out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours *10:00 to 15-00 hours.*

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by February 21, 2014.

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise
Attn: Daw Zaw Zaw Than, General Manager for Finance
Building-27
Ministry of Electric Power
Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Te1: 095-067-410-064
Fax: 095-067-410-076
E-mail: mepefin@moep.gov.mm

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (035)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (035) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (360)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (360) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Russian punk rock band Pussy Riot members Nadezhda Tolokonnikova (R) and Maria Alyokhina hold a news conference in New York on 4 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Russian punk band tell New York ahead of Sochi they will perform again

NEW YORK, 6 Feb — Two members of the Russian punk band Pussy Riot may have remade themselves as global human rights advocates since their imprisonment for hooliganism, but on Tuesday they vowed to return to the stage as performers."

It's absolutely impossible to take this out of us," Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 24 told a New York news conference ahead of Pussy Riot's appearance at an Amnesty International concert on Wednesday, a day before the Winter Olympics open in Sochi, Russia.

Tolokonnikova and her bandmate, Maria Alyokhina, 25, will be introduced at the Amnesty concert by pop star Madonna, and will speak but are not expected to perform at the event.

The pair were convicted in 2012 of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred after storming Moscow's biggest Orthodox cathedral and beseeching the Virgin Mary to rid Russia of President Vladimir Putin.

A third member of the group, Yekaterina Samutsevich, was freed when a judge suspended her sentence on appeal.

Their case sparked a global outcry. After nearly two years behind bars, Putin granted them amnesty in December."It's a wonderful example of how the civil society can be put to work," Tolokonnikova said of the campaign on their behalf.

The women described a grim situation in Russia, in which protesters are thrown in jail and trials are mired by politics."A lot of people are unjustifiably in jail right now, and in the near future, we expect this number to rise," Tolokonnikova said.

Reuters

SRK will be next seen in Happy New Year.—PTI

Injured Shah Rukh Khan resumes work, won't do 'heavy scenes'

MUMBAI, 6 Feb — Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who was injured on the sets of Farah Khan's Happy New Year, resumed work on 4 February. However, he has been advised not to do heavy scenes.

"SRK's back to work on 4 February. He is still recovering from his injury, so no heavy scenes for him," said a source close to the superstar.

The incident took place on 23 January and the 48-year-old was rushed to Dr Balabhai Nanavati Hospital.

He had suffered a shoulder fracture, his left knee's patellar tendon was torn and doctors advised him complete rest for two to three weeks.

A heavy door had caused the injury. Happy New Year, which also stars Abhishek Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Sonu Sood, Boman Irani and Vivaan Shah, will release this year around Diwali.

PTI

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan to team up with Mani Ratnam

MUMBAI, 6 Feb — Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who has been on a sabbatical post the birth of her daughter Aaradhya two years ago, is all set to return to the big screen in a film directed by filmmaker Mani Ratnam. Aishwarya, who is quite close to Mani Ratnam, has worked with him in films such as Iruvar, Guru and Raavan.

Aishwarya has even starred alongside husband Abhishek in Raavan, but sources say that this film will only have Aishwarya Rai in it.

"Mani Ratnam shares a fabulous equation with Abhishek and Ash. But this time he's planning to direct a film that revolves around a female protagonist. Mani feels there is little room for Abhishek in this film. For Aishwarya, working with him post the birth of her daughter is life coming full circle. She started her career with him and now she's starting another phase with a film made by him," says a source.

The source adds that this will be a bi-lingual film starring Mahesh Babu and Nagarjuna, and that Aishwarya will be playing a strong woman character in it. Aishwarya remained unavailable for comment, but a source close to director confirms the news.

"Mani Ratnam is currently doing a recce as part of the film's pre-production. If everything goes as per plan, the film will be shot at foreign locations and shooting will begin in July," says this source.

PTI

Aishwarya has worked with Mani Ratnam in movies like Guru and Raavan.—PTI

Four arrested in connection with drugs at actor Hoffman's home

LOS ANGELES, 6 Feb — Four people were arrested on Tuesday in connection with drugs found at the home of film star Philip Seymour Hoffman following his death of an apparent heroin overdose, *the New York Daily News* reported, citing unidentified police sources. The arrests came during a raid on a building in the Chinatown district of Manhattan after police traced the heroin believed to have killed the Oscar-winning actor there, the newspaper reported.

A New York City Police Department spokesman told Reuters that officers found narcotics at the building in Chinatown and four people were arrested. He declined to confirm that the arrests were related to Hoffman's death.

A second police spokesman told Reuters on Tuesday evening that heroin found in Hoffman's apartment following his death was not cut or mixed with fentanyl, a synthetic narcotic believed by health authorities to be responsible for scores of overdose deaths in recent months.

"There was no fentanyl found in the drugs," the spokesman said. The 46-year-old actor was found unresponsive on the bathroom floor of his Manhattan apartment on Sunday by police responding to an emergency 911 call.

Police found Hoffman with a syringe in his arm and recovered plastic bags containing a substance believed to be heroin. Law enforcement sources have told Reuters that he died of an apparent drug overdose. Preliminary results of an autopsy were expected to be released on Wednesday.

Hoffman, who is survived by his partner, Mimi O'Donnell, and their three children, had detailed his struggles with substance abuse in the past.

The actor, who earned an Academy Award for his portrayal of Truman Capote in the 2006 drama "Capote" and was considered one of the most gifted film stars of his generation, had sought treatment last year after more than 20 years of sobriety.

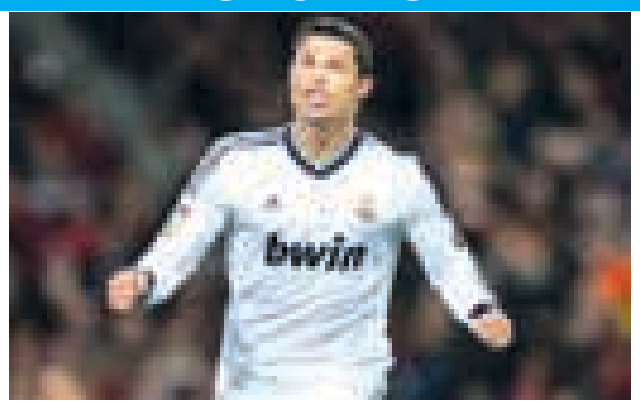
A representative for Hoffman said the actor, who also appeared in such blockbusters as "Twister" and "The Hunger Games," would be buried in a private memorial service, with a memorial planned for later this month.

Reuters

Actor Philip Seymour Hoffman attends the premiere of the film A Most Wanted Man at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, on 19 Jan, 2014.
REUTERS

SPORTS

Cristiano Ronaldo banned for three games



Real Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo

MADRID, 6 Feb — The Disciplinary Committee of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) on Wednesday decided to suspend Real Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo for three games following his red card during Sunday's 1-1 draw away to Athletic Club Bilbao.

Ronaldo was sent off in the 75th minute of the game by referee Ayza Gamez following an altercation with Athletic players Carlos Gurpegui and Ander Iturraspe. He stepped on Gurpegui's foot and then Gurpegui responded with a slight push on his chest, Ronaldo appeared to scrape his fingers down the side of the defender's face. Iturraspe then rushed in and the two put their heads together before Ronaldo gave him a slight slap across the cheek.

The RFEF have suspended Ronaldo for one game for his actions against Iturraspe, while adding a further two-game ban for what they consider to be gestures of disrespect as Ronaldo slapped his face: a traditional gesture which can be taken to mean 'you have a nerve.', as he walked off the pitch.

The ban means Ronaldo will miss the BBVA Primera Liga games at home to Villarreal and Elche and the short trip to Getafe, but he will be able to play in the Copa del Rey semifinal against Atletico Madrid, with the first leg in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Wednesday night.

Had the ban been for four games or more Ronaldo would have missed both Cup games, but given the ban is shorter, he will be suspended for matches in the same competition in which he was sent off. Real Madrid are likely to appeal against the suspension, but the club has so far not made any official comment.

Xinhua

Hall of Famer, MVP and Vettel have Finns thinking gold

SOCHI,(Russia), 6 Feb — A Hall of Famer, an all-world netminder and Sebastian Vettel's trainer have the Finnish women's ice hockey team believing anything is possible at the Sochi Olympics.

While it would take an upset of David and Goliath proportions for any team other than the Canada and the United States to skate away with gold on 20 February, the Finns have arrived in Sochi targeting a medal and have not ruled out their own Miracle on Ice. "It (gold) is possible yes," Finland coach Mika Pieniniemi told reporters on Wednesday. "But we have to take this tournament game-by-game, not eat the whole cake in one time, just pieces. Play good, concentrate good and anything is possible."

If they are to win any medal, the Finns will lean heavily on Noora Raty, their world championship most valuable player netminder and the experience of 40-year-old Riikka Valila, one of a handful of women enshrined in the Hockey Hall of Fame, who returned to the ice this season after a decade away from the game to raise a family.The leading scorer at the 1998 Nagano Olympics, where Finland won bronze, Valila showed time has done little to dull her touch around the net, scoring the winning goal against Sweden on her return to international competition last year.

Reuters

*Finland's goalie Noora Raty deflects a shot on net from Russia's Yekaterina Lebedeva during the second period of their bronze medal game at the IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Ottawa on 9 April, 2013. —*REUTERS

Birmingham future is bright after owner resigns

HONG KONG, 6 Feb — The future of Birmingham City is bright, the English soccer club said on Wednesday in a bid to reassure fans and shareholders a day after owner Carson Yeung resigned as chairman of the parent company. Yeung, a former hair stylist to Hong Kong's rich and famous, stepped down from Hong Kong-listed Birmingham International Holdings Ltd (BIHL) as he awaits a verdict in a $93 million money-laundering trial in which he has pleaded not guilty.

The trial has revealed the flamboyant businessman's close ties to the gambling hub of Macau's casino world, both as an investor and gambler, and how that facilitated business investments which helped him amass his wealth. The 53-year-old, who has owned the Championship (second tier) club since 2009, attended an extraordinary general meeting with BIHL's shareholders on Wednesday but left early and declined to answer reporters' questions. The football club's director and BIHL's chief executive, Peter Pannu, said he expected trading in shares of the company, which have been suspended since June 2011, to resume shortly although he did not elaborate.

*Birmingham City owner Carson Yeung stands in the lift after leaving in the middle of a general meeting at a hotel in Hong Kong on 5 Feb, 2014.—*REUTERS

"He (Carson Yeung) has got to attribute a bit more time to some other priorities, no doubt you would know what those priorities are, okay?," Pannu said "We've ensured that a smooth transition back to resumption of trading, that's a milestone. So the shareholders are all happy about that," he said. During the meeting, shareholders approved seven resolutions that would allow BIHL to raise more capital, including two that approved the issue of convertible bonds which would raise a total of up to HK$175 million (US$22.5 million).

Pannu dismissed speculation that the sale of the club was imminent. "We have interested parties, we are talking to these people, and I think if something substantive comes forward, we will announce that. So don't listen to rumors, listen to proper announcements for this (selling of the club)," he said. Birmingham are 18th in the Championship, six points clear of the relegation zone, and face fellow strugglers Charlton Athletic on Saturday.—*Reuters*

White pulls out of slopestyle, says too risky

ROSA KHUTOR, (Russia), 6 Feb — Snowboarding star Shaun White pulled out of the slopestyle event at the Sochi Olympics on Wednesday due to concerns that the course is too dangerous. Double halfpipe Olympic champion White, one of the biggest draw-cards of the winter Games, said in a statement carried by NBC on Wednesday that he did not want to risk his chances of winning a third halfpipe gold medal.

White's decision comes after Norwegian Torstein Horgmo, a triple X Games gold medalist in Big Air, broke his collarbone in a crash on Monday and will miss the Games.

White also hurt his wrist on Tuesday after falling on a course he had earlier described as "intimidating". "With the practice runs I have taken, even after course modifications and watching fellow athletes get hurt, the potential risk of injury is a bit too much for me to gamble my other Olympics goals on," said White.

Reuters

US snowboarder Shaun White goes off a jump during snowboard slopestyle training at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics in Rosa Khutor on 4 Feb, 2014.
REUTERS

Virtue & Moir ready to gamble

*Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada skate during an ice dance figure skating training session at the Iceberg Skating Palace in preparation for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics on 5 Feb, 2014.—*REUTERS

SOCHI, (Russia), 6 Feb —Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir belong to an exclusive Olympic club, having won gold on home ice in Vancouver in 2010, but it has not stopped the Canadians rolling the dice again at this month's Sochi Games.Only one pair has previously captured two Olympic ice dance titles — Russians Oksana Grishuk and Evgeny Platov in 1994 and 1998 —and it was a feat beyond British greats Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean.

Even with the odds stacked against them, Virtue and Moir are prepared to take a gamble which could take the gloss off their 100 percent Games record, with many believing they have more to lose than to gain by competing in Sochi.

"It is really risky but it's also part of the appeal," Virtue told *Reuters* as the duo fine-tuned their programs ahead of the team competition that begins on Thursday.

"We always want to challenge ourselves and don't think we ever want to back down from something for fear of failure. There is the pressure that if we don't repeat our title it might be seen as a disappointment and we would certainly be upset."

But that said, the chance to compete at another Olympic Games, represent our country and be part of Team Canada, I'm not sure how we can lose," said Virtue.

Reuters

GENERAL

British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg talks to media during his visit to the archeological site of Great Temple in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 5 Feb, 2014.
XINHUA

US urges Central African Republic to break cycle of violence

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb —The United States on Wednesday urged all groups in the Central African Republic (CAR) to "break the cycle of violent retribution" to lead the country out of sectarian violence.

State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki voiced "deep concern" about recent sectarian attacks against both Muslims and Christians in the country, in particular in the town of Boda where more than 75 people were killed in the past few days.

"This sectarian violence must end," she said in a statement. "The people of CAR must seize the opportunity afforded by its newly appointed transitional leadership and a strong level of international support to end the present crisis and move toward a stable and peaceful society."

"This will not be successful unless all groups look toward the future and break the cycle of violent retribution for past events," she added.

The African country, rich in gold, diamonds and uranium, was plunged into chaos and violence after mainly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in March 2013. The rebels' engagement in looting, raping and killing for months had sparked reprisals by Christian militia and allies of ousted President Francois Bozize.

The violence has displaced about one million people across the country, with some 85,000 fleeing to neighbouring countries. France and the African Union have deployed troops there.

The CAR had a new transitional president and prime minister last month after their predecessors stepped down following months of violence that had killed thousands of people.

Psaki voiced support for the efforts of the CAR's transition government to end the conflict and re-establish a "functioning state."—*Xinhua*

Tanzania drug dealers discover new way of trafficking

DAR ES SALAAM, 6 Feb — Drug dealers have discovered a new way of trafficking illicit drugs through Tanzania's Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) by sending them as parcels through various courier companies, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Deputy Minister for Transport Charles Tizeba told members of Parliamentary Committee on Infrastructure on a visit to the airport that authorities at the airport have seized eight parcels which contained narcotics in the past one week.

Tizeba said seven suspects have been arrested in connection with the parcels, adding that the owner of the eighth parcel is still at large.

He said in one of the seized parcels that was being airlifted to Namibia, it indicated that the parcel contained a biology book but when inspected it was found that a sizable amount of heroin was tucked in the pages of the book.

Tizeba added that the drug dealers were also using parcels of sandals and tea bags to traffic the drugs, adding that most of the parcels containing the drugs were destined to West African countries.

Xinhua

Police arrest two youths for sexually molesting French tourists in India

NEW DELHI, 6 Feb — Indian police have arrested two youths for allegedly sexually molesting two French women tourists in the western state of Rajasthan, a senior police official said on Thursday.

"The two accused posed as tourist guides and molested the two French women on Wednesday after taking the victims to an isolated place at the historic Mandore Garden in the state's Jodhpur city. The duo were nabbed after the two women shouted and alerted others," he said on condition of anonymity.

The two accused have been charged under relevant sections of the Indian law, the official added.

Sexual assaults on foreign tourists are common in India.

Last month, a Danish woman tourist was gangraped by some eight men whom she had approached after losing her way back to a hotel in the Indian capital.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

7-2-14 07:00 am ~ 8-2-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-2)
* World News
* In the Studio: Sunee
* Local News
* A Visit To San-Taw-Shin Kyike-Hti-Yo Pagoda
* World News
* A Traditional Doctor
* Local News
* Wa Traditions & An Engagement Ceremony
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art
* Local News
* Distinguished Donation Of King Dhamma Ceti - Kyaik Pun Pagoda
* World News
* Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
* Local News
* Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-1)
* World News
* In The Studio: L CO
* Local News
* 19 Hours
* World News
* Nang
* Local News
* Crab Business (Part-1) Mud Crab
* World News
* Dengue Fever
* Local News
* The History Of Mrauk U Pagoda
* World News
* Myanmar Railways City Circular Train

Seattle Seahawks' Super Bowl victory parade draws some 700,000 fans

SEATTLLE, 6 Feb — An estimated 700,000 Seattle Seahawks fans braved sub-freezing temperatures to celebrate the football team's first Super Bowl title at a parade that wound through the city's downtown on Wednesday. The Seahawks trounced the usually high-scoring Denver Broncos, 43-8, on Sunday to win their first National Football League championship in franchise history.

It was a particularly sweet triumph for a city whose previous major professional men's sports team championship came a generation ago, when the SuperSonics captured the National Basketball Association's crown in 1979. That team left for Oklahoma City in 2008. Kicking off before noon and running for about two hours, the parade was slowed by the larger-than-anticipated crowd — with some fans perched in trees and atop pillars — that transformed downtown Seattle into a sea of blue and green, the team's colors. Police estimated the crowd at 700,000 strong.

"I've never seen a community come together like this," said Tyler Olsen, 29, a Seattle-area high school math teacher who took the day off to watch the procession. "It's an overwhelming sense of joy." Shortly after the parade commenced, the crowd burst into an ear-splitting roar as part of a statewide "moment of LOUDNESS" proclaimed a day earlier by Governor Jay Inslee. In a nod to the team's fans, collectively known as the "12th Man" for their opponent-rattling rumbling during home games, the organized screaming occurred at 12:12 pm.

As fans cheered them along the route, players and coaches danced and waved from slow-moving amphibious World War Two-era Duck vehicles normally used by tourists, with star running back Marshawn Lynch throwing his preferred candy, Skittles, into the crowd. The procession culminated at CenturyLink Field - the Seahawks' home stadium — where the team has lost only once during the past two years, and where season-ticket holders were treated to a post-parade victory celebration.

With traffic snarled and public transportation backed up by those heading into the city, not everyone planning to attend the parade made it. Patti Tinsley, 43, brought her two children, ages 5 and 7, to the light-rail train station in the Seattle suburb of SeaTac. But after waiting over an hour in a line that snaked around the block, she decided to return home — though her spirits remained high. "This is historic," said Tinsley, decked out in Seahawks regalia. "It's something my kids will always remember." —*Reuters*

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (C) celebrates with fans during the NFL team's Super Bowl victory parade in Seattle, Washington on 5 Feb, 2014.
REUTERS

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
thenewlightofmyanmar@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/thenewlightofmyanmar

8th Waxing of Tabodwe 1375 ME

The New Light of Myanmar

Friday, 7 February, 2014

Vice-President honours para athletes, coaches

Vice-President U Nyan Tun cordially greets athletes who participated in 7th ASEAN Para Games.—MNA

YANGON, 6 Feb — Vice-President U Nyan Tun awarded prizes in cash to athletes who took part in the 7th ASEAN Para Games.

Myanmar hosted the games in January three weeks after the 27th South East Asian Games in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President U Nyan Tun expressed his delight for the successful completion the 7th ASEAN Para Games, appreciating the efforts of the athletes during the games.

He also called on the athletes for making efforts for winning medals in 8th ASEAN Para Games in Singapore.

Total prizes in cash presented to the athletes and coaches reached 108.73 million kyat.

Myanmar won 96 medals : 34 gold medals, 26 silver medals and 36 bronze medals, standing fifth place on the overall medal tally of the 7th ASEAN Para Games. During the ceremony, Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Union ministers presented prizes in cash to the athletes and coaches. —*MNA*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw clarifies spending of township development fund

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb— The development funds to be channelled into the local development schemes in 2014-15 FY are not mentioned under capital expenditures, said Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw at today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

The development funds have not been set up in conformity with the rules and regulations for expenditures.

When the National Planning Bill for 2013-14 FY was approved, K 33 billion was created as "regional development fund" under the title of Hluttaw Office and new projects (capital expenditure), he added.

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein said expenditure K 45.334 billion of the Hluttaw office includes K 33 billion of regional development fund. The Union Budget Law which allows the development fund was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Ministry of Finance issued financial rules and regulations for regional development fund and arrangements are being made to systematically spend allotted fund in line with law and financial rules and regulations, he continued.

Union Auditor-General U Thein Htaik said that duty and power of the Union auditor-general were enacted in Section 11, Subsection (b) and amendment Section (2) of Union Auditor-General Law.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw clarified arrangements for spending township development fund by development supportive committees formed in regions and states in accord with rules and regulations and enactment of a law to fulfill necessities of the people. If necessary, the respective committees are to contact the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

Regarding state-owned enterprises and projects include in appendix-2 (a) of National Planning Bill for 2014-15 FY, the Hluttaw representatives took part in the discussions.

MNA

Union Minister attends opening of new school building in Pakokku

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb— Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung attended opening of Pyinnya Pankhin new school building at No (1) Basic Education High School in Pakokku, Magway Region on 31 January.

The Union minister said that the government has been carrying out Comprehensive Education Sector Review—CESR to promote national education sector. He pointed out importance of the discipline, education and ethics in the schools to improve education system of the country. The newly-inaugurated school building was constructed at a cost of K 54 million funded by the State.

He then presented one set of computer for Pakokku BEHS (1) and inspected patient's ward, medical store, delivery room and toilets at Pakhangyi Station Hospital in Yesagyo Township.

He also provided the patients and station hospital with cash assistance and one fiber water tank worth K 480,000 and met with medical staff at Kyitsukyin Station Hospital and donated medicines for station hospital. Afterwards, he looked round construction of self-reliance X-Ray room at MaU Outseik Station Hospital and presented medicines, Sky Net receivers and cash assistance for three battalions, station maternal and child welfare association at Yesagyo Station and locals in Kanthit Village. In the evening, he paid homage to Sithu Shin Tharekkhan Buddha Image and presented one set of Sky Net receiver to the pagoda board of trustee.—*MNA*

23rd Myanmar Orthopaedic Society Biennial Conference at Inya Lake Hotel

YANGON, 6 Feb—The 23rd Myanmar Orthopaedic Society Biennial Conference was opened at Inya Lake Hotel here this morning. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung delivered an address at the conference.

Some 200 orthopaedic surgeons from Myanmar, the US, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan,

(See page 8)

Myanmar, Norway to cooperate in environmental conservation sector

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb— Seminar on Environmental Sector Cooperation and signing of Letter of Intent between Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry of Myanmar and Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway took place at the ministry, here, this morning.

Preservation of biodiversity and forests in Myanmar, water resources preservation and water resources administration in Sittoung and Bago river basins, preservation of Inlay Lake and cooperation for putting it into world heritage list, implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+), promoting cooperation with NGOs in environmental conservation tasks, capacity enhancement programmes for departments and organizations, learning advanced courses in the universities in Norway and rural development and poverty alleviation schemes were discussed in the seminar.

Then, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung and Deputy Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway Mr. Lars Andreas Lunde signed the Letter of Intent.—*MNA*

***Seminar on Environmental Sector Cooperation and signing of Letter of Intent in progress.*—MNA**