

Development can be achieved in Chin State through combination of transparent political order based on peace process and strength of human resources of Chin nationals

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb— President U Thein Sein sent a message on the occasion to mark the 66th Anniversary Chin National Day which falls on 20 February, 2014. The translation of the message is as follows:-

Esteemed national people in Chin State,

I take great pride in sending my message to the celebration of the 66th Anniversary Chin National Day which falls on 20 February, 2014.

Unity that was built among our national brethren is

an integral part of the history of Myanmar's struggle for Independence. Under the leadership of our national leader General Aung San, the Panglong Agreement that is of vital importance in building national unity was signed on 12 February, 1947, after making a firm determination to

gain independence of the hilly regions and the mainland under one flag. Myanmar regained its independence after the Aung San-Atlee Agreement.

After gaining Independence, Chin nationals gathered
(See page 9)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing back home from Indonesia



NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb— Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party on 20 February arrived back home after paying a goodwill visit to Indonesia.

While in Bali, he visited Kopi Luwak coffee farm.

He also observed Bali Mandara Toll Road constructed by Jasamarga Bali Tol Highway Corporation.
(See page 9)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views aerial view of Bali Bridge in Indonesia.
MYAWADY

Renovation to U Bein Bridge of historical importance

Mandalay Region Department of Archaeology and National Museum recently voiced that there will be renovations to U Bein Bridge, without damaging its original structure. The bridge situated in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region is the longest teak bridge in the world.

As the historic teak bridge that spans Taungtha-man Lake and links Amarapura Old City and Yadanabon University is more than 150 years old, renovation is needed to ensure the long-term durability of the bridge, said an official of the department. Now, plans are underway to renovate the bridge through cooperation between the department and donors, an official said.

He said: "U Bein Bridge is certainly worth a

visit for globetrotters who arrive in Mandalay. The bridge is always crowded with visitors in the evening as the best time to see the bridge is at sunset. Visitors, numbering more than 1000, come in flocks to watch the sunset from the bridge every evening during this season. So, we concerned the durability of the bridge."

He continued that those interested to make renovation to the bridge will be allowed with the permission of the department to conserve the bridge, without harming its cultural heritage.

U Sein Myint, one of Mandalarians, highlighted the importance of conserving the original structure of the bridge, saying that it stands as an eye-catching piece of architecture and is a must-visit for all tour-

ists as the world's longest wooden bridge was built from teak planks and columns.

He pointed out the replacement of teak columns with concrete pillars that

has been spotted by tourists.

U Win Maung (Tampawady), a Myanmar architect, suggested that renovation works are needed for the long-term durability of

Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-Printing House)

the bridge of historical importance.

U Bein Bridge is the most unique site not only in Myanmar but in the world. The teak structure offering

the most scenic views is 3,976 feet long and was made with 984 teak pillars.

Kyemon: 20-2-2014
Trs:YM



LOCAL NEWS

News in Brief

Mohnyin-Phakant bus line gives transport service in Mohnyin Tsp

MOHNYIN, 21 Feb—"Aung Sithu" bus line was launched at Mohnyin bus terminal in Mohnyin of Kachin State on 19 February.

A total of 30 Pajero cars of the bus line will run up and down Mohnyin-Phakant route and bus fare of the car is K 30000 per passenger.

"There are many jade mines in Phakant Township. So, jade miners and goods sellers across the country arrive the Phakant Township especially in the open season," said a vehicle entrepreneur.—NLM-001

Reading skill contest in ChaungU

CHAUNGU, 21 Feb—The reading skill contest took place at the hall of Nyo Mya's Village library in Amyint Village of ChuangU Township, Monywa District of Sagaing Region, on 19 February.

Enthusiasts discussed the articles from Doh Kyay Ywa journals published by Information and Public Relations Department. Chairman of the library committee U Ngwe Thein and officials presented prizes to the winners.—Kyemon-Township IPRD

Jetty to Taninthayi constructed

TANINTHAYI, 21 Feb—Taninthayi Region allotted K 21.5 million on construction of a jetty to Taninthayi at the top of Thukha Street in Chaunggyi Ward. The jetty is 160 feet long and 10 feet wide RC facility. So far, the construction task has been completed by 90 per cent. Upon completion, the jetty can be used for docking of boats for passenger transport.—Kyemon-Nan Thai-Htein Win

Basic first-aid course conducted to trainees in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 21 Feb—The basic first-aid course is being conducted to the youths from various wards of Meiktila, said Deputy Commanding Officer U Nay Oo of Meiktila Township Red Cross Battalion recently.

It was aimed at giving a helping hand to the victims and providing health care services to the

local people, he added.

The training course is being conducted at the sports ground in Paukchaung of the township from 8 am to 4 pm daily during the period from 19 to 25 February.

The training course comprises basic first aid, patient conveyance, health knowledge on diseases and bandaging methods in

addition to basic military training course.

A total of 72 trainees from 14 wards of Meiktila are attending the course.

It is being conducted under the supervision of Myanmar Red Cross Society, Mandalay Region government and different level Red Cross societies.

MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)



Construction of school buildings nearly cent per cent



YANGON, 21 Feb—Spending the fund of the Ministry of Education in 2013-14 fiscal year, school buildings in Singaing Township have been completed by nearly cent per cent.

Sunye Basic Education High School Branch has been completed its new building by 90 per cent and

the building of Thabyebn BEPS cent per cent.

The ministry allotted K 43.2 million on construction of 120 feet long and 30 feet wide building with four classrooms and K 19.2 million on construction of 80 feet long and 30 feet wide one-storey building at Thabyebn BEPS.

A total of 709 students

from Sunye (South-North), Kyaukkon, Inohn, Sunye and Kadoe villages are learning education at the school and 107 at Thabyebn BEPS.

Thanks to new buildings, the students can pursuing education at respective schools conveniently.

On 19 February,

Mandalay Region Hluttaw MP U Nyi Nyi, Deputy Township Administrator U Thaik Tun, Assistant Engineer U Myint Win of the Township Development Affairs Committee and officials inspected progress of buildings and construction tasks meeting standards.

Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Free eye surgical operations performed in Katha Township



KATHA, 21 Feb—Wilmar International Ltd and Great Wall Foodstuff Co Ltd jointly sponsored the free eye surgical operation at the patients in Katha of Sagaing Region recently.

Eye specialists gave

free eye surgical operations to the patients at Katha District People's Hospital, Htigyaing Township Hospital and Myataung Station Hospital.

It was supervised by Chief Minister of Sagaing

Region U Tha Aye, region ministers, Chairman of Katha District Management Committee U Thet Lwin and officials.

The Chief Minister gave a speech. An official of Great Wall Foodstuff Co Ltd explained purpose of surgical operations.

The eye surgical operations were performed at the precinct of Sasana Pitzawtayon Monastery in Katha from 20 to 23 February.

Over 2000 patients received health care services.

MMAL-Lu Aung (Katha)

Inter-village road under construction in Myebon Township

MYEBON, 21 Feb—Myebon Township, one of 17 townships in Rakhine State, is teeming with islands, rocks and sandbanks, totalling 145 of isles.

So, local people

in the township face poor transportation.

At present, an earthen road of Kamhtaunggyi-Tatya-Kyaydaw-Pauk-tutaung villages will be constructed.

Rural Development

Department allotted the fund for construction of the road. Construction started on 25 December 2013 and it will be completed by March 2014.

MMAL-Kyunsinmyay Saw Khet

WORLD

US, Australia to sign deal on tax cooperation

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said on Friday he's pleased that Australia has put "growth strategies" at the core of G20 agenda this year and the two nations will soon sign an agreement on tax cooperation.

In a joint briefing

with Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey, Lew said global growth remains uneven and well below potential despite signs of improvement.

He emphasized the significance of the growth strategies, saying the strategies must address both deficiencies in near-term

demand and longer-term economic challenges.

According to Lew, the US economy is continuing to show broad underlying strength, providing critical support for the global outlook. "Further progress globally is needed to achieve faster and more balanced growth around

the world," he added.

Work on tax cooperation was one of the most important initiatives at the G20, Lew said, "I'm proud today to announce the US and Australia have completed Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act agreement in substance and we plan to sign

it very soon."

Meanwhile, Hockey said a strong US economy was good for both Australia and the world.

"We want the United States to have a strong and vibrant economy and we are encouraged by what has been achieved," he said.

Hockey also emphasized the need for outcomes at the weekend G20 financial ministers and central bank governors meeting on issues like tax, banking regulation and infrastructure, expecting robust discussions during the meeting.

Xinhua

Britain, Iran revive "direct" diplomatic ties

LONDON, 21 Feb — Britain and Iran on Thursday resumed direct diplomatic relations as the Iranian Embassy in London restored part of its consular operations.

Britain has agreed with Iran that from 20th February bilateral relations will be conducted directly through non-resident Charges d' Affaires and officials. We will no longer have formal Protecting Power arrangements in place," the British Foreign Office said in a statement.

"This is the next stage of the step-by-step process of taking forward our bilateral relationship with Iran," the statement added.

The statement marks the latest development in a thawing relationship between London and Teheran, who severed their direct diplomatic ties following Iranian protestors' storming of British Embassy in Iran in 2011.

In November 2011, thousands of angry Iranian demonstrators broke into two British embassy compounds following Iran's decision to downgrade its diplomatic ties with Britain in response to its financial sanctions against Teheran.

Xinhua



A man walks amid rubble of damaged buildings in the al-Myassar neighbourhood of Aleppo on 19 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

UN Security Council to vote on Syria aid resolution on Saturday

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Feb — The UN Security Council will vote on Saturday on a resolution to boost humanitarian aid access in Syria, where the United Nations says 9.3 million people need help, although it is unclear if Russia and China will support or veto the draft.

Australian UN Ambassador Gary Quinlan, who co-authored the text with envoys from Jordan and Luxembourg, told

reporters the vote would be held at 11 am (1600 GMT) on Saturday.

The text includes demands for cross-border aid access and an end to shelling and aerial bombardment, including barrel bombs, and threatens "further steps" in the event of non-compliance.

These were among the main sticking points during almost two weeks of negotiations on the draft, said diplomats.

Russia, supported by China, has shielded its ally Syria on the UN Security Council during the three-year-long civil war.

They have vetoed three resolutions condemning Syria's government and threatening it with possible sanctions.

Western diplomats said a possible Friday vote by the 15-member council was pushed to Saturday after Russia said it needed more time.

"A delegation has requested to have some time to get some instructions from its capital," French UN Ambassador Gerard Araud said, although he did not name the country.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday Russia would block the adoption of a resolution that allowed aid convoys to enter Syria without the consent of the Damascus government.

Reuters

Libyan military plane crashes in Tunisia, 11 killed

TUNIS, 21 Feb — A Libyan military plane carrying medical patients crashed early on Friday near Tunisia's capital, killing all 11 crew and passengers on board after an engine failure, Tunisian authorities said. The Antonov aircraft went down after the pilot tried to land in farmland near Grombalia town south of Tunis, the TAP state news agency reported.

Six crew members as well as the patients and their companions died, a spokesman for Tunisia's defense ministry said. Libyans often travel to Tunisia for medical treatment.

It was the second crash involving a military plane in North Africa in two weeks. An Algerian military transport plane crashed into a mountain in bad weather on 11 February, killing 77 people, in the country's worst air disaster in a decade.—Reuters

Ukraine presidency says deal reached on crisis, opposition silent

KIEV, 21 Feb — Ukraine's presidency said on Friday a deal had been reached at all-night talks on resolving the country's crisis after 75 people were killed in two days of the worst violence since Soviet times.

But the opposition did not immediately confirm agreement had been reached and diplomatic sources described the talks brokered by three European Union ministers as "very difficult".

Three hours of fierce

fighting on Thursday in Kiev's Independence Square, which was recaptured by protesters demanding President Viktor Yanukovich quit, left the bodies of civilians strewn on the ground close to where talks took place.

A few thousand people were occupying the square on Friday morning but there was no sign of any new violence after Thursday's bloodshed in Kiev, which is caught in a geopolitical tug-of-war between East and West.

Yanukovich's press service said in a statement that agreement had been reached at the talks and added: "The agreement will be signed at midday (1000 GMT)."

The three EU ministers, from Poland, Germany and France, did not immediately comment on the presidency statement.

EU officials went into the talks on Thursday hoping a plan for an interim government and early elections could bring peace.

France's foreign min-



An aerial view shows the anti-government protesters camp in Independence Square in central Kiev, on 21 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

ister said late on Thursday there was still no agreement over a proposed road map to ease the crisis, which began in November

after Yanukovich spurned a trade deal with the European Union and turned instead towards Moscow.

Reuters

WORLD

Pakistan lodges strong protest to Afghanistan over killing of security men

ISLAMABAD, 21 Feb — Pakistan has lodged strong protest with Afghanistan over the murder of 23 security personnel by Pakistani Taliban on Afghan side of the border, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

Pakistani Taliban from Mohmand tribal region claimed to have killed this week 23 security personnel who had been captured in 2010.

This militant group is believed to have hide-outs in the border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"Pakistan has con-

veyed its strong protest and serious concern to the Afghan government on the brutal murder of 23 Frontier Corps personnel inside the Afghan territory," the Foreign Ministry said.

"This protest was conveyed by Mr Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs to the Afghan Foreign Minister Mr Zarar Maqbool Osmani today in Male, Maldives where both were attending the SAARC Ministerial meeting," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Xinhua



Prized Echizen crabs, a winter delicacy caught in the Sea of Japan, are boiled and prepared in Sakai, Fukui Prefecture, central Japan, on 18 Feb, 2014, for presentation to the Imperial family. The tradition dates back to 1922. —KYODO NEWS

US leads pushback against emerging market angst at G20



US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey (R) walk from a joint news conference at the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in Sydney, on 21 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — The world's rich nations pushed back against emerging market complaints about the spillover effects of their monetary policies, saying on Friday they had to get their own houses in order and get with the agenda of

lifting global growth.

As finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the Group of 20 developed and emerging gather ahead of a weekend meeting in Sydney, many are already talking at cross purposes.

Emerging nations want the US Federal Reserve to calibrate its winding down of stimulus so as to mitigate the impact on their economies.

Developed members reply that the troubles in the emerging world are mostly homegrown and domestic interest rates have to be set with domestic recoveries in mind.

"Emerging markets need to take steps of their own to get their fiscal house in order and put structural reforms in place," US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said at a financial conference in Sydney ahead of the ministerial meetings.

That was a sentiment very much echoed by the finance ministers of Japan and Britain.

Japan's Taro Aso said the Fed's taper was posi-

tive as it reflected an improving US economy, even if it raised the risk of sharp capital outflows from some others.

"It is important for emerging economies to correct these things by making their own efforts," Aso said in Tokyo.

Developing nations from South Africa to Turkey to Russia have seen their currencies crumble in recent months as the prospect of higher returns in the United States sucked foreign funds from their economies.

South Korea Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Strategy and Finance, Hyun Oh Seok, suggested the Fed and other major central banks could at least strive to avoid surprises in their policy.

Reuters

Japan's ODA serves as "investment in future" for ASEAN

TOKYO, 21 Feb — Japan's official development assistance to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has been an effective "investment in the future" for the 10-nation region and Japan, bolstering development and prosperity for both parties, according to a government paper released on Friday.

The ODA White Paper for 2013 calls for ensuring that Japanese ODA will spur ASEAN initiatives to build infrastructure and narrow intra-regional development gaps toward the goal of boosting regional "connectivity" and achieving a more integrated economic community by the end of 2015.

"While supporting ASEAN's efforts toward integration, it is hoped that (the Japanese government) will make greater efforts and worked-out plans to realize ODA that will also contribute to building a basis for overseas deployment of Japanese companies," the paper says.

The paper says that amid rapid changes in the international environment surrounding Japan, "It is necessary to support countries that share fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as strategic values, as we deploy ODA strategically as a diplomatic tool."

With a total population of about 600 million and gross domestic product of more than \$2 trillion, ASEAN draws attention from the world as a major "production base." As of 2011, Japan's investment accounted for 17 percent of foreign direct investment into the region, it says.

In 2012, Japan's ODA totaled about \$10.60 billion, down 2.1 percent from the previous year and ranking fifth after the United States, Britain, Germany and France.

Vietnam was the largest recipient of Japanese ODA with \$1.64 billion, followed by Afghanistan with \$873 million, India with \$704 million and Iraq with \$360 million.

Among ASEAN countries, Cambodia ranked seventh, Myanmar 17th and Laos 18th. Among African countries, Tanzania ranked 10th, Kenya 11th, Ghana 12th and Ethiopia 14th. —Kyodo News

5.0-magnitude quake hits South Atlantic Ocean

HONG KONG, 21 Feb — An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted South Atlantic Ocean at 16:28:50 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 14.96 km, was initially determined to be at 36.4247 degrees south latitude and 39.5812 degrees west longitude. —Xinhua



Afghan policemen stand guard at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan on 20 Feb, 2014. A suicide attack that rocked Kabul city left the attacker dead and injured another on Thursday, Ministry of Interior said in a statement released here. —XINHUA

WORLD

Haitian migrants' boat capsizes off Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, 21 Feb — A boat carrying about 25 Haitian migrants capsized on Thursday off the southeast tip of the Dominican Republic, killing at least three. Authorities recovered three bodies and rescued another 10 passengers, while naval units continue to search for more victims.

Juan Pablo Sandoval, a spokesman for the Dominican Navy, said all three fatalities were Haitian women, and among the survivors were six men and four women, one of them pregnant. All were taken to a hospital in Higüey, 161 km east of the capital Santo Domingo.—Xinhua

2014 Rio Carnival to generate 950 mln USD

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb — This year's carnival in Rio de Janeiro is expected to generate some 2.2 billion reais (950 million US dollars) for the city, the Rio state government said on Thursday.

According to the Rio Tourism Company (Riotur), 750 million US dollars of the total windfall will be generated by tourism, including hotel and restaurant revenues. The remainder, said Riotur, will be generated by activities more directly linked to the carnival, such as investment in samba schools, street parades, decorations, and other related activities.

Xinhua



Greece's Defence Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos(R) welcomes NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen during a meeting at Zappeion Hall in Athens, Greece, on 20 Feb, 2014. European Union defence ministers are gathering in Athens to discuss European military operations and cooperation in a two-day informal meeting, which begins on Thursday afternoon, as Greece currently holds the EU's rotating six-month presidency. XINHUA

UN chief wants 3,000 more troops for Central African Republic

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday appealed to the international community to send an additional 3,000 troops and police to Central African Republic to combat worsening sectarian violence until a likely UN peacekeeping force is established.

He told the UN Security Council he would shortly report to the 15-member body with a recommendation for a UN peacekeeping force with a robust mandate to protect civilians and promote stability in the landlocked former French colony.

Ban, who has said he is gravely concerned the violence could spiral into genocide, warned that a "de facto partition" of the country was setting in. At least 2,000 people have been killed and some 700,000 have been displaced since December.

"The deployment of a peacekeeping operation, if authorized, will take



African peace keeping soldiers escort a humanitarian convoy in Bangui, on 15 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

months. The people of the Central African Republic do not have months to wait," he said. "The international community must act decisively now."

Ban proposed that an international force of African, French and European troops be increased by a third within weeks to 12,000 soldiers and police.

The force would bridge a gap of up to six months until a UN peacekeeping force — if approved by the Security Council — could be established in the country. "The security

requirements far exceed the capabilities of the number of international troops now deployed," Ban said. "I call for the rapid reinforcement ... with additional deployments of at least 3,000 more troops and police."

The bridging force should focus on containing the violence, protecting civilians, preventing more displacements, creating a secure environment for aid delivery, and laying the groundwork for the handover to a UN force as soon as possible, he said.

UN aid chief Valerie

Amos said on Thursday she had been shocked by what she had seen during a three-day visit to the poor nation at the heart of Africa. "There are not enough troops on the ground," Amos told a news conference in Bangui, after returning from a trip to the north of the country.

French UN Ambassador Gerard Araud said French and African forces had started to stabilize the situation. "The priority today: what we are going to do in the coming months to try to alleviate the suffering of the Central African people?" he said. "The secretary-general made some proposals. The Security Council is going to have a look at them."

The European Union is already deploying 1,000 soldiers to join 6,000 African and 2,000 French troops, who have struggled to stop the fighting sparked when the mostly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power a year ago in the majority Christian state.—Reuters

ILO envoy stresses need for equal employment

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Feb — Jane Stewart, special representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to the UN, stressed on Thursday the need for equal employment opportunities for all people around the world.

During a panel discussion held in commemoration of the World Day for Social Justice, Stewart noted there is a "relationship between economic, social and environmental issues."

Xinhua

Four rescued Japanese divers return home after ill-fated trip

OSAKA, 21 Feb — Four Japanese women who were rescued some 75 hours after their seven-member scuba diving group went missing off the Indonesian island of Bali returned home on Friday.

"It's painful that some of us could not return to Japan," Emi Yamamoto, one of the four, told reporters upon arriving at Kansai International Airport, a week after their ill-fated diving outing began. One member of the group was found dead on Tuesday and another remains missing. On behalf of the four who returned home, Yamamoto, 33, apologized for causing trouble and said, "We were able to return thanks to all your efforts."

Kyodo News

Australia to buy P-8A aircraft to boost maritime surveillance capabilities

CANBERRA, 21 Feb — Australian government has approved the acquisition of eight P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft, Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced on Friday.

These aircraft will dramatically boost Australia's ability to monitor its maritime approaches and patrol over 2.5 million square kilometres of Australia's marine jurisdiction, an area equating to nearly 4 percent of the world's oceans, the prime

minister said in a Press release.

The acquisition of the eight P-8A aircraft will cost approximately 4 billion AU dollars (3.6 billion US dollars), including support facilities.

The first aircraft will be delivered in 2017, with all eight fully operational by 2021. The government has also approved an option for a further four aircraft subject to the outcomes of the Defence White Paper review. Together with high-altitude

unmanned aerial vehicles, these aircraft will replace the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) AP-3C Orions that have served Australia for over four decades.

The P-8A is a potent and highly versatile aircraft. As well as patrolling Australia's maritime approaches it can conduct search and rescue, anti-submarine and maritime strike missions using torpedoes and Harpoon missiles.

Xinhua



Relatives of Japanese victims killed in a major earthquake that occurred on 22 Feb, 2011, in Christchurch, New Zealand, offer flowers at a vacant lot formerly the site of the collapsed Canterbury Television building in the city on 21 Feb, 2014, a day before the third anniversary of the quake. —KYODO NEWS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

BNSF to move into tank car ownership with safer oil fleet

HOUSTON / NEW YORK, 21 Feb — BNSF Railway Co plans to move into tank car ownership and buy its own fleet of up to 5,000 new crude oil tank cars with safety features that exceed the latest industry standards, the unit of investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N) said on Thursday. The unusual step by one of the largest US railroads aims to reduce the risks of moving crude by rail after several recent accidents, including one involving a BNSF train in North Dakota in December.

The company, a major mover of crude by rail throughout the United States, plans to seek bids from railcar makers for up to 5,000 new tank cars with thicker walls and ends, increased protection of safety and pressure valves, and other features that go beyond industry standards adopted two years ago. The news sent shares of several US railcar makers higher. Railroads like

BNSF generally own only the tracks and locomotives that pull trains. Railcars are usually owned by leasing companies or firms such as refiners that sometimes buy cars for their own fleets. In some cases, shippers buy railcars, sell them to leasing companies, and then lease them back.

The December crash of a BNSF crude train in North Dakota involved railcars that did not meet industry safety standards, according to investigators. The train collided with a derailed grain train, setting off fires that burned for more than a day. No one was hurt. Crude-carrying tank cars built after October 2011 are based on stronger design standards recommended by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) trade group. Those design standards feature stronger hulls and reinforced valves less likely to puncture or leak in a derailment.

The US Transportation Department's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safe-



A train makes its way along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail line outside of Williston, North Dakota on 12 March, 2013.—REUTERS

ty Administration is considering new rules for safer tank cars as crude transport via rail surges in tandem with the booming onshore oil production in the United States and Canada. Last week, Canadian National Railway Co (CNR.TO) and Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd (CP.TO) said they would charge higher rates for customers that move

crude in railcars built before October 2011, which the National Transportation Safety Board said in 2009 were unsafe. BNSF declined to comment on possible pricing to shippers opting to use the railroad's tank cars once they are built, saying such information is proprietary. Other US railroads also declined to comment last week on

the Canadian railroads' decision to charge shippers more for using older tank cars.

BNSF's plan to move into tank car ownership and the Canadian railroads' pricing decisions to push shippers to use newer railcars all come before US regulators have issued any new safety standards. BNSF did not identify

railcar makers that it will invite to bid, but manufacturers in the United States include Trinity Industries Inc (TRN.N), American Railcar Industries Inc (ARII.O) and Greenbrier Cos Inc (GBX.N). Shares of American Railcar rose as much as 15 percent, while Trinity jumped 10 percent and Greenbrier climbed 6 percent. A Trinity said it would look at BNSF's needs.

Earlier this month, before saying it would take bids for new oil railcars, BNSF said it would spend \$1.6 billion this year on locomotive, freight car and other equipment purchases.

That was part of a \$1 billion increase in its annual capital budget to \$5 billion. BNSF did not say when it expects to take delivery of the cars. American Railcar Industries said on Thursday that its tank railcar manufacturing unit was maxed out, though Greenbrier recently said it had capacity for more work.—Reuters

Shell agrees to sell downstream businesses in Australia to Vitol for 2.6 bln USD

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — Global oil giant Shell on Friday announced it had reached an agreement to sell its downstream businesses in Australia to Dutch-owned energy trader Vitol for 2.6 billion US dollars. Shell says the sale covers its Geelong Refinery and 870-site retail business, along with its bulk fuels, bitumen, chemicals and part of its lubricants businesses in Australia, but it does not include the Aviation business, which will remain with Shell Group.

"The majority of

Shell's downstream staff in Australia will continue to operate the business under its new owner," Shell said in a statement. "Shell's upstream operations in Australia, in which it will continue to invest, are not impacted by this announcement." The deal with Vitol is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close in 2014. The Vitol Group was founded in 1966 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Since then the company has grown significantly to become the world's

largest independent energy trader.

Shell's Chief Executive Officer Ben van Beurden insists that Australia remains important to Shell but the company is making tough portfolio choices to improve its overall competitiveness. "Our customers will continue to benefit from the quality associated with the Shell brand and we are confident Vitol will invest in and grow the business," Beurden said in the statement.

Vitol President Ian

Taylor said the acquisition was an exciting one for the company.

"Australia is a growing economy and we look forward to working with the management team to strengthen and grow the business," Taylor said. Shell has recently divested several downstream businesses including the sale of refineries in the UK, Germany, France, Norway and the Czech Republic. The company has also sold its downstream businesses in Egypt, Spain, Greece, Finland and Sweden.—Xinhua

H1N1 flu resurges in US, hitting younger people hard

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — This year's flu season in the US has hit younger- and middle-aged adults harder than in the past three years, as a result of the resurgence of the H1N1 virus that caused a worldwide pandemic in 2009, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Thursday.

People aged 18 to 64 represented 61 percent of all hospitalizations from influenza, up from the previous three seasons when this age group represented only about 35 percent of all such hospitalizations, the CDC said.

Influenza deaths followed the same pattern with more deaths than usual occurring in this younger age group, said the CDC, failing to provide an exact number of deaths caused

by the flu." Flu hospitalizations and deaths in people younger- and middle-aged adults is a sad and difficult reminder that flu can be serious for anyone, not just the very young and old," CDC Director Tom Frieden said.

The CDC urged that everyone should be vaccinated as a CDC study, also released Thursday, found that flu vaccination may reduce a person's risk of having to go to the doctor for flu illness by about 60 percent across all ages. It recommends that everyone six months and older get an annual flu vaccine.

"The season is still ongoing. If you haven't yet, you should still get vaccinated," said Frieden. Typically, the flu season ends in March or April in the US.

Xinhua

GlaxoSmithKline's COPD drug Anoro receives European green light



The GlaxoSmithKline building is pictured in Hounslow, west London on 18 June, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 21 Feb — Anoro, a combination drug for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) developed by GlaxoSmithKline and Theravance, has received the green light from European regulators, the companies said on Thursday.

The drug is a combination of UMEC, a long-acting muscarinic antagonist, and VI, a long-acting beta agonist, in a single inhaler. It is expected to generate sales of more than \$2 billion a year by 2018, according to the average

estimate of six analysts polled by Thomson Reuters. Recommendations for marketing approval from the European Medicines Agency are usually followed by the granting of full marketing authorization by the European Commission.

The companies said they expected that decision during the second quarter of 2014. The drug, in a different strength formulation, was approved by regulators in the United States and Canada in December 2013.

Reuters



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Next-generation GPS satellite launched into orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 21 Feb — A US Global Positioning System satellite was launched into orbit on Thursday, buttressing a 31-member navigation network in constant use by the military, civilian agencies and commercial customers worldwide. The satellite, built by Boeing, was carried into space aboard an unmanned Delta 4 rocket, which blasted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida at 8:59 pm EST/0159 Friday GMT. The Delta 4 rocket was built and launched by United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin and Boeing, under contract with the US Air Force.

Once in position 12,000 miles above the

planet, the new satellite will replace a 16-year-old member of the GPS constellation, one that already has lasted more than twice as long as expected.

"They're well past their design life — the oldest one is 23 years — so we've really gotten remarkable performance out of them," William Cooley, head of the GPS directorate at the Air Force's Space and Missile Systems Centre in Los Angeles, told reporters during a prelaunch conference call. "Sometimes we joke that they are getting old enough to vote and some of them are old enough to drink," Cooley said. Eight older GPS satellites remain operational.

"Those are the ones that we're going to be replacing first," Cooley said.

Using signals from GPS satellites, receivers can calculate positions on Earth within a meter and to a millionth of a second. The network has become a ubiquitous part of modern life, used in industries from financing to farming.

I don't think anybody knows what all the applications of GPS are," launch commentator Mark McCullick, with the Air Force's GPS directorate, said during a webcast. "New ways to use GPS emerge every day," he said.

The GPS satellite launched on Thursday is the fifth in a next-generation series of spacecraft that beam more precise navigation signals and resist jamming. The so-called "2F" series, which are designed to last 12 years, also include



A view of the Delta IV rocket streaking across the sky after launching from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station is seen from Port Canaveral, Florida

on 20 Feb, 2014.— REUTERS

signals to assist commercial aviation and support search and rescue operations. Two more upgraded GPS satel-

ites are slated for launch this year. After Thursday's launch, the constellation will include 31 operation-

al satellites and six older spacecraft that are kept in orbit as potential spares.

Reuters

Scientists create powerful artificial muscle with fishing line

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — An international team of researchers said on Thursday they have successfully used fibers, such as those used for fishing lines and sewing threads, to create inexpensive but powerful artificial muscles.

In a paper published in the US journal *Science*, the team led by the University of Texas and joined by other research institutes from China, Canada, Turkey, Australia and South Korea, described a surprisingly simple way to make the muscles by twisting high-strength polymer fibers until they coil up, just like one would twist the rubber band of a model toy airplane. "The new muscles are capable of lifting loads

100 times heavier than human muscles of the same length and weight," Li Na, of the University of Texas and one of the authors, told *Xinhua*. "They can generate 7.1 horsepower per kg of muscle weight, similar to that produced by a jet engine."

According to Li, the surprising idea was based on their previous success of creating muscles using materials like carbon nanotubes as they hoped to bring down the manufacturing cost. Artificial muscles with similar functions that are made out of nickel-titanium alloys are extremely expensive as these alloys can cost up to 3,000 US dollars per kilogram, while their

new muscles only require materials that cost about five dollars per kilogram, Li said. In their study, Li and her colleagues found that compared to natural muscles, which contract by only about 20 percent, these muscles can contract by about 50 percent of their length. The muscle strokes also are reversible for millions of cycles as the muscles contract and expand under heavy mechanical loads.

The researchers said the muscles could be used for applications where superhuman strengths are sought, such as robots and exoskeletons. Twisting together a bundle of polyethylene fishing lines, whose total diameter is only about

10 times larger than a human hair, produces a coiled polymer muscle that can lift 16 pounds (about 7.3 kilograms). Operated in parallel, similar to how natural muscles are configured, a hundred of these polymer muscles could lift about 0.8 tons, the researchers said. Meanwhile, independently operated coiled polymer muscles having a diameter less than a human hair could bring life-like facial expressions to humanoid companion robots for the elderly and dexterous capabilities for minimally invasive robotic microsurgery.

Also, they could power miniature "laboratories on a chip," as well as devices for communicating the sense of touch from

sensors on a remote robotic hand to a human hand, the researchers said. These new artificial muscles can be triggered by a number of things, including temperature. Li said they have used the muscles to successfully make "smart textiles" whose pores reversibly open and close with changes in temperature. The researchers have also demonstrated the feasibility of using environmentally powered muscles to automatically open and close the windows of greenhouses or buildings in response to ambient temperature changes, thereby eliminating the need for electricity or noisy and costly motors, she added.

Xinhua

World experiences 4th warmest January on record

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — Last month was the fourth warmest January since record keeping began in 1880, trailing only 2002, 2003 and 2007, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said on Thursday.

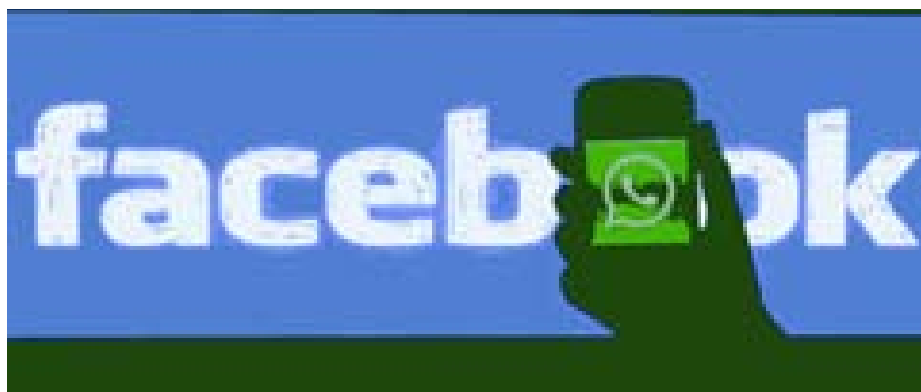
The globally-averaged temperature over land and ocean surfaces for January was 0.65 degrees Celsius over the 20th century average of 12.0 degrees Celsius, the NOAA said its monthly report.

"It also marked the 38th consecutive January and 347th consecutive month (almost 29 years) with a global temperature above the 20th century average," the NOAA said. "The last below-average January global temperature was January 1976 and the last below-average global temperature for any month was February 1985."

Most areas of the world experienced warmer-than-average January, with the most notable warmth across Alaska, western Canada, southern Greenland, south-central Russia, Mongolia, and northern China. Parts of southeastern Brazil and central and southern Africa experienced record warmth.

Xinhua

What's WhatsApp? A messages service that spans borders, devices



A woman holds a smartphone displaying WhatsApp's logo in front of the screen with the Facebook logo in this photo illustration taken in Prague on 20 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 21 Feb — What in the world is WhatsApp? The online messaging platform has been catching on for a few years with younger users and international sets of friends, but a much larger audience noticed it on

Wednesday, when Facebook Inc said it had agreed to pay \$19 billion for the service.

It is a phone and mobile device app to send text, video and picture messages, and 450 million people use it monthly, some 200

million more than Twitter, according to numbers from the companies.

And it's adding a million users daily, which caught Facebook's eye. WhatsApp works across different types of phones, across borders, and with-

out ads. Unlike texts, there is no per-message charge, and there is no fee for international messages, which has helped make it popular outside the United States; WhatsApp charges a 99 cent annual subscription fee, which is waived for the first year.

Customers download the app, type in their phone number, and verify with a code sent by text.

While WhatsApp encrypts communication and does not store messages on its computers, satisfying some privacy concerns, it also prompts new users to allow the app access their address books, prompting another set of privacy issues.

WhatsApp faces a

number of rivals, including Rakuten Inc's Viber, Naver Corp's Line and Tencent Holdings Ltd's WeChat.

All are popular among young people, a demographic that Facebook has been losing out on in recent years and that are likely part of the draw for the company's purchase.

While kids may love the messaging, not all parents do. Mobile messaging is much more difficult for parents to monitor than Facebook, for instance, which has created new worries.

WhatsApp and Facebook both say the messaging service will maintain its independence once the deal goes through.

Reuters

NATIONAL & ARTICLE

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 22 February, 2014

Elderly care policy in urgent need

Myanmar is expected to experience the population ageing in next 10 years, said the Union minister for Immigration and Population at a recent press conference on national census.

The Union minister cited the results of trial census taken in 2013 in a nationally representative sample of 20 townships, saying that the population of 57-59 age group has risen from 5 % of the national population in 1973 to 12.2 % in 2013.

Experts have said that Myanmar will be benefitting from population bonus or demographic dividend, which means the country will see an increase in per capita income as a result of working-age population boom.

For the time being, we still don't have accurate data to figure out how long Myanmar will be benefitting from population bonus. But, population ageing is one of global problems and the inevitable and we therefore need to make preparations. Unfortunately, there is still no elderly care policy in place in Myanmar.

According to HelpAge International, a global non-governmental network of elderly care groups, which is designing an elderly care policy in collaboration with Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the elderly population accounts for six million of the total population in Myanmar.

HelpAge International invited elderly care volunteer groups from across the country in January to join its National Ageing Network to work on the policy, which is expected to take effect before the end of 2014 with the approval of the parliament.

Meanwhile, Myanmar does not have adequate homes for the Aged and the number of elderly care volunteer groups is relatively small compared to social organizations working in other fields. More and more senior citizens are home alone following a rise in the number of dual-earner households. Yet, there is only one government-funded day care center for the aged in Yangon, and it just came into existence last year.

According to the Population Department, 8% of more than 10,000 tramps on Yangon streets are elderly persons who have lost support from family or have lost family members. Volunteer groups and/or well-wishers may be able to help them for a meal or two, but an effective government policy is in urgent need to help them take their last breath in a safe haven, but not on the streets, helpless.

Dr Aung Tun Thet receives honorary professorship from UBC

YANGON, 21 Feb—A ceremony to confer honorary professor by University of British Columbia-UBC on Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet, Economic Advisor to the President and Member of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council, was held at the headquarters of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI on Minye Kyawswa Street here on 21 February, attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with the trainees of a Special Course on International Trade No.1 at

IPU donates servers, computers to Myanmar Hluttaw



Project Manager Mrs Norah Babic hands over documents related to the donations to committee chairman U Hla Myint Oo.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) donated three

sets of server and 18 sets of computer to Myanmar Hluttaw at the Hluttaw Building on 21 February.

The donation ceremony was attended by U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Secretary U Maung Toe, Daw Aye Aye Mu, Member of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, and officials from the Hluttaw offices.

Project Manager Mrs Norah Babic handed over documents related to the donations to committee chairman U Hla Myint Oo.

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa spoke words of thanks.

MNA

Regional development, ...

(from page 16)

Office at the committee's coordination meeting at the hall of the President Office on 21 February.

Then, Committee Vice-Chairman Adju-

tant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo clarified work progress for regional development tasks and committee member Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung, implementation of environ-

mental conservation tasks.

In his concluding remarks, the committee chairman said that the committee's ongoing task is to materialize a complete report by combining report scrutinizing committee's suggestions to the ESIA re-

port about Latpadaungtaung copper mine project and people's wishes and suggestions. He called for systematic training to the locals by conducting work proficiency courses to be able to substitute foreign scholars with citizen scholars.—MNA

BIMSTEC Energy Sector Cooperation

Thanks to constant efforts for its reforms, Myanmar sees significant progresses and has won the trusts of world countries. It could help Myanmar to get chance of leading the regional countries. The 2014 is a distinct year for Myanmar. Soon, Myanmar would host ASEAN Summit and 3rd BIMSTEC Summit. This BIMSTEC Summit is set to include the signing of MoUs and appointment of first-ever BIMSTEC Secretariat.

Myanmar has taken a leading role in energy and agricultural sectors since joining the BIMSTEC in 22 December, 1997. The Ministry of Energy is serving as a focal ministry for energy sector. National Committee for BIMSTEC Energy Sector Cooperation was

established on 23-7-1999, comprising deputy minister for energy as chairman and directors-general from the Ministries of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Electric Power, Energy, Mines, Science and Technology and Education as members and director-general from Energy Planning Department as secretary.

By Swan Oo

Myanmar has served as a leading country for three-year consecutive term since 1999. Myanmar handed over its duty to alternate Sri Lanka. Thanks to its active participation, Myanmar has continued serving as a leading country at the request of Sri Lanka. During its tenure, senior officials/experts meeting were held for five times from 2000 to 2005, except 2004. The countries have reached an agreement on small-scale solar power generation in rural areas, technical assistances for capacity building and women empowerment in renewable energy sector.

With regard to energy sector, the countries have agreed on sustainable development of energy use for development of hydro-carbon and new hydro-power projects and cooperation in electricity

and natural gas networks and technology at first BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok of Thailand on 31 July, 2004.

They have agreed at senior energy officials' meeting held in New Delhi of India on October 2005 on the points covering:

- Development of grid connectivity for transmission of electricity in the region,
- Development of trans-BIMSTEC Gas pipeline,
- Development of the hydro potential in the BIMSTEC region,
- Promoting use of non-conventional sources of energy in the region using the experiences and knowledge base available of the member countries,
- Sharing experience in the area of energy efficiency and
- Energy conservation and Energy security issues - emphasis on use of resources available in the region.

The Ministry of Electric Power is making cooperation with Thailand and India on BIMSTEC Trans Power Exchange and Development.

According to Trans BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline Project, Myanmar has been distributing natural gas to Thailand through Yadana Project in Taninthayi Off-shore since 1998 and Yedagun project in Mottama Offshore since 2000.

Regarding Non-Conventional Source of Energy Project, demonstration project (1) on tobacco drying was implemented by the Ministry of Energy in Kokhae village of Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region in 2003 with the assistance of the Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) of India with the use of bio fuel. A workshop on renewable energy development project was held in Bagan-NyaungU on August 16-17 2004, attended by the delegates from the BIMSTEC countries. Then, those delegates visited the project there.

As a second project, biogasifier rural electrification project (2) was done by the Ministry of Energy, power grids by the Ministry of Electric Power and project implementation by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in 2008.

(To be continued)

Trs: MT

MNA

NATIONAL

Development can be...

(from page 1)

in Falam on 20 February, 1948, and they decided to take a bold political step to abolish feudalism that was exercised throughout the successive periods in Chin region and practice the system of representative democracy that developed in Talaingson region. As a gesture of hailing the bold step, Chin Affairs Council designated the 20th of February as "Chin National Day" on 9 October, 1950. Celebration of Chin National Day marking the start of the burgeoning of the system of representative democracy today is seen as an event agreed with ongoing political progress.

Despite its small size and far-flung location, its ability to produce qualified human resources is significant. Emergence of prominent Chin national political leaders, senior civil officers and brilliant soldiers proves Chin State has a

great significance. It can be witnessed as a particular significance that Aung San Thuriya Captain Taik Chun, a Chin national, is one of the few people who received Aung San Thuriya Title, the highest military award in Myanmar.

I firmly believed development can be achieved in Chin State that lagged behind in development in successive periods through a combination of a transparent political order which is known as national reconsolidation based on peace process which is taking place in the time of the incumbent government and highly qualified human resources which is defined as an advantage of Chin national. I would like to call on all Chin national people at home and abroad it is high time for them to combine their efforts and to cooperate with the entire people.

Myanmar society experienced the bitter consequences of political conflicts after gaining the independence. Today is the time for all national people to take bitter lessons of the past, to make efforts for ending conflicts and to

work together to achieve peaceful coexistence.

Hence, I would like to urge all national people to work together with the Union Spirit to build the Union in accordance with the principles laid down by General Aung San and leaders of the national races during the Panglong Conference.

I would like to urge all national people again to take part in the political reforms, economic reforms and peace making process being carried out by the government, Hluttaws, political parties, political forces, economic institutions, non-governmental organizations, the Armed Forces, the ethnic armed forces and the people to achieve success in implementing the reforms.

If we all national people build the unity among us based on the Panglong Spirit, we will see the modern and developed Union of Myanmar which is based on the federal system. This is the future vision that we all should have.



MP proposes to set aside ...

(from page 16)

5,000 million kyat for small-scale hydropower plants in Naga and Chin states.

Pyithu Hluttaw's na-

Coordination meeting of Implementation Committee of the Report of the Investigation Commission for Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project in progress.
(News on page 16)

MNA

tional people's affairs, socio-economy development in rural areas and internal peace implementing committee chairperson Daw

Dwal Bu suggested to increase the 2014-2015 estimated budget of the Border Affairs Ministry from 65309.227 million kyat to 88154.017 million kyat.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing ...

(from page 1)

The Senior General left Ali International Airport for Halin Perdank Liusama Airport in Jakarta.

He then left Jakarta for home by air.

The Senior General and his entourage were

welcomed back by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, senior military officers and their wives and officials concerned.

Myawady

Mindat marks Chin National Day

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun attended the ceremony to mark the 66th Anniversary of Chin National Day at Myoma sports ground in Mindat Township on 21 February.

At the ceremony, before the Chief Minister of Chin State and the general secretary of Chin National Front (CNF) gave speech-

es, the Union Minister read out a message sent by President U Thein Sein.

The official presented gifts to Chin national peo-

ple leader Vamthumong's family and certificates of honour to the victorious athletes. Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin pre-

sented certificate of honour to wellwisher U Htan Shein of Htut Khaung Gyi Co.

The Union Minister inspected conservation of biodiversities in Natmataung National Park. He met with the staff of the administration office of the park and called for raising educative talks to conserve ecosystem, biodiversity and natural heritage of the park, effectively preventing the environment and culture in line with law and rules, improving research programmes in coordination with some organizations at home and abroad, implementation of ecotourism for development of socio-economic, more job opportunities and earning more income.

MNA



Union Minister U Win Tun reads out message sent by President U Thein Sein at 66th Anniversary of Chin National Day.—MNA

Kyoshin Co Ltd to fund school building for the deaf in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has a plan to establish one more school for the deaf in Yangon, funded by Kyoshin Co Ltd of Japan.

Kyoshin Co Ltd of Japan also funded building of two special schools for the deaf, each in Yangon and

Mandalay.

Over 500 students are learning at the two schools.

Kyoshin Co Ltd has contributed 337,319 USD so far to building hostels, training schools, main buildings for teaching, water tank with a capacity of 20000-gallon, sign language teaching halls and

establishing resource centre for information of the deaf, said Mr Sadaki Tachiki, Chairman of Kyoshin Co Ltd at the meeting with Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw Su Su Hlaing.

The 15th donation of Kyoshin Co Ltd in 2013 has helped the ministry up-

grading the computerize knitting course.

During the meeting, the deputy minister expressed thanks to Kyoshin Co Ltd for giving helping hands to the ministry for 16 years as part of efforts for promoting development of the disabled.

MNA

Hotel security to be beefed up

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung held talks on hotel security with general managers and managers of hotels in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone at Mani Yadana Jade Hall on 21 February.

The Union Minister called for installation of CCTV cameras and Walk-

Through devices in hotels and effective use of such devices as ASEAN-meetings will be held at the hotels.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than suggested that door lock system should be replaced with keycard system.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

550-foot long Shwehsanbin Bridge crossing North Yama Creek

YANGON, 21 Feb—A ceremony to share merits gained for construction of Shwehsanbin Bridge, the 21st facility of its kinds on Lengauk-Chinpyit Road leading to Alaungdaw Kathapa will be held on the bridge on 24 March,

according to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Subhoga of the donation centre for the bridge.

Such road is reliable for over 50000 people from over 60 villages in Pale and Yinmabin townships of Monywa District in Sagaing

Region.

Thanks to organizing efforts of Sayadaw Vepulla of region, over 80 million could be collected during from 2007 to 2008.

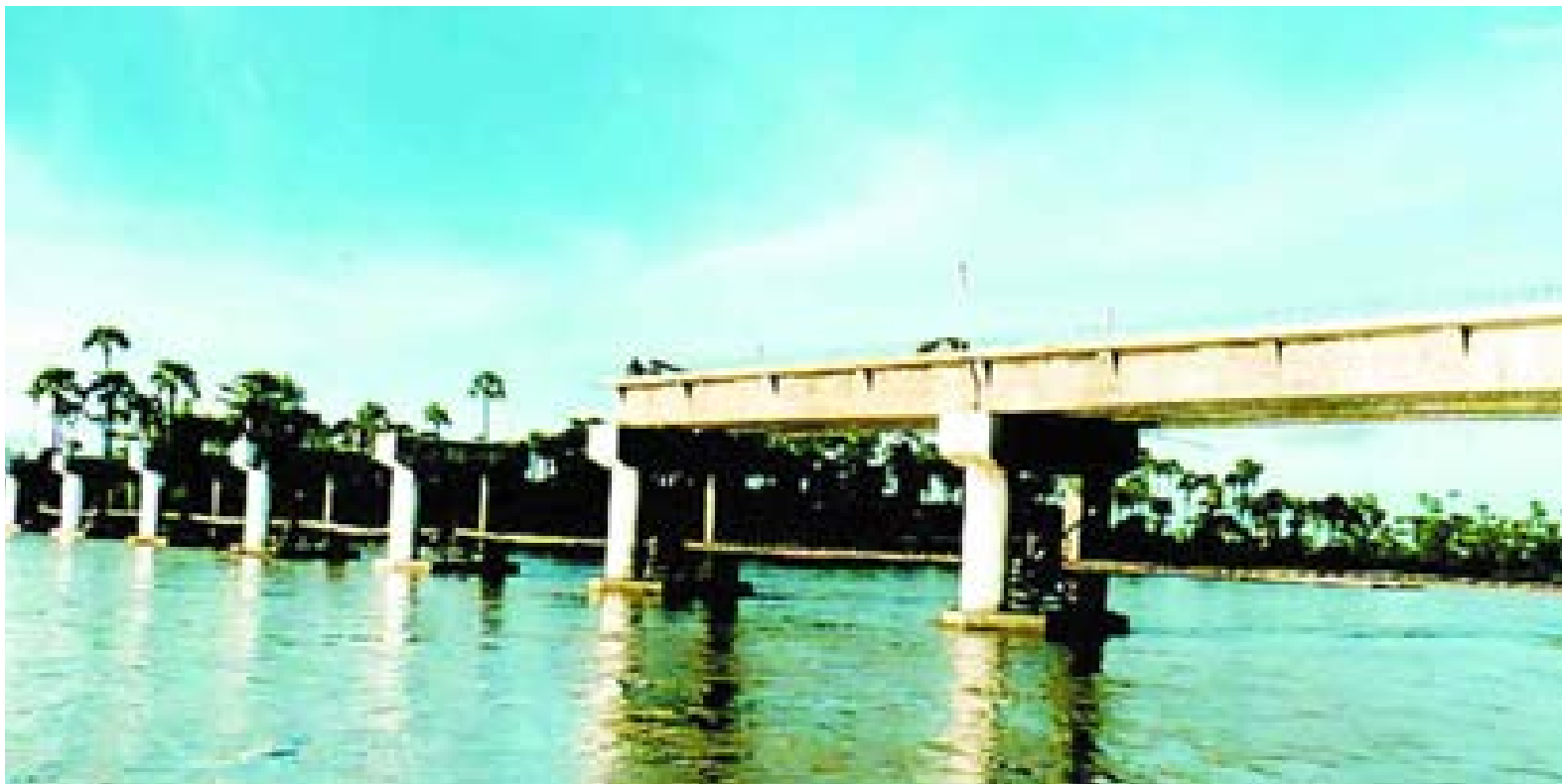
At the construction committee meeting, the local authorities and

members of the Sangha pledged to donate cash to the fund. Moreover, local people contributed their labour to construction of the bridge with the assistance of local authorities.

Shwehsanbin Bridge, 550 feet long, is stretching

over North Yama Creek. It is of reinforced concrete type. As the bridge has been completed, it will contribute to economic, education and health development of over 50000 people.

MMAL-Aung Aung



News in Brief

Rural development tasks gaining momentum

PHAKANT, 21 Feb—Head of Rural Development Department of Phakant Township in Kachin State U Soe Than on 17 February made field trips to Sapaw, Mamon and Phabyin villages in Seikmu Village-tract. He met village administrators, townsenders and local people and discussed rural development tasks such as village electrification, availability of safe water, smooth transport, and rural social and economic development tasks of the villages.

MMAL-064

Inter-Ward/Village football tournament marks Pa-O National Day

HSIHSENG, 21 Feb—A football tournament that marked the Pa-O National Day, was opened at the football ground in Ponlaung Village of Hsihseng Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of Shan State (South) on 19 February. Organizing Committee U Khun Hla Myint and

Township Administrator U Win Lwin made speeches. The organizing committee Chairman U Khun Maung Soe explained the purpose. In the debut, Nawngthe beat Loisaung (South) 3-1. In the second match, Nawngyindon beat Takhakhun 2-1. A total of 52 football teams in 16

groups. The final match and prize presentation ceremony will be held on 15 March which falls on Pa-O National Day. Among the spectators were local authorities, departmental officials, responsible persons of PNO and players. MMAL-Kyun Ye Htwe (IPRD)



Summer paddy planted

PAKOKKU, 21 Feb—Farmers of Pakokku Township started cultivation of summer paddy on 1957 acres of land through two ways of water supply in 2013-14. They use water from three water pumping stations. Local farmers are striving for cultivation of Palethwe, Shwepyithay, Yadana Toe, Hsinnweyin and Theehteyin paddy strains exceeding the target.

MMAL-102

Functions of fire stations inspected in Magway Tsp

Fire preventive measures

MAGWAY, 21 Feb—Magway Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lin Aung and region level officials on 19 February inspected water tanks of 15 wards and water supply station of Development Affairs Committee in Magway Township. Magway Township Fire Services Department is facilitated with seven fire trucks, and No 2 fire station with one fire truck, three GBS fire trucks donated by Magway Region government and 41 water bowzers. The township fire brigade is formed with 39 servicemen of Township FSD and 525 members of auxiliary fire brigade. A total of 47 water tanks ranging 2000 to 20000 gallons of water and four water taps of Township Development Affairs Committee, according to Head of Magway Township FSD U Kyaw Thein.

“It needs to provide more

water taps to Township Development Affairs Department. In addition, it needs to construct one more water

tanks in Yanpei Market,” said the Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs.—MMAL-Tin Tun Oo (IPRD)

It needs to provide more water taps to Township Development Affairs Department.



REGIONAL

Two senior officials jailed in corruption scandals in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 Feb — A former protocol chief of Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was sentenced to 15 months behind bars on Thursday for cheating public money, while a senior anti-graft official was jailed ten years on the same day for misappropriation in a separate lawsuit. Lim Cheng Hoe, 61, former chief of protocol, had earlier pleaded guilty to cheating by inflating the expenses involving the purchase of pineapple tarts and wine repeatedly.

Lim was convicted of ten counts of cheating amounting to about 35,000 Singapore dollars (27,778 US dollars). He had also admitted to 50 counts of cheating totaling some 54,000 Singapore dollars (42,857 US dollars), which were taken into consideration in sentencing. Lim made the false claims between February 2008 and May 2012. Claims were made for more than 10,000 boxes of pineapple tarts when only 2,200 boxes were purchased.—Xinhua

Brunei, Singapore jointly produce interactive documentary

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 21 Feb — Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry (AITI) of Brunei Darussalam and Media Development Authority (MDA) of Singapore have joint hand to produce a river documentary. The documentary — Gabung: Kisah Antara Dua Sungai, or Tales of Two Rivers, is the first collaboration work between independent production houses from both countries, and focuses on the transformation of two national rivers in Brunei and Singapore through the years of economic growth.

This joint project or 'Gabung' in short, represents the consolidated efforts of two production houses in finding common grounds and working together to produce this documentary which was well applauded by the Minister of Communication of Brunei, Pehin Dato Haji Abdullah at the launch of the event on Thursday.—Xinhua



Cranes load and unload containers at Singapore's Tanjong Pagar Container Terminal on 20 Feb, 2014. Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) announced on Thursday that Singapore's economy expanded by 4.1% in 2013.—XINHUA

Vietnam to focus on developing industrial, border trade cooperation with China

HANOI, 21 Feb — Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade recently approved a master plan on development of industrial and trade cooperation at the border area with China until 2020 with a vision to 2030.

According to Decision 805/QD-BCT, the orientation for development of industrial sector at the border area with China will focus on potential fields, including mining and mineral processing on the basis of efficient exploitation of resources; mechanical engineering; processing of agricultural and forest

products; construction materials and hydropower.

Development will focus on small-scale and cottage industry together with restoring of handicraft villages, thus contributing to manufacturing of essential commodities, creating jobs and promoting tourism, according to the decision.

Specifically, those projects will be set up to exploit the advantages of available materials from animal husbandry, farming and fisheries.

Besides, the country will invest in upgrading technology for manufacturing of cement and oth-

er construction materials, as well as synchronizing power transmission and distribution, said the ministry.

Regarding commercial sector, the country will develop modern forms of trade in urban area in association with traditional forms; increasing investment for infrastructure construction of border economic zones, upgrading logistics and warehouse systems to facilitate the supply of materials for production and border trade activities. According to the ministry, Vietnam will continue its construction

and upgrading of border markets, especially ones at the border gates of Tan Thanh (Lang Son province), Mong Cai (Quang Ninh province) and Lao Cai (Lao Cai province). Vietnam plans to open four new economic zones along the border with China by 2020.

In order to implement the plan, the Ministry of Industry and Trade has mapped out several key solutions, including the establishment of cross-border economic cooperation zones, and improving investment environment.

Xinhua

Cambodian, Malaysian entrepreneurs meet to explore business opportunities

PHNOM PENH, 21 Feb — Cambodian and Malaysian business executives gathered at a forum here on Friday to seek possibilities to broaden trade and investment ties between the two countries.

The meeting provides a good chance for businessmen of the two countries to exchange views on the current business climate and explore business opportunities, said Cambodian Permanent Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon, who co-chaired the forum with visiting Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"The Cambodian government is committed to ensuring a stable and favourable investment climate for all investors, particularly Malaysian investors," he said.—Xinhua

Two S Koreans discontinue family reunion for health problems

SEOUL, 21 Feb — Two elderly South Koreans in their 80s and 90s discontinued participation in the family reunion which is being held in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s Mount Kumgang resort due to health problems, Seoul's Unification Ministry said on Friday. The 91-year-old Kim Seom-kyung and the 84-year-old Hong Shin-ja will cross the military demarcation line (MDL) at around 1 pm local time to return home after the private reunion with their long-lost relatives from the DPRK for two hours through 11 am on Friday.

The frail South Koreans went northward to the Mount Kumgang resort by ambulances Thursday, the first day of the three-day reunion event. After the mass gathering Thursday afternoon, the medical staff advised them to stop participating in the reunion due to health worsening. The old man and woman met their son, daughter, younger sister and nephew, who they have never seen for over six decades, in ambulances where first-aid kits and equipments are furnished.

Xinhua

Bali police declare dive boat captain suspect in fatal accident

DENPASAR, 21 Feb — Police on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Thursday declared the captain of a dive boat a suspect in a fatal scuba diving accident that left at least one Japanese woman dead.

Handoyo Supeno, law enforcement chief at the Bali Police Headquarters, said the police have also been questioning Saori Furukawa, one of the two locally based Japanese dive instructors who were leading five other Japanese women on a dive last Friday off the neighbouring island of Nusa Lembongan when all seven went missing. He refused to confirm, however, whether the 37-year-old woman will be declared a suspect.

Furukawa was rescued along with four of her clients on Monday, some 75 hours after their group

disappeared. The body of the fifth client was found Tuesday, while the other instructor remains missing.

Handoyo said the captain, Agustinus Brata Kusuma, was declared a suspect after testimonies from the survivors revealed that when the group surfaced after a 30-minute dive late Friday afternoon, they could not find his boat.

Agustinus, who was immediately detained upon police questioning, faces a five-year jail term if convicted.

Speaking to reporters at the police station, Agustinus, 30, said he does not know why he was detained.

"I hope this case will be settled soon, so I can work again. I have wife and kids (to feed)," he said.

Earlier last week, Agustinus told police in-



(From R) Nahomi Tomita, Atsumi Yoshidome, Emi Yamamoto and Aya Morizono are pictured during a Press conference after being discharged from hospital on the Indonesian island of Bali on 20 Feb, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

investigators that the group went missing during their third dive on Friday.

Kyodo News

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AN NINE JIANG VOY NO (202)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN NINE JIANG VOY NO (202) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2014 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MVFAREASTERNVENUSVOYNO(42)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FAR EASTERN VENUS VOY NO (42) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2014 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

Subject : Extension of the Tender Closing Date
Reference : MOGE's Tender No - IFB - 184 (2013 -2014) for supply of Assorted Sizes of Seamless Casings (10) Items

Due to change of our work programme, we would like to extend the above tender closing date up to 26th March, 2014 (16:30) Hrs.

New Tender Documents shall be available during office hours commencing from 26th February, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw.

Old Tender Documents which already purchased shall be changed with New Tender Documents commencing from 26th February, 2014.

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

90 dead bodies recovered in northeast Nigeria after attacks

LAGOS, 21 Feb — A total of 90 corpses have been recovered and buried in Nigeria northeast town of Bama a day after deadly attack by Boko Haram, local official told *Xinhua* on Thursday.

Chairman of Bama Local government Baba Shehu Gulumba, who escaped the insurgents attack, said about 90 people were killed, when the attackers invaded the town of Bama, headquarters of Bama local government Area around 4 am local time on Wednesday.

Also the chairman of Youth Volunteers in Bama Akura Satomi said his men evacuated 96 corpses from various scenes of the attack, adding that the corpses were released to the family for burial.

The traditional ruler of Bama town, Kyari Ibn Ibrahim told *Xinhua* that 34 people were buried shortly after the attack, but said many families may have

buried their dead without reporting to authority.

The Shehu's palace was attacked but he escaped unhurt while part of the palace and over 15 vehicles were burnt.

A *Xinhua* reporter who visited the scene said many patients with gun shot wound were seen on the bed and floor at the town General Hospital.

Chief Nursing Officer in charge, Emit Mohammed Shuwa said the hospital received 48 victims with gunshot wounds but regretted that 17 of them died.

"We have just removed 9 bullets from some patients now. 16 of the patients were referred to Maiduguri; seven to University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital and state specialists hospital," Shuwa added.

Locals said more corpses are being discovered, a development which could push forward the dead toll.—*Xinhua*

Seven suspected drug dealers killed in S Philippine raid

DAVAO CITY, 21 Feb — At least seven suspected drug pushers were killed and 33 people were arrested following a raid by police and anti-narcotics agents in southern Philippines on Friday, a police chief said.

Senior Supt Vicente Danao, Davao City police chief, said police and anti-narcotics agents swooped down on Ilang

village in this city at around 4 am local time.

"The suspects resisted during the operation which resulted in a firefight," said Danao.

He said 33 other suspected drug peddlers were also arrested following the law enforcement operation which lasted for five hours.

Danao said the community in Ilang is a slum

area which has a large Muslim population.

Authorities said the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) has placed the area under surveillance since last year.

Danao said police and PDEA agents seized large cache of methamphetamine locally known as shabu and several weapons.

Xinhua

Girl dead, three injured after tree falls at Sydney school

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — An eight-year-old girl died after being struck by a falling tree branch in the playground of a primary school in Sydney's northwest, the New South Wales Police confirmed on Friday.

A male teacher, a five-year-old kindergarten girl and her seven-year-old brother were also injured when the large branch fell on them at Pitt Town Public School at about 1:15 pm (local time) on Friday, police said. The eight-year-old girl was taken to Westmead Children's Hospital where she died shortly after being admitted. The three injured were also rushed to the hospital, two of them with serious injuries, police said.

Xinhua

British firm part of Australian investigation into detention centre riot

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — An investigation into deadly clashes this week at an immigration detention center in Papua New Guinea will examine possible misconduct by private security contractors, Australia's immigration minister said on Friday.

One asylum seeker was killed and more than 60 were injured during riots at a facility on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea that houses asylum seekers as part of Prime Minister Tony Abbott's tough policies to deter them from coming to Australia.

Several detainees allege they were set upon with makeshift weapons by Papua New Guinea police and PNG employees of

Britain's G4S, the world's biggest security group, which is responsible for security at the facility.

"I wish to stress that the review will look closely at any actions of those contracted to provide services at the centre in a safe and secure manner," Immigration Minister Scott Morrison told reporters in Canberra. Australia uses detention centers 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. The number of asylum seekers reaching Australia pales in comparison with other countries but it

is a polarizing political issue that also stokes tension with neighboring Indonesia over border policies that have been criticized by the United Nations and international human rights groups.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has said the Manus Island camp should be shut because it fails to provide "safe and humane conditions of treatment in detention".

Morrison said the riot began when detainees forced their way out of the center. However, refugee advocates said it was triggered when Manus Island residents, G4S employees and PNG police stormed the facility, attacking the asylum seekers.—*Reuters*



An exterior view of the government offices of the small island nation of Nauru is pictured, on 10 Feb, 2012.

REUTERS

ENTERTAINMENT

Katrina Kaif's Dost Protocol: she says Salman is just a message away

NEW DELHI, 21 Feb —Katrina Kaif's relationship status with Ranbir Kapoor may be complicated or even non-existent at present but at least the Dhoom: 3 actress has one alleged ex-boyfriend she can count on.

In an interview, Katrina Kaif told Dainik bhaskar: "Salman Khan is always there, he is always just a message away. I am still very much in touch with him." Trouble in the Katrina-Ranbir paradise was reported after their recent holiday to New York and though they were spotted at Aamir Khan's some weeks ago — albeit arriving separately — they are believed to have spent Valentine's Day apart.

Salman, on the other hand, is famously close

to both Katrina as well as another ex-girlfriend, former model and actress Sangeeta Bijlani. And it's not just the

muscle-bound Dabangg star who watches out for Katrina, the entire Khandaan does. "We are the only family she has here. She gets pulled up by me, my sister, my father, my mother. And she has to listen, she's good at listening," Salman told NDTV in 2012, a day before the blockbuster Ek Tha Tiger — starring Salman and Katrina — released.

So it was Salman Katrina turned to when it came to her sister Isabel's Bollywood debut — Dr Cabbie, which

co-stars Speedy Singhs' Vinay Virmani and The Big Bang Theory's Kunal Nayyar, features Salman's name as co-producer. Of course, Salman knows all about Being Human but, when it comes to Katrina Kaif, we suspect it goes a little further than just being gentlemanly towards an former flame.—PTI

Katrina and Salman were reportedly in a relationship. PTI



Misaki Iwasa, a member of the popular pop group AKB48, performs a Japanese "enka" ballad, "Tomonoura Elegy," outside the city hall of Fukuyama, Hiroshima Prefecture, on 18 Feb, 2014.

Tomonoura, a scenic spot in the Seto Inland Sea of Japan, is famous for being the setting for Hayao Miyazaki's animated film "Ponyo." —KYODO NEWS

Elton John, Kanye West to play Bonnaroo music festival

NASHVILLE, 21 Feb — Elton John and Kanye West will be among the acts during this summer's Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Tennessee, organizers announced on Wednesday.

The Bonnaroo festival will be held 12-15 June on a 700-acre farm in Manchester, about 65 miles southeast of Nashville, where about 80,000 "Roonies" descend annually to enjoy 150 musical acts, dozens of comedians, arts and film.

The 2014 concert lineup announced on Wednesday also includes Ice Cube, the Avett Brothers and Lionel Richie.

Bonnaroo is among the top live music gatherings of the year, much like the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in California and the Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts in Britain. Tickets for the festival go on sale Saturday on Bonnaroo.com.—Reuters



Musician Elton John delivers remarks after receiving a lifetime achievement award for his philanthropic work from the Rockefeller Foundation in Washington on 30 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS



SRK wants to participate in the proposed IPL-style football league.—PTI

Shah Rukh Khan wants to buy football team

MUMBAI, 21 Feb — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan says he wants to buy a football team, which will take part in the proposed IPL-style football league, promoted by All India Football Federation (AIFF) and IMG-Reliance.

"I am interested in buying stakes in the football league. If the football

team happens then it is for Kolkata. We have limited resources but we are working towards it. Football team is 100 percent on cards," Shah Rukh said.

Meanwhile, the 48-year-old actor seemed quite excited about the upcoming season of IPL scheduled in April and May.

PTI

Katie Holmes says Taylor Swift is awesome

LOS ANGELES, 21 Feb — Actress Katie Holmes is gaga over pop star Taylor Swift and says she is "awesome". The 35-year-old says her The Giver co-star is brilliant, reports

dailymail.co.uk.

"She is awesome. I love that girl. I just think she is so smart. She's so young, really brilliant and works very, very hard," Katie Holmes told Extra

magazine.

The duo spent quality time together in South Africa last year while they were shooting for the sci-fi movie, which tells the story of a seemingly perfect Utopia which is built on a dark secret. The Giver also features Jeff Bridges and Meryl Streep.—PTI



Katie and Taylor have co-starred in The Giver.—PTI

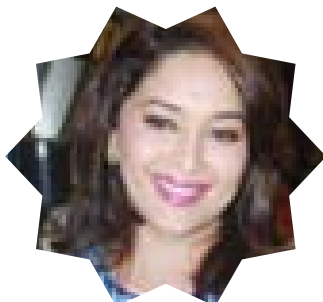
Madhuri Dixit plans to educate Indian women

MUMBAI, 21 Feb —Actress Madhuri Dixit, who speaks about women empowerment and fights for justice in her forthcoming film Gulaab Gang, also plans to educate women in India.

"Yes, we have plans, but we have not started yet. I am looking forward to do that. I will tell you when I will be doing that, but no sense in talking about it now. But some sort of education I have started already with my online dance academy," Madhuri told IANS. At present, she is pumped up about her role in Gulaab

Gang in which she will be seen as Rajjo, who wants to correct the wrongdoings in the society.

"She is a crusader in this film and she believes that women should be educated. Men have to be educated to respect a woman. A lot of time because of illiteracy or not being educated, they look at a woman like an object because that's how they have grown up with and the thinking has to change from within," said the 46-year-old. The Soumik Sen directorial also features Juhi Chawla.—PTI



Madhuri will be seen fighting for women's rights in her next Gulaab Gang. PTI

SPORTS

Soriano's 50-metre goal brightens up Europa League

BERNE, 21 Feb — Jonathan Soriano scored an incredible goal from near the halfway line to complete a stunning 3-0 win for Salzburg away to once-mighty Ajax Amsterdam in the Europa League round of 32 on Thursday. Dani Osvaldo scored his first goal for Juventus to set the Italian champions on the way to a 2-0 win over Trabzonspor,

however compatriots Lazio slumped to a shock 1-0 defeat at home to Ludogorets Razgrad in other first leg ties.

Austrian Bundesliga leaders Salzburg, who won all six group stage matches, continued a remarkable season by outclassing four-times European champions Ajax in their own backyard. Soriano gave Salz-

burg a 14th-minute lead with a penalty and Sadio Mane doubled the advantage with a clinical finish from Kevin Kampl's pass seven minutes later. The highlight came in the 35th minute when Spaniard Soriano picked up a loose ball inside the centre circle, saw Jasper Cillessen off his line and scored with a looping effort which had the Ajax goalkeeper desperately chasing back in vain.

Osvaldo, signed on loan after a troubled and disappointing six months at Premier League Southampton, fired home with an angled shot in the 16th minute after the ball ricocheted to him. Juventus, one of eight teams who parachuted into the Europa League knockout stage after finishing third in their Champions League groups, lived dangerously before Paul Pogba added the second from a Carlos Tevez pass in stoppage time. Lazio's difficult

season continued as they missed a penalty on their way to a defeat against the Bulgarian champions in a game which also featured two red cards.

Roman Bezjak sank Lazio with a swerving 25-metre shot on the stroke of halftime and Lazio's Felipe Anderson had a penalty saved after the re-start before Svetoslav Dyakov (Ludogorets) and Luis Cavanda (Lazio) were both sent off. Fiorentina had no such problems as Alessandro Matri, Josip Ilicic and Alberto Aquilani, from a penalty, shared the goals in a 3-1 win at Esbjerg while Napoli drew 0-0 away to Swansea City. Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk coach Juan de Ramos enjoyed a 1-0 win over his former club Tottenham Hotspur when Yevhen Konoplyanka converted an 81st-minute penalty following a foul by Jan Vertonghen on Matheus.

Reuters



World No 1 Rafael Nadal

Nadal through to Rio Open quarterfinals

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb — World No 1 Rafael Nadal advanced to the quarterfinals of the Rio Open with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over fellow Spaniard Albert Montanes on Thursday. The 27-year-old will now face the winner of the second-round match between Albert Ramos and Joao Sousa.

Nadal showed none of the effects of a back problem that sidelined him after his loss to Stanislas Wawrinka in the Australian Open final last month.

Earlier third-seeded Fabio Fognini of Italy reached the last eight with a 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-3 victory over Uruguayan Pablo Cuevas while Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine beat Argentine Facundo Bagnis 6-7 (4), 6-2, 7-6 (4).

In the women's draw, Japan's Kurumi Nara and Lourdes Dominguez Lino of Spain set up a last-eight meeting with wins while Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania and Brazil's Teliana Pereira also progressed.

Xinhua

Pizarro omitted from Chile squad for Germany friendly

LONDON, 21 Feb — Veteran Fiorentina midfielder David Pizarro was left out as Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli named a squad of 19 foreign-based players on Thursday for next month's World Cup warm-up match away to Germany. Argentine Sampaoli also omitted Swedish-born defender Miiko Albornoz, who made his debut in last month's 4-0 win over Costa Rica. Celta Vigo forward Fabian Orellana has earned a recall as Sampaoli looks to settle certain selection doubts in his mind ahead of the Brazil finals that start on 12 June.

Defender Gary Medel has been included in the squad, posted on the Chilean federation's website (www.anfp.cl), in the hope

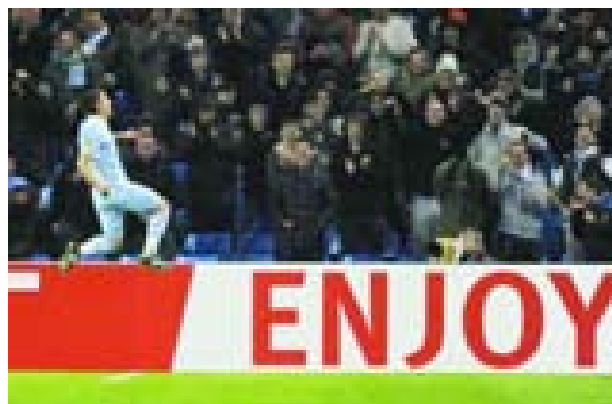
he will recover in time from a torn muscle he suffered playing for Premier League side Cardiff City. Sampaoli could yet add a defender as cover for Medel and a goalkeeper from Chile's domestic league nearer the date of the March 5 match in Stuttgart. Chile face Australia, world champions Spain and the Netherlands in that order in Group B at the tournament finals in Brazil.

Squad:

Goalkeeper: Claudio Bravo (Real Sociedad)

Defenders: Gary Medel (Cardiff City), Marcos Gonzalez (Flamengo), Gonzalo Jara (Nottingham Forest), Eugenio Mena (Santos)

Midfielders: Mauricio Isla (Juventus), Carlos Car-



David Pizarro celebrates scoring against Porto during their Europa League second leg soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England, on 22 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

mona (Atalanta), Marcelo Diaz (Basel), Francisco Silva (Osasuna), Jorge Valdivia (Palmeiras), Charles Aranguiz (Internacional), Arturo Vidal (Juventus), Felipe Gutierrez (Twente Enschede), Matias Fernan-

dez (Fiorentina)

Forwards: Eduardo Vargas (Valencia), Alexis Sanchez (Barcelona), Fabian Orellana (Celta Vigo), Mauricio Pinilla (Cagliari), Jean Beausejour (Wigan Athletic).—Reuters

Match Play exits for Stenson, Rose and McIlroy

LOS ANGELES, 21 Feb — The sheer lottery of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship was again front and centre on Thursday as top seeds Henrik Stenson, Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose were all eliminated in the second round. Swede Stenson, seeded one this week, never led before going down 4&3 to South African Louis Oosthuizen while fourth-seeded Northern Irishman McIlroy lost a see-sawing encounter with American Harris English after 19 holes.

In the final match of

the day at Dove Mountain in Marana, Arizona, US Open champion and second seed Rose was pipped by Els after 20 closely contested holes, the big South African sealing victory with a magical birdie at the par-five second.

Former world number one Els somehow struck his third shot from a near-impossible lie in a greenside bunker to within three feet of the flag before Rose needed two strokes to escape the sand on the way to a losing par five on their 20th hole.

Reuters

K

SOCHI, (Russia), 21 Feb — Italy's Carolina Kostner captivated the audience with a poised and poignant performance to win bronze in the women's figure skating at the Sochi Games on Thursday and instantly knew her decision to stick with the sport had been worth it. Four years earlier she had left the ice in Vancouver doubled over with her head buried in her hands, as if she could not bear to face anyone, after a miserable, tumble-ridden skate.

With the Olympic

spotlight on her, the Italian had seemed to unravel during a performance that was heartbreaking to watch. After that, she very nearly quit figure skating. She certainly did not think she would try it all over again at her third Winter Games but an old-



Italy's Carolina Kostner competes during the figure skating women's free skating program at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, on 20 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

with bronze

er, worldly-wise Kostner did just that in Sochi as she nailed every one of her triple jumps to the haunting backdrop of Ravel's Bolero. "I was scared out of my mind," she admitted. "You go along as a little girl dreaming of the Olympics. I was feeling, 'Yeah, this is it.' I just kept telling myself, 'Just have the courage to go for it."

Believe in it."The long-limbed, balletic skater was radiant, so visibly wrapped up in her own emotive performance that the judges and the audience seemed

but an afterthought.

Skating in a backless black dress worthy of a catwalk, the 27-year-old was a different woman from the girl who fell to pieces in Vancouver, seducing the audience with a wiggle of her hips to the opening notes of Bolero and building to a crescendo with dramatic fast-paced spins. "I kept telling myself there are a few more steps left and then you reach your summit..." she whispered, hoarse with emotion and exhaustion after her skate.—Reuters

GENERAL

Nepal proposes holding SAARC Summit in November

KATHMANDU, 21 Feb — Ending the uncertainty, Nepal has proposed holding 18th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit in Kathmandu in November this year.

SAARC, a regional association of eight South Asian countries, works for the regional development and cooperation.

Nepal tabled such proposal in the meeting of SAARC council of ministers held in Maldives on Thursday. Other members of SAARC are yet to give their agreement about holding such conference in Kathmandu which also hosts the regional organization's secretariat.

"We have proposed to organize the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu in November," a national English Daily *The Himalayan Times* quoted Shankar Baigari, Foreign Secretary, who is in Maldives for ministerial meeting as saying.

Nepal will fix the exact of conferences after the consultations with the new government. SAARC summit was in uncertain as Nepal was passing through political instability. Nepal has previously hosted two SAARC Summit in 1987 and 2002. China has an observer status in SAARC.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 20 Feb, 2014 shows an explosion site on a road in Qiaokou District of Wuhan City, capital of central China's Hubei Province. According to the local fire department, three people were injured in a methane gas explosion in Wuhan on Thursday, which collapsed an underground sewage pipe.

XINHUA

World Bank says Poverty falls in Cambodia, yet many still at risk of slipping back into poverty

PHNOM PENH, 21 Feb — Cambodia has exceeded the Millennium Development Goal poverty target and is one of the best performers in poverty reduction worldwide, according to a new World Bank Poverty Assessment Report released here on Thursday.

"The poverty rate more than halved, from 53 percent, or 6.9 million people, in 2004 to 20.5 percent, or 3 million people in 2011," the report said. "Today, approximately two out of 10 Cambodians are poor, compared with five out of 10 in 2004."

According to the report, increased rice prices and increased rice

production greatly contributed to poverty reduction, along with greater road access for farmers to markets, better access to market information through mobile phones, improved irrigation, and a liberal undistorted agricultural market.

"This is good news for Cambodia. The pace of poverty reduction surpassed expectations," said Alassane Sow, the World Bank's Country Manager for Cambodia.

"When a similar poverty assessment was undertaken in 2006, the aspirational goal was for Cambodia to halve poverty by 2015. Cambodia already reached

that goal in 2011."

However, the report finds that Cambodia has about 8.1 million "near-poor" people, those who live on less than 2.30 US dollars per day per person. While they may have escaped poverty, they remain vulnerable to even the slightest economic shocks. "Despite impressive reduction in poverty, these hard won gains are fragile. Many people who have escaped poverty are still at high risk of falling back into poverty," said Neak Samsen, Poverty Analyst of the World Bank in Cambodia and the co-author of the Poverty Assessment Report.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(22-2-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:20 am

2. Business News

8:00 am

3. News/ International News

9:45 am

4. What are human right?

10:15 am

5. TV Drama Series

11:20 am

6. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

12:00 pm

7. News / International News/ Weather Report

1:10 pm

8. Round Up of The Week's Hluttaw News

3:00 pm

9. News

4:15 pm

10. Cultural Dances

5:30 pm

11. Game For Children

6:20 pm

12. MRTV's Youth Programme

7:00 pm

13. News

8:00 pm

14. News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

15. Business News

9:00 pm

16. News

17. Myanmar Series

18. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

22-2-14 07:00 am ~ 23 -2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon - The Religious Insignias Of pagodas In Myanmar
- * World News
- * Creations of a Designer
- * Local News
- * "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Novicehood in Myanmar
- * World News
- * Art Students: Sculpture
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel With Maria (Pyay-Shwe San Taw)(EP-4)
- * World News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Local News
- * Historic Temples Of Massiveness And Unique Structure
- * World News
- * Nang
- * Local News
- * Let's Observe the Traditions of "Matupi"
- * World News
- * I'm In Love With Diamond
- * Local News
- * Visiting To Mawlamyine Trip
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Lady "Kalayar Moe"
- * Local News
- * Kachin Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- * World News
- * Independent Filmmaker
- * Local News
- * The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art

Thrills on Russian ice, Ukraine athlete leaves in protest

SOCHI, (Russia), 21 Feb — The women's figure skaters provided a thrilling climax to Thursday's Winter Olympics action when Russian Adelina Sotnikova claimed gold, but a skier's decision to pull out of the Games in protest was a reminder of the crisis in neighbouring Ukraine. Seventeen-year-old Sotnikova was second going into the free skating programme, and whipped the partisan crowd into a frenzy with an energy-sapping routine.

The result left many neutrals scratching their heads about what exactly the judges saw, or did not see, as the Russian was the only one of the top three athletes to have a snatched landing at the end of a combination

jump. In contrast, outgoing Olympic champion Kim Yuna of South Korea delivered a flawless display full of grace and beauty, but in the eyes of the judges she was no match for the Russian. The first Russian to win the women's Olympic individual figure skating gold medal, Sotnikova landed 11 jumps, including seven triples, to the stirring backdrop of "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso".

At the nearby Bolshoy Ice Dome there was yet more drama on the ice, as the Canadian women's hockey team came back from 2-0 down to win the final 3-2 in overtime against the United States. The win capped an undefeated run in Sochi for a Canadian team that have won four of five gold medals since women's ice

hockey made its debut at the 1998 Nagano Games. Sotnikova's victory was the perfect tonic for a home crowd still smarting from Wednesday's bitter men's ice hockey defeat by Finland in the other most coveted Olympic title on the ice.

"I found something totally different in myself today," Sotnikova said afterwards. "I had a bit of nerves before I skated, but just before I started I was completely calm. I just felt how much I love to skate. I think I found a new me." Away from the sporting drama, Alpine skier Bogdana Matsotska said she had withdrawn from Russia's first Winter Games in protest against Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich, who enjoys Moscow's backing, and his government.

The Ukrainian's decision came in the wake of deadly clashes between demon-

strators and security forces in which at least 67 people have been killed, 39 of

them on Thursday when a gun battle broke out in the center of Kiev.—Reuters



Russia's Adelina Sotnikova celebrates holding her flag at the end of the Figure Skating Women's free skating Program at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, on 20 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

MP proposes to set aside 7,000 million kyat for peace making in 2014-15 FY

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw's Reform and Development Scrutinizing Committee U Aung Thein

Lin suggested Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to set aside the budget of 7,000 million kyat for spending in implementing tasks for making peace

in the country in the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year.

The estimated expense budget of the 2013-2014 FY reached 11,553.041 million kyat, and the budget of 15303.796 million kyat has been proposed for the 2014-2015

FY, increasing 3750.755 million kyat as the president, the vice-presidents, Union ministers and deputy ministers would not reduce their salaries as from this fiscal year and the budget of allocation for the peace making process is

included in the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. During the meeting, U Kyi Tha, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw's Investment and Industry Development Committee, submitted a plan to cut the rural area power supply budget of 36590.774 million

kyat drawn up by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development or the rural area power supply budget of over 79000 million kyat proposed by Nay Pyi Taw Council to be able to draw up the budget of (See page 9)

Regional development, environmental conservation to be implemented in a transparent manner

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The Implementation Committee of the Report of the Investigation Commission for Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project is undertaking regional development and environmental conservation tasks including scheme on compensation for the land confiscated farmers. It needs to implement the tasks in a transparent manner in accord with rules and regula-

tions. The committee is to protect environmental impact along with sympathy and visionary in line with international standard mine closure plan in implementing environmental conservation tasks. At the same time, it is necessary to clarify implementation of EIA/SIA tasks to the locals, said U Hla Tun, Chairman of the committee and Union Minister at the President (See page 8)

Issuance of ID for 2014 matriculation examination announced

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The matriculation examination for 2014 will take place from 12 to 22 March.

Students across the nation may take out identity card at their respective exam centres starting 24 February (Monday) and students in Yangon municipal area, on 26 February (Wednesday).

Students from Basic Education High Schools, BEHSs (branch) and BE-

HSs (affiliated) may take out identity card from their respective school heads while external students may draw identity card from their respective examination supervisors. For further information, students may contact the respective exam supervisors and township education officers, announced the Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations.—MNA

City development plan, township development plan to be implemented for landless and homeless



Meeting on resettlement for the landless and homeless in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—"The government is drawing city development plan and township development plan for the landless and homeless households," said Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane at the meeting on resettlement for the landless and homeless at the hall of the President Office on 21 February morning.

The Union minister continued that it needs to

collect rightful data for the landless and homeless in respective townships, saying accommodation for them is necessary. As the incumbent government has been issuing farmland certificates to the people, they have now possessed firm land and property than previous time, he said.

He highlighted that the region and state level officials are required to systematically carry out work pro-

cedures for the landless and homeless. Arrangements are being made for accommodation and farmlands for them in coordination with the scholars, he added. It needs to consider for smooth transportation of the region, emergence of market-oriented economic system and sharing of technology and knowledge, he said.

Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein and U Hla Tun clarified works to be

undertaken for accommodation and job creation for the landless and homeless.

Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin discussed matters on making field trips by the teams formed with the scholars from the ministries to draw township development plan in the regions and states and measures to be taken in resettling for the landless and homeless.

MNA

Building retaining walls, silt dredging underway in Chindwin River

There has been rapid change in flow of water in Chindwin River even within a week in the dry season. Vessels travelling along the river face traffic delays in summer as the water depth is not enough for them. So, Sagaing Region's Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems started building stone-reinforced log retaining walls near Monywa jetty, Ahlon jetty and Mingin jetty along Chindwin River and dredging sand from the river for proper flow of water in the middle of January. The waterway conservation

Byline: Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

works are set to complete this coming March.

With the aim of having proper water depth for vessels at the areas where river level is low, a stone-reinforced log retaining wall is being built along a sandbank in the river near Yonepin Yoe village in Salingyi Township. Construction work has started since 20 January this year and it is scheduled to complete this coming March. It aims to allow vessels to pass through the river without any disruption.

Likewise, two more retaining walls are also being constructed near Ahlon jetty, aiming at keeping proper water flow before Chindwin Bridge (Monywa).

Moreover, a dredge is clearing silt for allowing water flow to erode unwanted sandbanks in the river as of 7 November, 2013. Upon completion, there will be proper water flow and depth for vessels that come to dock in Mingin jetty.

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