

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win host dinner to mark 67th Anniversary Union Day



NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—A reception to mark the 67th Anniversary Union Day and dinner hosted by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win was held at the square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, here, this evening.

Before the dinner, the President and his wife cordially greeted the MPs, chairpersons of the political parties and ministers for national

race affairs from regions and states.

The President and party viewed portraits of national leaders who signed the Panglong Agreement. Artist Sai Lay Myat from Taunggyi illustrated the portraits.

National people and vocalists presented songs to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan modern band.

After the dinner, art-

ists from Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture and cultural troupes entertained the guests with songs and dances. The ceremony was also attended by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe

Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and wife Daw Khin Pyone, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Union Election Commission

Chairman U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, the Union ministers, the senior military officers, chairpersons of Hluttaw Affairs Committees, MPs, deputy ministers, departmental heads and Union Day delegates from regions and states.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win greet dignitaries and Union Day delegates at reception and dinner to mark 67th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA

Japanese government grants US \$ 899,665 for four grass-roots human security projects in Taninthayi, Bago Regions, Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—bassador of the Embassy of Mr. Mikio NUMATA, Am-



Japanese Ambassador Mr. Mikio NUMATA presents assistance for No.1 BEHS in Bhamo, Kachin State to officials.—MNA

Committees from State and Region concerned, signed the grant contracts today for four projects, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, totalling US \$ 899,665 as listed below.

The project for construction of Madaukkalay Basic Education Primary School in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region (US \$ 121,937), the project for construction of No.1 BEHS in Bhamo Township, Kachin State (US \$ 395,895), the project for construction of

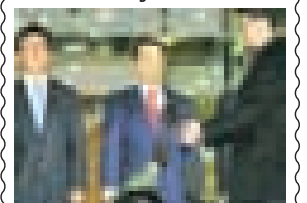
Thabut Village BEHS in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region (US \$ 216,576) and the project for construction of Nyin Htwe Village BEHS in Yebyu Township, Taninthayi Region (US \$ 165,257).

The four school projects in Shwegyin Township in Bago Region, Bhamo Township in Kachin State and Myeik and Yebyu townships in Taninthayi Region will benefit for 4,480 students, who are now studying under insufficient learning environment in old school buildings.

The fund provided by the Government of Japan will be used for constructing new R.C building with sufficient classrooms, toilets and provision of school furniture.

The government of Japan has helped 663 various grass-roots projects in Myanmar under this GGP scheme since 1993, and among them, 295 education projects are included. It is expected that these assistance will further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar.—MNA

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LOCAL NEWS

Illegal sawn timber seized in Hintha forest reserve in Katha District



KATHA, 12 Feb—Illegal sawn timbers of teak, ironwood, gum-kino, Tamalan, sal and other hardwood were seized in Hintha forest reserve of Katha District in Sagaing Region.

During the period from 29 January to 4 February, a squad led by Director U Soe Win-3 of Sagaing Region Forest Department and Assistant Director U Min Htut of Katha District Forest

Department made a field trip to Hintha forest reserve of the district to search illegal timber.

They seized 2548 illegal logs of teak, ironwood, gum-kino, Tamalan, sal and other hardwood weighing 356.1044 tons without owner.

It was learnt that the seized timbers will be handed over to Myanma Timber Enterprise.

Kyemon-Lu Aung (Katha)

Respects paid to teachers at Meiktila BEHS No 2

MEIKTILA, 12 Feb—The respect paying ceremony for the 10th time was held at Basic Education High School No 2 in Meiktila of Mandalay Region on 9 February.

The old students presented K 50000 to old students of over 60 to 80 years and K 100,000 to the

teachers above 80 years.

A total of 144 teachers attended the ceremony.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Saw Htay gave a speech.

On behalf of the teachers, teachers U Ba Htein and Daw Kyi Aung gave words of advices.

NLM-018

Jade stone weighing 15 tons found in Phakant Township

MYITKYINA, 12 Feb—A jade stone weighing 15 tons was found at a vacant plot far from jade exploration companies in Phakant Township of Mohnyin District of Kachin State at 5 pm on 9 February.

It was found on the downhill road to Mawtaung

Village of Wekha Village-tract in Phakant Township by local people.

The jade stone is 20 feet square with the football shape.

It was located 1500 feet from the sites of Yadana Kyei Gem Mining Co, 111 Gems Co and Ayeya Yadana

Gems Co.

The jade stone is being safeguarded by servicemen from local battalion, policemen and staff of Phakant Township Jade Office.

Kyemon-Moe Kya (Myitkyina)

Sugarcane harvested in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 12 Feb—Yellow sugarcane has been harvested in Myingyan of Mandalay Region.

The pieces of harvested sugarcane are being sent to Natogyi, Taungtha, Kyaukse, Myittha and Mandalay markets.

Myingyan sugarcane is being boosted this year and it is marketable.

The bundle of 10 pieces of sugarcane is sold at K 1800-K 2000.

The sugarcane grafts



are being cultivated in irrigated areas of Myingyan Township.—*Kyemon-Htay Myint Maung*

HRD

7th Convocation of University of Computer Studies (Dawei) held

DAWEI, 12 Feb—University of Computer Studies (Dawei) held the seventh convocation at the city hall in Dawei on 9 February.

Principal Dr Khin Aye Than of the university conferred certificates of degrees on the graduate students.

At the ceremony, degrees were conferred on

44 graduates.

The same day, Technological University (Dawei) held the convocation at the convocation hall of the university (Dawei).

Principal of the university Dr Aung Naing Myint conferred certificates of degrees on 151 graduates.

Kyemon-Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)



Construction

Kwanhsay Concrete Bridge under construction for smooth transport of agricultural produce

KYAUKSE, 12 Feb—A reinforced concrete bridge is being built across Kwansay Drain in Myinkabet Village of Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region.

The fund of Hluttaw representatives is being spent on construction tasks.

It is aimed at transporting paddy, sesame and beans from villages to the market.

The damaged bridge is being repaired to be new one.

K 1 million from the fund of Kyaukse Township Hluttaw representatives and K 1.5 million of local people have been spent on construction of 6 feet high, 12 feet wide and 28 feet long, according to Head of Township Rural Development Department

U Soe Myint.

With regard to construction of the new bridge, the village administrator said that local people faced difficulties

in transport of paddy and beans due to damaged bridge. Thanks to repair of the bridge, local people submitted the report to the township development

committee for construction of the bridge. Now, the local people will have good opportunities for better transportation.—*Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)*



WORLD

2 Koreas begin high-level talks, 1st in 7 years



Kim Kyou Hyun (C), head of the South Korean delegation, gives a Press conference in Seoul on 12 Feb, 2014, before heading for the border village of Panmunjeom to hold high-level talks with North Korean officials. The two Koreas held the first high-level meeting in seven years.

KYODO NEWS

SEOUL, 12 Feb — North and South Korea began high-level talks on Wednesday at the border village of Panmunjeom to discuss a wide range of issues, including the reun-

ions of families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War, South Korea's Unification Ministry said.

The talks are the first high-level meeting in seven years, with the last such fo-

rum held under the administration of late President Roh Moo Hyun.

"I will join the talks with an open attitude and mind to explore opportunities on beginning a new

(era) on the Korean Peninsula," Kim Kyou Hyun, head of the South Korean delegation, told reporters.

He said a specific agenda has not been fixed in advance, but he will try to focus on holding the reunions of separated families as scheduled later this month.

Kim, a former South Korean vice foreign minister, was recently named as the head of the secretariat of the National Security Council at the presidential office, complying with Pyongyang's request to have a chief negotiator from Cheong Wa Dae.

The South Korean delegation is composed of officials from the presidential office, Unification Ministry and also Defense Ministry.

North Korea's delegation is led by Won Dong Yon, vice director of the United Front Department of the Workers' Party of Korea, a body that deals with ties between the two countries. On Tuesday, South Korea's Unification Ministry announced the sudden arrangement of the inter-Korean talks, which will

also be the first since the inauguration of President Park Geun Hye in February last year.

North Korea made an offer for the talks last Saturday and the South eventually agreed to accept it, a South Korean official said on Tuesday.

The talks come amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula after South Korea and the United States announced earlier this week their annual combined military exercises will begin on 24 February despite North Korea's demand that the exercises be cancelled.

In a statement, the Combined Forces Command said Key Resolve, a command post exercise, will be held through 6 March, while Foal Eagle, a field training exercise, will be held through 18 April.

South Korea and the United States say they are purely defensive in nature and have no connection to ongoing or current events.

Both of them will involve thousands of US troops from outside South

Korea along with those already in the country.

Last Wednesday, North Korea and South Korea agreed to resume reunions of families separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War on 20-25 February, at a resort at the North's Mt. Kumgang, but Pyongyang subsequently indicated the reunions might be cancelled if the military exercises go ahead.

The North's powerful National Defence Commission issued a statement Thursday saying "war exercises and racket for confrontation are incompatible with dialogue and reconciliation," while it also lashed out at the United States for flying a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber off the coast of the Korean Peninsula the previous day.

Last year, the two Koreas similarly agreed to hold family reunions, but just days before they were to start, North Korea postponed them, blaming South Korea's "war drills" for ruining the atmosphere.

Kyodo News

Obama says US will deal harshly with violators of Iran sanctions

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb — President Barack Obama issued a sharp warning on Tuesday to companies eyeing business deals with Iran, saying the United States would come down like a "ton of bricks" on those that violated sanctions against Teheran.

Obama, speaking at a joint news conference with French President Francois Hollande, said France and other allies were committed to enforcing existing sanctions even as they worked together on a possible diplomatic deal over Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran and six world powers struck an interim

deal in November under which Teheran agreed to limit parts of its nuclear work in return for the easing of some sanctions.

The White House and Western governments are eager to show that, despite diplomatic talks for a longer-term agreement, pressure on Iran remains high.

Last week the Obama administration targeted a host of businesses across Europe and the Middle East for evading sanctions against Iran, the second time Washington has done so since the November agreement.

Obama cited those actions in his warning to com-



US President Barack Obama speaks during a visit to Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan on 7 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

panies around the world.

"Businesses may be exploring, 'are there some possibilities to get in sooner rather than later if and when there is an actual agreement to be had?'" Obama said.

"They do so at their own peril right now, because we will come down on them like a ton of bricks with respect to the sanc-

tions that we control."

Hollande appeared somewhat on the defensive about the issue. Last week Iran welcomed a delegation of more than 100 French executives, telling them the far-sighted among the group would gain in the race for businesses following an easing of economic sanctions.—Reuters

Russia says will veto Syria aid resolution in current form

MOSCOW, 12 Feb—Russia said on Wednesday it would veto a U.N. resolution on humanitarian aid access in Syria in its current form, denouncing the draft as an effort to lay a foundation for military strikes against President Bashar al-Assad's government.

Moscow had already dismissed the Western-Arab draft debated in the Security Council on Tuesday as a non-starter, but a senior diplomat's unequivocal condemnation indicated Russia would seek major changes before dropping its opposition.

"Its whole purpose and

aim is to create grounds for future military action against the Syrian government if some demands it includes are not met," Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov said of the draft, according to state-run news agency RIA. "It is unacceptable to us in the form in which it is now being prepared, and we, of course, will not let it through."

Since the civil war began in Syria in 2011, Russia and China have vetoed three Western-backed Security Council resolutions condemning Assad's government and threatening it with sanctions.—Reuters



Free Syrian Army fighters pull carpets along a rubble-filled street as they prepare to use them as curtains to provide cover from snipers loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Deir al-Zor, eastern Syria on 11 February, 2014.—REUTERS

10 killed as militants storm peace militia's house NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb — At least 10 people were killed when some unknown militants stormed the house of a local peace militia commander in Pakistan's northwest Peshawar city, local media reported on Wednesday morning.

Abb Tak TV channel reported that in an

overnight attack, militants killed the pro-government peace militia commander together with his nine family members including his brother, who was also working for the militia, as well as women and kids in his household in Badaber area of Peshawar, the capital city of the coun-

try's northwest Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Province.

Police said that the militants hurled hand grenade at the house first, and when the family members came out of the house they opened fire at them, killing all of them right on the spot.

Neighbours of the

commander said that the deceased helped police to arrest many insurgents, which enraged the militants, who killed him and his whole family. They said that a few months earlier the same house was attacked in which three people were killed.

Xinhua

UN agency warns of worsening security in CAR

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Feb — The UN human rights office has warned of worsening security in the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR) and is working to restart the country's judicial system, a UN spokesperson said on Tuesday.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) noted that targeted assassinations, increased violence and criminality on the streets are reported in Bangui and "is particularly worried about the climate of complete impunity in the country," said Martin Nesirky at a regular briefing at the UN headquarters in New York.

According to the office, a member of the National Transitional Council of the CAR was assassinated on Sunday in front of his residence in broad daylight. Houses of Seleka ministers, including that of the former Minister of Justice, were looted. UN human rights staff in the CAR also conducted a mission to Boda, a town west of Bangui, where 92 people were reportedly killed in the past two weeks in attacks on religious grounds.

The OHCHR has been working with partners to try to restart the judicial process in Bangui to combat the pervasive impunity. It also called for respect of

human rights of all people in the country, Nesirky said.

The crisis in the CAR, which began when the mostly Muslim Seleka rebels launched attacks a year ago, has since taken on increasingly sectarian overtones.

Last December, the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of French and African troops to restore order in Bangui.

After the resignation of the transitional government, the CAR installed a caretaker government last month in a bid to pull the turmoil-torn country out of crisis and organize general elections by February 2015.

Xinhua



US President Barack Obama (R) and First Lady Michelle Obama welcome French President Francois Hollande (C) for the State Dinner at the North Portico of the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 11 Feb, 2014. The United States and France are standing together to address issues of mutual concern, presidents of the two countries told a news conference on Tuesday, in a show of solidarity for revamped Franco-American ties.—XINHUA



Former health minister Yoichi Masuzoe (L) receives flowers after arriving at the metropolitan government offices on 12 Feb, 2014, to start work as governor following his landslide victory in the gubernatorial election three days earlier. KYODO NEWS

5 arrested in Sydney after drugs worth 163 mln USD found in kayaks

SYDNEY, 12 Feb — Five people have been arrested following a joint Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) operation that stopped 183 kg of methamphetamine from entering Australia, AFP said on Wednesday. The drugs worth about 180 million AU dollars (163 million US dollars) were hidden in a shipment of Kayaks from China.

The four men and one woman were arrested on Tuesday in the Sydney suburbs of Hillsdale and Kensington over the drug haul.

On 5 February, ACBPS officers at the Sydney Container Examination Facility selected a container from China for x-ray inspection and found the drug. The examination revealed 19 of the 27 kayaks contained packages with methamphetamine inside. On Tuesday, the AFP conducted a controlled delivery of the container to a

Sydney storage facility in Hillsdale in Sydney's south, where they arrested three men and one woman, all from China's Taiwan.

The AFP later arrested a 32-year-old man at his Kensington home following further investigations.

The five are scheduled to appear in Sydney Local Court on Wednesday.

The maximum penalty for these offenses is life imprisonment, the AFP said.

ACBPS Regional Director NSW, Tim Fitzgerald, said the arrests were a joint effort by ACBPS and the AFP. "By working with the Australian Federal Police, we have again stopped criminals seeking to damage our communities," he said.

The AFP says it is coordinating with its law enforcement partners in China and China's Taiwan through its international network as part of ongoing investigations into this matter.

Xinhua

11 killed in hand grenade attack at cinema in Pakistan's Peshawar

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb — At least 11 people were killed and 25 others injured on Tuesday afternoon in a hand grenade attack at a cinema in Pakistan's north-western provincial capital of Peshawar, police said.

City Police Chief Ijaz Ahmad told the media that the incident took place at 3:40 pm local time when some unknown assailants hurled three hand grenades at the people who were watching movie in the Shama Cinema in the downtown area of Peshawar, provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

Police and rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the injured to the Lady Reading Hospital in the city.

Hospital sources said the death toll may further rise as many of the injured were in critical condition and were being treated in intensive care units of the hospital.

Hospital management

also appealed to the public for urgent blood donations.

At the time of the attack, around 60-70 people were watching film in the main hall of the cinema.

An eyewitness said he was outside the cinema when he heard three blasts and then saw a few of the injured, limping and crying, rushing outside.

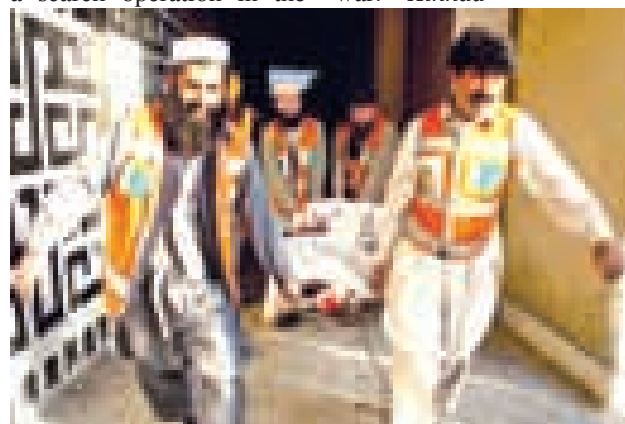
No group or militant organization claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

Police has launched a search operation in the

nearby areas to arrest the suspects.

Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif strongly condemned the attack and asked the concerned authorities to ensure that best medical assistance is provided to the injured.

Earlier on 2 February, at least five people were killed and 31 others injured when a hand grenade attack targeted a crowded "Picture House Cinema" in the downtown area of Peshawar.—Xinhua



Rescuers transfer a body from the blast site in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 11 Feb, 2014.—XINHUA

Gold mine explosion kills three in northwestern Colombia

BOGOTA, 12 Feb — At least three workers were killed on Tuesday during the explosion of a gold mine in a rural area of Novita municipality, Colombia's northwest department of Choco, local media reported. The authorities announced that they've started investigation to find out the causes of the accident.

Benigno Moya, Cho-

co's director of risk management, confirmed to local daily *El Espectador* the death of three workers from the mine, adding that they still do not know if there are more workers injured during the explosion.

"I talked to the mayor of Novita and he confirmed that three miners were killed, but he did not explain what caused the ex-

plosion," Moya told local radio station Caracol Radio.

The victims were identified as Juan Clemente Mosquera, 24, William David Asprilla, 28, and Garlin Mosquera, 22.

According to *El Espectador*, rescue work continues on the site of the accident, while two other workers allegedly disappeared.—Xinhua

British museum to restore rare Kamikaze attack plane

LONDON, 12 Feb — The Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm Museum will restore a rare Ohka Kamikaze attack plane intended for use against the US fleet during World War II.

The museum, which is located in the southwestern England town of Yeovil, plans to remove paint applied to the plane following the war and restore the craft's original markings in preparation for a future exhibit on World War II, museum officials said.

The museum believes that only around 10 Ohka Kamikaze aircraft still exist. The Imperial Japanese Navy plane was developed exclusively for suicide missions against enemy shipping.

During the restoration process, workmen conducted a detailed examination of the plane and discovered technical markings and Japanese text hidden under the post-war layers of paint. Museum staff expect the entire restoration process will take over a year.

Britain acquired the plane during the war. In 1982, the Science Museum in London, where it was stored, sent it to its current location, where it hung in the building's rafters for over 30 years.

Kyodo News

WORLD

Suspects identified in Yunnan police station attack

KUNMING, 12 Feb — Police in southwest China's Yunnan Province have identified 16 suspects in a violent attack on a local police station last week, local authorities said on Wednesday.

The suspects are believed to be among some 100 residents of Baha Village in Babao Township who raided the Babao police station at 12:50 pm on Friday, according to a statement from the publicity office of Guangan County, which administers Babao Township.

The rampage, resulting in injuries to two government employees and a villager, came after three villagers were summoned to the police station on Friday morning in connection to earlier vandalism at a local factory, said the statement.

On 3 February, around 100 Baha villagers destroyed manufacturing facilities at the Jiangnan iron and alloy factory over an environmental dispute, it said.

Following the police station assault, a work team dispatched by the county government ordered the factory to move out of the village within a year after consulting villagers. The factory's operation was suspended by authorities in October 2013. The work team is conducting "legal education" in the village, encouraging those who participated in the Friday attack to turn themselves in to police.—Xinhua



Yemeni people hold a national flag of Yemen below a huge picture of Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi as they take part in a celebration event in Sanaa, Yemen, on 11 Feb, 2014. Tens of thousands of Yemeni people participated in the event commemorating the third anniversary of the 2011 revolution that forced former president Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down.—XINHUA



Photo released by the Turkish Presidential Palace shows visiting Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy (R) meets with Turkish President Abdullah Gul in Ankara, Turkey, on 11 Feb, 2014. Mariano Rajoy on Tuesday pledged support to Turkey in its efforts to join the EU.—XINHUA

Algerian president warns against attempts to destabilize military

ALGIERS, 12 Feb — Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika on Tuesday warned against any attempts to destabilize the military.

"No one has the right, whatever his position, to attack the People's National Army or other state institutions," Bouteflika said in a message of condolences to victims of a military plane crash that killed 77 people on the same day.

He was obviously referring to the open criticism of the country's military intelligence chief by the leader of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

FLN Secretary General Amar Saadani, a staunch supporter of Bouteflika for a fourth term in April elections, demanded Gen Mohamed Mediene, chief of the Department of Intelligence and Security, resign.

Saadani accused Mediene, alias "Toufik," of pre-

venting President Bouteflika from running for a fourth term and interfering in the work of political parties, the judiciary and the press.

Bouteflika, however, has sided with the military.

"Even if public opinion is accustomed to excesses from certain circles at the approach of elections, this time, the fury has taken a magnitude that our country has never known since independence as it attempts to undermine the unity of the People's National Army and the country's stability and its image in the inter-

national community," said Bouteflika in the message.

The ailing president has yet to declare whether his health will allow him to run again in the 17 April presidential elections. He was hospitalized in Paris for three months last year.

A Hercules C-130 transport aircraft crashed around Tuesday noon in the eastern Oum El Bouaghi Province. There was only one survivor.

The president has declared three days of national mourning starting Wednesday.

Xinhua

Indian PM meets with Chinese special representative for border problem

NEW DELHI, 12 Feb — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday met with visiting Chinese Special Representative for Border Problem between China and India and State Councilor Yang Jiechi.

Singh said that with great efforts made by leaders of the two countries over the past several years, India and China have achieved tremendous results in developing their relations.

The prime minister

said that a long-term, stable and developing relationship between the two countries is the continuous choice of India and that the two sides should maintain the momentum for high level exchanges to promote strategic coordination. He adding that he looked forward to the organization of India China Year of Friendly Exchanges this year and commemorative activities for the 60th anniversary of the birth of the Five Principles

of Peaceful Co-existence.

Singh said the two sides should continue to promote economic and trade cooperation, actively participate in the construction of the Bangladesh-India-China-Myanmar economic corridor and the "Silk Road" economic belt.

He expressed appreciation for the active role being played by the meetings of the special representatives for border problem of the countries while expressing

his hope that the two sides would seek the framework for solving the border problem through talks and in the meantime maintain stable development of bilateral relations. Singh expressed his hope that India and China would strengthen cooperation in G-20, BRICS countries and other multilateral frameworks to help encourage the global political and economic order to move towards a fairer and more reasonable direction.—Xinhua

Israel unveils "Super Heron" MALE drone

JERUSALEM, 12 Feb — Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) on Tuesday unveiled the newest "Super Heron" drone at the Singapore Air Show, an aircraft that "redefines" Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial systems, said in a statement of IAI.

The newest drone fea-

tures a heavy fuel engine and a propulsion system that enable it to operate at an altitude of 30,000 feet (about 9 km), fly 1000 km when linked to satellite communications, and remain aloft for 45 hours, according to IAI's report at a Press release.

"Its forte lies in the

enhanced triple-redundant avionics, processing capabilities, operational flexibility, and simple integration of more diversified payloads, among other features," an IAI spokeswoman told Xinhua.

The Super Heron is a significantly upgraded version of the "Shoval," the

first Heron-type drone to have entered service in the Israel Air Force (IAF) in 2007, where it has since been used in intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance (ISTAR), maritime patrol and other missions, and has been sold to 20 foreign customers.—Xinhua

Man pleads not guilty to sending threats from virus-infected PCs

TOKYO, 12 Feb — A 31-year-old man pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to charges of having remotely operated other people's personal computers to issue a bomb threat, as well as threaten other violent attacks, totaling 10 cases, in 2012 in Japan.

Yusuke Katayama said his indictment for the alleged threats was "absolutely groundless," in the first hearing of his trial at the Tokyo District Court.

Prosecutors said Katayama used Internet message boards to infect PCs with viruses enabling him to control them remotely and send e-mail threats, including a bomb threat that forced a New York-bound

Japan Airlines flight to return to Narita Airport.

They said they had detected traces of the remote-control virus in a PC at an information technology company where Katayama had worked and that Katayama visited a location where a memory device containing the virus was found.

But no material evidence has been found. Katayama has persistently denied his involvement in the alleged crime since his arrest last February.

Before his arrest, police wrongly arrested four other persons whose computers were remotely used to issue threats by e-mail.

Kyodo News

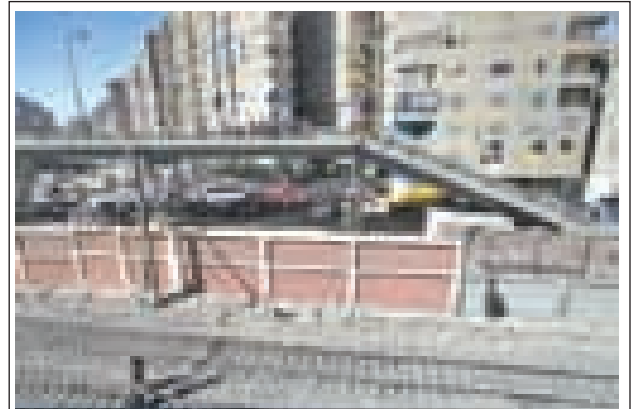


Photo taken on 11 Feb, 2014 shows a scene of the partly collapsed Sheikh Mansour Bridge in Cairo, Egypt. One person was killed and four others wounded on Tuesday when the bridge was partly collapsed in Cairo, state-run Ahram Online reported.—XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Star-rich galaxy found from universe's baby years

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 12 Feb — Astronomers have found an old and distant galaxy that is believed to date back to a time when the universe was just 650 million years old, a fraction of its current age. The galaxy, known as Abell 2744_Y1, is about 30 times smaller than the Milky Way, but pumping out stars at a prodigious rate.

If confirmed, the newly found galaxy would push back the universe's galaxy-formation clock by 100 million years to 650 million

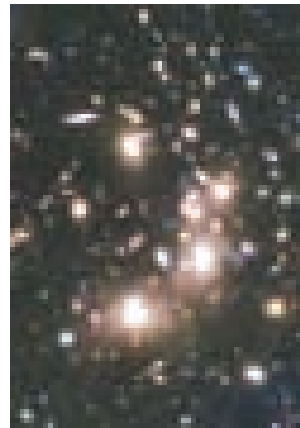
years after the Big Bang explosion some 13.8 billion years ago. Another candidate galaxy, which was discovered in 2012, dates back to just 500 million years after the birth of the universe.

Abell 2744_Y1 is the first distant galaxy to be found during a new Hubble Space Telescope project that makes use of naturally occurring zoom lenses in space. These occur when objects with extremely powerful gravity, such as a cluster of galaxies, bend and magnify light from

more distant objects, relative to Earth's line of sight.

Occasionally, the warped space will bring into focus a more distant object, such as it did with Abell 2744_Y1. "The cluster of galaxies act as additional lens and can convert the mirror of the Hubble Space telescope to a mirror at least 10 times larger," astronomer Nicolas Laporte, with the Astrophysics Institute of the Canary Islands, wrote in an email to Reuters.

Reuters



A long-exposure Hubble Space Telescope image of the galaxy cluster Abell 2744, the deepest ever made image of any cluster of galaxies, is seen in an undated NASA handout.

REUTERS

Instant messaging app Viber in talks to be acquired

TEL AVIV, 12 Feb — The Viber instant messaging application is in talks to be acquired for \$300 million-\$400 million by a leading instant messaging company from Asia, the *Calcalist* financial newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Viber is run from Cyprus by Israeli entrepreneur Talmon Marco and has development centers in Belarus and Israel. Company officials were not immediately available for comment.

Asia has several mobile chat applications such

as Chinese WeChat, Japanese Line, and KakaoTalk from South Korea.

The company is funded from the pockets of its founders and several private investors from the United States, *Calcalist* said.

Viber has about 200 million registered users in 193 countries. It launched an instant messaging app for personal computers that allows users to make outgoing mobile calls to other Viber users and to non-registered mobiles, making it a rival to Skype.

Reuters



Viber's Founder and CEO Marco Talmon gestures during a news conference at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 26 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Reuters

Scientists find gene linking brain's grey matter to intelligence

LONDON, 12 Feb — Researchers have found a gene linking intelligence to the thickness of so-called "grey matter" in the brain, and say their discovery could help scientists understand how and why some people have learning difficulties. An international team of scientists analyzed DNA samples and

brain scans from more than 1,500 healthy 14-year-olds and gave them a series of tests to establish their verbal and non-verbal intelligence.

The researchers looked at the cerebral cortex — the outermost layer of the brain that is also known as "grey matter" and plays a key role in memory, attention, per-

ceptual awareness, thought, language and consciousness. They then analyzed more than 54,000 genetic variants possibly involved in brain development and found that, on average, teenagers with a particular gene variant had a thinner cortex in the left half of their brains — and were the ones who performed less

well on tests for intellectual ability.

"The genetic variation we identified is linked to synaptic plasticity — how neurons communicate," said Sylvane Desrivieres, who led the study at King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry.

Reuters



S Korea opens second Antarctic research station

SEOUL, 12 Feb — South Korea's second Antarctic research station officially opened on Wednesday, making it the 10th country to operate more than one year-round stations in the Antarctic, South Korea's ministry of oceans and fisheries said on Wednesday.

The Jang Bogo Station, named after a renowned admiral in Silla period, has been completed after 21-month construction.

It located in Terra Nova Bay (E74 37) in Victoria Land, the southeastern tip of the Antarctic, some 4,500 km apart from South Korea's first Antarctic sta-

tion King Sejong. A dedication ceremony was held at the new station at 10:00 AM local time, attended by around 300 people.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye sent a congratulatory video message to the ceremony, saying Antarctica was a key region that South Korea must trailblaze to expand their science and resources territory.

The station, which measures 4,458 square meters with 16 buildings of research laboratories, living quarters, power house and 24 observational and other facilities, is able to accommodate 15 people

in winter and up to 60 in summer, according to the ministry. Jang Bogo station was built and will be operated by making full use of eco-friendly construction materials and green renewable energy such as solar and wind energy.

The aerodynamics design enables the station to fight the temperature of 40 degree below zero and 65 meter per second wind.

South Korea unveiled the Jang Bogo project and conducted the first site survey in 2006, aiming to build a new year-round station in the southeastern part of the Antarctic.

Xinhua

FireEye takes on Cisco, Palo Alto with new cyber product

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Feb — Cybersecurity firm FireEye Inc plans to take on Cisco Systems Inc and Palo Alto Networks Inc in selling intrusion prevention systems, which help companies detect cyber threats that breach their firewalls. FireEye said on Monday it wants to start selling the new products by the middle of this year, adding to its existing technology that helps protect computers from infection by tainted messages and malicious websites.

The intrusion prevention systems (IPS) market totaled nearly \$1.9 billion in 2012, according to market research firm IDC. That is nearly 10 times

the size of the market for specialized threat analysis and protection technology, for which FireEye is best known. "They are really working to broaden their addressable market," said John Grady, an analyst with IDC who was briefed by FireEye on the new IPS technology. Besides Cisco and Palo Alto Networks, other players in the IPS market include Intel Corp and Trend Micro Inc, according to Grady.

FireEye has been aggressively expanding since it went public last year in one of the hottest US stock market debuts. Its shares have nearly quadrupled since September 2013 and

jumped 8.65 percent to close at \$78.85 on Monday on the Nasdaq. In December, FireEye purchased cyber forensics and security software firm Mandiant Corp for about \$1 billion. The company is best known for uncovering a Chinese military unit believed to be behind a series of hacking attacks on US companies. Entering the IPS market is part of FireEye Chief Executive Dave DeWalt's strategy of developing a technology platform that customers can use to run a variety of products to protect their networks from cyber attacks.

When he was named CEO in November 2012, FireEye's technology was well regarded by industry analysts, but many described it as a provider of a niche product that companies needed to bolt on to software and equipment from bigger security firms. Adding new product lines could help the company achieve profitability. FireEye has reported large losses over the past year as DeWalt spent heavily to build a global sales force to market its products.

Reuters



A magnifying glass is held in front of a computer screen in this picture illustration taken in Berlin on 21 May, 2013.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Prada 2013 sales growth of 9 percent lags estimates

HONG KONG, 12 Feb—Italian fashion house Prada SpA (1913.HK) said on Wednesday that sales grew just 9 percent in the year ended 31 January, hurt by economic weakness in Europe and a stronger euro.

Prada, which makes luxury handbags, shoes, eye glasses and Miu Miu-branded dresses, published a preliminary sales figure of 3.59 billion euros (\$4.9

billion) for 2013. Analysts on average were expecting 3.67 billion euros, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Sales in Europe grew just 5 percent. Sales in Asia and the Americas grew by 11 percent each, and sales in Japan grew by 24 percent.

Greater China, which has been a major focus for investors as a crack down on

corruption and conspicuous consumption has hurt sales for many luxury goods sellers, contributed 826 million euros to Prada's fiscal 2013 revenue.

The Hong Kong-listed Prada Group opened 79 new stores last year, bringing the number of directly operated stores to 540 as of the end of January.

The figures in Wednesday's sales report are pre-

liminary. Prada is tentatively scheduled to give a full, audited earnings report on 2 April.

Prada shares closed down 1 percent at \$63.65 on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. They are down 8 percent so far this year compared with a 4.4 percent year-to-date decline in the benchmark Hang Seng index.

Reuters



A model presents a creation from Prada Spring/Summer 2014 collection during Milan Fashion Week on 19 September, 2013.—REUTERS

Boeing struggles with 787 production bottlenecks



A 787 Dreamliner being built for India Air is pictured at South Carolina Boeing final assembly building in North Charleston, in this 19 Dec, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

SEATTLE/NORTH CHARLESTON, (South Carolina), 12 Feb — A 787 that rolled out of Boeing's factory in Everett, Washington, in January was hailed as an important milestone: the first Dreamliner built at a rate of 10 a month, the fastest for a twin-aisle jet. But some employees who work on the aircraft are calling into question Boeing Co's (BA.N) ability to sustain that pace. They say the two factories that assemble the 787 are struggling to cope with a ramp-up in production that started late last year, and a huge backlog of unfinished work threatens to slow output.

Boeing's plant in North Charleston, South Carolina, cannot finish thousands of work orders and is sending pieces to the larger plant in Everett to be completed so that the company can maintain its 10-a-month rate, according to four employees who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A work order can be as simple as attaching a part or as complex as installing a duct system. A senior employee in Everett said the problem is particularly acute with the jet's complex wiring: fuselage sections were arriving from

North Charleston with large bundles of wires that were not connected properly. The South Carolina workers have the skills to produce the plane correctly "but there are not enough of them to match the rate increase," the senior employee said. "They can't keep up."

Boeing said it is aware of the bottlenecks and is working to fix the problems. The company has hired hundreds of contract workers in South Carolina, and created special teams in Everett to inspect the planes and tackle the extra tasks, known as "traveled work" because it was moved from South Carolina to Everett. "While we try to minimize it, traveled work is something we deal with in all production programs," said Boeing spokesman Marc Birtel.

"The 787 programme remains on track to meet its delivery commitments in 2014 and we are producing 787s at a rate of 10 per month as planned."

The backlog, first reported in the *Seattle Times*, comes as the US Federal Aviation Administration has launched an audit of Boeing's factories this month.

Reuters

Pregnant teens under age 15 face unique risks

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — Girls who became pregnant before age 15 were more likely to report having sex with much older partners and initially forgoing contraception than their slightly older peers, according to a new study. Nearly 36 percent of girls who first got pregnant before age 15 had sex for the first time with a partner at least six years older, compared to 17 percent of girls who got pregnant between 15 and 19.

That statistic "is very serious and represents complicated relationships with unequal power," said lead author and obstetrician Dr Marcela Smid, from the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She worked on the study while at the University of Chicago. To make better use of public health awareness and intervention campaigns, Smid and her team wanted to know more about how very young teens were at risk of becoming pregnant. They used data from the National Survey of Family Growth collected between 2006 and 2010. A total of 3,384 women reported on the survey that they had their first pregnancy before age 20. Within that group, 289 women had become pregnant before age 15 and the rest between 15 and 19.

Merck joins race to copy Sanofi's diabetes drug Lantus

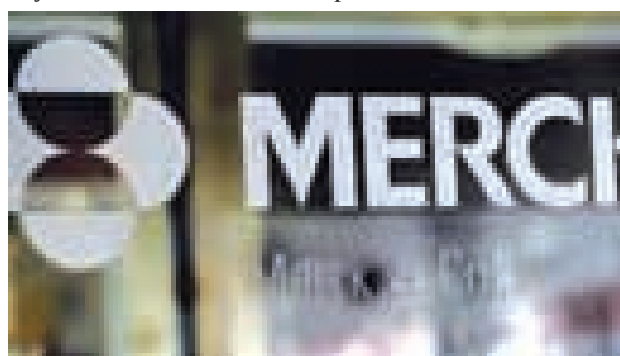
NEW YORK, 12 Feb — US drugmaker Merck & Co has joined the race to make a cut-price copy of Sanofi's top-selling insulin treatment Lantus, increasing the long-term threat to the French company's \$7 billion-a-year product.

Merck, which is working with Samsung Bioepis on the project, said on Monday its version of glargine — the generic name for Lantus — would soon enter late-stage Phase III studies in type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Until now, the only company with a copycat version of Lantus in late-stage clinical development has been Eli Lilly.

"The relevance of today's announcement to

Sanofi is the potential for greater price erosion and market share loss from two 'generic' Lantus," analysts at Bernstein said in a research note. "We currently model 'generic' erosion of Lantus in our Sanofi model in the mid-2016 timeframe. This erosion could accelerate more quickly now that a second player is likely to enter in the 2016 timeframe."

In the case of the Lilly product, Sanofi sued triggering a 30-month stay of approval by the US Food and Drug Administration. It could consider the same action with Merck. Lantus accounts for close to a fifth of Sanofi's total sales and over a third of its operating profit.—Reuters



Girls who became pregnant before age 15 were twice as likely as older girls to be Hispanic or black, the researchers found. Younger pregnant teens were less likely to have been living with both biological parents at age 14 and less likely to have been brought up within the Catholic or Protestant religions. Only 25 percent of the youngest teen group reported using contraceptives the first time they had sex, compared to 56 percent of older girls. While it is "a little bit easier to study live births with national survey and surveillance data," those statistics don't tell the complex story of pregnancies, Smid said.

Many pregnancies among very young girls end in miscarriage or abortion, she noted. "We know that their risk of poor pregnancy outcomes is the highest of any age group, even when compared with women who

get pregnant at age 45," Smid said. In general, US teen pregnancy rates have gradually declined, but, for the youngest teens especially, "any pregnancy rate above zero is too high," she said. About one in 1,000 girls under the age of 15 became pregnant in 2008, the researchers write in the journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. That compares with about 68 per 1,000 girls between ages 15 and 19.

The researchers also found that 89 percent of the under-15 group did not want to become pregnant in the first place, compared with 75 percent of teens between ages 15 and 19. "There are still things we don't know," Smid said. "For example, we looked at the first sex experience, but we don't know the circumstance or the partner involved in the first pregnancy."

Reuters

Melanoma incidences increase with altitude, though deaths decrease

VIENNA, 12 Feb — A new study from the Medical University of Vienna in Austria has found that melanoma incidences increase with altitude, though the mortality rate from the cancers decreases.

The reason for this contradiction is unclear, the researchers at the Institute of Environmental Hygiene at the University said. Study head Hans Moshhammer said it could be related to improved vitamin D supply at higher altitudes.

He said at an altitude of 10 metres above sea level and observed per year, the incidences of melanoma increase by two percent due to higher, more intense sun exposure. The mortality rate however drops 0.4 percent per 10 metres

for men, and 0.7 percent for women.

This may be due to doctors and patients paying more attention to potential skin cancers at higher altitudes. Though Moshhammer told the APA he thinks the increased vitamin D production due to increased sunlight exposure at the higher altitudes which hinder the development of various cancers, perhaps also melanoma, may also be a key factor.

The Viennese team, said the overall mortality rate for the disease, particularly dangerous if treated too late, had increased in recent times largely due to climate change, including stronger UV radiation due to a weakened ozone layer.—Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 13 February, 2014

Human dignity

They go to a nearest place where a space is reserved. That is when they go to bed. A dirty linen and their uncut hairs are pillows. They sleep on the platform, in front of some stores and under a tree, with no shelter, with no blanket, and with no human dignity. Any human beings deserve more than how these down and out people currently live their lives.

We have enough answers already. Now we need actions. We talked of social welfare which the poorest population of the country gets next to nothing. Are we hoping for another Mother Teresa emerging?

We used to focus on talking actions against the homeless people. Are actions to help them out too expensive? The country is prone to land grab issues and the real estate prices are soaring while the price for human labour is as cheapest as it could be.

Now we are not supposed to just think of theories, talk of rules and regulations, and relate politics to these issues. We need no more words. If we are going to create a brand new face of the country, basically we need to make sure that each and every citizen of the country has the rights to human dignity and decent life.

Knowledge on drugs abuse, traffic rules disseminated in Mohnyin Tsp

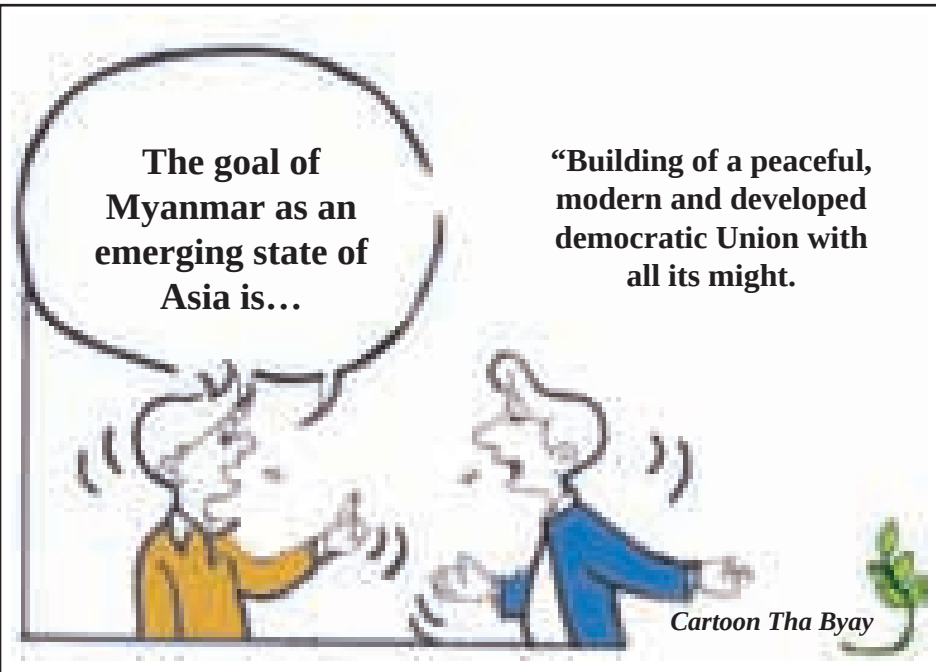
MOHNYIN, 12 Feb—Educative talks on drugs abuse and traffic rules took place at Mohnyin Degree College in Mohnyin of Kachin State, here, on 6 and 7 February respectively.

District Police Force Commander Police Lt-Col Tun Tun Win, Medical Superintendent Dr Htay Htay Win of the District General Hospital and Head of Directorate of Road Administration U Ko Ko Lay

disseminated knowledge about the menace of drugs and traffic rules enforcement to Principal Dr Aung Min Win, faculty members and students of the degree college, totalling over 1000.

According to the police's records and that of the township court, drugs abuse cases and traffic accidents topped the chart among other cases in Mohnyin Township.

NLM-001



Cartoon Tha Byay

German President, wife conclude visit



German President Mr. Joachim Gauck and wife Mrs. Daniela Schadt being seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay and party.—MNA

YANGON, 12 Feb—The visiting goodwill German delegation led by President Mr. Joachim Gauck and wife Mrs. Daniela Schadt left here by special flight this morning.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to Germany U Soe Nwe and German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Christian Ludwig Weber-Lortsch and their wives and officials.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win back...

(from page 16)
from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office.

Commander of Mingaladon Airbase Brig-Gen Thein Naing, Brig-Gen

Myint Nwe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior military officers also arrived back on the same flight.

Myawady

Taungup Township gets rural library

TAUNGUP, 12 Feb—A ceremony to put Thuta Alinyaung Library into service was held in Kyaukseiktaung Village of Taungup Township, Rakhine State, on 9 February.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Myint Shwe and village administrator U Soe Yi formally opened the library.

The Head of Township IPRD explained the purpose of opening the library and its durability. Officials explained advantages of reading.

Next, the head of township IPRD donated 45 copies of books for the library to the village administrator.

The newly-opened library building is 20 feet long and 18 feet wide. The library building was constructed at a cost of K 1.3 million on a self-reliant basis.—Township IPRD



Vice-Senior General Soe Win being welcomed back by officials at Yangon International Airport.—Myawady



The opening ceremony of Thuta Alinyaung library in progress in Kyaukseiktaung Village of Taungup Township.

Animal vaccination plan clarified

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Deputy Director of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Soe Thein met heads of district and township departments at his office, here, on

7 February.

The deputy director explained the plan on vaccination for animals in 2014-15 fiscal year.

The department distributed 500 ducks to Pyinmana Township, 200 to

Zabuthiri Township, 200 to Ottarathiri Township, 400 to Pobbathiri Township, 200 to Zeyathiri Township and 300 to Lewe Township, totaling 1800 for rural development.

Myo Zeyar (Pyinmana)

LOCAL NEWS

District IPRD showcases books in NyaungU



NYAUNGU, 12 Feb—In honour the 67th Anniversary Union Day, NyaungU District Information and Public Relations Department held the books show as public service so as to raise reading habit at its library in NyaungU of Mandalay Region on 11 February.

The district IPRD held the show with the aim of broadening the horizon of the people to choose books what is good or bad, to culture good habit of reading at spare time and seeking experiences and knowledge through reading.

The District Library is giving service to the readers with issuance of borrowing cards and membership cards.

About 200 students, teachers and bookworms attended the book show.

Kyemon-Ye Thura Aung (NyaungU)

Electrification

Rural area of Pobbathiri Tsp enjoys electrification

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The ceremony to launch self-reliant power supply was held in Ywathit Village-tract of Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 11 February morning.

Village authorities formally launched the power supply.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council in-charge of Pobbathiri Township U Than Htay switched on the supply of electricity.

They then viewed round residences enjoying electricity.

Chairman of the electrification committee U Hla Win reported on efforts made for power supply.

Ottara District Electrical Engineer U Myo Than Tun explained facts about to abide by the disciplines for prevention of electrical dangers.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Than Htay explained electrification progress in villages of the township.

Ywathit Village got one 300 KV transformer arranged by the President. In the work process, electricity can be supplied to 166 of 350 houses in the village. Power lines will be installed for remaining houses, said the chairman of the electrification committee.

Min Min Latt (Mann Tekkatho)

Development

Progress of construction tasks inspected in Bilin Township

BILIN, 12 Feb—Thaton District Management Committee Chairman and party together with township level development

affairs committee and development supportive committee, and departmental officials held a meeting on development of the town at the Bilin

Township Administrator Office on 10 February.

After that, they visited villages in the township and looked into progress of development tasks

Hotel managers hold talks on census taking process in Ngwehsaung

NGWEHSAUNG, 12 Feb—A meeting on taking census for 2014 was held at Ambo Hotel in Ngwehsaung Sub-Township in Patheingyi District of Ayeyawady

Region on 9 February. Officials of Township Immigration and National Registration Department and Sub-Township Information and Public Relations

Department explained 41 points of questions in taking census at the hotels. The Sub-Township IPRD Head

such as sinking tube-well, construction of laterite road, digging of drains, building of bridge and library.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

urged hotel managers to donate books to the library of the sub-township.

MMAL-Sub-Township IPRD

Myanmar Industries Association to hold AGM

YANGON, 12 Feb—The 19th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Industries Association will take place at the UMFC Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township at 10

am on 1 March. All members of the association are urged to attend the meeting without fail, said the executive committee.

Aung Thura

Pay Your Tax

Telecommunication

WCDMA SIM cards sold to pensioners

DAWEI, 12 Feb—As WCDMA SIM cards are sold to pensioners, Dawei Township allotted to pensioners at its office on 10 February under the arrangement of Township Administrator U Chan Nyein Aung, staff and ward/village authorities.

The SIM cards were sold to 350 retired service

personnel in 15 wards and five villages of the township.

“I think my dream would not be true to possess one mobile telephone. But the dream comes true now. As I am in poor health, I can contact my family easily,” said a retired staff of over 70 years.

Kyemon-Po Shwe Thun



Wall magazine, photo & book show, computer donation at IPRD



YANGON, 12 Feb—In honour of the 67th Anniversary Union Day, the wall magazine, photo and book show and computer donation was held at Tamway Township

Information and Public Relations Department, here, on 10 February.

Students of Tamway BEHS No 3 sang song entitled Nation Myanmar.

Township level

officials formally opened the ceremony.

In-charge of Mobile King U Ba Chit handed over one set of computer to Yangon East District IPRD Staff Officer U Soe Nyunt

Shwe.

The ceremony was also attended by departmental officials, students, members of NGOs and people totalling over 200.

Kyemon-Hla Hla

WORLD



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (L) holds a welcoming ceremony for his Spanish counterpart Mariano Rajoy in Ankara, Turkey, on 11 Feb, 2014.
XINHUA

Six Afghan militants killed in fresh raids

KABUL, 12 Feb — About six Afghan Taliban were killed while 14 other militants were detained in military operations since early Tuesday, the country's Interior Ministry said on Wednesday morning.

"Six Taliban insurgent members were killed and 14 others detained after the

Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) launched anti-terrorism operations in Zabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Kapisa, Wardak, Logar, Ghazni, Khost, Herat and Farah Province within the last 24 hours," the ministry said in a statement providing daily operational updates.

The ANSF also seized weapons and found explosives, the statement said, without saying if there were any casualties on the side of security forces. The Taliban insurgent group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, has yet to make comments.—Xinhua

Indonesia names former investment chief as trade minister

JAKARTA, 12 Feb — Indonesia named the US-educated former head of its investment agency, Muhammad Lutfi, as trade minister on Wednesday, with the government entering its last few months before a presidential election set for July.

Lutfi replaces Gita Wirjawan who stepped down last month to focus on his campaign to become the presidential candidate for the ruling Democratic Party.

"My priorities will be one, to stabilize prices and reduce inflation ... and two, to boost exports," he told reporters. "Stabilizing prices is very important and we will tackle that by ensuring the transportation and distribution system works smoothly without disruptions due to weather conditions."

There are concerns that high inflation could be returning because of the impact of heavy rains this year. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said the 44-year-old former ambassador to Japan would be formally installed as minister on 14 February.

Reuters



China's Premier Li Keqiang delivers a speech during the opening ceremony of 21st Century Council Beijing Conference at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing, on 1 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Zimbabwe appeals for aid to evacuate villagers threatened by flooding

HARARE, 12 Feb — Zimbabwe on Tuesday appealed for about 20 million US dollars from foreign governments and international aid agencies to evacuate 20,000 villagers near a brimming dam in the country's southeast region.

Local Government, Public Works and National Housing Minister Ignatius Chombo told diplomats and aid agency representatives in Harare that 20,000 people who live within the Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam area in Masvingo Province face high risk of flooding.

Weeks of continuous rain wrecked havoc in the usually drought-hit region. The Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam, under construction by an Italian company, is brimming with surging water levels, threatening tens of

thousands of people living nearby.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe on Sunday declared a state of emergency in the region, enabling aid to move fast to the people in need.

Chombo said money is needed for food, shelter, safe water and other basic needs for those affected, as well as re-location. The government estimates that another 40,000 people downstream from the Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam are at "medium risk" of flooding.

Heavy downpours of this rainy season caught many Zimbabweans off guard. Homes and offices have reportedly been inundated, but there is no report of casualty linked to the flooding yet.

Xinhua

Thai economist calls for ending political crisis to save economy, investment

BANGKOK, 12 Feb — It is necessary for Thailand to handle its political crisis to save the economy from downside risks and to regain foreign investors' confidence, said Charl Kengchon, Managing Director of Thai Kasikorn Research Centre.

During an exclusive interview with Xinhua in Thai capital Bangkok, the Thai expert said the ongoing political instability has been weighing on the Thai economy.

"The impact that we are seeing is the disruption in disbursement of government fiscal spending. Since the current government is just a caretaker, they cannot pass the budget act for the next fiscal year, which will start in October," Charl said.

This fiscal year will finish at the end of this September; therefore, the new budget will start in October. Thus, the new budget for the new fiscal year must be passed before the end of September.

Normally, it takes a government about five months to have the budget draft passed by the parliament. If the political demonstration is supposed to end in July, then it depends on whether the government can come up with budget law in only two months, before the end of September, he said.

"The process to pass the budget often takes months, which normally starts in April. The government often discusses the budget draft in April then submits it to the parlia-

ment in July to get it passed in September," Charl explained the process.

"Since Thailand has no parliament at the moment, the current government is just a caretaker, and the general election is still undone yet, there is no way to pass the budget law. It will limit the amount of spending that the government can spend after September. Then it is going to impact the economy," he said.

"Now all the country's investment projects are frozen as there is no money pouring in. Most of important projects, including those in infrastructure or flood prevention, are under consideration and review by the court procedure, so the government cannot do anything."

Xinhua

China's premier cements ban on new buildings in cost-saving drive

SHANGHAI, 12 Feb — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has called for a complete halt to construction of new government buildings, training centers and hotels, throwing his weight behind a standing order that the authorities have had difficulty enforcing in recent months.

Li's call came during a meeting of China's State Council, or cabinet, and was part of broad efforts to cur-

tail government spending, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Tuesday. In July, the government ordered a five-year suspension of the construction of new official buildings. Results have been patchy, however, and in December the central government warned that the ban was not being enforced effectively.

In the face of public anger over graft and extrava-

gance by some officials, China's new leadership over the past year has sought to curtail everything from bribery and gift-giving to lavish banquets and wasteful government expenditure.

Li also called for the number of people working in government to be restricted and said the money saved should be spent to improve the lives of ordinary people, Xinhua reported.—Reuters



Roses are stacked at a fresh flower market in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 11 Feb, 2014. As the Valentine's Day and Chinese traditional lantern festival draw near, large quantities of fresh flowers were put into market in Yunnan, China's fresh flower production and export base. Currently, Yunnan turns out over seven billion flowers a year, yielding an output value exceeding 30 billion yuan (4.95 billion US dollars).—XINHUA

Avalanche kills two skiers, injures two others, in Oregon

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — Two cross-country skiers were killed on Tuesday by an avalanche in eastern Oregon, while the body of a Colorado skier buried in a snow slide was recovered, bringing to 12 the number such fatalities reported in the United States this winter.

A total of eight skiers were caught in the Oregon slide, which occurred at about noon local time near Little Eagle Mead-

ows in the Southern Wallowa Mountains, about 350 miles east of Portland, according to the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Members of the group, who were from the Seattle area, were on a guided multi-day trip through the back country, Sheriff Mitch Southwick said in a statement. They were not identified.

In addition to the two skiers who were killed, two in the group apparently

suffered broken bones and four others were unhurt, he said. The Oregon and Idaho National Guard dispatched helicopters to pick up the survivors, Southwick said.

The Colorado skier, a man in his 40s whose name was not immediately released, was killed outside the Keystone Ski Resort about 75 miles west of Denver, said Tracy LeClair, spokeswoman for the Summit County Sheriff's Office.—Reuters

REGIONAL

Samuragochi says he regained some hearing about 3 years ago

TOKYO, 12 Feb — A high-profile Japanese composer who controversially admitted his works had been penned by a ghostwriter, and whose purported deafness has been called into question, said Wednesday he regained some of his hearing about three years ago. In a handwritten apology sent to media organizations through his attorney, Mamoru Samuragochi, 50, also said he is planning to offer his apologies in public soon.

On composer Takashi Niigaki's ghostwriting of

his major works, Samuragochi said, "It was a secret between us. I did not talk about it even to my wife as I was afraid that the revelation of the lie would ruin my life."

About his hearing, he said, "Since about three years ago, it has recovered to an extent where I could sometimes grasp words when someone speaks clearly and slowly close to my ears, though it sounds muffled and skewed." He added that he could not hear when he is in poor physical conditions.

Niigaki, 43, cast doubt at a news conference Thursday over Samuragochi's earlier claim of deafness. "Since we first met, I have never felt that he was deaf," he said. He said he wrote pieces for Samuragochi for 18 years.

Samuragochi said it is true that he had been deaf, refuting Niigaki's claim.

The apology came in eight sheets of paper. In it, Samuragochi stated he is willing to receive an expert examination on his hearing. He said he will give up his grade 2 physical disability

certificate issued by the government should the test find him ineligible.

Grade 2 is the most serious disability category for hearing problems given to those who can only hear a sound of 100 decibels or more, equal to what one may experience under an overpass when a train runs over. Grade 2 holders are eligible for income tax deductions as well as other benefits such as reduced train fares. Cheating is liable to penalty of up to six months in prison or 200,000 yen in fine.—Kyodo News



Photo shows Mamoru Samuragochi, who has been known as a deaf composer of classical music. Samuragochi sent a handwritten apology to media outlets on 12 Feb, 2014, for having long lied about pieces of music released under his name.

KYODO NEWS

Indonesia scrambles to stop haze

JAKARTA, 12 Feb — Indonesia would take comprehensive measures, including using water bombs, modifying weather and enforcing law, to extinguish ongoing fires in Sumatra and Borneo islands in an effort to prevent a repeat of haze enveloping neighbouring countries like years ago, an official said here on Tuesday.

Fears that the fires to spread further and be out of control lingered as the condition of the dry season this year was foreseen to be drier than the previous years, while weak El Nino was also forecast to exacerbate the danger, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of the national disaster agency, told Xinhua via phone.

At least 187 hot spots have been discovered in Sumatra so far and the fires are also occurring in West Borneo, according to him.

The fires drove heavy smog that has enveloped some of Sumatra and Borneo islands. A coordinating meeting was held on Tuesday on action to stop the fires, involving soldiers, police, disaster agency officials and ministries, said Sutopo. "Based on experience in 2013, the measure to handle haze must be done as early as possible and it must be comprehensive," said Syamsul Maarif, head of the agency.—Xinhua



A recruiter introduces employment information to job seekers in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 10 Feb, 2014. A good many migrant workers resumed job search, shrugging off the fact that the Spring Festival has come to an end yet.

XINHUA

Thai farmers to receive 22.2 mln USD for rice

BANGKOK, 12 Feb — Thai farmers in four provinces are expected to receive 712 million Baht (22.2 million US dollars) overdue payment for their rice under the rice-pledging scheme.

Some 3,921 farmers in Phetchabun, Uthai Thani, Ayutthaya and Prachin Buri Provinces will be paid for their 40,000 tons of rice, said Niwatthamrong Bunsongphaisan, Thai caretaker commerce minister after a cabinet meeting on Tuesday. Farmers who sold rice to the government in October have all received their money, and 61 percent of those who joined the

scheme in November have been also paid. Meanwhile, most farmers who sold their rice in December and January have not been paid yet, Niwatthamrong was quoted by the Bangkok Post as saying.

Caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Tuesday pledged to pay farmers for their rice, adding that her government is able to seek loans under the current fiscal status, and blaming the overdue payments on legal limitations.

Caretaker Finance Minister Kittiratt Na Ranong said several commercial banks have expressed their interest in providing

loans to pay farmers.

The World Bank's office in Bangkok on Tuesday showed their concern over the delays in paying 120 billion Baht (3.7 billion US dollars) for farmers in the rice-pledging scheme, which accounts for 1 percent of its Gross Domestic Product.

The overdue payment has resulted in a spending and consumption slowdown in Thai agricultural sector, said Kirida Phaophichit, a senior WB economist.

Hundreds of Thai farmers have been camping outside the Commerce Ministry to urge for their rice payments.—Xinhua

90 pct Indonesian to cast votes in 2014 elections

JAKARTA, 12 Feb — Results of a survey jointly conducted by prominent survey agencies in the country disclosed on Tuesday showed that 90 percent of the country's population would use cast votes in the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections scheduled in April and July respectively this year.

According to the survey results, public enthusiasm for elections was apparently increasing if compared to those of in the previous elections, an official with one of the survey agencies said.

"It shows public's high trust in democracy system," Rakesh Sharma, the director of International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) said here. The survey was jointly carried out by Indonesia Sur-

vey Institution (LSI) late last year, involving 1,890 respondents from 33 provinces across the country.

The results showed that 88 percent men and 91 percent women involved in the survey have planed to cast their votes in the elections.

Rakesh said that 90 percent of population took part in 1999 the elections. That figure decreased in 2004 and 2009 elections, recorded at 80 percent and 70 percent respectively.

Should circumstances that badly influencing people's enthusiasm to take part in elections emerge before the elections, Rakesh said that public participation in elections would at least be similar to that in 2004.

LSI Director Hendro Prasetyo said it also showed people's increasing confi-

dence that elections would bring changes in the country.

Twelve political parties have been legalized by Indonesia's General Election Commission (KPU) to partake in the upcoming elections.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono who serves two presidencies would no longer run in the presidential election as the constitution bans doing so.

Indonesia would see a brand new voting system in the upcoming elections as it would apply e-voting mechanism, which would ultimately make using voters' ID cards possible. Such an ID card inserted with micro chips has already been delivered to Indonesian citizens since 2012.

Xinhua

Vietnam asks for US support in TPP negotiations for "core interest" sectors

HANOI, 12 Feb — Vietnam, the country claims to have "core interests" in several sectors including garment and footwear, urges the United States (US) for supporting it in balancing its interests in the on-going Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

Vietnamese Minister of Finance Dinh Tien Dung made the appeal while receiving the US Ambassador to Vietnam David Shear in capital Hanoi late Tuesday,

reported the website of Vietnamese ministry of finance on Wednesday.

Concerning TPP negotiation process, Dung said Vietnam agreed with all TPP terms and reached high commitments in some terms, adding that Vietnam is determined and speeding up its efforts to conclude the negotiations soon.

According to Dung, Vietnam is an economy in transition and in great desire of restructuring state-

owned economic sector and opening its market step by step. The country needs a suitable route to realizing TPP commitments once joining the agreement, said Dung.

The US Ambassador to Vietnam David Shear, for his part, said at the meeting that the US puts priorities for TPP negotiations with Vietnam and hopes the two countries will be able to reach an agreement soon.

Xinhua



A fishing boat freezes in the sea at Jiaozhou Bay in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 10 Feb, 2014. A cold front froze the sea of the Jiaozhou Bay.—XINHUA

UNDP says 94 pct of Yemenis affected by conflicts

SANAA, 12 Feb — The UN Development Program (UNDP) said on Tuesday that Yemen continues to suffer from the impact of the 2011 crisis and previous conflicts, including the wars between the army and the Houthi rebels.

In a report titled “multidimensional livelihoods assessment in conflict areas in Yemen,” it said that after the 2011 crisis the number of the people affected by conflicts increased to around 94 percent from 29 percent in 2010.

Livelihoods have deteriorated since conflicts directly affected public and private assets, pushing the poverty rate to around 54 percent in 2011 and leaving around 60 percent of the country's population (estimated at more than 25 million) without food security in 2013, according to the report.

Naresh Singh, the author of the report, said mounting conflicts due to the presence of the Houthi group, al-Qaeda, the Southern Movement and others have led to the worsening livelihoods and the soaring poverty and unemployment rates.

“The number of affected from conflicts increased due to the lack of funds. The interventions in conflict areas at this time are very minimal and have not even come close to minimum level to make improvements,” Singh said.

He elaborated that the UN has prepared a comprehensive analysis about all types of conflicts in Yemen, including those related to the al-Qaeda, the Southern Movement, the Houthis and unruly tribes as part of its support to help the Yemeni government and international agencies to draft better priorities and policies.

Xinhua

African police chiefs endorse Afripol project

ALGIERS, 12 Feb — African police chiefs agreed Tuesday at a conference held in Algiers to set up an African police body, or Afripol, the Algerian police chief announced.

Speaking to reporters,

Major-General Abdelghani Hamel said the African Police Chiefs Conference proposed to establish the mechanism for coordination and cooperation between African police institutions in Algeria.

Hamel specified that Algeria will suggest to the African Union to add the project to the agenda of the bloc's summit scheduled for June 2014 in Equatorial Guinea.

Xinhua

Cordially Welcomes to Myanmar Agro-Tech Expo 2014



မြန်မာလယ်ယာထွက်ကုန်နှင့်ဆိုင်ရာနည်းပညာပြပွဲ ၂၀၁၄

MYANMAR AGRO-TECH EXPO 2014

5-8 March, 2014, Myanmar Convention Center, Yangon, Myanmar.

To honor the annual Myanmar Day celebrated by Myanmar farmers and local stakeholders, we cordially invite you to join us in the second Myanmar Agro-Tech Expo, which will be composed of exciting live demonstrations, latest innovative technologies and free product samples from companies around the world.

Showcased Items featuring:

- farm mechanization equipments and machineries
- agro-based food processing equipments and machineries
- compact rice mills
- innovative storage solutions
- value-adding technology
- other innovative agriculture and agro-based products

Winning participants will receive:

- farm mechanization equipments and machineries
- agro-based food processing equipments and machineries
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e-mail: mppa@mytel.net.mm, mppa@mytel.com, www.myanmarpaddyproducers.org

Contact: Mr. Paddy (09-5027872, 09-5027873)

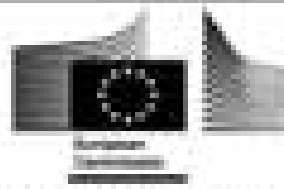
FREE ENTRY!

Floating ice is seen on the Hudson River in New York, the United States, on 11 Feb, 2014. New York has been experiencing a lasting coldness with the lowest temperature dropping to minus 13 degrees Celsius on Tuesday. Massive winter storms have dumped snow across the northeast of the country and ushered in dangerously cold temperatures this winter. —XINHUA



ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

"Supply of equipment for a Crisis Response Centre in NayPyiTaw, Myanmar"



Publication ref : EuropeAid/135164/DD/SUP/MIM

The European Commission intends to award a supply contract for the supply, delivery, installation and putting into operation of the following lots:

Lot 1: ICT equipment ; Lot 2: Office furniture ;

for the Ministry of Home Affairs in a work space located in NayPyiTaw, Myanmar, with financial assistance from the Instrument for Stability Programme of the European Union.

The tender dossier is available from the EU Delegation to Myanmar, 45 Inya Myaing Road, Golden valley (2) Ward, Bham Township, Yangon and will also be published on the EuropeAid website:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> and on the Myanmar Delegation website: http://ccas.europa.eu/delegations/myanmar/grants_tenders/tenders/index_en.htm

The deadline for submission of tenders is 19/03/2014. Possible additional information or clarifications/questions shall be published on the above websites.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Internal Revenue Department

(Invitation to Open Tender)

1. The Internal Revenue Department, as a system of administration of revenue in the process of its stamping and selling the stamps intends to buy the stamps of standard quality and of standard security measure against forgery. Open tenders are invited from the persons who can produce and sell such stamps of standard quality.
2. The forms and conditions of open tender can be obtained at the Internal Revenue Department, Branch Office of the Commercial Tax Directorate, No. 46, Nay Pyi Taw and Office of Tax Service Unit, No. 59/61 Pansodan Street, Yangon during the office hours of the days between 17.2.2014 to 19.2.2014.
3. The public tender shall be submitted to Department of Evaluation and Selection of the Revenue, Office No.46 of Nay Pyi Taw during the office hours on the 28th day of February 2014. The tenders submitted after the period of prescribed time shall be absolutely left out of consideration. For further details, inquiry can be made at the following address.

Internal Revenue Department
Office No. 46, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone- 067-430025

Michael Jackson's estate executors trash revenue service claims

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb — The executors of Michael Jackson's estate have hit back at the IRS for launching a legal battle in a bid to secure \$505 million and an additional \$197 million in penalties.

US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officials have opened a case against the estate of Michael Jackson, claiming that the singer's assets were grossly undervalued following his death in June 2009 and that the executors of his estate owe almost three quarters of a billion dollars, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

One point of contention is the original valuation of the pop star's interest in a trust that includes the rights

to some of his biggest hits and most of The Beatles back catalogue was valued at zero, while the IRS claimed it was worth \$469 million. Sources told TMZ that zero was put on the tax return because Michael and Sony were 50/50 partners in the catalogue which had a total net value of \$800 million.

They claim Michael borrowed \$320 million against the catalogue and owed another \$200 million in personal debt, so they balanced his \$400 million share out at zero. The estate also believes the IRS is off base when it comes to Michael's likeness and images, which they valued at a mere \$2,105 at the time of

his death compared to the IRS's \$434 million valuation.

They insist the King of Pop had made no money from his image in the 15 years running up to his death because his popular-

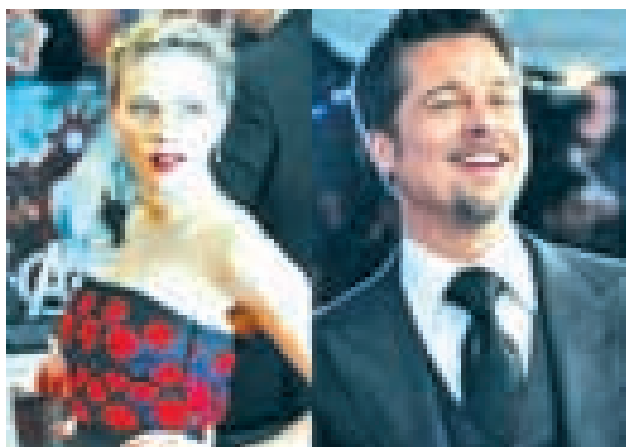
ity had been diminished by child sex abuse allegations. The estate is also claiming the Jackson 5 music collection is worth \$11.2 million and not the \$45.5 million the IRS is suggesting.

PTI



The US revenue department had launched a legal battle in a bid to secure \$505 million and an additional \$197 million in penalties.—PTI

Scarlett Johansson wants to be like Brad Pitt



Scarlett wants to take on challenging roles and to be free from media stereotypes.— PTI

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb — Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson is inspired by Brad Pitt and wants to be a character actor like him. "While he has always been regarded as 'so gorgeous'

he has never let that prevent him from being a character actor, which is what he is and what I have always wanted to be," Johansson said.

The 29-year-old also

spoke about her desire to take on challenging roles and to be free from media stereotypes.

"If you want to grow out of the stereotype the media stamp on you as an actor you have to focus on challenging yourself and taking on diverse roles. Brad Pitt has managed to do that," she added.

Johansson refuses to be tagged as America's sweetheart. "There is nothing wrong with an acting career in which you play the romantic lead or America's sweetheart or the romantic comedy queen, but I have never thought of myself as playing those kinds of roles. I have always wanted to be a character actor," she said.

PTI

Actor Hugh Jackman returning as Tony Awards host for fourth time

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — Award-winning actor Hugh Jackman will return to host the 68th annual Tony Awards, which honors the best of Broadway, organizers said on Tuesday. It will be the fourth time Jackman will emcee the ceremony on June 8 from Radio City Music Hall in New York City, where it will be broadcast live on the CBS television network. He hosted the ceremony from 2003-2005 and picked up an Emmy award for his work on the 2004 show.

Jackman, 45, also won a Tony award the same year for his role in "The Boy from Oz." The Broadway League and the American Theatre Wing, the presenters of the Tony awards,

praised Jackman's versatility and showmanship.

"Hugh is an extraordinary talent and loyal supporter of the Broadway community — whether he is on-stage or in the audience — and we are honored

to have him back as host," Charlotte St. Martin, executive director of The Broadway League and Heather Hitchens, executive director of the American Theatre Wing, said in a statement.

Reuters



Actor Hugh Jackman holds the Actors' Equity Association award backstage at the 66th annual Tony Awards in New York in this file photo taken on 10 June, 2012.

REUTERS

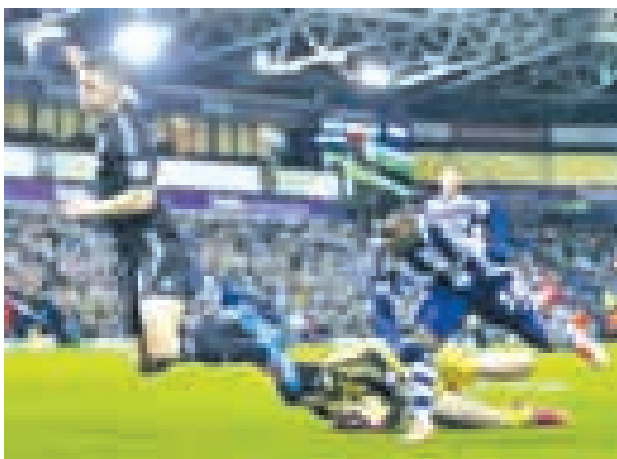
Chelsea title bid stumbles in draw at West Brom

LONDON, 12 Feb — Premier League leaders Chelsea were hit by an 87th-minute sucker punch as they were held to a 1-1 draw by lowly West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday, handing the title race initiative back to Arsenal and Manchester City. It looked like Jose Mourinho's side would move four points clear after defender Branislav Ivanovic, who got the winner in Chelsea's 1-0 triumph at Manchester City last week, smashed the ball home in first-half injury time to put the visitors ahead.

However, Victor Anichebe grabbed a precious point for the hosts when he headed in Saido Berahino's cross, leaving Chelsea in pole position in the table but possibly for only 24

hours. Chelsea now have 57 points from 26 matches, two ahead of Arsenal, who host Manchester United on Wednesday, and three in front of City, who are at home to Sunderland. At the other end of the table, West Ham United again showed they can win without suspended striker Andy Carroll as they beat Norwich City 2-0 to ease their relegation fears with a third successive victory and fourth straight clean sheet.

Second-bottom Cardiff City missed the chance to move out of the drop zone when they were held 0-0 at home to Aston Villa while Southampton jumped to eighth with a 1-0 win at Hull City. Chelsea have found The Hawthorns an unappealing prospect in recent seasons, having lost



Chelsea's Gary Cahill (L) and Petr Cech (C) challenge West Bromwich Albion's Thievy Bifouma during their Premier League match at the Hawthorns in West Bromwich, central England, on 11 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

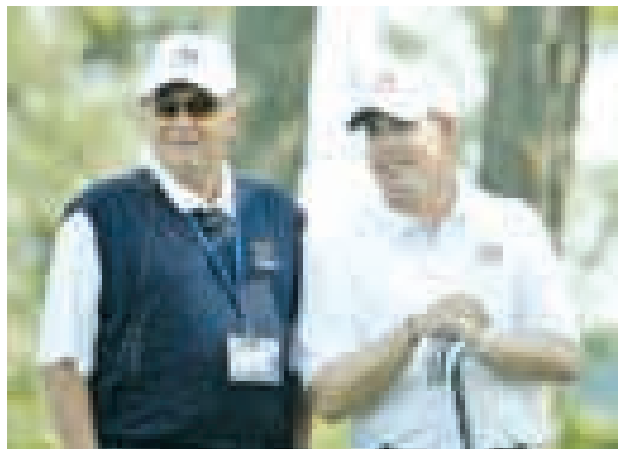
on their previous two visits. With Mourinho's side having scooped 26 points from the last 30 on offer and West Brom winless in four matches under new manager Pepe Mel, few predicted anything other than a win that would see Chelsea's title challenge marching on relentlessly.

Chelsea had kept six clean sheets in their last eight games, so the writing

appeared to be on the wall for the hosts when visiting Serbian defender Ivanovic blasted home from a corner. But with the clock ticking down, Chelsea's defence was disrupted by an injury to Gary Cahill, who left the pitch with a calf problem, only to return seconds before Anichebe rose to flick his header into the net off the foot of the post.

Reuters

Floyd named US Ryder Cup vice-captain



US Ryder Cup Assistant Captain Raymond Floyd (L) speaks with golfer Justin Leonard of the US on the 12th tee during practice for the 37th Ryder Cup Championship at the Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky on 16 Sept, 2008.—REUTERS

CARY, (North Carolina), 12 Feb — Veteran Raymond Floyd will be a vice-captain on this year's American Ryder Cup team, US captain Tom Watson said on Tuesday. Floyd, 71, won four majors, including

two US PGA Championships, during a decorated career. Eight-times major winner Watson had previously announced that twice US Open champion Andy North would be a vice-cap-

The Ryder Cup will be played at Gleneagles, Scotland from 26-28 September. Europe are defending champions in the biennial event, which the US have not won in Europe since 1993, when Watson previously was captain. Watson selected Floyd as a player back then. "What Raymond brings is experience and respect of the players," Watson said in making the announcement at Riviera Country Club, site of this week's Northern Trust Open. "When these players look at Raymond, they know he's been there, they know he's been successful." "You look at Raymond's eyes, you never saw his eyes waver... His eyes had a focus you like to see and the way he played the game, every shot counted, and that's the type of guy I wanted taking care of my back.

Floyd played in eight Ryder Cup teams, compiling a 12-16-3 record, and he captained the 1989 side who tied with Europe. "I'm flattered obviously and it's going to be a thrill for me to be back," Floyd said via telephone. Floyd said he had never met several likely players on the team, but he did not believe that was a problem. "Our responsibilities are to see that (the players) are comfortable (and) if there are any questions they have to be comfortable coming to us," he said. Floyd was an assistant on Paul Azinger's winning American team in 2008. There is no limit on how many assistants a captain has. Davis Love had four when he captained the American team two years ago and Watson said he might add another one.

Reuters

German Hoeffl-Riesch seeks to profit from Vonn's absence

SOCHI, (Russia), 12 Feb — German skier Maria Hoeffl-Riesch goes for her second gold of the Sochi Olympics in the women's downhill on Wednesday, her chances boosted by the absence of injured American champion Lindsey Vonn. The downhill race on the Rosa Khutor piste in the mountains above Sochi is the first of six medals to be won on Wednesday.

Hosts Russia will have high hopes of ending the day with another gold in figure



Germany's Maria Hoeffl-Riesch celebrates winning the women's alpine skiing super combined event at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics at the Rosa Khutor Alpine Centre on 10 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

skating, courtesy of world and European champions Maxim Trankov and Tatiana Volosozhar. The Russians have already won the team event in the Iceberg Skat-

ing Palace, much to the delight of watching President Vladimir Putin. Mild weather risks causing problems in the mountains after rising temperatures forced the can-

cellation of final practice for the women's downhill.

Julia Mancuso, who took bronze behind Hoeffl-Riesch in the super combined on Monday, will carry American hopes after a knee injury robbed Vonn of the chance to defend her title. "Mushy" snow could also play a part in deciding the Nordic combined where German World Cup leader Eric Frenzel takes on 2010 Olympic champion Jason Lamy-Chappuis of France.—Reuters

Aubameyang heads Dortmund into Cup semi-finals

FRANKFURT, 12 Feb — Borussia Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored with a late header to send them into the German Cup semi-finals with a 1-0 win at Eintracht Frankfurt on Tuesday. Dortmund survived an early spell of pressure before taking control of the game and chalking up their third successive win in all competitions.

Gabon striker Aubameyang headed home Henrikh Mkhitaryan's corner in the 83rd minute for his 14th goal of the season. Holders Bayern Munich visit Hamburg in their quarter-final tie on Wednesday (7:30 pm British time) when Bayer Leverkusen host Kaiserslautern and Hoffenheim welcome VfL Wolfsburg (6:00 pm.).

Reuters



Borussia Dortmund's Kevin Grosskreutz (L) challenges Eintracht Frankfurt's Sebastian Jung during their German cup (DFB Pokal) quarter-final soccer match in Frankfurt, on 11 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Snowboard star White misses medal, mild weather a worry

SOCHI, (Russia), 12 Feb — American snowboarder Shaun White, one of biggest draws at the Winter Olympics and favourite to win his third straight half-pipe title, bowed out without a medal on Tuesday in the biggest upset of the Games so far.

The 27-year-old was criticised for withdrawing from the slopestyle event to avoid risk of injury and the strategy backfired when Switzerland's Iouri Podladtchikov was comfortably the better jumper and twister in the floodlit final. "I am disappointed," White said after the event. "I hate the fact that I nailed it in practice, but it happens. It's hard to be consistent." The drama unfolded while the women ski jumpers fought

it out for the first-ever Olympic medals, after campaigning for 13 years to be included alongside the men.

Germany's Carina Vogt collapsed in tears, then was mobbed by jubilant team mates, when her narrow win was confirmed following a tense wait at the bottom of the hill. That brought to a close the fourth day of thrilling competition at the February 7-23 Games, with most of the action set among the peaks of the Caucasus Mountains. Mild temperatures left many competitors complaining about poor snow conditions, and the number of tumbles across disciplines ranging from cross-country to freestyle skiing slopestyle appeared to back them up.—Reuters



Shaun White of the US (R) congratulates Switzerland's Iouri Podladtchikov during the men's snowboard halfpipe final event at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games, in Rosa Khutor, on 11 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Mental strength not mind games will win title

Manchester City's manager Manuel Pellegrini watches the start of their FA Cup third round match against the Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park in Blackburn, north-west England on 4 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS



LONDON, 12 Feb — Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini said mental strength will decide who wins the Premier League and not mind games between managers as he declined to continue a verbal spat with Chelsea's Jose Mourinho. The Chilean coach is looking to steer his third-placed side back

to winning ways at home to Sunderland on Wednesday after their title chase stumbled with a home defeat by Chelsea, who now top the table, and a draw at lowly Norwich City last week.

Not surprisingly, Mourinho, who often provokes and antagonises other managers and memorably said last week that "every-

thing I say or do is mind games", has looked to increase the pressure on the big-spending 2012 champions. After each manager labelled the other team as being title favourites by virtue of how much they had spent in the transfer market, Mourinho hinted City were not operating within the same UEFA Financial Fair Play guidelines.

He then turned his attentions to City's Ivory Coast midfielder Yaya Toure, who aimed an off-the-ball kick at Norwich striker Ricky van Wolfswinkel in Saturday's 0-0 stalemate at Carrow Road but escaped any FA punishment. Pellegrini, who Mourinho replaced as manager of Real Madrid in 2010, sought on Tuesday to draw a line in the sand under their latest dispute.

"I answered just once to Mourinho because if you remain in silence always, people may agree with those things," he told reporters. "He started talking about referees and Financial Fair Play, I don't think it is the way to go about things. I will not continue every week talking about things that for me are not important." These are not mind games because I don't think managers can be affected by those kind of things, but I will not answer any more on Mourinho."

Reuters

US envoy Kennedy vows to tackle US base issues in Okinawa

NAHA, (Japan), 12 Feb — US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy on Wednesday pledged to make efforts to reduce the burden on local residents of hosting US military bases in Okinawa Prefecture.

Kennedy, who is on her first visit to the southernmost prefecture as an ambassador, told Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima in their meeting that she wants to keep co-operating with the local authorities on the base issues, though she stopped short of referring specifically to the US air base relocation plan approved in December by the governor.

Nakaima expressed hope that Kennedy will contribute to resolving various problems arising from Okinawa's hosting of the bulk of US military presence in Japan, including crimes by US forces personnel and environmental issues. Under a bilateral accord, Japan and the United States plan to relocate the Futenma Air Station from a densely populated residential area in Ginowan to an offshore area in Nago.

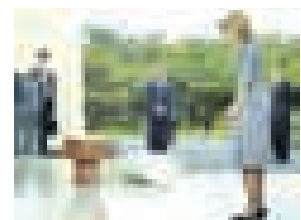
In December, Nakaima approved landfill work to build a replacement facility in the Henoko coastal area of Nago, but local opposition remains strong, with a staunch opponent of the

plan re-elected as mayor of the city last month.

Prior to the meeting with Nakaima, Kennedy told reporters that an opportunity to talk to local students reminded her of "the importance of working together to reduce the burden of the American military presence here" so as to "create opportunities for them." Kennedy visited the Peace Memorial Park in Itoman and laid flowers at a cemetery of war dead killed in a devastating battle near the end of World War II.

She also visited Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum and the Cornerstone of Peace in the park in Itoman, where the names of about 240,000 people who lost their lives in the Battle of Okinawa, including civilians and US troops, are inscribed.

Kyodo News



US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy lays flowers at a cemetery of war dead at the Peace Memorial Park in Itoman, Okinawa Prefecture, on 12 Feb, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

MYANMAR TV

(13-2-2014, Thursday)

6:00 am	2:15 pm
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	19. Fine Arts-Bostom of Dramatic Performance
6:25 am	3:00 pm
2. Physical Exercises	20. News
6:35 am	3:15 pm
3. Songs Of Yester Years	21. TV Drama Series
6:45 am	4:00 pm
4. Documentary	22. News
7:00 am	4:15 pm
5. News/Weather Report	23. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
7:20 am	4:25 pm
6. People Talks	24. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Maths)
7:35 am	5:00 pm
7. Teleplay	25. News
7:50 am	5:15 pm
8. Documentary	26. Documentary
8:00 am	5:25 pm
9. News/ International News	27. India Drama Series
8:25 am	6:00 pm
10. India Drama Series	28. News/Weather Report
9:00 am	6:20 pm
11. News/ International News	29. Approaching Science Discovery World
9:25am	6:40 pm
12. Shwe Yin Chone Than	30. TV Drama Series
10:00 am	7:00 pm
13. News	31. News
10:15 am	7:25 pm
14. Documentary	32. TV Drama Series
10:45 am	8:00 pm
15. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than	33. News/ International News/ Weather Report
11:00 pm	8:35 pm
16. Sing & Enjoy	34. Current Affairs
12:00 pm	9:00 pm
17. News / International News/ Weather Report	35. News
12:25 pm	36. Documentary
18. Myanmar Video	37. Clever
	38. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

13-2-14 07:00 am ~ 14 -2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * The Land of Silver Mountains (Kayah State)
- * World News
- * News Extra "Thanakha"
- * Local News
- * Sweet & Dreamy Taste
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * Preserving Myanmar Handicrafts
- * World News
- * Myanmar Street Foods
- * Local News
- * "Me N My Travel With Maria" Market of Pyay City Development Committee
- * World News
- * A Person with Faith
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Union Day
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture
- * Local News
- * Short Trip With Steve (Mon State)
- * World News
- * Will you feed the pigeons
- * Local News
- * Crocodile Keeper
- * World News
- * Photographer: Kyaw Win Hlaing (YUC)
- * Local News
- * Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas
- * World News
- * Dhamma School

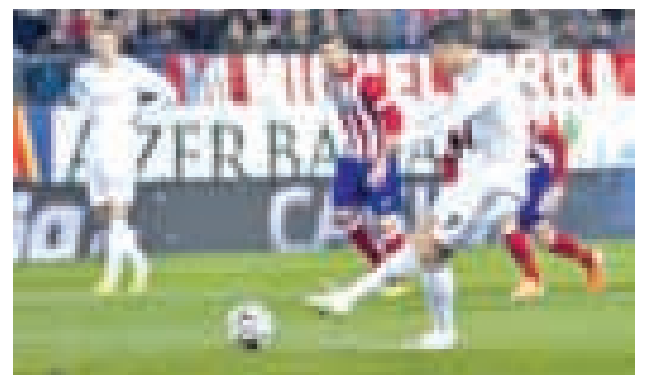
Ronaldo double sends Real through to Cup final

MADRID, 12 Feb — Cristiano Ronaldo netted two early penalties to give Real Madrid a 2-0 win at King's Cup holders Atletico Madrid on Tuesday which sent them into the final 5-0 on aggregate. Real, who have not conceded a goal in this season's competition, are likely to meet Barcelona in April's showpiece as the record winners lead 2-0 against Real Sociedad ahead of Wednesday's semi-final, second leg in San Sebastian.

"I think the first leg was the key as a 3-0 lead meant we were very well set for the return," Real goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Canal Plus. "And then scoring the

two early penalties meant the tension was taken out of the tie," added the Spain international. "We did our job and got through to the final and now our focus turns to La Liga and the Champions League."

Real's 3-0 win in last week's first leg at the Bernabeu was sweet revenge both for their bitter 2-1 defeat to Atletico in last year's final and a 1-0 reverse in La Liga at the end of September. Atletico, missing suspended top scorer Diego Costa, faced a huge task to turn the tie around in the return across town at the Calderon and they got off to the worst possible start when teenage defender Javier Manquillo tripped Ronaldo in the penalty area in the sixth minute.



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (R) scores the team's second goal from the penalty spot against Atletico Madrid during their Spanish King's Cup semi-final second leg match at Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid on 11 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

The Portugal forward smashed the spot-kick past Daniel Aranzubia and things went from bad to worse for the home side when Emiliano Insua felled Gareth Bale and the referee awarded another pen-

alty. Atletico forward Raul Garcia had crashed a shot against the post minutes earlier but Ronaldo buried the penalty into the corner to make it 2-0 with only 16 minutes gone.

Reuters

67th Anniversary Union Day marked in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham reading out Union Day message sent by the President at the 67th Anniversary Union Day celebration in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The Union Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony to mark the 67th Anniversary Union Day took place at the square of Nay Pyi Taw City

Hall this morning.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham took the salute of the Guard of Honour. After that, the Vice-President together with the attendees

of the ceremony saluted the State Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Vice-President read out the message sent by President Agga Maha

Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hlut-

taw U Mya Nyein, Union ministers, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, members

of the management committee of for the Union Day celebration, national race ministers of the states and regions, national race delegates and guests totaling 2320.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win back from Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrived back in Yangon this afternoon after paying a visit to Singapore.

The delegation was

welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command Commodore Maung Oo Lwin, senior military officers, Singaporean Ambassador to Myan-

mar Mr. Chua Hian Kong Robert and officials.

The Vice-Senior General and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw via Yangon in the evening and they were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by senior military officers (See page 8)

Bulgarian government survives third no-confidence vote

SOFIA, 12 Feb—Bulgaria's Socialist-led coalition survived its third no-confidence vote on Wednesday, a motion that underscored a persistent threat to a government hobbled by street protests and political squabbles since taking office last year.

The opposition GERB

party had called for the vote, accusing the government of failing to deal with an influx of thousands of Syrian refugees and of failing to stem a rise in car thefts and burglaries in the European Union's poorest country.

As was widely expected, Prime Minister Plamen Oresharski's minority coalition struck down the motion by 116 votes, out of a total of 217 lawmakers who took part. It survived two similar votes over its investment policies in October.

Oresharski's coalition looked as though it might fall last year when tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Sofia in anti-corruption protests. The protests have since dwindled and political analysts expect the government to limp on at least until Euro-

pean Parliament elections in late May.

But the unrest robbed the government of clout to reform a graft-prone political system or the slow and inefficient judiciary.

GERB's decision to call another no-confidence vote could backfire on the centre-right party. It too had grappled with a spike in crime as well as with a wire-tapping scandal while in office until early 2013, said Kancho Stoichev, an analyst with the pollster Gallup.

"It was a suicidal choice of reason for a no-confidence vote and the result is logical," Stoichev said.

Sergei Stanishev, leader of the ruling Socialist Party (BSP), rounded angrily on GERB after the vote.

Reuters

Myanmar's tourism potential boosts Yangon river cruise services

There has been an increase in the number of entrepreneurs in the country as privatization is taking place in various sectors. Of the privatized sectors, there has been a boom in Yangon river cruise services.

"There are six cruises offering sightseeing tours along Yangon river. We have a plan to cooperate in the river cruise service, giving globetrotters an opportunity to enjoy spectacular sunset and scenically attractive beauty of nature along Yangon waterway. It is also planned to provide cruise facilities and services that allow local and foreign visitors to see Yangon in a different way," said U Khin Maung Oo who are going to run the river cruise service business.

As building a luxury river boat costs between



Luxury

boats

moored at

a jetty in

Yangon

River.

about K 200 million and K 300 million, local businessmen are interested in making investments in Myanmar's tourism potential.

Now, Myanmar Port Authority is upgrading the Wadan jetty where private-owned cruises are allowed to dock. The number of visitors is between 60 and 80 and they are delighted to enjoy sunset along the river. Now, the number of

tourists enjoying sightseeing tour is on the rise.

The river cruise service allows visitors to celebrate birthday party and other special celebrations on the luxury boat. A sightseeing cruise tour is priced at K 5000 a local and USD 20 a tourist. But, the price

may vary depending on the types of cruises. Many tourists are seen in the peak season.

It is learnt that arrangements are being made to operate cruise services along Ayeyawady River.

Myanma Alinn: 7-2-2014
Trs: YM

**Byline: Maung Maung Myint Swe
Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)**



Bulgarian Prime Minister Plamen Oresharski (C) is greeted by a supporter during a rally in central Sofia on 16 November, 2013.—REUTERS