

President U Thein Sein receives Chief of Army Staff of Bangladeshi Army



Chief of Army Staff of Bangladeshi Army General Iqbal Kaim Byuiyan, psc.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Chief of Army Staff of Bangladeshi Army General Iqbal Kaim Byuiyan, psc at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace on 18 February afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed emphasis being placed on peace and tranquility and rule of law at border area, three saboteurs arrested by Bangladesh to prevent their acts in Myanmar, cooperation in prevention

against transborder crime and human trafficking between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi and U Aung Min, Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Maj-Gen (Retd.) Anup Kumar Chakma and Defence Attaché Brig-Gen Md Mahbubul Haque, ndc, afwc, psc.

MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.—MNA

Workshop on public complaint management for public services held

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—A workshop on public complaint management for public services was held at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here this morning.

On the occasion, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein explained the purpose of the workshop citing that in accord with the guidance of the President, public ser-

vice capacity assessment committee and delivery units had been formed to handle public complaints. He expressed his belief that knowledge and lessons from sharing experience of

other countries would be gained at today's workshop.

Next, Mr. JENS of Ombudsman of Denmark shared experience and knowledge on background (See page 8)

INSIDE

Three killed, dozens injured as Thai police raid protest sites

PAGE-3

Japan, ASEAN discuss Japanese exports to combat disasters, terrorism

PAGE-4

Researchers identify first biological marker for major depression

PAGE-6

Local people in Yebyu Tsp benefit from Kanpauk Natural Gas project

Investment in production of natural gas has benefited the local people of the Village of Kanpauk in Kaleinaung Sub-Township under Yebyu Township, Dawei District.

After discovering huge sources of natural gas in the township, companies have carried out production of the natural gas as from the 1996-97 FY, creating job opportunities for local people.

The local people who relied on finding lead, iron and minerals traditionally for their livelihood in the past have enjoyed the comfortable life thanks to their new jobs.

Meanwhile, the correct way for production of natural resources has helped minimizing the wastes and loss during the production process.

The Village of Kanpauk has possessed basic

infrastructures for development including schools, a police station, a station hospital and has become a home for over 50,000 population.

The natural gas from Kanpauk Village has been sold out to Thailand as from 1998 through the 36-inch diameter pipeline and the sales will end in 2028, according to the agreement reached between the two countries.

The Kanpauk Project produces from 700 million cubic feet to 900 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. Seventy-five percent of the production is sold to Thailand and 25 percent is supplied to Myainggalay Cement Plant in Hpa-an.

Myanmar was ranked as the largest gas exporter via pipelines in the Asia-Pacific region in 2000, becoming one of 20 largest gas exporters via pipelines in the world.

The pipeline which transports the natural gas from the Kanpauk Project to Kachanaburi of Thailand

has passed through Mawgyi in Yebyu Township, Taninthayi Division, creating job opportunities for local people and earning foreign currency for Myanmar.

The project can be considered as the pride of the

nation and it is benefiting the country.

Myanma Alinn: 18-2-2014
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Photo shows Kanpauk Natural Gas project seen in Yebyu township.

24000 stimulant tablets worth K 48 million seized

LASHIO, 18 Feb—Members of No. 24 Anti-Drug Squad seized 24000 stimulant tablets worth K 48 million from the bag of passenger Ma Hwe Lint and Ma Aye Yein on board Power5 vehicle driven by U Min Zaw, heading for Mandalay from Muse, on 17 February afternoon.

After investigation, Nawngkhio Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against the two suspect women under the law.

Kyemon-Han Htay (IPRD)

Myanmar's Hotel, Foodstuff and Tourism Exhibition opens

YANGON, 18 Feb—Three-day Myanmar's Hotel, Foodstuff and Tourism Exhibition was opened at Myanmar Convention Center (MCC) on Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township on 17 February. The exhibition was jointly arranged by Singapore-based Sphere Conferences and Union of Myanmar Travels Federation under the leadership of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Union Minister for

Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Chairman of Sphere Conferences Mr. Chua Wee Phons and member of Sphere Conferences (Myanmar) U Moe Zaw cut the ribbon to launch the exhibition.

The booths from Myanmar Hoteliers Association, Myanmar Restaurant Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Foodstuff Entrepreneurs Association that showcase hotel industries, foodstuff, modern products, machinery



Union Minister U Htay Aung visits Myanmar's Hotel, Foodstuff and Tourism Exhibition.

and technologies are being displayed at the exhibition. The 2nd Conference

on Myanmar Hospitality and Tourism will be held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon on 18-19 February.

Aung Thura

Kalay Township emphasizes maintenance of sluice gate, walls of Myaungchaung Diversion Weir

KALAY, 18 Feb—The feeder canal of Myaungchaung Diversion Weir was damaged in the heavy rain that occurred in last September, in Sihaung Village-tract of Kalay Township in Sagaing Region.

At that time, the diversion weir overflowed to the surrounding area.

Under the guidance of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Chairman of District Management Committee U Maung Htoo supervised reconstruction of the feeder canal spending K 21.8 million from the separate fund of the State.

On completion, the canal will irrigate 2644 acres of farmlands for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. Upon completion of the canal, over 700 acres of



Officials inspect progress in construction of facilities at Myaungchaung Diversion Weir in Kalay Township.

farmlands will be supplied water for agricultural purpose. Irrigation Department plans to construct the Myaung-chaung Diversion

Weir in 2013-14 fiscal year. The department is carrying out construction of Thityeik gravel-filled diversion weir, sluice gate,

walls and digging of over 5000 feet long drain, said an official of Irrigation Department.

MMAL-Shin Nay Min



HEALTH CARE PROVIDED: Health staff of Township Health Department is giving vitamin and vaccines to expectant mothers and children under five on Yadana Myaing Road in Ward 1 of Kamayut Township as part of efforts for nutritious development of the people.

MMAL-163

News in Brief

Concrete bridge completed in Khamaukkyi Sub-Township

KHAMAUKKYI, 18 Feb—Mya Khwanyo Creek Bridge has been completed in Ward 1 of Khamaukkyi Sub-Township, Kawthoung District, Taninthay Region on 17 February.

It was of reinforced concrete facility. The bridge is 15 feet wide, 10 feet high and 20 feet long.—*Kyemon-Khamaukkyi (IPRD)*

Poster erected in Kawthoung

KAWTHOUNG, 18 Feb—A poster was put up at the corner of Myayi Pale and Bogyoke Roads in Padauk Shwewa Ward of Kawthoung on 17 February. The poster bears census taking process to be held in April 2014.

Kawthoung District and Township Immigration and National Registration Department erected many posters at public places.—*Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)*

Cash and kind donated to Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda

KANBALU, 18 Feb—Wellwishers of Kanbalu Township Association (Yangon) donated cash and kind to the fund for organizing the 14th Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda Pujaniya in Kanbalu of Sagaing Region.

On 15 February, the wellwisher group paid homage to the pagoda and returned home after greeting the local people.—*MMAL-Aung Win Nyein (Township IPRD)*

Roads upgraded in Kanbalu

KANBALU, 18 Feb—Local roads in Kanbalu of Sagaing Region are being upgraded with asphalt and expanded their width spending the budget of Township Development Affairs Committee.

All the maintenance and upgrading of the roads have been completed on 16 February.

The Township DAC has spent K 24.46 million on repaving of Bogyoke Road in Ward 2, K 22.24 million on Nwethaki Road in Ward 3 and K 22.944 million on Betson Street in Ward 1.

Thanks to renovation of the roads, the local people and drivers are pleased for efforts of the local authorities due to smooth transportation.

MMAL-Aung Win Nyein (IPRD)

WORLD

Bomb blasts in Iraq kill 49 - police, medics

HILLA, (Iraq), 18 Feb— Bombs exploded in predominantly Shi'ite Muslim districts of the Iraqi capital and in the southern city of Hilla on Tuesday, killing at least 49 people, police and hospital sources said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for any of the attacks, but Shi'ites are often targeted by Sunni Islamist insurgents who have been regaining ground in Iraq over the past year and overran several towns in recent weeks.

The deadliest attacks on Tuesday occurred in and around Hilla, 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad, where 35 people were killed in seven car bomb explosions inside the city itself and in the

nearby towns of Haswa, Mahaweel and Mussayab.

"Hilla hospital has received 35 bodies so far from seven car bomb blasts," said one health official. A further 90 people were wounded in the blasts. Fourteen more people were killed in explosions in mainly Shi'ite districts of Baghdad.

In one of those, a bomb inside a parked vehicle exploded near a bus station in the Bayaa district, killing five people, the sources said. There were also blasts in the Amil, Ilam and Shurta districts.

Last year was Iraq's bloodiest since sectarian bloodshed began to abate in 2008.

Reuters



People gather at the site of a bomb attack in the Ur district of northeastern Baghdad on 18 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

Three killed, dozens injured as Thai police raid protest sites

BANGKOK, 18 Feb — One police officer was shot dead and two protesters were killed in street clashes in Bangkok on Tuesday as around 25,000 Thai police attempted to clear five sites occupied by antigovernment protesters, according to a police spokesman and emergency medical personnel. The police spokesman said a police officer died in hospital after being shot in the head. The circumstances surrounding the death of the two protesters were not immediately known.

As part of the massive operation, the police stormed the main protest site near Democracy Monument, using tear gas and rubber bullets to retake it amid resistance from protesters.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's Erawan Emergency Medical Centre said at least



Antigovernment protesters face police officers near the prime minister's office in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

60 people were injured in the street battles amid reports of intense gunfire and at least one explosion.

Local media reported that some policemen may have been injured in a grenade blast.

The situation was also tense at Government House, where around 5,000 police confronted protesters.

The top leader of the

protesters, former Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban, sent his representatives there to negotiate with the police. He decided not to go there in person because of an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

The first round of negotiations failed, and a second round was attempted but terminated after the clash at Democracy Monument.

Another protest leader,

People's Democratic Reform Committee co-leader Somkiat Pongpaibul, was reportedly arrested, but he was later rescued by a group of unidentified men. The rescue was carried out amid intense gunfire and an explosion, Somkiat told local television.

The operation is aimed at securing areas near Government House, Democracy Monument, the Interior Ministry, the Energy Ministry and Government Complex. The police have reportedly taken control of the Energy Ministry and detained some protesters there. The police had earlier this month removed protesters from sites near Government Office to allow Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to resume work there, only for the protesters, who are demanding that she resign, to reoccupy them.—Kyodo News

ILO calls for youth integration in Latin America

LIMA, 18 Feb — Latin American governments should adopt policies to encourage social integration of young people, Regional Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for Latin America and the Caribbean Elizabeth Tinoco said here on Monday. Unemployment and lack of education are two negative factors facing the Latin American youth, which will endanger social stability, Tinoco said in an interview with Xinhua.

She said that the socioeconomic disparities in Latin American societies prevent a full integration of the new workforce into the labor market. The youth has expressed their dissatisfaction, not only for few job opportunities, but also a lack of social integration, Tinoco said.—Xinhua

EU's Reding warns Brexit would isolate London's City

BRUSSELS, 18 Feb— London's financial services centre would lose access to the wider European Union should Britain quit the bloc, the EU's justice chief said on Monday, warning that such a move would reduce its status to that of an offshore centre.

Viviane Reding's blunt comments come amid a heated debate in Britain over its future in the 28-country European Union and will reinforce fears in the City of London that a departure from the EU will hurt its position as a global financial capital.

"The City would most definitely lose its unhindered access to the (EU's) single market in the case of an exit," Reding, the EU's Justice Commissioner, told an audience at Cambridge University.

"EU member states would obviously have no interest in supporting what would then be an offshore financial centre competing with their own financial firms," she said. Reding cautioned that Britain, were it to leave, would find itself in a similar situation to that of Norway, which applies the rules of the neighbouring European Union although it is not a member. "It's difficult to see why the other member states would grant the UK unfettered access to their markets without requiring it to apply the EU's rules," she said in the text of her speech, citing research that found British households would be 3,000 pounds (\$5,000) worse off annually outside the EU.

Reuters



Photo shows an existing train running on Acela Express, Amtrak's lucrative East Coast service in the United States in the state of New York on 10 Feb, 2014. Japan's Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd is planning to bid for a new generation of vehicles for the line.

KYODO NEWS

Japan, ASEAN discuss Japanese exports to combat disasters, terrorism

NAHA, 18 Feb — Senior defence officials from Japan and ASEAN countries met on Tuesday in Okinawa Prefecture to discuss the use of Japan's defence equipment in disaster relief and anti-terrorism efforts, as Tokyo aims to set new rules on arms exports.

The officials are expected to exchange views

on various topics ranging from post-disaster technical support in infrastructure building to the introduction of Japanese defence equipment such as infrared radars and unmanned robots to clear explosives.

"We hope to deepen and enhance cooperation, as ASEAN countries are Japan's partners that share

basic values and strategic interests," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in a message delivered to the meeting in Ginowan.

The meeting, the first in Okinawa, is chaired by Japan's Administrative Vice Minister of Defence Masanori Nishi.

As part of Abe's envisaged reworking of defence

policy to bolster the capabilities of the Self-Defence Forces and increase its presence abroad, the government is expected to set new rules on arms exports to ease the transfer of defence equipment to other countries.

The Defence Ministry plans to showcase defence equipment at an Air

Self-Defence Force base in Naha, the Okinawa capital, on Wednesday to explain how Japan conducts surveillance and warning activities in the East China Sea.

China appears to be at the forefront of Abe's defence vision, bolstering the case for Japan to strengthen ties with ASEAN.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations involves Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Japan and ASEAN held the summit meeting in December in Tokyo to commemorate the 40th anniversary of friendship.

Kyodo News

Gas blast shakes apartment buildings in central Istanbul

ISTANBUL, 18 Feb — An explosion caused by a gas leak tore through a residential building near central Istanbul's Taksim Square on Monday, injuring several people and sending debris spewing into a narrow side street, city officials said.

Windows in several multi-storey buildings were blown out and a car tipped onto its side by the force of the blast, which could be heard from across the Bosphorus Strait dividing the city of almost 15 million people. "We heard a very loud explosion and went out to the street, where we saw a car turned upside down. An injured man and a woman were carried away on stretchers," said Rafet Demir, a 50-year old parking lot manager.

"Police informed residents and shopkeepers that it was a natural gas explosion," he said. Most residential buildings in central Istanbul use gas for heating and cooking and explosions caused by leaks are not uncommon, although they are rarely so damaging. Ahmet Misbah Demircan, mayor of the district of Beyoglu where the blast happened, said the explosion came from a small art gallery on the ground floor of the building and that four injured people had been taken to hospital.—Reuters



Rescue workers look for survivors in the debris of a residential building collapsed after a propane tank explosion in the Old City of Acre, north Israel, on 17 Feb, 2014. Five people died and 12 others injured on Monday in a propane tank explosion in north Israel, a police spokesperson confirmed to Xinhua. —XINHUA

One dead, many hurt as asylum seekers riot at PNG detention camp

SYDNEY, 18 Feb — An asylum seeker was killed and at least 77 injured in the second riot this week at a detention centre in Papua New Guinea used to process asylum seekers, Australia's Immigration Minister said on Tuesday.

One person was in critical condition with a head injury and another sustained gunshot wounds during clashes that erupted after asylum seekers forced their way out of the center on a small island in improv-

erished Papua New Guinea.

The facility is part of Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott's tough stance against asylum seekers but it has come under fire over human rights concerns.

"Our sympathies are extended to the transferees — that person's family and friends who would have been in the facility as well," Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said in reference to the dead asylum seeker.

"If people choose to remove themselves from

that centre then they're obviously putting themselves at much greater risk and in an environment where there is violent behavior," he told reporters in the northern Australian city of Darwin.

Canberra's tough stance on asylum seekers, including offshore processing and a blanket ban on people arriving by boat ever settling in Australia, has been criticized by the United Nations and other groups as illegal and inhumane.

Australia uses deten-

tion centres at Manus Island and another on the tiny Pacific island of Nauru to process would-be refugees sent there after trying to get to Australia, often in unsafe boats after paying people smugglers in Indonesia.

Refugee advocates say that long-term detention, combined with a lack of clarity on where and when the asylum seekers may be resettled, contribute to a host of mental health problems at the facilities.

Reuters

Syrian troops recapture three towns in Hama, Aleppo

DAMASCUS, 18 Feb — The Syrian army on Monday fully wrested back control over three towns in the central province of Hama and the northern Aleppo Province, according to the official SANA news agency reported. The Syrian troops recaptured the key town of Ma'an in Hama, just days after the al-Qaeda-inspired groups massacred more than 42 civilians, including women and children, according to SANA.

In Aleppo, the troops recaptured the towns of Sheikh Najjar and al-Ghalli Hill after intense clashes with the armed rebels. Meanwhile, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that a rebel commander of the Jund al-Islam battalion was killed Monday at al-Zara village in the central province of Homs.—Xinhua

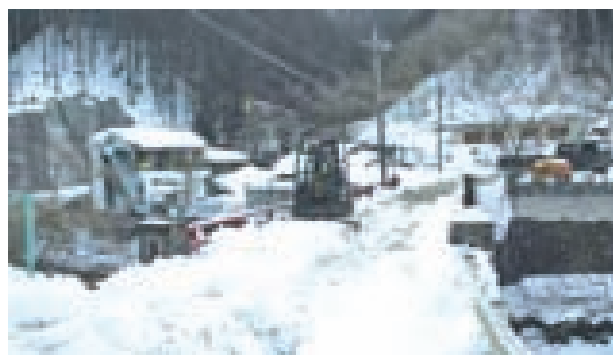
Second Japan snow storm leaves thousands stranded as toll rises to 23

TOKYO, 18 Feb — Snow-choked roads cut off thousands on Tuesday as parts of Japan struggled to dig out from its second storm in a week, with the death toll rising to at least 23. Train services were suspended in some areas after the Valentine's Day storm dumped more than a meter of snow in parts of central Japan and blanketed

the capital with record snow for the second weekend in a row, snarling airline traffic and slowing production at some Japanese automakers.

The freak storm dumped more than 1.1 metres of snow in Yamanashi prefecture in central Japan, the most in more than a century of record-keeping, and lesser amounts across a wide swathe of the eastern

and northeastern parts of the nation. Tokyo was hit by 27 cm (10.6 inches). By Tuesday, at least 23 people had died, including some killed in traffic accidents or by being caught under snow that fell from roofs. Several died in cars stuck in the snow, apparently from carbon monoxide poisoning as they ran their car engines to keep warm.—Reuters



A Japan Ground Self-Defence Force excavator removes snow covering a bridge at Hinohara village, west of Tokyo, in this handout picture taken and released on 17 Feb, 2014 by the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force.

REUTERS

WORLD

3 Japanese MSDF ships on training cruise arrive in Cambodia

SIHANOUKVILLE, (Cambodia), 18 Feb — Three Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force vessels on a training cruise docked in Cambodia on Monday.

The three ships — the *Shimakaze*, *Shimayuki* and *Yamayuki* — with 106 cadet officers aboard will stay until Thursday.

The vessels are led by Capt Koji Yagi, commander of Escort Division 15 of the MSDF.

Naoki Koga, operation officer of the *Shimakaze*, told *Kyodo News* that it is the first time for him as well as the cadets to visit Cambodia.

He said during the visit, the cadets will take part in several exchange activities including soccer and volleyball games with their Cambodian counterparts.

He said the three vessels will head to Singapore on Thursday before returning to Japan. In a statement released by the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh, it said the objectives of the visit are to strengthen friendship between Japan and Cambodia and to give opportunities for the cadet officers to learn about the culture and military of Cambodia.—*Kyodo News*



A Palestinian Bedouin man inspects the remains of his tent after it was demolished near the Palestinian West Bank town of Tubas in the Jordan valley, on 17 Feb, 2014. Palestinians said the Israeli military demolished tin shacks, animal pens, and tents.—XINHUA

16 killed, 43 wounded in violent attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb — At least 16 people were killed and 43 others wounded in violent attacks across Iraq on Monday, police said. Eight people were killed and 20 others wounded when a car bomb exploded near a popular market in the neighborhood of Ur in eastern Baghdad, a police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Another car bomb went off in the district of Karrada in central Baghdad, killing two people and injuring seven others, the source said, adding that one civilian was killed and five others were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near a market in the area of Bour in northwestern Baghdad. Three soldiers were killed and three others injured when a roadside bomb targeted an army patrol in Muqdadiah, 80 km northeast of Baghdad, a local police source said.

Two policemen were killed and eight people wounded when a suicide car bomber attacked a police checkpoint near the house of Sheikh Ahmed Abu Risha, a leader of the pro-government Sahwa militia forces in the city of Ramadi, 100 km west of Baghdad, a police source said.—*Xinhua*

Search for 2 missing Japanese divers continues after 5 rescued

DENPASAR, 18 Feb — The search for two Japanese women who disappeared while scuba diving off the Indonesian resort island of Bali continued for a fifth day on Tuesday, after five of their diving mates were rescued the previous day.

Rescuers are searching for 35-year-old Shoko Takahashi, a local diving instructor, and 59-year-old diving enthusiast Ritsuko Miyata, while authorities are trying to confirm reports of local fishermen spotting two women who waved



A Japanese woman is carried out of an ambulance to a hospital on the Indonesian resort island of Bali after being rescued off the island on 17 Feb, 2014.

—*KYODO NEWS*

their hands from a cliff on the same island where the five were found.

On Monday afternoon, rescuers found Atsumi Yoshidome, 29, Aya Morizono, 27, Emi Yamamoto, 33, and Nahomi Kawasaki, 28, Saori Furukawa, 37 on Nusa Penida, an 202-square-kilometre island southeast of Bali, some 30 kilometres from where they began their dive Friday afternoon off the tiny neighbouring island of Nusa Lembongan.

—*Kyodo News*

Venezuela raids opposition party office, expels three US diplomats

CARACAS, 18 Feb — Venezuelan security forces raided the headquarters of an opposition party accused of fomenting nearly a week of violent protests, witnesses said, as the country expelled three US diplomats on charges of conspiring with demonstrators.

Presumed military intelligence officers burst into the opposition Popular Will party office and attempted to forcibly remove several activists after throwing tear gas inside, according to party officials.

“The intelligence officers arrived and began to harass us,” said party activist Adriangela Ruiz. “They threw tear gas, took computers and tried to take away several people.”

The government has issued an arrest warrant for Popular Will’s

founder, Leopoldo Lopez, 42, the US-educated opposition leader accused of murder and terrorism in relation to the violent demonstrations of the past week.

He has been the main instigator of the demonstrations that have energized Venezuela’s opposition, but show few immediate signs they will achieve their goal of ending the government of socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

Student protesters have taken his lead and are now promising to continue demonstrating around the country.

Videos sent to the media by Popular Will, which could not be independently identified, showed men entering the party’s premises, waving guns and kicking down a door.

Students protesting outside the building then prevented the gunmen from

taking anyone away, a party worker said.

Two government officials contacted by *Reuters* said they had no information about the incident and also did not have any way of making authorized spokespeople available.

The Caracas protests have been limited to mostly upscale areas, with little evidence so far that Venezuelans will join the demonstrations en masse across the country of 29 million people. Even so, thousands were out in the streets again on Monday.

Lopez, whose whereabouts were unknown, promised via an online video to hand himself in on Tuesday and called on supporters to march with him to the Interior Ministry.

“Let’s all go dressed in white to one place. Then I will walk alone. I will not put any Venezuelan’s life at

risk,” he tweeted on Monday. After several days of blaming the violence on meddling by Washington,

the Venezuelan government declared three US diplomats personae non gratae, giving them 48 hours

to leave the country on charges they were recruiting college students for the protests.—*Reuters*



An opposition supporter shouts at a riot police officer during a protest against President Nicolas Maduro’s government in Caracas on 17 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Researchers identify first biological marker for major depression

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — British researchers said on Monday they have identified the first biomarker, or a biological signpost, for major depression, a breakthrough they believe could help identify boys in particular at greatest risk of developing the illness.

The study, published in the *US Journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, found teenage boys who show a combination of depressive symptoms and elevated levels of the stress hormone cortisol are up to 14 times more likely to develop major depression than those who show neither trait.

Major, or clinical, depression is a debilitating mental health problem that will affect one in six people

at some point in their lives. However, until now there have been no biomarkers for major depression.

This is believed to be, in part, because both the causes and the symptoms can be so varied. “We now have a very real way of identifying those teenage boys most likely to develop clinical depression,” Professor Ian Goodyer from the University of Cambridge, who led the study, said in a statement. “This will help us strategically target preventions and interventions at these individuals and hopefully help reduce their risk of serious episodes of depression and their consequences in adult life.”

Matthew Owens from the University of Cambridge, first author on the

study, said this new biomarker suggests a more personalized approach to tackling boys at risk for depression. “This could be a much needed way of reducing the number of people suffering from depression, and in particular stemming a risk at a time when there has been an increasing rate of suicide amongst teenage boys and young men,” Owens said.

The researchers measured levels of cortisol in saliva from 1,858 teenagers and combined these with the teen’s self-reports about current symptoms of depression and other psychiatric disorders, which were collected for up to three years.

The subjects with elevated levels of morning



cortisol and high symptoms of depression were on average seven times more likely to suffer from major depression than those with normal levels of morning cortisol and low symptoms of depression. Further analysis revealed that boys with high cortisol levels and high depression symptoms were fourteen times more likely to develop major depression than those with normal levels, while girls with similarly elevated

cortisol levels were only up to four times more likely to develop the condition.

The researchers hope that having an easily measurable biomarker, in this case, elevated cortisol plus depressive symptoms, will enable primary care services to identify boys at high risk and consider new public mental health strategies for this subgroup in the community. “Progress in identifying biological markers for depression has

been frustratingly slow, but now we finally have a biomarker for clinical depression,” said John Williams, head of neuroscience and mental health of the Wellcome Trust, which funded the study. “The approach taken by Professor Goodyer’s team may yet yield further biomarkers. It also gives tantalizing clues about the gender differences in the causes and onset of depression.”

Xinhua

Earth marks close encounter with enormous asteroid

NEW YORK, 18 Feb — An asteroid estimated to be the size of three football fields whizzed close to Earth on Monday, roughly a year after one exploded over Russia and injured 1,200 people.

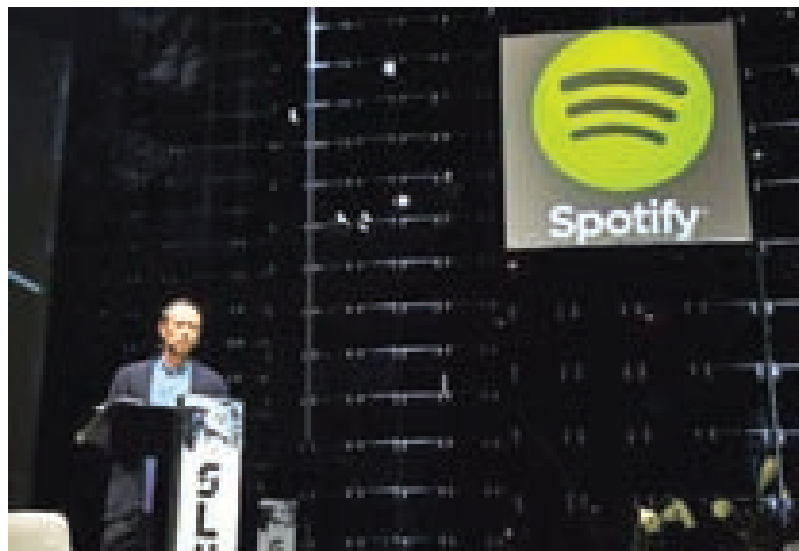
Slooh Space Camera tracked the approach of the asteroid as it raced past the planet at about 27,000 mph (43,000 kmph), starting at 9 pm EST (2 am GMT, 18 February), the robotic telescope service said in a statement on Slooh.com. The Dubai Astronomy Group provided Slooh photos of the part of the sky where the rock was expected to be seen, but its motion could not be picked out immediately in a live webcast against the backdrop of night-time stars.

The 295-yard (270-m) asteroid was streaking past Earth at a distance of about 2.1 million miles (3.4 million km) little more

than a year after another asteroid exploded on 15 February, 2013, over Chelyabinsk, Russia. That asteroid injured 1,200 people following a massive shock wave that shattered windows and damaged buildings. Chelyabinsk region officials had wanted to mark the anniversary by giving a piece of the meteorite to each 2014 Winter Olympic athlete who won a medal on Saturday at the Sochi Games. However, the International Olympic Committee at the last minute said it could be done only after the games and separately.

Slooh’s flagship observatory on Mount Teide in Spain’s Canary Islands was iced over and unable to be used for the 2000 EM26 viewing, Paul Cox, Slooh’s technical and research director, said on the one-hour webcast.

Reuters



Spotify seeks to hire US filings expert as bankers eye IPO

STOCKHOLM, 18 Feb — Online music streaming service Spotify is recruiting a US financial reporting specialist, adding to speculation that the Swedish startup is preparing for a share listing, which one banker said could value the firm at as much as \$8 billion.

Meeting US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) standards for filing financial disclosures is essential for any firm planning to go public and bankers and lawyers said they inferred from the job ad that the company is getting ready for an initial public share offering (IPO), possibly next year.

Streaming and on-demand music have soared in popularity alongside smartphone use, though such services have so far strug-

gled to make profits due to the cost of royalty fees. A Spotify IPO would be one of the most eagerly anticipated global tech IPOs, and bankers speculate it could come alongside possible listings by Airbnb, Square and mobile games maker King which was also created in Sweden. “It looks like they are preparing themselves for an IPO,” said one corporate finance lawyer, who is not advising the firm.

The job advertisement, posted on Spotify’s website and on LinkedIn, said the successful candidate — an “External Reporting Specialist” — would be required to “prepare the company for SEC filing standards. Set up all reports necessary to be SEC compliant”. Spotify declined to comment on whether it

has IPO plans. “As Spotify grows and becomes a more mature company we are looking for people who can help us keep our financial reporting in order and up to global standards,” a spokesman said.

Spotify founder and CEO Daniel Ek has previously played down a listing to Swedish media, saying he was keen to keep the company private. But strong investor sentiment and buoyant tech shares have fuelled speculation by bankers and industry players about a possible listing.

Following a botched debut by Facebook, shares in the social media network have soared nearly 80 percent while Twitter shares are up almost 30 percent since its November IPO.

Reuters

IVF responsible for over 1.5 percent of all births in US in 2012

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — In vitro fertilization (IVF) was responsible for more than 1.5 percent of all births in the United States in 2012, showed a report released on Monday.

The report from the US Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) said its 379 member clinics performed 165,172 cycles, or procedures involving IVF, in 2012. These procedures resulted in the birth of 61,740 babies, an increase of more than 2,000 infants from 2011, it said.

“There were an estimated 3.9 million babies born in the US in 2012, thus IVF babies now constitute over 1.5 percent of all births,” the SART said. “This is the largest number of cycles of babies and percentage of babies born through IVF ever reported.”

Meanwhile, there were fewer embryos per cycle transferred and an increase in elective single embryo transfer, leading to a reduction in the number of twin and triplet births, said the report. Multiple births can be risky for both mothers and children, according to the SART.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Babies with hearty appetite at risk of obesity: studies

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — Infants with a hearty appetite grew more rapidly and might be genetically predisposed to obesity, according to two linked papers published on Monday in the US journal *JAMA Pediatrics*. The first paper, by Professor Jane Wardle of University College London, England and colleagues, revealed that infants with a heartier appetite grew more rapidly up to age 15 months, potentially putting them at increased risk for obesity.

The authors used

data from non-identical, same-sex twins born in the United Kingdom in 2007, who differed on questionnaires measuring appetite and satiety, and whose weight was measured from birth up to age 15 months. Within pairs, the infant who was more food responsive or less satiety responsive grew faster than their co-twin, said the study. The more food responsive twin was 654 grams heavier than their co-twin at six months and 991 grams heavier at 15 months. The less satiety responsive twin was 637

gram heavier than their co-twin at six months and 918 grams heavier at 15 months.

"It might make life easy to have a baby with a hearty appetite, but as she grows up, parents may need to be alert for tendencies to be somewhat over-responsive to food cues in the environment, or somewhat unresponsive to fullness," said Wardle, lead author of the study. "This behavior could put her at risk of gaining weight faster than is good for her." The second *JAMA Pediatrics* paper, in collaboration with King's College



London, shed further light on the way that appetite, particularly low satiety responsiveness, acts as one of the mechanisms underlying genetic predisposition

to obesity. The researchers accessed data from 2,258 10-year-old children born in the United Kingdom between 1994 and 1996.

The team used 28

obesity-related genes to create a polygenic obesity risk score (PRS) for each child to estimate their genetic susceptibility to obesity.—Xinhua

Panasonic to sell Ibaraki plasma TV panel factory site



OSAKA, 18 Feb — Panasonic Corp is considering selling the former site of its plasma television panel development plant in Osaka, as the electronics maker has decided to withdraw from the plasma TV business, sources close to the matter said on Tuesday.

The company may consider renting out part of the 120,000-square-meter site to Yamato Transport Co. The city of Ibaraki, where

the facility is located, is also showing interest in acquiring the land, they said.

The production of plasma display panels began in 2001 at the plant, but it later became a base for assembling TVs and developing display panels after the company transferred plasma display panel production to its Amagasaki plant in Hyogo Prefecture in fiscal 2008.

Most of the roughly

500 employees at the Ibaraki plant will be transferred to Panasonic's Himeji plant in Hyogo Prefecture, which manufactures liquid crystal display panels.

Due to the sluggish plasma TV business, Panasonic incurred a massive group net loss for the second straight year in fiscal 2012 ended March 2013.

The company is also in the final stage of talks with a real-estate investment advisory company in Tokyo to sell part of its Amagasaki plasma display panel factory building.

The Ibaraki plant started operation in 1958 as a production base for color cathode-ray tube televisions.

Kyodo News

Number of test-tube babies born in US hits record percentage

NEW YORK, 18 Feb — More test-tube babies were born in the United States in 2012 than ever before, and they constituted a higher percentage of total births than at any time since the technology was introduced in the 1980s, according to a report released on Monday.

The annual report was from the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART), an organization of medical professionals.

SART's 379 member clinics, which represent more than 90 percent of the infertility clinics in the country, reported that in 2012 they performed 165,172 procedures involving in vitro fertiliza-

tion (IVF), in which an egg from the mother-to-be or a donor is fertilized in a lab dish. They resulted in the birth of 61,740 babies. That was about 2,000 more IVF babies than in 2011.

With about 3.9 million babies born in the United States in 2012, the IVF newborns accounted for just over 1.5 percent of the total, more than ever before.

The growing percentage reflects, in part, the increasing average age at which women give birth for the first time, since fertility problems become more common as people age.

The average age of first-time mothers is now about 26 years; it was 21.4 years in 1970. Although the rising number of test-tube babies suggests that the technology has become mainstream, critics of IVF point out that the numbers,

particularly the success rates, mask wide disparities.

"It's important for people to understand that women over 35 have the highest percentage of failures," said Miriam Zoll, author of the 2013 book "Cracked Open: Liberty, Fertility and the Pursuit of High Tech Babies."

Earlier data from SART showed that the percentage of attempts that result in live births is 10 times higher in women under 35 than in women over 42. And in the older women fewer than half the IVF pregnancies result in a live birth.

Zoll added, "these treatments have consistently failed two-thirds of the time since 1978," when the first test tube baby was born, in England.

Reuters

Months after rehab, knee and hip patients keep improving

NEW YORK, 18 Feb — People who have had a knee or hip replacement reap the benefits of intense rehab months after they've returned home, according to a new analysis. "If you can get patients to a certain threshold level, they can do the rest of the rehabilitation on their own," coauthor Kenneth Ottenbacher told *Reuters Health*.

"In a sense, these patients become their own physical therapists," he said. Ottenbacher directs the Centre for Rehabilitation Sciences at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He and his team analyzed data

from 12,199 US patients who underwent knee or hip replacement between 2008 and 2010. They were all living independently before surgery and were treated at inpatient rehab facilities after the procedure. Patients were 71 years old, on average, and most were female and white. The researchers gathered information on patients' ability to function at three time points: when they were admitted for surgery, when they were discharged from the rehab center and three to six months after discharge. The functional measures covered everything from eating, bathing and climbing



A worker tries on a prosthetic leg for Jimena Ruiz, 6, at the Center of Advanced Prosthetics in San Jose on 11 Feb, 2013. — REUTERS

stairs to memory.

Criteria were scored on a scale of 1 to 7, with higher numbers representing better functioning. When it came to their ability to move around, patients entered surgery with an average score of 1.6 on that scale. That improved to 4.2 at discharge and 5.6 a few months later. Because of high costs, not all hip and

knee replacement patients can be referred to inpatient rehabilitation facilities with constant doctor oversight and intense one-on-one care. "Generally the patients who get referred to these facilities are having other health problems," Ottenbacher said, like diabetes or heart disease.

Reuters

Brazil to be world's top soybean producer

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Feb — Brazil will become the world's largest soybean producer in 2014, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said on Monday.

"Brazil will become the world's leading soybean producer, showing the strength of our agricultural sector, which is important to our development, the domestic supply and exports," Rousseff said.

According to Brazil's national supply company Conab, the total grain yield will reach 193 million tons this year, of which 90 million tons will be soybeans,

outnumbering the soybean output of the United States — currently the largest producer.

The soybean will remain Brazil's largest crop, with its share in the total grain production rising from 43 percent to 47 percent, Conab forecast.

Rousseff said Brazil has committed to boosting its agricultural productivity as its grain production increased by more than two-fold in the past two decades, while the arable land grew only by 41 percent during the same period.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 19 February, 2014

Food security

The more people there are annually, the greater amount of food is needed significantly. Food sufficiency plays a vital role in the survival of mankind. Food security is of paramount importance. Food insecurity and scarcity can bring about many problems.

There have been rising food prices, chronic health problems caused by hunger and malnutrition, economic crisis and increased crime rate in the wake of a severe food shortage. Peace and prosperity prevail in the countries in which food security gains are achieved. Countries facing a lack of food security are to encounter evil consequences.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in its statement, calls for 60 % more food to be produced as 9 billion people will inhabit the world by 2050. It is learnt that World Trade Organization (WTO) will prioritize more food production in the upcoming Doha Round. This indicates that food security has become a top priority, calling for quick implementation of food security.

Individually, food security cannot be achieved, but each and every person is needed to contribute to the task of producing more food. We all need to do our bit for increasing food production. Although farmers are seen as backbone of food sufficiency, the increased productivity of the country in livestock breeding and fisheries sector depends on the levels of productivity of workers and government employees. Likewise, private sector productivity is as important to the high productivity of a certain country as that of the public sector.

While striving for higher agricultural productivity, it is required to promote productivity of workers in other sectors. An increase in agricultural productivity will ensure food security and it can thereby contribute to stable economic growth of a country. With economic stability, problems in other sectors can be addressed to a certain extent. Stable economic growth will happen at the time when food supply surpasses demand. That's why, only cooperation of all in food production could ensure food security.

Myanmar Distributor Agreement signed

YANGON, 18 Feb—The signing ceremony of Myanmar Distributor Agreement between General Electric Lighting and Krislite took place at Chatrium Hotel, here, on 18 February.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe made a speech.

Mr Jack Tan, Country Manager from General Electric Lighting and U Kyaw Moe Naing, Managing Director from Krislite, made clarifications on signing of agreement.

Mr Jack Tan and Mr Sims Teo, Director from Krislite, signed the agreement and changed the documents.

MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shaking hands with Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw receives Chinese ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan at Hluttaw building on 18 February afternoon.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Commission member Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials of Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Workshop on public ...

(from page 1)
history of Ombudsman, the countries which are practising Ombudsman, basic value of Ombudsman and matters related to parliamentary affairs, judiciary affairs and administrative mechanism.

Dr Zaw Oo discussed management on public complaints for public services.

The workshop was

jointly organized by Public Service Pension Adjustment (PSPA), MDRI-CESD and Denmark Ombudsman.

It was attended by deputy ministers, directors-general, deputy directors-general and departmental staff and officials concerned from Denmark Ombudsman.

MNA

Current situation of Fresh Water Seepage into Twyn Taung Crater Lake with high pH and alkaline ecosystem, causing lower pH and dilution with increased population of Tilapia fish eating Spirulina and water beetle

(Continued from 18-2-2014)

(b) The project proposal to harvest Spirulina blue-green algae from Twyn Taung lake was submitted to the government in 1985. A team

EIA, especially its impact on the life cycle of Ephedra water beetle insect. The project was allowed after receiving a report that there will be no



1. Near Gullen Kyul-Gre	6. Twyn Taung Interval (at Baung Pyin)
2. Sin Hsat Pegada	7. Twyn Taung Interval (at Sin Hsat)
3. Near Gullen Pumping Station (2)	8. Near (at Baung Pyin)
4. Twyn Taung Interval pumping station (2)	9. North Twyn Taung (at Baung Pyin)
5. Near Maw Branch	10. Near Thaw Phin Kyul (at Baung Pyin)

Soil sample location and site names, earthen water distribution canals and 5 mile range map in Ye Bu Da Lin water supply region.

of scientists was formed to study the feasibility and

negative impact on the insect.

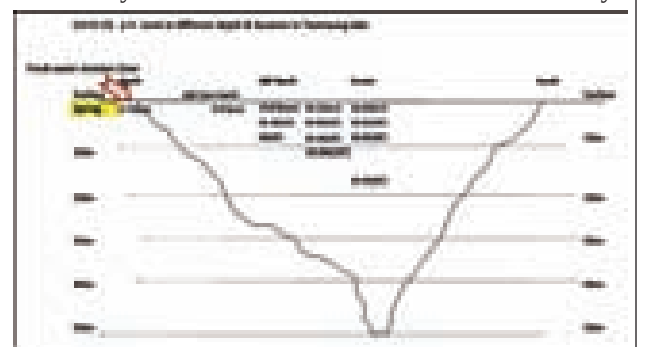
(c) Along the Chindwin river, feasibility studies of Shwe Sa Ye dam project were made for several years. EIA on Twyn Taung ecosystem was questioned. Report back was as follows. Due to the massive structure of the

Dr. Min Thein

dam, the ground watertable in the region will rise definitely. As a result, seepage of fresh water into Twyn Taung lake will lower the pH value and change the extreme alkaline ecosystem of the lake

The main causes are excess fresh water inflow and increasing Tilapia fish population.

23. Excessive fresh water inflow lowers the pH value below 9.8 at which stage the Tilapia fish can survive and breed luxuriantly.



pH level at different depth & location in Twyn Taung lake.

into a fresh water ecosystem. Consequently, rare natural living resources namely Spirulina blue-green algae and Ephedra water beetle insect will become extinct.

Conclusion

22. The deterioration of Twyn Taung lake ecosystem is due to environmental impacts.

As the fish eat the Spirulina blue-green algae and insect larvae, these two rare and living natural resources are facing extinction. It is of utmost importance to take immediate action in order to restore and conserve the unique environmental ecosystem of Twyn Taung Crater Lake.

(Concluded)

Basic principles laid down for implementing work for amending constitution

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said at today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session has sent basic principles for implementing the work for amending the constitution to the committee which will carry out the work.

The chairman of the committee which was formed with 31 Hluttaw representatives on 3 February, 2014, requested the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to give basic principles to be able to implement the work process for amending the constitution successfully.

The joint committee for reviewing and amending the constitution put forward its findings and report on assessment of the constitution to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 1st January, 2014, and to imple-

ment the findings and report of the joint-committee, the committee for implementing the work for amending the constitution was formed comprising 31 Hluttaw representatives.

During the meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 18 February, the Bill Amending the Traditional Medicine Law, the Bill Amending the Electronic and Communication Law and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Development Funds Bill which were approved by Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw were put on record.

The Bill Amending the Myanmar Stamp Act, the Bill Amending the Commercial Tax Law, the Bill Amending the Income Tax Law and Court Fees Act were discussed during the meeting.

MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gift to Indonesian Defence Minister Prof. Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro.—MNA

Myanmar, Indonesia to...

(from page 16)

three years old, it has not reached a level of durability yet. The government and Defence Services are patiently striving for the success of peace process in order to bring an end to internal armed conflict. He expressed his belief that In-

donesia's democratization experiences would contribute to Myanmar.

The Indonesian Defence Minister reaffirmed Indonesia's support for Myanmar's ASEAN Chair-

manship, calling for further cooperation between the two armed forces. He confirmed his presence at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting that Myanmar will host this coming May.

Myanmar, Bangladesh promotes relations between two armed forces



Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, psc, Chief of Army Staff Bangladesh Army.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — A welcome ceremony for visiting General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, psc, Chief of Army Staff Bangladesh Army, was held at Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and the Chief of Army Staff Bangladesh Army took salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected it.

They frankly discussed further ties between the two armed forces, cooperation in bilaterally sending scholars and mutual cooperation in border affairs.

Myawady

Attorney-General of the Union receives ICRC delegation, US Chamber of Commerce's Chairman

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Dr Tun Shin, Attorney-General of the Union, received a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce based in Thailand on 18 February separately.

During the meeting with the ICRC delegation at the office of the Attorney-General of the Union, Dr Tun Shin clarified the of-

fice's working on the bills sent by the ministries and plans for enacting the humanitarian assistance law in the country.

Mr Mariano Vela, Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, has sought advices from the Attorney-General of the Union to open a branch of the US Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar as they are trying to expand the investment in Myanmar.—MNA

Mr Quintana holds separate talks with UEC chairman, ...



Union Minister U Aung Min holds talks with special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr Quintana.—MNA

(from page 16)

election commission, legal affairs and human rights.

They had further discussion on matters related to media, amendment of the Constitution, progress of both communities in Rakhine State and its issues of peace and stability and

rehabilitation tasks, issues of political prisoners, confiscated farmlands, internal peace-making process, ceasefire, uplifting of socio-

economic status of internally displaced persons, taking census process, enacting and amending laws of education and health.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairman U Htay Oo holds talks with special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr Quintana.

MNA

Kaleinaung Bridge, reliable on Yangon-Myeik Union Highway

DAWEI, 18 Feb—Better transport is playing a crucial role in regional development. The strengthening of bridges on the roads are drives for economic and social development of the local people.

Kaleinaung Bridge

stretching on Yangon-Myeik Union Highway is located in Yebyu Township of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region.

The old bridge built by British in 1937 could withstand 10-ton loads of each vehicle. Its clearance was 11.5 feet.

The new bridge is under construction near the old one.

In an interview, Junior Engineer-I U Nyunt Lwin of Bridge Construction Special Group No 6 of Public Works said that the new bridge is No 1/47 called Kaleinaung Bridge. It will

be 660 feet long and 31 feet wide. It will be flanked by 3.5 feet wide pedestrian on either side. Its water clearance will be three feet.

The reinforced concrete facility will withstand 60-ton loads. Its construction started on 1 December 2012.

Kaleinaung was a town

in the Myanmar monarchical period. In the British colonial era, the town was gradually degraded to the village. In the time of new government by restoring peace and tranquility, Kaleinaung became a sub-township.

Thanks to the bridge, Kaleinaung Sub-Township

will have the opportunity to transport its products to other regions through Yangon-Myeik Union Highway. It will be a key infrastructure for the local people to be able to uplift living standards.

MMAL-Dawei District IPRD

Electrification for Ingon Village of Natmauk Tsp coordinated

NATMAUK, 18 Feb—A coordination meeting on electrification for Ingon Village of Natmauk Township in Magway Region was held at the monastery in the village on 16 February. Head of Township Rural Development Department U Aung Ko Latt and Township Development Supportive Committee members U Pyay Thein and U Kyaw Maung, village administrator U Than Htay Lin and electrification committee members and local people attended the meeting.

The head of Township Rural Development Department made a speech. Departmental officials gave talks on electricity supply for the local people. Chairman of Village Electrification Committee U Kyaw Win explained that the households were classified into four groups; as such there are 307 houses in the village, and the electrification will cost K 20 million.

MMAL-Hla Win (IPRD)



Kaleinaung Bridge under construction with use of heavy machinery by engineers and skilled workers of Public Works.

Legal affairs for employee lectured in Magway

MAGWAY, 18 Feb—The talks on legal affairs for employees was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Magway of Magway Region on 17 February.

Director-General U Win Shein of Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department explained matters related to Factories and General Labour Law.

Staff Officer U Saw Myint Htay of the department gave lectures on worksite safety and health knowledge.

Staff Officer U Kyaw Win of Labour Department of Magway Region discussed labour laws.

Assistant Director Daw Khaing Soe Aye of Labour Department of Magway Region gave lectures on labour disputes and its related laws in 2012.

Officials replied to queries raised by those present.

It was attended by 226 employers and employees and 18 staff at District and Township levels.—MMAL-Tin Tun Oo (IPRD)

Lashio gets transformer for electricity supply for local people

LASHIO, 18 Feb—Lashio Township Electricity Supply Enterprise is trying hard to electrification for the local people day and night.

Electricians and Township electrical engineers joined hands with Mya Thin Kyu Electronic Compant Ltd carried out substitution of old lamp-posts with new ones and installation of new

transformer.

All the repairs and maintenance tasks were completed on 17 February.

A 11/-4 KV 160 (KVA) transformer was installed at the corner of Namtu Road and Nampachi Lake in ward 11 and three lamp-posts were substituted with concrete ones near the golf course on Namtu Road.—Kyemon-District IPRD



Aid provided to rural health centres in Kanbalu

KANBALU, 18 Feb—As part of efforts to do public service tasks, Kanbalu Township is implementing the projects by spending K 100 million fund.

A ceremony to hand over the beds for expectant mothers to rural health centres was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Kanbalu on 15 February. Speaker of Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Thin Hlaing stressed the need to carry out public service in implementing the rural development tasks.

The Speaker, Region Hluttaw MP Dr Khin Maung Win and Chairman of Township Management Committee U Myo Lwin handed over the beds to health staff.

At the ceremony, a total of 13 beds were presented to 13 rural health centres. The ceremony was attended by Medical Superintendent of Township Hospital Dr May San Cho, members of township level officials.—MMAL-Aung Win Nyein (IPRD)

Development tasks being accelerated in Karathuri Sub-Township

KARATHURI, 18 Feb—Karathuri Sub-Township is located on Kawthoung-Myeik Road in Taninthayi Region.

As of first week of February this month, strenuous efforts are being made for upgrading of roads in the town under the

supervision of township level officials.

All local roads are being expanded to 50 feet wide facilities and undertaken land preparations.

Moreover, gravels were placed along the road and dredging of drains for proper flow of water.

Maintenance of the roads and bridges are aimed at ensuring smooth transport of the local people.

Shwe Kason Construction Company took responsibility for construction of the road.

Kyemon-Karathuri Sub-Township IPRD

Skilled electricians

taking care of

installing

transformer in

Lashio for supplying

electricity to the local

people in Lashio,

Shan State (North).

REGIONAL

Japan vows to aid Mekong states toward ASEAN Economic Community

TOKYO, 18 Feb — Japan vowed on Tuesday to continue assisting five Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River in building infrastructure and developing the regional economy toward the establishment of a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015.

Parliamentary Senior Vice Foreign Minister Norio Mitsuya said at a Japan-Mekong forum in Tokyo that Japan will help create the envisaged community by “enhancing connectivity and reducing development gaps” between more developed states such as Singapore and less developed ones including Myanmar.

“In addition, Japan will

further strengthen assistance in so-called ‘soft’ infrastructure such as institution- and capacity-building for managing so-called ‘hard’ infrastructure,” Mitsuya said. “Japan’s support to the Mekong region...is dictated by a long-term perspective for the development of individual countries and the region at large.”

The five Mekong states — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam — form the Association of Southeast Asian Nations with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

Mitsuya said Japan expects economic activities and people-to-people exchanges between Japan and the Mekong region to ex-

pand after Tokyo eased visa requirements for all Mekong countries last year.

Japan also agreed with Cambodia and Laos last year to launch bilateral negotiations on direct flight services, while signing an investment pact with Myanmar in December.

The Forum for the Promotion of Public-Private Cooperation in the Mekong Region came after Japan unveiled a total of 200 billion yen in aid to the Mekong region on the sidelines of a Japan-ASEAN summit in December last year, on top of a three-year, 600 billion yen assistance package pledged at a Japan-Mekong summit in 2012. Speaking at the forum, Lao Minister of Public Works and Transport

Sommad Pholsena hailed an increase in Japanese investment to his country “as a new production base following the improvement of the country’s infrastructure, legal framework and the availability of cheap labour.”

“I think that within the next two years, Japan will climb in the ranking from the sixth to the fourth largest foreign investor in Laos after China, Vietnam and Thailand,” Sommad said.

He called for further Japanese investment in the areas of urban transport, logistics and water supply in the form of public-private partnership. Other participants include Vuthy Chea, deputy secretary general of the Council for the Development of Cambodia,

Lei Lei Thein, Myanmar’s Deputy Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Sihasak Phuangketkeow, permanent secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry, and Vu Quynh Le, deputy director general of the Public Procurement Agency at Vietnam’s Ministry of Planning and Investment.

The meeting focuses on Japan-Mekong cooperation in the three areas of infrastructure and special economic zones, health and medicine, and tourism. Its outcome will be reported to a foreign ministerial meeting and a summit of Japan and the Mekong states slated for later this year, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.—Kyodo News

Vietnam to send 90,000 workers abroad in 2014

HO CHI MINH CITY, 18 Feb — Vietnam has planned to send 90,000 workers abroad in 2014, on top of last year’s total number of 85,000, following the recovery of the employment markets overseas, according to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). The MOLISA added that it will focus on major markets such as China’s Taiwan, Japan and the ROK.

Labour export is a spearhead and innovative programme for job generation, and key to the country’s economic vitality in the upcoming year, said MOLISA Minister Pham Thi Hai Chuyen.—Xinhua

Brunei to promote investment opportunities with China

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 18 Feb — Brunei’s monetary authority Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding Securities and Futures Regulatory Cooperation with China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) on Monday.

The aim of the MoU is to promote investor protection and uphold the integrity of the capital markets in both countries by providing a framework to enhance cross-border regulatory cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information.

The MoU also provides a foundation to foster mutual understanding and encourage sound development of the capital markets in the respective countries.

Xinhua



A 18 Feb, 2014, photo shows the roof of a gymnasium collapsed under the weight of snow in Gyeongju, South Korea. At least 10 people died and more than 100 were injured as more than 500 college students were having a welcoming party for freshmen in the building when the roof collapsed on 17 Feb. KYODO NEWS

10 people dead after S Korean resort building collapses in snow

SEOUL, 18 Feb — Ten people, including nine students, had been confirmed dead by early on Tuesday after a resort building collapsed late Monday in the southern South Korean city of Gyeongju amid heavy snow, Yonhap News

Agency reported. More than 100 were injured in the 9:16 pm collapse while over a dozen others remain missing, possibly still trapped in debris. Rescue operations continued through the night in the city 370 kilometres south of Seoul.

About 560 college students were having a welcoming party for freshmen in the resort building when the incident occurred.

Many tried to flee when cracks started to appear in the ceiling but about 100 people are believed to have

failed to make it outside when the ceiling collapsed about 15 minutes later.

One of the dead is an employee of an events company. Three students and 11 other employees remain unaccounted for.

Kyodo News

Government green-lights Sydney Airport master plan

SYDNEY, 18 Feb — A controversial 20-year plan for Sydney Airport — known as the Master Plan 2033 — has won Australian federal government approval, on Tuesday, with the official green light welcomed by Sydney Airport, despite opposition from local carriers.

Designed to improve the passenger experience and increase efficiency, Sydney Airport welcomed the master plan which will secure development for Australia’s premier airport for the period to 2033 and beyond. “Sydney Airport is one of Australia’s most important pieces of infrastructure and is a vital economic engine for Sydney, NSW and Australia,” Sydney Airport Chief Executive Officer Kerrie Mather said.

Xinhua

Singapore registers slowest tourist spending growth in 2013 since 2009

SINGAPORE, 18 Feb — Singapore’s tourist spending recorded a new high of 23.5 billion Singapore dollars (18.7 billion US dollars) in 2013, up 1.6 percent on year, according to preliminary estimates by Singapore Tourism Board released on Monday. The growth, however, was the slowest since 2009.

The city-state welcomed a record 15.5 million tourists last year, up 7.2 percent on year. The tourism board said the slower growth rate in spending was mainly due to spending cut by business

visitors, who spent 6 percent less on year during the first nine months last year. The board said the decline in business travel, meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions (BTMICE) sector was due to cutback on travel budgets. On the other hand, from January to September last year, leisure travellers spent 10 percent more than the same period a year earlier. During the same period, visitors from the Chinese mainland surpassed Indonesia as the biggest spenders in Singapore, with tourism receipts

of 2.38 billion Singapore dollars (1.89 billion US dollars), 5.77 percent more than Indonesians’. This excludes what they spent on sightseeing, entertainment and gaming.

The rise in Chinese visitors’ spending was mainly due to increase in shopping expenditure, the tourism board said. There were totally 1.9 million visitors coming into Singapore from Chinese mainland from last January to September, still ranking as the second largest tourists resource following Indonesia.

Xinhua



Tourists walk on the snow-covered Jawaharlal Nehru Marg while returning from Changu lake to Gangtok, capital of India’s Sikkim State, on 17 Feb, 2014. Around 300 tourists were affected due to extreme weather.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY
NO (061)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (061) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (228)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (228) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

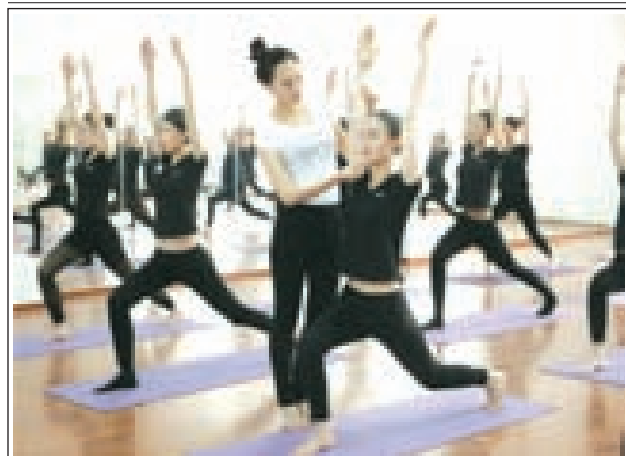
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (004)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S VISA SHIPPING LINE PTE
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Art students take body-shaping exercises in a model school in Beijing. —XINHUA

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(4/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-185(2013-2014)	Fire Fighting Truck	(1) Unit	US\$
(2)	IFB-186(2013-2014)	CAT D 3508 Marine Engine Assy With Gear Box	(2) Sets	US\$
(3)	IFB-187(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT D 399 Engine & CAT D 379 Engine	(7) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-188(2013-2014)	30" LSAW API 5L, Grade X65, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (35 Miles) & Accessories	(1) Lot	US\$
(5)	IFB-189(2013-2014)	2" & 3" Pipe Fittings	(8) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-190(2013-2014)	6" x 8" R Mixing Pump	(3) Sets	US\$
(7)	IFB-191(2013-2014)	20" LSAW API 5L, Grade X 46, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (5 Miles) & Accessories	(1) Lot	US\$
(8)	IFB-192(2013-2014)	Surveying, Transferring, Laying, Welding, Construction, NDT, Land and Crop Compensation of 20" Gas Pipe Line	(1) Lot	US\$
(9)	DMP/L-062(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT-D399 Engine Ex USS Oil Well Rig	(4) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-063(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT-D3512 Engine Ex ZJ 50 D SR I&II Rig	(5) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-064(2013-2014)	Roller Bearing (3) Items for K-700 Rig Pump's Jack Shaft and 100 Tons Jack Hydraulic Hand Pump	(1) Lot	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 17-3-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th February, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SHAMIM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAMIM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND & SEA LOGICTICS
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KUINATEE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUINATEE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KUINATEE SHIPPING
CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

UK employment growth set to slow: survey

LONDON, 18 Feb — Britain's recent better-than-expected employment growth is expected to slow slightly just as economic growth is taking hold, said a survey report issued on Monday.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) said in its quarterly labor market outlook survey report: "Although recruitment intentions remain positive, the rate of increase has slowed significantly and the vast majority of organizations expect to give pay awards below the current rate of inflation (CPI)."

The CIPD's survey result reflected a "productivity hangover" affecting British employers who have maintained and increased employment over a sustained period of falling output.

The survey involving almost 1,000 employers found that optimism was higher for employment in the manufacturing and production sector than the services sector, which accounts for more than 70 percent of the country's economy. However, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were significantly more positive about their

employment prospects than large employers.

According to the report, recruitment intentions among employers have fallen to 54 percent from 65 percent during the past three months, which is the lowest proportion planning to recruit staff since the survey began.

In addition, around one in five employers plan to make redundancies in the first quarter 2014, which is also equal to the lowest level since the survey began.

"Employment growth, normally a lagging indicator of recovery, seems to have preceded the

stronger signs of growth we're now seeing," said Gerwyn Davies, the CIPD's Labor Market Adviser, comments.

"So it is unsurprising that employment intentions are now dipping just as economic growth seems to be taking hold, with employers needing to tackle the major productivity hangover affecting the UK economy."

"Weak productivity partly explains why a majority of employers expect to continue awarding below inflation pay rises for their workforce."

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT



Brangelina at the BAFTAs.

Is this why Angelina, Brad wore matching tuxedos on BAFTA red carpet?

NEW DELHI, 18 Feb — The fashion standout on the BAFTA red carpet in London on 16 February was neither Cate Blanchett's black and silver Alexander McQueen nor Amy Adam's sleek Victoria Beckham. In fact, it was not a dress at all but Angelina Jolie's Saint Laurent tuxedo, identical to partner Brad Pitt's but for the loosened collar and undone bow tie.

If Angelina was trying to make a statement, it

was this: He's with me. I'm with him. We're together. A little way away on the red carpet was the possible cause of this sartorial show of togetherness — Brad's 12 Years A Slave co-star Lupita Nyong'o, stunning in strapless emerald green Dior. Just weeks ago, Angelina's appearance at the wrap party for her new film Unbroken raised eyebrows. "She had a bulging vein in her forehead and dark circles under her eyes. Her

famous lips even looked thin. Everyone is talking about Brad's crush on his 12 Years A Slave co-star Lupita Nyong'o and she looked sick with worry," news agencies had quoted a source as saying then.

There were certainly no signs of worry with the tuxedo — the lips were pillowy, eyes sparkled, and, as they posed arm-in-arm on the red carpet, all seemed well with the Jolie-Pitts.

PTI



Gunday releases on 14 February. —PTI

Gunday earns over Rs 40 crore in its opening weekend

MUMBAI, 18 Feb — Yash Raj Films' latest offering Gunday has collected over Rs 40 crore in three days. It is expected to do well in the next weekend too, says a trade expert. Director Ali Abbas Zafar's action thriller, which released on 14 February, has minted Rs 43.93 crore, said a statement.

The movie starring Ranveer Singh, Arjun Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra "has managed to draw crowd to cinema halls", says Gautam Dutta, chief operating officer, PVR Cinemas.

"It is one of the much-awaited films. The response is very good. The occupancy

(over three days) was about 80 percent. The songs, genre and two young actors with Priyanka — everything is well taken up," said Dutta.

"We are positive about next weekend too," said Dutta. He also said that some people liked the first half of the film more than the second half. Irrespective of it, the response has been welcoming. Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who watched Gunday at its Mumbai premiere, called it "an adrenaline-packed movie". Gunday, made on an approximate budget of Rs.50 crore including promotions, reportedly hit over 2,000 screens across India.—PTI

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan to play Kalari fighter in P Vasu's film?

CHENNAI, 18 Feb — Southern filmmaker P Vasu, known for films such as Chandramukhi and Chinna Thambi, says that he has finalised Aishwarya Rai for his upcoming untitled multilingual, which will feature the former beauty queen as a Kalari fighter.

"Aishwarya was really

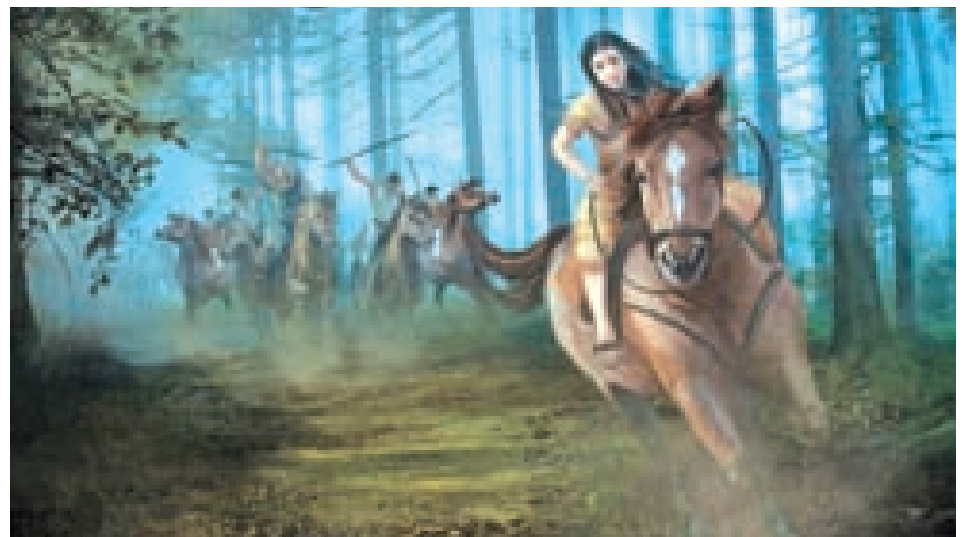
impressed with the script. She will be seen in a never seen before powerful role. She will essay a Kalari fighter in the film and for the same she will undergo special stunt training," Vasu said in a statement. Vasu, who has been scripting the film for over two years, says it will be high on visual effects.

"Major visual effects companies are being considered. Animatronics expert from France are

being hired for the visual effects in the film, which will be shot in exotic locales of North Indian and some important portions in Cambodia," he added. The film, to be shot simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi, will be produced by K Ramesh of Global One Studios. Two top heroes are being considered for the male lead. The names will be announced soon.

Aishwarya was, however, yet to confirm her

participation in the Vasu venture. Vasu, who will also be soon directing the Kannada remake of recent Malayalam blockbuster Drishyam, has directed over 50 titles in two decades. He had directed the Hindi film Hogi Pyaar Ki Jeet. Meanwhile, Aishwarya, who has starred in southern films such as Jeans, Enthiran and Raavan, is reportedly also being considered for filmmaker Mani Ratnam's next project.—PTI



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in an animatronics-facilitated still from the film.—PTI

London fashion shows draw inspiration from painting, sportswear

LONDON, 18 Feb — London's fashion designers looked to painting and sportswear for inspiration as leading fashion editors, models and celebrities flocked to the capital's biggest runway shows on Monday. British heritage brand Burberry sent models down the runway in long flowing dresses and scarves, daubed with brushstroke designs of flowers, leaves and autumnal abstract prints in shades of cornflower blue, lemon yellow and blush pink.

The show, which featured a live performance from musicians Paloma Faith, Ed Harcourt and Rhodes, was attended by

actors Bradley Cooper and Naomie Harris, as well as US Vogue editor Anna Wintour and Harry Styles from boy band One Direction. Designer Christopher Bailey said he drew inspiration from artists in London's Bloomsbury Group of the early 20th century, which included painters Duncan Grant and Roger Fry. "What I wanted to do is try to capture that spirit in the collection — the colours, embroideries, the fabrics — but also through all the hand painting on all the bags and the coats and the shoes and the belts," Bailey, who is set to become the company's chief ex-

ecutive soon, told reporters backstage.

Burberry's signature trench coats featured hand-painted designs and were cinched neatly at the waist, paired with knitted pencil skirts in shades of ochre, burnt orange, and russet reds. American designer Tom Ford dressed his models in velvet tunics, leather pencil skirts, brightly colored fur coats and sequined football jerseys embellished with his name. Floor-skimming skirts, cropped jackets and knitted dresses also featured in Ford's collection in luxurious fabrics such as leopard fur, alligator leather and cashmere."It

was a pared-back, streamlined collection. It was a bit of a pullback but still very chic, very luxurious. It feels right to me," he told Reuters. Ford said he was confident his label, which he founded in 2006 after leaving Gucci and YSL, was on the way to becoming one of the top international fashion brands in the world.

Earlier in the day, Georgian designer David Koma, who was hired by Thierry Mugler in December to become artistic director, kitted out his eponymous collection with sharply tailored outfits in a range of luxurious textures.

Reuters



A model presents a creation from Topshop Unique Autumn/Winter 2014 collection during London Fashion Week on 16 Feb, 2014. REUTERS

SPORTS

Zoueva coaches gold and silver winners

SOCHI, (Russia), 18 Feb — Marina Zoueva faced the ultimate test of her loyalties at the Winter Olympics on Monday as, in a bitter-sweet twist for ice dancing's supreme coach, she found her allegiances torn three ways. Born and raised in Russia, the spiritual heart and soul of ice dancing, a part of Zoueva wanted the host nation to win, but she had also been working tirelessly trying to get the United States or Canada to top the podium.

As the long-time coach of the American pairing of Meryl Davis and Charlie White and the Canadian duo of Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, it is a scenario that Zoueva has long had to live with. Four years ago, at

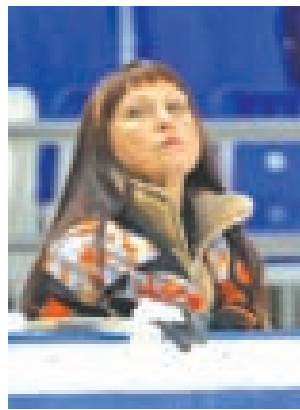
the Vancouver Olympics, she coached the gold and silver medallists — with Virtue and Moir winning on home ice and Davis and White coming second.

On Monday, Zoueva did it again, but this time the placings were reversed with the Americans triumphing ahead of the Canadians. To top it all off, the Russian pair of Elena Illykh and Nikita Katsalapov finished third, giving her a part in all three medallists. "It was important for me to do a special programme for my mother land country," Zoueva said. "I chose a Russian story for each programme. I wanted to touch the heart of the people."

After the flower presentation, the winners and

runners-up ushered Zoueva to join them on the Iceberg Skating Palace rink. She embraced them all one by one then stood in the middle to pose for photographers as the crowd applauded. Then she grabbed two flags, one American and one Canadian, and symbolically held them together as her star pupils traded their own hugs and kisses. "Marina really just does an incredible job," Davis said after the short programme. "I think the two teams have very different styles, very different strengths and very different approaches to skating in general."

"We are just grateful that certainly while there are complexities that arise, she just does such a



Marina Zoueva

wonderful job with putting us all exactly where we feel we need to be." Before she became a master coach and choreographer, Zoueva was on the mighty Soviet Union team as an ice dancer herself. She never made it to the Olympics and her best finish at the world championships was fifth but what she may have lacked in athleticism she has more than made up for with her vision and imagination.

Reuters

Japan captures bronze in team ski jumping in Sochi

SOCHI, (Russia), 18 Feb — Japan won the bronze medal in the men's team ski jumping final at the Sochi Games Monday, making its first Olympic podium finish in the event since winning the competition on home soil at the 1998 Nagano Games.

Anchored by 41-year-old veteran and Sochi large hill silver medalist Noriaki

Kasai, the Japanese team earned the bronze with a total of 1024.9 points and bettered its mark of fifth place at the 2010 Vancouver Games.

Germany and two-time defending champion Austria took the gold and silver, respectively, with points of 1041.1 and 1038.4 at RuSki Gorki Jumping Centre.

Kyodo News



Members of the Japanese ski jumping team — (from L) Reruhi Shimizu, Taku Takeuchi, Daiki Ito and Noriaki Kasai — celebrate after winning the bronze medal in the men's team ski jumping competition at the Sochi Olympic Games in Russia on 17 Feb, 2014. — KYODO NEWS

Lippi turns down Evergrande's offer for contract extension

GUANGZHOU, 18 Feb — Italian veteran coach Marcello Lippi has turned down an offer from Guangzhou Evergrande to extend his contract which will expire at the end of the 2014 season, the Chinese Super League champions said on Monday.

"We expressed our wish in December last year to extend his contract, but he (Lippi) did not give us a nod," Liu Yongzhuo, the president of the Evergrande club, told a Press conference. According to Liu, Lippi was reluctant to stay at Evergrande beyond 2014 mainly because he was "tired".

"We had an extreme long season in 2013. Our

team started training in January and didn't finish our obligation until four days before Christmas. So it was very stressful for the head coach," said Liu. Lippi, 65, was also present at the Press conference but made no reply when asked about negotiations over a contract extension.

The World Cup-winning coach joined Evergrande in May 2012 and has led them to win two Chinese Super League, a Chinese FA Cup and the 2013 AFC champions league titles. There have been rumors that Lippi is likely to coach a national team once he completes his contract with Evergrande.

Xinhua

Italian veteran coach Marcello Lippi



Lopez recovers from slow start to beat Querrey



Feliciano Lopez of Spain serves to Andy Murray of Britain during their men's singles match at the Australian Open 2014 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 18 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — Feliciano Lopez has never shied away from a lengthy contest and the

Spaniard prevailed 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 against American Sam Querrey in his latest test in the opening round of

the Delray Beach Open on Monday. Lopez has had his share of marathon duels, including his epic 2009 Australian Open thriller against Gilles Muller that went four hours and 22 minutes.

Monday's match lasted 94 minutes, but was a full three-set battle that saw Lopez recover from a slow start to triumph. The sixth seeded Spaniard had his service broken twice and fell behind in the first set, but he would not be broken on his service for the remainder of the match as he found form and put away Querrey.

To help his cause, Querrey went backwards

during a contest that saw him lose five games on his service and commit four double faults. In earlier Delray action, Adrian Panarino topped Jack Sock in straight sets 6-4, 6-2.

Mannarino had fallen to the American Sock in their two other matchups this season but broke through in a big way. Despite Sock's seven aces, the Frenchman was able to pounce on Sock's second serve attempts and capitalize. The other results filled out the four qualifying spots in the 32-player field that includes No 1 seed Tommy Haas of Germany.

Reuters

Americans make history on ice, fog forces delays in mountains

SOCHI, (Russia), 18 Feb — Americans Meryl Davis and Charlie White skated into the history books at the Sochi Winter Olympics on Monday when they won the ice dance gold, but thick fog in the mountains forced organizers to postpone two events and warned of more delays to come.

Belarus maintained their remarkable medal charge, picking up two more titles including gold for Darya Domracheva, who is now the only woman to have won three biathlon titles at the same Games after her 12.5km mass start victory. In the biggest contest of the day at the 7-23 February Olympics, another record fell. Davis and White



Meryl Davis and Charlie White of the US celebrate with their flag after the flower ceremony during the Figure Skating Ice Dance Free Dance Program at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, on 17 Feb, 2014. — REUTERS

became the first Americans to win the Olympic ice dance title with a spellbinding performance to the music of Rimsky-Korsakov's

"Scheherazade".

While their dazzling display thrilled the crowd packed into the Iceberg Skating Palace, spectators

in the mountains were disappointed by the postponement of the men's biathlon 15km mass start and men's snowboard cross competitions until Tuesday. "We're so excited we're kind of in shock a little. I'm not sure what we're feeling," a beaming Davis told reporters after improving on their silver medal finish from four years ago. White added: "To come away with a gold medal is amazing ... And 17 years of hard work was justified."

Weather delays may extend further into the final week of the Games, officials have warned, with the women's giant slalom possibly turning into a two-day affair. — Reuters

GENERAL

In memoriam Family shares merits gained Maha Thayay Sithu Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us thirteen years ago, we family members have made donations and offered 'soon' and provisions to members of the Sangha today on 19-2-2014. We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife -Daw Khin Than Nwe
Sons and daughters- -U Maung Maung Kyaw(BSI)
+ Daw Cho Leh Oo
-Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
-Dr Myat Noe+Yin Mar Oo
-Zaw Tun Oo+ Khin Thida
-Nay Tun Oo
Grandchildren -Hein Htet, Yin Myat Noe,
-Phu Ngon Kyaw,
-Thant Thi Han Zaw
(Po Thila)



An exhibition of "Beautiful China" opens in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 17 Feb, 2014. Ministry of Culture of China and Confucius Institute of Trinidad and Tobago on Monday opened the photo exhibition of "Beautiful China", aiming at introducing the developments in China in recent years and enhancing the relationship between the two countries. XINHUA

Israel bank chief blames poverty for low growth rates

JERUSALEM, 18 Feb — Israel's central bank chief Karnit Flug blamed on Monday demographic trends, primarily among the aging and low-employment groups such as Arabs and Jewish ultra-Orthodox, for Israel's declining growth rates.

Addressing a conference in Jerusalem, Flug said the unemployment particularly among Jewish ultra-Orthodox men and Arab women, as well as aging communities, is likely to cut 1.3 percent from the country's annual growth rate. Calling for a proactive government policy to address the issue, Flug warned that in the absence of such policy, "not only will we not advance, but we will go backwards."

Flug said Israel must increase its investments in education and professional training of Arabs and ultra-Orthodox. "Even if they join the workforce, unless the human capital gap is closed, we are talking about low-paid employment," she said.

Ultra-Orthodox make up about 10 percent of Israel's population of eight million, and Arabs constitute some 20 percent. Some 50 percent of these communities live in poverty, according to a recent report on Israel's economy by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(19-2-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am	3:00 pm
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	21. News
6:20 am	3:15 pm
2. Physical Exercises	22. TV Drama Series
6:30 am	4:00 pm
3. Documentary	23. News
6:50 am	4:15 pm
4. Classical songs	24. Cultural Dances
7:00 am	4:25 pm
5. News/ Weather Report	25. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Geography)
7:20 am	5:00 pm
6. Myanmar Language	26. News
7:40 am	5:30 pm
7. Pyi Thu Ni Ti	27. India Drama Series
7:50 am	6:00 pm
8. Documentary	28. News/Weather Report
8:00 am	6:20 pm
9. News/ International News	29. Shwe Yin Chone Than
8:30 am	6:45 pm
10. India Drama Series	30. TV Drama Series
9:00 am	7:00 pm
11. News/ International News	31. News
9:30 am	7:20 pm
12. Documentary	32. TV Drama Series
10:00 am	8:00 pm
13. News	33. News/ International News/ Weather Report
10:15 am	8:35 pm
14. TV Drama Series	34. People Talks
11:00 am	8:50 pm
15. Documentary	35. Teleplay
11:30 pm	9:00 pm
16. Approching Science Discovery World	36. News
11:50 pm	37. Documentary
17. Teleplay (Traffic)	38. Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance
12:00 pm	39. TV Drama Series
18. News / International News/ Weather Report	
12:25 pm	
19. Myanmar Movies	
2:45 pm	
20. Musical Programme	

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

19-2-14 07:00 am ~
20 -2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Journey To The Lashio (Kyi Hla Han's Journey)
- * World New
- * Green Grocer
- * Local News
- * Continuation In Rural Tradition
- * World News
- * Temple Stalls
- * Local News
- * Snack Dancer
- * World News
- * Cosplayer
- * Local News
- * Soft Crab Breeding Procedure
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations-Gem Stone Painting
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
- * Pilgrimage To Alaung Taw Kassapa Hill
- * World News
- * Myanmar Puppet
- * Local News
- * Lively group folk dance of Karan nationals
- * World News
- * School for the Blind
- * Local News
- * The Great Po Sein
- * World News
- * Porcelain and Glass

Brazil official urges Cuiabá to ensure stadium ready for World Cup

SAO PAULO/BRASILIA, 18 Feb — Brazil's government on Monday urged officials in the city of Cuiabá to do whatever necessary to get its stadium ready in time for this year's World Cup soccer tournament, following a prosecutors' report that an October fire at the venue caused far more damage than previously disclosed.

Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo downplayed the severity of the 25 October fire at Cuiabá's Arena Pantanal, which he described as "small," but he acknowledged that prosecutors in Mato Grosso state, where the stadium is located, have demanded a new, independent evaluation of its

safety following the report of structural damage there.

The state government gave reporters a tour on Monday of the area where the fire hit, and no signs of damage were apparent. An independent consultant was also due to visit the Cuiabá stadium on Monday and report his findings back to Brazilian officials and FIFA, soccer's governing body, which has said it was unaware of any structural damage caused by the fire. Prosecutors have said they will not allow games to be played at the stadium until they are certain it is structurally sound.

A test match between Brazilian soccer teams is slated for early April,

while the first World Cup match to be played in Cuiabá is set for 13 June, between Chile and Australia.

"We recommended to the (stadium's) owner, which is the state government, and the companies building it that they adopt all measures so that the stadium can be ready" for the World Cup, Rebelo told reporters, without offering further details.

His comments, the first by a senior federal official since Reuters disclosed the contents of the prosecutors' report on Saturday, came at a news conference in Brasilia with FIFA's secretary general, Jerome Valcke. Valcke deferred a question

about the stadium to Rebelo. The questions over the Cuiabá stadium have added to Brazil's struggles to get ready for the World Cup, which starts on June 12. Stadiums have been plagued by construction delays and accidents that have killed six workers.

FIFA is expected to announce this week whether another stadium, in the southern city of Curitiba, will be dropped from the tournament because of construction delays there.

The 18-page report on Cuiabá's stadium by the Mato Grosso state Public Ministry, an independent judicial body similar to the district attorney's office in the United States, was



A view of the construction of the Arena Pantanal soccer stadium, which will host several matches of the 2014 World Cup, in Cuiabá, on 13 February, 2014.

REUTERS

prepared in December but had not previously been disclosed to the public. The Mato Grosso state government has repeatedly denied

that the fire caused structural problems and said on Sunday that the damage has since been fixed.

Reuters

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives DPRK ambassador

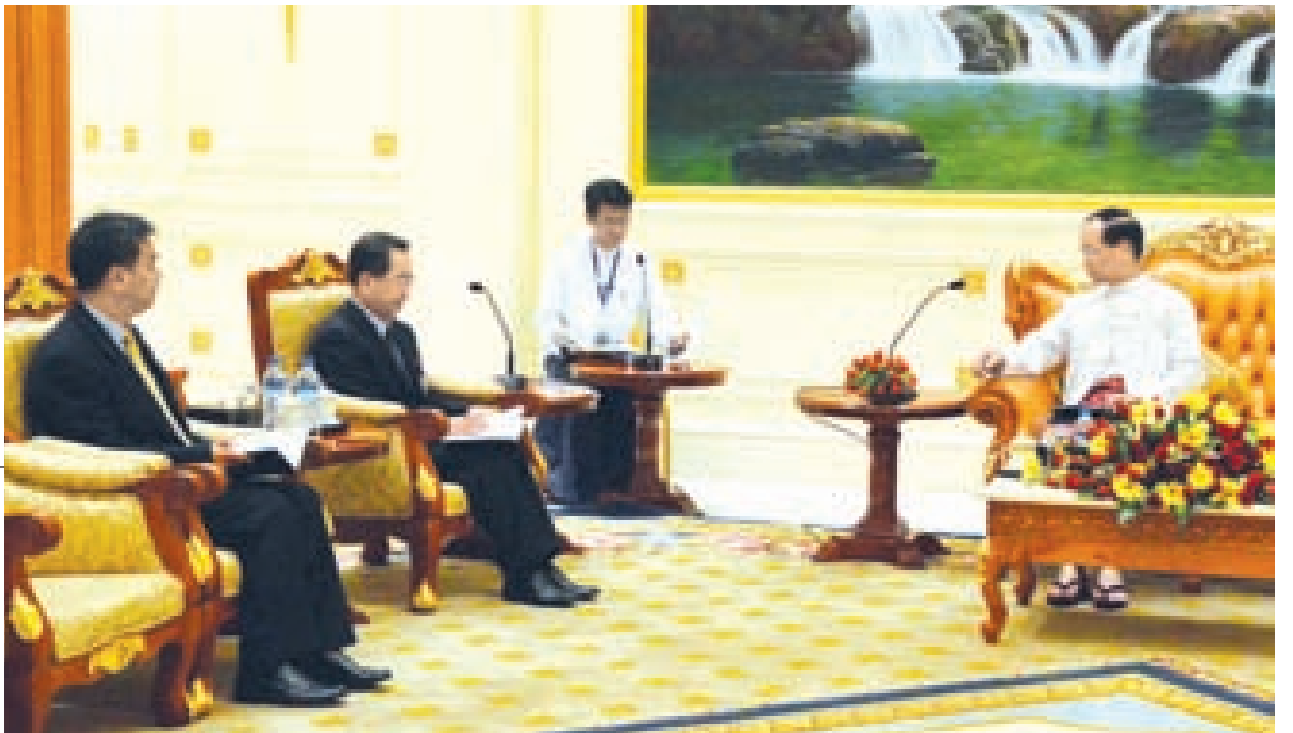
NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mr. Kim Sok Chol at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

At the call, they focused on further cementing amity between the two countries and develop-

ments of the countries.

Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw also attended the call.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Ambassador of DPRK Mr. Kim Sok Chol at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.—MNA



Myanmar, Indonesia to bolster ties between the two nations, the two armed forces

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb— His visit to Indonesia is to bolster bilateral ties between the nations and the two armed forces, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing while holding talks with

Prof. Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, at the latter's office on 17 February.

The Commander-in-Chief called for adherence to the principles of Bandung Conference, maintain-

ing already-achieved good relations between the two countries.

He assured that Myanmar is committed to the multiparty system which is progressing. As the country's democratization is (See page 9)

Fifth International Commemoration day in memory of the victims of the Holocaust



Annual international day of commemoration to honour the victims of Holocaust in progress.—NLM

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb— Following the United Nations Resolution-60/7 (1 November 2005) the Ministry of Education of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in collaboration with of the United Nations, Embassies of Israel and Germany, with support from the Embassies of United States of America, France and the British Council Myanmar, organized the commemoration ceremony on 17 February.

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as the

annual international day of commemoration to honour the victims of Holocaust. This date was chosen since it marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp in occupied Poland.

In his speech the Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar, Hagay Moshe Behar, emphasized that... "the State of Israel is committed to preserving the memory and passing on the heritage left to us, by the holocaust survivors. We, the generation that

came after, must never forget, since the history of the Holocaust is not just a lesson from the past... it is also a lesson for the future...".

The main lecture was given by Dr. Joel Zisenwine from the Tel-Aviv University on behalf of "Yad Vashem" the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Jerusalem-Israel.

Following the main event in the university, two more lectures on the subject were given in the Myanmar Peace Center and in the British Council.—NLM

Basic principles laid down for implementing work for amending constitution

NEWS ON PAGE-9

Mr Quintana holds separate talks with UEC chairman, Union ministers

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—A delegation led by Mr Quintana who proposed Myanmar citizen's rights paid separate calls to Union Election Committee Chairman U Tin Aye, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U

Mya Nyein, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi, U Soe Thane, U Aung Min, Dr Daw Khin San Yi and Dr Pe Thet Khin, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizen's Fundamental Rights, Democracy

and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo and Senior Legal Advisers to the President led by U Sit Aye.

They discussed election matters, potentials to by-election and activities of (See page 9)

Dy Border Affairs Minister meets foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb— Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn received Head of Office of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Mr Mark Edward Cutts and party and Regional Director Mr Michael Vatikiotis of Human-

tarian Dialogue Centre at the ministry separately today.

They focused on further cooperation among the Union government, Rakhine State government and UN agencies in providing humanitarian aid for both communities in Rakhine State and durability of infrastruc-

ture and human resources development.

More cooperation in solving community conflict not only in Myanmar but in various regions of the world, taking measures for regional peace and providing humanitarian assistance were also discussed.—MNA

Myanmar exports vegetables to ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Myanmar is making efforts to boost its agricultural produce for domestic consumption at home and to export value-added vegetables to abroad.

Under the supervision of Agriculture and Irriga-

tion Ministry, Myanmar exported dried Chinese artichokes weighing 1560 kilos to the Republic of Korea by air and 3640 kilos of chive roots by container ship on 9 February.

Myanmar exported these kinds of vegetables

to Pacific-Energy Co. Ltd through Lim-SHING Co. Ltd.

According to an official from Agriculture Department, plans are underway to promote export of other vegetables.

Ko Pauk (Okka Myay)

