

President U Thein Sein felicitates King of Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam, which falls on 23 February 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

Success of national reconciliation process grounded in current peace building efforts will allow us to construct a free, open and prosperous society as well as build a developed nation



President U Thein Sein cordially greets Members of the Business Community and Representatives of Business Associations at Mingala Hall of Yangon Region Government Office.—MNA

Japan's Aeon to launch retailing business in Myanmar

YANGON, 22 Feb.—its first shopping mall in Cambodia, which is scheduled to open in June.

The Myanmar government has revamped the nation's foreign investment law, allowing foreign retailers to invest in large-scale retailing business.

Aeon, which already has retailing operations in China as well as in Malaysia and Thailand, opened a shopping mall in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam last month and plans to expand its operation in Vietnam to 20 stores by 2020.

Aeon is also building

Kyodo News

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—President U Thein Sein met Members of the Business Community and Representatives of Business Associations at Mingala Hall of Yangon Region Government Office in Yangon Saturday morning.

On the occasion, the President delivered an ad-

dress. He said:

I would first of all like to welcome and extend my well wishes to the members of the business community, representatives of business associations and all the guests present here today.

My aim in attending today's ceremony is to listen to the current state of affairs

and the challenges faced by the business community and businesses in general. Only then will we be able to provide political leadership to tackle the challenges and meet the needs of the business community in playing its critical role in economic development.

I would like to briefly

discuss what we have done to promote economic development since my administration took office in light of the political, economic and social changes that have taken place in the country.

Since our government came into power, we have tried to institute policies grounded in accomplishing multi-sectoral reforms along with the political reforms, economic reforms and peace-building efforts. Because of these actions, I would like to add that the reform processes and transformations that have come about are on the right path.

With regards to political reforms, not only are we building a more predictable political system, we can begin to see a new political culture taking root within our society. And since we are becoming a more open society due to these political reforms, there will be increased interaction between the various political forces as well as disagreements between them. However, we are able embrace the essence of this new political culture and overcome these disagreements through dialogue instead of confrontation.

In order for us to have a successful democratic transition, we will have to maintain political stability that is needed for the transition process and political awareness that is necessary for democracy to be meaningful.

I would also like to explain briefly about what my (See page 7)

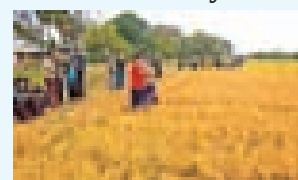
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Myanmar-Thai Friendship Market Festival kicks off



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High yield gram strains introduced to farmers in Myittha



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MPs recount parliamentary experiences in Hopin Township

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Myanmar-Thai Friendship Market Festival kicks off

KAWTHOUNG, 22 Feb—Myanmar (Kawthoung) and Thailand (Ranong) friendship market festival was kicked off at the grounds of Bayintnaung Statue Hillock in Kawthoung of Taninthayi Region on 20 February evening.

Deputy Commissioner of Kawthoung District General Administration Department U Kyaw Swa Tun, the Deputy Commissioner of Ranong District, Chairperson of Kawthoung District Merchants Association Daw Min Min and the Chairperson of Ranong Merchants Association formally opened the market festival.

The guests, departmental officials and responsible persons of merchants association from both countries viewed round the products displayed at the market festival.



The friendship market festival is aimed at developing border trade between ASEAN member both countries, promoting

bilateral trade of domestic products and enhancing tourism industry.

Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Guests and people visit Myanmar (Kawthoung) and Thailand (Ranong) friendship market festival in Tachilek.

News in Brief

Ngaphe-Shwesettaw road upgraded



NGAPHE, 22 Feb—Ngaphe Township Development Supportive Committee spent K 10 million donated by Union Minister U Ohn Myint on construction of Ngaphe-Shwesettaw gravel road as of 8 February. As the Buddha Pujaniya of Shwesettaw Pagoda is being held, local authorities supervise construction of the road to be completed on schedule.

Kyemon-Tham Naing Oo (Ngaphe)

Meiktila dwellers to enjoy purified water

MEIKTILA, 22 Feb—Meiktila Township Development Affairs Committee is supplying 1.7 million gallons of water from Meiktila Lake to local people from 13 wards daily.

In the invitation of tender to purify water from the lake, Dr Tun Than Tun of Authentic Water and Waste Water Co won the tender to install water purifiers worth K 923 million.

The water purifiers will be installed at Independence Monument Park in Linzin Ward and Ringroad of Lake in Paukchaung Kwetthit Ward. Preparations are being made for construction of water purified stations.

After that, water will be supplied to the people through pipeline as of June.—NLM-018

Fire drill on aircraft rescue exercised

TACHILEK, 22 Feb—Tachilek Township Fire Services Department and Department of Civil Aviation jointly organized the aircraft fire rescue drill at Tachilek Airport in Shan State on 21 February morning.

Tachilek Manager U Hla Oo of Department of Civil Aviation made a speech.

Staff Officer of

Township FSD U Aung Kyaw Naing explained tasks of Myanmar Fire Brigade, aircraft fire rescue and putting out of fire.

Head of Tachilek fire station U Kyaw Ko Ko and members of FSD together with fire fighters of the airport demonstrated use of DCP fire extinguisher and putting out of fire.

Staff of the airline participated in fire

drill of using DCP fire extinguisher.

It was also attended by Commander of Tachilek District Police Force Police Lt-Col Win Tun, Township Administrator U Ye Htoo and officials, 120 staff members of eight airlines based at Tachilek Airport, 15 security personnel, media persons and guests.

MMAL-Maung Yin Kyay

Mandalay Region Gov't to upgrade Sunye-Kadoe inter-village road

SINGAING, 22 Feb—Spending the fund of Mandalay Region government, Sunye-Kadoe inter-village road will be upgraded with laterite.

On 20 February, Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Nyi Nyi, Deputy Township Administrator U Thaik Tun, Assistant Engineer U Myint Win of Township Development Affairs Committee, SAE U Hla of Irrigation Department, Head of Township Rural Development Affairs Committee Daw Khin Mar San and Director U Tin Maung Latt of Bright Star Wave Construction Co Ltd inspected prospects to upgrade the road.

Sunye-Kadoe road is two miles long earthen facility.

Mandalay Region Government allotted K 60 million on undertaking of regional development tasks in 2013-14 fiscal year.

The fund was spent on construction of one mile long Ohndon-Kyetsha road

section, Yatha-Ohndon-Nyaungshwe Road, one mile long Monbin-Ywathitlay road section, two miles long Kadoe-Sunye road, one mile long Hinngu-Yatha road, 1.4 miles long Thindaung

Road.

Meanwhile, officials will construct bridges in Thingaton and Thabyaeyoe villages and school building in Nabebin Village.

Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)



Village BEPS gets upgrading in Natmauk Township

NATMAUK, 22 Feb—The ceremony to upgrade Basic Education Primary School Branch to BEPS was held in Model Nabadan Village of Chaungnet Village-tract of Natmauk Township, Magway Region, on 19 February.

Township Administrator U Htay Aung, Deputy Township Education Officer U Khin Maung Swe and village in-charge U Nyunt Shwe formally opened the upgraded school. Township level officials made speeches.

Village in-charge U Nyunt Shwe explained a plan to students enrolment affairs and development of the school. The school building of the BEPS is 58 feet long, 24 feet wide and 16 feet high.

Three Primary Assistant Teachers and one general worker are assigned to teach 70 students.

Also present at the ceremony were Township Administrator U Htay Aung, Head of Rural Development Department U Aung Ko Latt and officials.

Kyemon-Hla Win (IPRD)

WORLD

Nuclear disaster evacuee expressway toll waiver programme to be extended

FUKUSHIMA, (Japan), 22 Feb — The government plans to extend another year the expressway toll waiver programme for people forced to evacuate due to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, the transport minister said on Saturday.

The programme had been due to expire 31 March. "I instructed (ministry officials) to arrange a one-year extension of the programme," said Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Akihiro Ota at a ceremony for the reopening of a highway section in Fukushima Prefecture.

Kyodo News

UN reports alleged human rights abuses in S Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Feb — The United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) on Friday reported alleged human rights abuses in South Sudan, saying "large numbers of civilians were deliberately targeted and killed along ethnic lines."

The mission, in its interim report presented to the UN Security Council here, said the findings are based on more than 500 interviews of victims, witnesses and other sources.

Xinhua



Youths participate in a march in support of the Venezuelan government in Managua, Nicaragua, on 20 Feb, 2014. —XINHUA

Yanukovich abandons Kiev compound, opposition demands vote by May

KIEV, 22 Feb — Protesters seized the Kiev office of President Viktor Yanukovich on Saturday and the opposition demanded a new election be held by May, as the pro-Russian leader's grip on power rapidly eroded following bloodshed in the capital.

Protesters entered the president's compound in the capital and were controlling the entrance, a Reuters reporter said at the scene. Security guards were present inside the building but were not trying to expel the protesters.

Yanukovich's residence outside the capital was also abandoned, and journalists were freely able to enter, local media reported. A security source said the president was still in Ukraine but was unable to confirm whether he was in Kiev.

Yanukovich, who enraged much of the population by turning away from

the European Union to build closer ties with Russia three months ago, made sweeping concessions in a deal brokered by European diplomats on Friday after days of violence that killed 77 people.

But the deal, which called for early elections by the end of the year, was not enough to satisfy demonstrators who want him out immediately after bloodshed that saw his police snipers shooting from rooftops. The speaker of parliament, a Yanukovich loyalist, resigned.

Parliament has quickly acted to implement the deal, voting to restore a constitution curbing the president's powers and change the legal code possibly allowing his arch-foe, jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, to go free. Events were moving at a rapid pace that could see a decisive shift in the future of a country of 46



Anti-government protesters gather outside the Ukrainian Parliament building in Kiev on 22 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

million people, away from Moscow's orbit and closer to the West, although Ukraine is near bankruptcy and depends on Russian aid to pay its debt. "Today he (Yanukovich) left the capital," opposition leader Vitaly Klitschko, a retired world heavyweight boxing champion, told an emergency session of parliament debating an opposition motion calling on the president to resign.

"Millions of Ukrainians see only one choice — early presidential and parliamentary elections." Klitschko then tweeted that an election should be held no later than 25 May.

The senior security source said of Yanukovich: "Everything's ok with him ... He is in Ukraine." Asked whether the leader was in the capital, the source replied: "I cannot say."

Reuters

Obama, Putin urge quick implementation of Ukraine deal

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — US President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin agreed on Friday on the need to quickly implement an agreement aimed at ending the Ukraine crisis.

Both leaders stressed the importance of stabilizing Ukraine's economic situation and undertaking necessary reforms, as they exchanged views on a range of global issues via phone, the White House said in a statement. —Xinhua

Syrian Army kills Arab fighters on western coast

DAMASCUS, 22 Feb — The Syrian Army on Friday killed some rebels, many of them foreign Arabs, in the countryside of the western coastal city of Latakia, the official SANA news agency reported.

Iraqis, Moroccans, and Yemenis were among those killed in the army's "qualitative" operations in the towns of Salma, Ghunaimyeh, Zahyeh, Suda, Rawda and al-Shahrura in the countryside of Latakia, SANA said, spelling no further details about the exact number of the killed.

Damascus has for long complained about the influx of foreign jihadist fighters who joined the insurgency in the country and has accused its neighbors of serving as a conduit for them. —Xinhua

Waseda University confers honorary doctorate on Saudi crown prince

TOKYO, 22 Feb — Japan's Waseda University honoured Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud with an honorary doctorate in law on Friday.

The university presented the crown prince with the degree in appreciation of his work to "strengthen relations with Japan," Waseda President Kaoru Kamata said during the conferral ceremony.

In a speech, the crown prince thanked Japan on behalf of Saudi Arabian

exchange students studying in the country and said he has "high respect for Japan's efforts to build an advanced nation."

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of a bouquet of flowers to the crown prince by a humanoid robot built in Waseda's Takanashi robotics lab.

During his three-day visit, the crown prince met Wednesday with Japan's Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Kyodo News



Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (R) receives a bouquet from a robot at Waseda University in Tokyo on 21 Feb, 2014. The Japanese university honoured the crown prince with an honorary doctorate in law the same day. KYODO NEWS

WORLD

Thai anti-government protesters lambasted for targeting business

BANGKOK, 22 Feb — Supporters of Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, the target of weeks of sometimes violent street protests, denounced opposition threats against businesses linked to her family on Saturday ahead of a gathering of their leaders.

Anti-government protesters have blocked key Bangkok intersections with tents, tires and sandbags, seeking to unseat Yingluck.

This week they targeted businesses linked, or once linked, to the Shinawatra family, sending stock prices tumbling.

“What we don’t like right now is their involvement in threatening companies on the stock exchange that is not involved with government,” Tida Tawornseth, chairwoman of the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), told *Reuters*. “It’s a move away from government into business.”

The protests have al-



Thai riot police stand guard as anti-government protesters rally inside a compound of the Thai Royal Police Club in Bangkok on 21 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

ready taken a toll on the economy, on tourism in particular, with arrivals in Bangkok sharply down.

The UDD, a “red-shirted” protest movement based largely in Thailand’s populous north and northeast, is holding a meeting of its leaders from across the country

on Sunday in Nakhon Ratchasima, north of the capital.

Generous subsidies for farmers in the north and northeast were a centerpiece of the platform that swept Yingluck to power in 2011, but they have left Thailand with vast stockpiles of rice and a bill it is struggling to

fund.

About 500 anti-Thaksin protesters gathered this week outside the Bangkok offices of SC Asset Corp, a property developer controlled by the Shinawatra family, waving Thai flags and blowing whistles.

Reuters

Cuban leaders highlight productivity

HAVANA, 22 Feb — Two top Cuban leaders on Friday emphasized the importance of productivity and the need to protect people’s interests.

Productivity would be decisive to curb the high prices for items included in

the basic basket of goods, a serious problem affecting the island’s population, Miguel Diaz-Canel, first vice president of the Council of Ministers, told the 20th Congress of the Cuban Workers’ Federation.

“The solution lies in

producing more and well, not in new commercialization formulas,” he said. He asked workers in Cuba to do their best in their daily work so as to contribute to the better functioning of the country and preserving the socialist system.—*Xinhua*

UN Security Council considering targeted sanctions in Yemen

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Feb — The UN Security Council is considering a draft resolution to impose travel bans and asset freezes on people in Yemen who obstruct or undermine the country’s political transition and those who commit human rights violations.

Yemen, a US ally, with a population of 25 million,

is trying to end nearly three years of political unrest, which began with mass protests against Ali Abdullah Saleh, the president for 33 years who stepped down in 2012.

Britain circulated a draft resolution among the 15 council members on Friday that would establish a sanctions committee for one

year to blacklist individuals and entities in Yemen. The draft does not initially name anyone to be subjected to sanctions.

The Security Council has previously expressed concern over reports of interference by Saleh and former Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beidh. In November, Jamal Benomar, special UN adviser on Yemen, accused members of Saleh’s circle of obstructing reconciliation talks aimed at completing a power transfer deal that eased Saleh out of office.

The draft recognizes “that the transition process requires turning the page from the presidency of Ali Abdullah Saleh” and stresses that the best solution is a “peaceful, inclusive, orderly and Yemeni-led political transition process that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people.”

Reuters

Aso, Lew exchange views on progress of “Abenomics”

SYDNEY, 22 Feb — Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso and US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew held a meeting on Saturday in Sydney in which they are believed to have exchanged views on the progress of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s economic policies dubbed “Abenomics.”

They talked on the sidelines of a meeting of the Group of 20 finance chiefs, several days after Lew said in a letter to G-20 members that the outlook for Japan’s domestic demand as a driving force of the economy has been “clouded.”

Aso was eager to tell his US counterpart that Japan will make every effort to prevent a planned sales tax hike in April from hurting consumption and will promote a growth strategy in a bid to bolster private-sector investment, sources close to the matter said. Moreover, Aso planned to explain to Lew that Japan, the world’s third-biggest economy, has not been trying to stimulate the economy by strengthening exports through depreciation of the yen, the sources said.

Kyodo News

THINGS TO DO

The following is the reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2013. Please visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed

Shopping

There is a wealth of shopping choices in big cities such as Yangon and Mandalay, ranging from supermarkets, traditional markets and shops specialising in handicrafts to sidewalk bazaars and night markets.

Antiques

Artifacts less than 80 years old are permitted to be exported but to avoid inconvenience you should have them checked and verified by the Department of Archaeology. Some specialist shops have letters and stamps of verification for their products. If the products are copies they have legal documents declaring that they are not genuine antiques. Laws prohibiting the export of antiques also apply to paintings.



Traditional textiles

Weaving is such a strong tradition in Myanmar that only fifty years ago most homes in rural areas had a loom for the daughters of the house to weave the family’s clothes. With cheap cottons readily available, few toil at home on looms but the tradition continues in many places. The fabrics of the Rakhine, Mon, Shan, Kayah, Kachin, and Chin national races, and their various sub-races, are still in strong demand. Old pieces of fabric have become collector’s items. Some national races use strap looms while others use ordinary hand looms but their designs and choice of colours vary widely.

Local Markets

Morning and Evening Bazaars

Myanmar people prefer fresh food and refrigerated food or frozen meats are not part of the lifestyle. Domestic help is affordable so even homes with all mod cons would have someone, such as the housewife or cook going to the bazaar every morning.

The only people keeping food in the fridge or freezer would be young professionals who have no time to cook or enjoy leisurely meals. They would most likely eat at the many restaurants or food stalls which shop for fresh supplies every day, too.

Bazaars or wet markets are open by 5.30 am in almost every neighbourhood while roadside sellers or hawkers carrying baskets of fish or vegetables serve the needs of those in out of the way places.

In the bazaars you will find piles of fresh vegetables and fruits; fresh meat from which you can choose cuts to your liking; fowl freshly-plucked and still warm; fish glistening with bright scales and maybe some swimming in tubs; crabs tied with strips of bamboo to protect buyers from their claws; giant river prawns with the blue tomes of their shells attesting to their freshness.

On the perimeter of these bazaars you will see shops selling the fish broth called Monhinga, rice noodles, fried rice with peas, coconut noodles, dumplings and other breakfast favourites.



A man holds a poster of Yemen’s former President Ali Abdullah Saleh outside al-Saleh mosque after weekly Friday prayers in Sanaa on 17 May, 2013 file photo.

REUTERS

WORLD

Italian wanted for terrorism arrested in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, 22 Feb — An Italian citizen convicted of terrorism and murder has been arrested in the Dominican Republic, local police said on Friday.

The arrest of Gianpaolo Albertini, 57, was made by agents from the International Police Dominican section on Thursday in Jarabacoa, 155 km northwest of capital Santo Domingo.

In a statement, the police said the manhunt for Albertini was activated in September last year upon an international warrant.

Albertini faces a sentence of 24 years, two

months and eight days in prison, which was handed down in Italy in September 2003 for charges of terrorism, homicide and carrying illegal firearms.

The Dominican Republic, one of the main tourism destinations in the Caribbean Sea, is commonly used by foreign fugitives as refuge.

According to a local Press report issued in January, Dominican authorities arrested at least 16 foreign fugitives in the previous six months, most of them accused of drug-trafficking, swindle, fraud and murder.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 21 Feb, 2014 shows a bird's-eye view of Wanfenglin in Xingyi, southwest China's Guizhou Province. Wanfenglin, meaning a forest of ten thousand peaks, is a national geological park and also a tourism attraction. —XINHUA

Filipino caregiver makes elderly people happy with English



Photo taken in January 2014 shows caregiver Charito Ito (R), a Filipino woman married to a Japanese man, leading day-care services users in exercising at a care home in Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture.

KYODO NEWS

KESENUMA, (Japan), 22 Feb — Laughter is often heard from some 40 elderly people gathering for day-care services at a care home in Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, thanks to the

presence of a Filipino worker.

“When I speak in English, grandpas seem delighted,” Charito Ito said, revealing her secret for getting elderly people to

laugh. Ito, 38, is married to a Japanese man and works at Minamisanriku Kings Garden as a caregiver.

Ito was working at a local fishery processing plant when a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami hit the northeastern Japan region of Tohoku on 11 March, 2011. Ito, like many others, lost her job. According to the Justice Ministry, the three worst-hit prefectures — Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima — had a total of 33,279 foreign residents at the end of 2010. Many of them were Chinese and Filipino women married to Japanese men as well as Chinese trainees employed by local fishery processing plants.

The twin disasters caused widespread loss of

employment opportunities and forced a large number of foreign residents to return to their countries. As a result, the combined population of foreign residents in the three prefectures dropped to 29,457 at the end of June 2013. In Kesennuma, the number dropped to 265 from 461 during the same period.

To create new job opportunities for foreigners who stayed in Kesennuma, the city office started seminars in cooperation with support groups to help them obtain entry-level licenses to work at care homes short of staff. Of 31 foreign residents who had received licenses by January 2013, more than 10 are working as caregivers.

Kyodo News

Syria submits new 100-day plan for removal of chemical weapons

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Feb — Syria has submitted a new 100-day plan for the removal of its chemical weapons after failing to meet a 5 February deadline, but the international mission overseeing the operation believes it can be done in a shorter time frame, diplomats said on Friday. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons executive committee met on Friday in The Hague to discuss the joint OPCW and UN mission amid growing international frustration at Syria falling behind on its commitments.

The Syrian government, locked in a three-year-old war with rebels seeking President Bashar al-Assad's overthrow, failed to meet the 5 February OPCW deadline to move all of its declared chemical substances and precursors out of the country.

The final deadline under the OPCW plan is for all of Syria's declared chemical materials to be destroyed by 30 June. “The Syrian 100 day plan for removal of the chemicals, on which we have been briefed, is not adequate,” Philip Hall, head of the British Foreign Office Counter Proliferation Department, told the OPCW, according to a copy of his statement.

“We now urge the Syrian authorities to accept the proposals submitted by the Operational Planning Group that provide for removal in a much shorter time frame, without compromising on security,” he said. A senior UN diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the international mission believes the operation can be carried out before the end of March, adding that Syria's proposed end-May deadline would not leave enough time for the chemicals to be destroyed before the end of June.—Reuters

Four killed in western Afghan checkpoint attack

HERAT, (Afghanistan), 22 Feb — Four people were killed in an attack in western Afghan province of Herat overnight, an official said on Saturday.

“Several militants carried out an attack on Afghan Local Police (ALP) security checkpoint at midnight. One ALP cop, a civilian and two militants were killed during the exchange of fire in Obe district, northeast of provincial capital Herat city,” the district governor Shir Agha Alokozai told Xinhua, adding four militants were wounded.

The ALP, or community police, was established in 2010 to protect villages and districts around the country where army and police have limited presence. The Taliban insurgent group has intensified attacks since the Afghan army and police took the full operational lead from NATO-led troops last year.

Afghanistan is due to take over the responsibility for its own security when most of foreign combat troops withdraw from the war-torn country by the end of the year.—Xinhua



Buildings are seen in fog at Times Square in New York City, the United States, on 21 Feb, 2014. A dense fog covered New York City through Friday afternoon, causing some departure delays at airports in and near the city.—XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google deal is no 'gentlemen's agreement', says EU antitrust chief

PARIS, 22 Feb — The EU antitrust chief defended a deal with Google over how it displays web search results, following criticism from rival firms and his own colleagues, saying there had been no gentlemen's agreement to close the case.

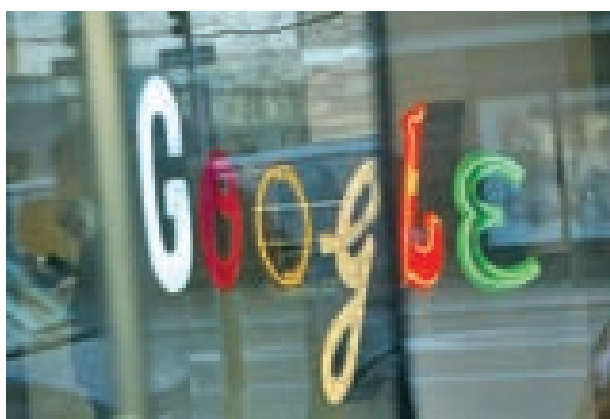
The world's most popular search engine has been under investigation for three years by the European Commission, which acts as the bloc's antitrust regulator, over complaints it was blocking competitors in search results.

More than a dozen companies, including Microsoft, price comparison site Foundem and online mapping company Hotmaps, have accused it of squeezing them out of the

market. Earlier this month, Google agreed to make concessions to display rivals' links more prominently, hoping to end a case that could have led to a fine of up to \$5 billion (3.6 billion euros). European Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said last week he would accept Google's proposals, calling them significant concessions which had allayed competition concerns.

However rival firms said the plans did not go far enough and would only entrench Google's dominance of Internet searches.

And sources told *Reuters* a third of the members of the European Commission also opposed the deal, underlining the political sensitivity of the matter.



The Google signage is seen at the company's offices in New York on 8 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Almunia brushed aside the criticism. "I have also heard people say that the Commission has entered a gentlemen's agreement with Google which would lead to a way of dropping the charges or closing the file. Not at all," he told a *Concurrences Journal*

conference on Thursday. He said an independent trustee would monitor Google to ensure that there would not be any anti-competitive practices.

Almunia still needs the majority of his fellow commissioners to push through the deal, but said

he welcomed the criticism. "It is logical. There are 28 commissioners, each having his own views. It is good that each one can share his views," he said. It was the third attempt by the world's most popular Internet search engine to settle the investigation.

Its first two attempts to resolve the case failed. Under its latest proposals, Google, which has a 75 percent share of the European search market according to consultancy comScore, will let three rivals display their logos and web links in a prominent box, and content providers will be able to decide what material Google can use for its own services.

Google will also scrap restrictions that prevent

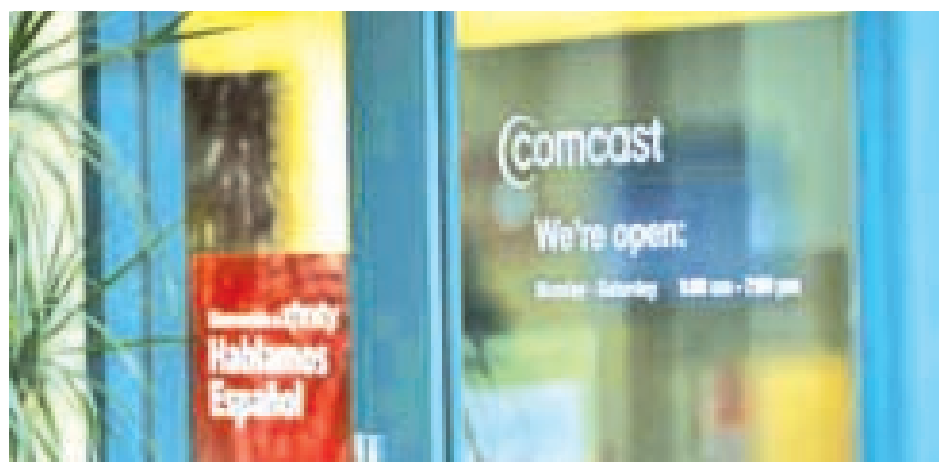
advertisers from moving their campaigns to rival platforms such as Yahoo!'s search tool and Microsoft's Bing.

The company must stick to the deal for the next five years. Almunia, however, said Google continues to be under regulatory scrutiny over its Android operating system for smartphones. "We are in the process of investigating Android in the next few weeks," he said.

Google gives away Android for free. The software, which is available on three out of four smartphones sold worldwide, essentially helps the company extend its core search business and boost its usage in the mobile world.

Reuters

Comcast filings with regulators expected at end of March



A Comcast sign is shown on the entrance to its store in San Francisco, California on 13 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — Comcast Corp said on Thursday it plans to submit documents on its proposed \$45 billion takeover of Time Warner Cable Inc to US regulators by the end of March, when antitrust and public interest reviews will be launched. The proposed merger between the two biggest US cable service providers is expected to draw intense scrutiny from the Federal Communications Commission, which reviews whether deals are in the public interest, and either the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission,

which share antitrust oversight.

The deal has drawn concern from consumer advocates and some lawmakers who worry that the new company's size would give it too much power to decide what Americans can watch on TV and do online. Comcast is targeting the end of March to submit its application to the FCC, spokeswoman Sena Fitzmaurice said. Companies usually have 30 business days to file with the FCC after a deal's announcement. Around the same time, Comcast will also submit documents asking antitrust

regulators for approval, she said. The FTC and Justice Department will then determine which agency will take the lead on the review.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and Justice Department antitrust chief William Baer sent a rare public signal of skepticism earlier this month on a potential deal between wireless carriers Sprint Corp and T-Mobile US Inc. No deal has been officially proposed yet between those companies.

On Thursday, Wheeler was asked whether he had similar concerns about the proposed tie-up between

Comcast and Time Warner Cable. "It was an interesting situation in that Sprint/T-Mobile actually came to us and said: 'We're thinking about this, what do you think about it?'" Comcast never did," Wheeler said.

"So I'm in a position right now of sitting and waiting for Comcast to file their requisite documents so that we can begin our consideration. 'We'll wait to give it a full, fair, open hearing,' he added.

Comcast, which pledged upfront to several concessions that federal regulators were likely to request, has maintained that customers will benefit from the merger as services and technology improve. "All we can ask for is a full, fair, and open hearing - and I think Chairman Wheeler's message is that is what we will get," Comcast Executive Vice President David Cohen said on Thursday. "In the broadband space and in the video space, we're not depriving a single consumer in America of a choice that he or she has today," Cohen told reporters after the deal was announced last week.—*Reuters*



A woman speaks on her iPhone as she walks on a busy street in downtown Shanghai on 10 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

Apple says security flaw could allow hackers to beat iPhone encryption

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 Feb — A major flaw in Apple Inc software for mobile devices could allow hackers to intercept email and other communications that are meant to be encrypted, the company said in a Friday afternoon announcement.

If attackers have access to a user's network, such as by sharing the same unsecured wireless service offered by a restaurant, they could see or alter exchanges between the user and protected sites such as Gmail and Facebook, experts said. "It's as bad as you could imagine, that's all I can say," said Johns Hopkins University cryptography professor Matthew Green. Apple did not say when or how it learned about the flaw in the way iOS handles sessions in what are known as secure sockets layer or transport layer security, nor did it say whether the flaw was being exploited.

But a statement on its support website was blunt: The software "failed to

validate the authenticity of the connection." Apple released software patches and an update for the current version of iOS for iPhone 4 and later, 5th-generation iPod touches, and iPad 2 and later.

Without the fix, a hacker could impersonate a protected site and sit in the middle as email or financial data goes between the user and the real site, Green said. Apple did not reply to requests for comment. The flaw appears to be in the way that well-understood protocols were implemented, an embarrassing lapse for a company of Apple's stature and technical prowess.

The company was recently stung by leaked intelligence documents claiming that authorities had 100 percent success rate in breaking into iPhones. Friday's announcement suggests that enterprising hackers could have had great success as well if they knew of the flaw.—*Reuters*

NASA suspends recovery testing of next generation spacecraft

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — US space agency NASA said on Friday that it has suspended the recovery testing of a test version of its next generation spacecraft called Orion off the coast of California.

NASA said in a statement that the recovery team experienced issues with handling lines securing the Orion capsule inside the

well deck of the *USS San Diego* during Thursday's exercise.

"The lines were unable to support the tension caused by crew module motion that was driven by wave turbulence in the well deck of the ship," the space agency said.

"The team called off the week's remaining testing to allow engineers to

evaluate next steps." The recovery operations conducted by NASA and the US Navy began on Tuesday and were originally set to end Friday.

NASA said several of the test objectives were accomplished before the remaining tests were called off, including successful recoveries of the forward bay cover, parachute and

demonstrations of the coordination required between the team onboard the ship and mission control in Houston.

Orion is America's new spacecraft that will take astronauts to an asteroid and Mars in the future. Its first uncrewed test flight is planned for September this year, NASA said.

Xinhua

NATIONAL

Success of national reconciliation process grounded in current...

(from page 1)

administration is trying to do to promote economic development. If we look back at Myanmar history, we can see that we were unable to establish a well functioning economic system. Specifically, if we examine the economic systems instituted along with the political systems that were set up since the independence, we can see that they were unable to bring about economic growth and development.

The political transformations that we have achieved up to now give our society an opportunity to establish a well functioning national economic system. In other words, the reason why we are carrying out economic reforms is to build a market economy and enable ways for all citizens to enjoy these opportunities. I would also like to point out that many things remain to be done and that the government and the private sector must work hand in hand to grab hold of this opportunity together.

My administration has concentrated on bringing about economic reforms from the ground up because economic development for the country is possible only when the private enterprises that constitute 90% of the country's economy develop. Some crucial economic reforms include: an increasingly stabilized foreign exchange rate; banking and

financial regulations that are in line with market economy; creation of an independent central bank; and establishment of other fiscal, banking and financial policies.

At the same time, we were able to successfully negotiate the removal of economic sanctions imposed against this country by some members of the international community that were based on past political situation.

We were also able to sway the European Union to reinstitute generalized system of preferences which will aid our domestic producers when exporting goods into European markets. Likewise, we will continue bilateral discussions with other countries to further lower tariffs.

These reforms allow for greater linkages with international markets which in turn benefits the import and export enterprises. In addition, this encourages export-oriented development.

The government was also able to concentrate on trade liberalization, trade facilitation, trade education and trade promotion. In addition, the government has undertaken measures that allow citizens to have equal opportunities in the trade sector, suspended 10% export duty and 8% commercial tax, instituted measures that allow businesses to obtain business licenses in Yangon, and allowed certain business activities to operate without

requiring license. Thanks to such measures, the trade volume increased from 15.273 billion U.S. dollars in 2010-2011 fiscal year to 21.71 billion U.S. dollars up to the second week of 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Taking into consideration the welfare of foreign and domestic enterprises wanting to invest in Myanmar, the Myanmar Investment Commission was established with clear and transparent procedures. Between 2011 and December of 2013, a total of 188 foreign investments generated 8.2 billion U.S. dollars in investment while 145 local investments totaled 2.2 trillion kyats.

We were also able to successfully negotiate debt forgiveness for Myanmar's international debt. As a result, we were able to re-establish linkages with the World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund, and the Asia Development Bank. This represents future avenues for Myanmar to obtain necessary capital and loans for the future development of the country. At this moment, we are working towards the development of a capital market. Likewise, we are also developing domestic commodity markets that are of high standard and can have linkages to international markets.

In the past three years, there has also been progress in reducing restrictions and providing better access to investment capital in the primary economic growth areas such as trade and investment, development of small and medium enterprises and the agricultural sector. This is due to a large extent to the programs implemented by the government with the help of the private enterprises.

There has also been cooperation between the government and the private enterprises in the sectors such as electric power, telecommunication, and transportation that are keys to in-



President U Thein Sein speaking on the occasion.—MNA

creasing the momentum for economic growth.

However, it has taken much effort to put the national economic system on firm footing and achieve solid results on such basic economic issues mentioned above.

The government of Myanmar will continue to work with the private enterprises in order for the people of Myanmar to enjoy the dividends from these economic reforms.

Our ASEAN Chairmanship coincides with an important time when AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) and AEC (ASEAN Economic Community) will need to be materialized. While businesses based in Myanmar will have the advantage, it will be critical for medium and large businesses that rely on manufacturing and services to balance between supply and value chains.

Due to basic mechanisms for market economy where everyone can compete on the same footing, there is no longer a need for all businesses to try to enter into one sector. Instead, a system based on expertise and competitive advantage will

allow enterprises to clearly focus on their strengths and achieve success.

I would also like to urge all of you to work with the government in showcasing Myanmar private sector's prowess during our ASEAN Chairmanship.

The vibrant political process, political stability and fundamental economic reforms have given rise to the opportunities which in turn contribute to the economic growth and development of the country. More importantly, the success of the national reconciliation process grounded in the current peace building efforts will allow us to construct a free, open and prosperous society as well as build a developed nation.

But we will be successful only when each and every one of us, including the members of the business community present here today, make a contribution towards this goal starting from what we have achieved so far.

It is crucial for the private sector to be able to appreciate and understand the pivotal role it plays because the success of a nation's economy can only be seen through the success of its private sector. In conclusion, I would like to point out that the most important element in political and economic reforms and peace initiatives is to adopt a mindset of finding solutions, resolving conflicts and finding alternatives constructively rather than through cynicism and blaming each other. This is the

only way for our success.

The representatives and entrepreneurs discussed matters related to development of industrial zones, Myanmar tourism industry and agricultural sector, urban land utilization, garment industry, fisheries and livestock breeding sectors, gems industry, banking and financial institutions and Myanmar's economic forum.

In his clarifications, the President said that he respected entrepreneurs and representatives as they focused on the national interest rather than their own. He highlighted that the government needs to closely cooperate with them for the success of reform processes and promotion of private sector.

He stressed the needs to establish a mechanism enabling further cooperation between the government and private organizations, saying that Myanmar Economic Forum will serve as mechanism. The two working groups formed with the entrepreneurs and government officials are to coordinate each other, he added. Economic forums were established in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos since 1998 to draw laws, bylaws and handle problems and issues, he said.

He called on those present to hold talks with respective ministers for the unsettled matters, adding that some issues will be taken into consideration at the cabinet meetings. In the evening, the Union ministers held discussions with the entrepreneurs and representatives from business firms.—MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint tees off at Union Cup Golf Tournament 2014.

(News on page 16)—MNA

Land Utilization Management Committee offices opened in Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—As Land Utilization Management Committee offices have been opened in districts and townships in Kayah State, anyone may enquire whether their confiscated lands are included in the list of released lands at the offices. If involved, they may submit applications for their confiscated lands with firm evidence to ward/village administrative offices. The committees will solve these cases in line with existing laws, rules and regulations.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 23 February, 2014

Cancer

Cancer in Myanmar is one of the ten leading causes of morbidity and mortality. Betel quid chewing habits are widely spread and are considered to be one of the important causative factors for oral cancer.

Myanmar is now concerned on the health related problem this cancer brings because most people use betel and tobacco. Research revealed that toxic chemicals in betel and cigarettes can cause oral cancer. The World Cancer Report 2014, released on World Cancer Day, warns that cancer rates are expected to rise significantly in the next 20 years, with new cases growing from 14 million in 2012 to 22 million annually within two decades.

Unless prevention rates improve, cancer-related deaths are also expected to rise from 8.2 million a year to 13 million. The WHO said there was now a “real need” to focus on cancer prevention by tackling smoking, obesity and drinking. According to the WHO’s World Cancer Report 2014, the major sources of preventable cancer are smoking, infections, alcohol, obesity and inactivity, radiation, both from the sun and medical scans, air pollution and other environmental factors, delayed parenthood, having fewer children and not breast-feeding.

WHO noted that 30 percent of cancer deaths are caused by factors such as high body mass index, low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of physical activity, tobacco use and alcohol use. People can cut their risk of cancer by making healthy lifestyle choices. And the government and society are also responsible for creating an environment that supports healthy lifestyles.

NPE staff convey Buddha image



Sayadaws and NPE Staff seen on the way to convey Buddha image to Yadana cave of Katkar Kabaaye Pagoda.—AYE THAN

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Staff of dailies at Khayaybin Junction in Zeyathiri Township held the conveyance of a Buddha image from staff quarters to Yadana cave at the precinct of Katkar Kabaaye Pagoda on the hill in Ywathitkon village on Saturday morning.

The staff of the dailies led by U Than Myint Tun, Chief Editor of the New Light of Myanmar daily, actively participated in the conveyance.

The staff members paid homage to the Buddha image and made donations.

Aye Than

Thrones of Myanmar Kings

Visitors and tourists to Kamboza Thadi Palace of King Bayint Naung at Bago [Hamsavadi], Shwebon Yadana Mingala Palace of King Alaungpaya in Shwebo, Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace of King Mindon in Mandalay and National Museum on Pyay Road in Yangon are often confused about many thrones of Myanmar kings reconstructed or replicas displayed therein. Then again foreign envoys presenting their credentials to Myanmar President are curious to know about the throne in the large hall in front of which Myanmar President ceremonially receives the presentation of their credentials. Through some sketchy information is given in the pamphlets to the visitors at these places, a detail account will make a volume of a medium size. So it behoves the writers of this article as an historian to write on this topic in highly esteemed Daily the *New Light of Myanmar*.

There are accounts of or references to throne of Myanmar kings in Myanmar literature in the form of stone inscriptions manuscripts (palm leaf writings, folding paper parchments called parabikes) mural paintings, chronicles and literature. To mention but a few are King Kyanzitha’s Mon inscription of building a new palace at Bagan, bell inscription of King Bayintnaung’s building of Kambawza Thazi, royal records of King Alaungpaya’s Shwebon Yadana Mingala Palace at Shwebo and King Mindon’s Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace in Mandalay, let alone individual treatises and books.

Myanmar kings mostly followed the vogues of Jatakas [birth stories of Lord Buddha] in pomp, and ceremonies, rites, festivals, regalia, architecture of palace, composition of armed forces, etc. because they believed that they were the descendants of the Sakya race to which Gotama Buddha belonged. In Jatakas, we learn that Prince Sidhartha [Bodhisattha] had three pal-

aces—Yama [Summer Palace], Subha [Rain Palace] and Suyama [Winter Palace], which his royal father King Suothodhamma built for his son to reside during three seasons of the year, Geiman [summer], Wathan [Monsoon or Rain] and Heiman [Winter].

But there were no three kinds of palace in royal dwelling throughout Myanmar history, though

of importance. The Hluttaw Building was an enormous assembly hall of teak wood, heavily gilt, located outside the Palace Complex but within the walking distance. In the centre of it was placed the Hluttaw Lion Throne on which the king was seated during the meeting. In the absence of the king, Crown Prince, as second head of the state carried out the function on

V. In the South Smote Hall was located Deer Throne or Mingasana in Pali. The deer throne is made of Yeythaphan wood [Fig tree, *Ficus glomorata*] with stylized figures of deer in its niches. On this throne the king sat to hold discussion on affairs of national importance with his most trusted ministers. The deer symbolizes swiftness, compassion and magnanimity.

VI. Sankhasana in Pali was the Conch Shell Throne made of Taung Peinhne wood [Jack fruit tree] with stylized figures of conch shell in its niches. It was located in the Promenade Hall called Lay Tha Saung. The king sat on it when he received religious sermons from the Buddhist monks. Originally the conch shell was one of the regalia of Hindu Deity Vishnu. Conch Shell symbolizes purity, peace and prosperity.

VII. Hamsasana in Pali was Hintha Throne made of Thingan net wood [rock dummar tree, *Hopea adorata*]. It had stylized figures of Hintha bird [Brahming duck] in its niches. It was located in East Zeytawun Saung [East Hall of Victory] in the Great Golden Palace Complex where the king performed the rite of venerating the Triple Gems [the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha]. On this throne, the king was seated when he received the credentials of foreign envoys and granted royal audiences with them. Hintha bird is the symbol of grace dignity and faithfulness.

VIII. The Lotus Throne or Padumasana in Pali was made of Thayet wood [mango tree, *Mangifera indica*] with stylized figures of Lotus blooms in its niches. It was located in West Zeytawun Saung [West Hall of Victory]. In this Hall, homage paying ceremony took place. It was performed by the dames, wives of ministers, wives of commanders, officials and court ladies who paid annual homage and respect to the Chief Queen (See page 9)

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

there were different living chambers and houses in which Myanmar kings lived at different seasons of the year and different halls in which they held different state of functions. There were altogether eight such halls, each with its own throne in the Palace Complex.

In each of these halls was a royal throne for the king to sit on, as he performed his kingly function on particular occasion. Every throne was made of a specific wood with specific motif to indicate the meaning and auspiciousness of throne.

I. The first and foremost important throne was called Sihasana or Lion Throne which was the largest among eight kinds of thrones. It was made of Yamanay wood [*game-lia arborea*]. It was called Lion Throne because little stylized figures of Lion were placed in the niches of the throne. It was located in the Myey Nan Pyatthat Saung or the Great Spired Audience Hall where the king received homage and held audience of assembly three times every day. It was on this throne that the king received the rite of Rajabeitheka—pouring on his crowned head lustral water from the conch shells by the guru Brahmin priests, and the king took the coronation oath. Lion is the symbol of royalty, bravery, integrity and faithfulness.

There was another Lion Throne of the same size and design in the Hluttaw [King’s council] where the king held daily meeting [conferences] with the ministers and military commanders on matters

King’s behalf. He did not sit on the throne but he only place his hands symbolically on the throne. This type of Hluttaw Lion Throne [Replica] is to-day in the Large hall in which Myanmar President receives credentials of foreign envoys and meets state guests.

II. Next was the Bumble Bee Throne built of caraway wood [*cinna-mon*]. It was located in the Hman Nan Saung [Crystal Palace chamber] in which the king slept. This throne was called Bamayasana in Pali, as it had stylized figures of bumble bee in its niches. Bumble bee symbolizes unity, perseverance and wealth. On it the king was seated when he held private discussion with his interior ministers.

III. The third throne was the Elephant Throne called Gazasana in Pali. It was located in the Byedeik or Privy Council Chamber. This throne was made of Suga wood [*Champac*] with stylized figures of elephant in its niches. Elephant is the Symbol of sovereignty, majesty, might and longevity of life. The king sat on it when he issued royal orders of promotion or demotion of official ranks.

IV. The Peacock Throne or Maurasana in Pali was the fourth throne which was made of pauk wood [parrot tree, *Butea monosperma*]. It has stylized figures of peacock in its niches. It was located in the North Smote Hall. The king sat on it when he received gifts such as exceptionally fine elephants, horses etc. presented to him by his vassals and lesser nobilities. Peacock stands for national pride, glory and auspiciousness.

NATIONAL & ARTICLE

President U Thein Sein calls availability of electricity, water for Thilawa SEZ

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb— President U Thein Sein made an inspection tour of Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Thanlyin and Kyauktan Townships in Yangon Region on 22 February.

First, Chairman of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holding Public Ltd U Win Aung and Chairman of Thilawa SEZ Management Committee Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung reported on undertaking of land reclamation work which has been completed by 80 per cent.

At the briefing hall of the project, Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Ltd Chairman and CEO Mr. Yanai and officials reported on implementation of section (A) in the zone and facts about the pro-

ject and Union Ministers U Khin Maung Soe and U Kyaw Lwin and Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, availability of electricity and water and plans for construction of roads.

The Union Ministers and the region chief minister made supplementary reports.

President U Thein Sein greets officials at Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

MNA

The President called for timely completion of the project, availability of power and water, construction of road and conducting courses for the workers.

So far, the whole project has been completed by 12 per cent.

MNA



Union FM sends felicitations to his Counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam, which falls on 23 February 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

12th Sayawun ...

(from page 16)

The Union Minister presented awards to prize winners and so did wife of Sayawun Tin Shwe Sayamagyi Daw Aye Thant.

As well, she presented gifts to the literacy

award selection committee through member U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) and donated K 0.3 million for the committee's respect-paying ceremony through MWA Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Win (Manoketha).

MNA

Thrones of Myanmar ...

(from page 8)

sitting on this Throne. Whenever the King appeared at this ceremony he sat on the Throne with Chief Queen sitting on his right. Lotus was the symbol of sacredness, purity and peace.

At National Museum on Pyay Road, Yangon, the only surviving Lion Throne in its original state but without precious gems which adorned it, is on display in the magnificently designed throne room on ground floor. It was one of two Lion Thrones the British took to India when they deposed the last Myanmar King Thibaw and occupied his

Mandalay Palace in 1885. The other Lion Throne fell victim to vandalism. Thanks to the graciousness and friendship of the late Lord Mountbatten, the Lion Throne kept in India was returned to Myanmar upon regaining her independence. On either side of the Lion Throne in the museum are displayed in glass cased show cabinets replicas of other seven thrones. In Mandalay in the reconstructed Mandalay Palace Complex you can see all remade thrones at their right places.

Who can tell which other kings had as many thrones as Myanmar kings did?

BIMSTEC Energy Sector Cooperation

(Continued from 22-2-2014)

For implementation of educational infrastructures by using renewable energy, the experts from The Energy Resource and Institute (TERI) of India held a meeting with those from India, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar in Yangon on 28 December, 2005 with the monetary assistance of New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO).

The points agreed upon at the special meeting on establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Center and 3rd BIMSTEC Energy senior officials meeting held in Bangalore and New Delhi of India on 7 February, 2011 are:

- all BIMSTEC member countries' reaching an unanimous agreement on the proposed site chosen for establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Center;
- phase-by-phase measures for operating BIMSTEC Energy Center, construction of buildings for administration as a first phase and the use of existing facility of Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) in interim period;
- step-by-step implementation of BIMSTEC master plan and drawing environmental-friendly design equipped

with effective power consumption, solar power and recycle of sewage water;

- swift implementation of concept paper for BIMSTEC Energy Center with few staffers, appointment

By Swan Oo

of senior officials as members of governing board of BIMSTEC Energy Center as a preliminary task; compilation of concept note for search committee by Bangladesh and seeking the advices from other countries;

- discussion of the matters pertaining to the establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Sector at the senior officials meeting, based on the report of next special meeting and setting the date for next senior officials meeting to be held in India after the reports have been received.

The points agreed at third trans-national power grids held in Dhaka of Bangladesh on 23-24 August are:

- To finalize MoU on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection (draft) in the fourth meeting to be held in January, 2012 and to approve it in May 2012.
- To discuss the MoU at senior officials meeting in June/July 2012 and seek the

approval of it at the BIMSTEC Energy Ministers meeting.

- To hold the fourth meeting in January 2012 and to host it in India at the approved date.

India hosted it in Kolkata only on 11 January 2013.

According to the declaration of the 2nd BIMSTEC summit held in New Delhi of India on 13 November, 2008, the BIMSTEC countries agreed to hold 2nd BIMSTEC Energy Ministers Meeting in Thailand in 2009. But it could be held only in 4-5 March 2010.

They reached an agreement on holding of BIMSTEC Energy Ministers Meeting every two years and of senior officials meeting annually, inking the MoU for the establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Center (it is under way) and hosting 3rd BIMSTEC Energy Ministers Meeting in Nepal in 2012 (Nepal failed to host it in 2012 but will host in 2014).

Myanmar has so many opportunities for economic development as being located at the heart of ASEAN and BIMSTEC and serving as a link between ASEAN and The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Thanks to the active participation of the Ministry of Energy, Myanmar could carry out hosting of senior officials/experts meetings, implementation of demonstration projects, discussion on the establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Center and hoisting a BIMSTEC website. My-

anmar also is continuously sending the delegates from the ministries concerned including the Ministry of Energy and private energy organizations to trans-national power grids meeting and other BIMSTEC meetings. The BIMSTEC countries would have to hold additional meeting on the establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Center and hoisting BIMSTEC Website which can cost a lot. An MoU on BIMSTEC Trans Power Exchange and Development Project is likely to be signed.

After becoming a member of ASEAN and BIMSTEC, the Ministry of Energy has been making cooperation with other member countries in the sector of energy. In addition, Myanmar is cooperation in selling natural gas to Thailand, which is a part of ASEAN Gas Pipeline project and oil and gas exploration projects with India. The country is actively participating in energy sector together with other BIMSTEC member countries. A BIMSTEC's gas pipeline project is likely to emerge in the near future. The Ministry of Energy is serving the interests of ASEAN and BIMSTEC in which the one-third of world's total population is residing. Now Myanmar is ready to host the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit and related meetings which are going to take place in Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 4 March.

(Concluded)
Trs: MT

LOCAL NEWS

Sagaing Region Chief Minister meets officials in Mawlu region for its development

MAWLU, 22 Feb—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye met village administrators at Mawlu Village administrative office in Indaw Township

on 20 February.

He discussed development of Mawlu region. While in Mawlu, the Chief Minister looked into placing of asphalt

on Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway in Mawlu Township and stressed the officials to focus on regional development.

Kyemon-Ni Toe

People enjoy wall magazine, photo and book shows

PYINMANA, 22 Feb—Pyidaungsu Ahman wall magazine, book show and photo show took place at the hall of Mingala Zeyon Basic Education Primary School in Pankhin 1 of Ywagauk ward in Pyinmana Township, Dekkhina District in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 21 February. It was aimed at fostering the Union Spirit and patriotism of the students.

Assistant Director U Soe Paing of Nay Pyi Taw Information and Public Relations Department and Head of Pyinmana Township IPRD Daw Aye Aye Khaing formally opened the shows. Departmental personnel, teachers and students enjoyed the shows.

Zaw Myo Naing

High yield gram strains introduced to farmers in Myittha



MYITTHA, 22 Feb—A ceremony to introduce CA 04-16 gram strains to local farmers was held at its farm of Cotton Research Farm of Myittha in Mandalay Region on 19 February.

The quality strain of gram plantation is being

nurtured at the farm for its distribution.

The local farmers viewed four species of thriving white grams, red gram and hybrid gram at the research farm.

Officials explained per acre yield of gram strains,

genes and use of inputs and findings in research.

They replied to queries raised by local farmers and clarified that they will give assistance for test of soil for the farmers and explained use of pesticides.

The ceremony was

attended by Mandalay Region Hluttaw MPs, agriculturists from Agricultural Research Department and Yezin Agriculture University, the township administrator, township level officials and local people.—*Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)*

Cash donated to fund of development tasks in Ngaphe

NGAPHE, 22 Feb—Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw donated K 1 million to the fund for renovation of Ngahlaing Village well.

The Township Development Supportive Committee handed over the cash donation to the construction committee at the hall of Township Development Affairs Committee recently. Chairman of Township Supportive Committee U Soe Thein explained rund raising matters and handed over cash donation to village construction committee responsible persons.

Kyemon-Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe)

Rural development fund allotted for second time

MEIKTILA, 22 Feb—The Government allotted K 100 million for rural development funds.

A team led by Meiktila Township Administrator U Myo Hlaing made field trips to 58 village-tracts and 379 villages in the township and

inspected 52 items of rural development tasks.

After that, they issued K 337 million for the funds to 33 village-tracts through officials recently.

As the rural authorities are implementing the respective projects for rural

development, the township authorities presented K 449 million as for the second time to rural officials.

On 18 February, the township administrator and executive officer U Thant Zin of Development Affairs Department of the township.

Development

The township level departmental officials and authorities in two groups inspect progress of development projects in villages daily.—*NLM-018*

Brief News in Kachin State State

MPs recount parliamentary experiences in Hopin Township

HOPIN, 22 Feb—Kachin State Hluttaw representative U Nyi Lay made a speech at the ceremony to recount experiences on Hluttaw at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Hopin of Kachin State on 19 February.

Kachin State Bamar National Affairs Minister U Pa (U) U Khin Maung Swe replied to questions on legal affairs and proposals, questions and committees' duty and functions.

Hluttaw MPs also explained questions of the local people.

The State Hluttaw

MPs and party inspected construction of the guest house of GAD, two-storey pre-primary school, 210 feet long Nantyin-Hsinbo creek bridge by Kaung Kin Lwin Co and Myanma Economic Bank, Mya Thida Hall of Basic Education High School No 2 and Chaungtha Bridge being undertaken by Myanmar Maker Home Company.

It was also attended by Township Administrator U Toe Kyaw Thu, departmental officials, members of Township Development Supportive Committee and members of social organizations.

Kyemon-Township IPRD



Spending the fund allotted by Rural Development Department, Nan Myint Thu Co is building Sagu Market ringroad with asphalt in Minbu Township of Magway Region. Head of Township Department U Aung Phone Lin and party inspect progress of construction tasks.—KYEMON

REGIONAL

Indonesia continues to ban export of domestic workers to Saudi Arabia

JAKARTA, 22 Feb — A senior official of the Indonesian Manpower and Transmigration Ministry said on Friday that the moratorium on domestic workers placement in Saudi Arabia remains in place despite the recent signing of bilateral agreement on migrant workers between the two countries.

Secretary General of the ministry Abdul Wahab said that resumption of export of Indonesian domestic workers to Saudi Arabia would have to wait for the results of further deliberation process at the Joint Working Committee (JWC) set up by Indonesian and Saudi Arabian governments to address

related problems.

“The moratorium is still in place until the accomplishment of better placement system, mechanism, requirements and job agreement standards so as to assure better protection and welfare for Indonesian workers working there,” Wahab said.

Matters that have to be approved in the process at the JWC include job specification, working hours, working place, workers and employers’ rights and obligations, salary and payment schemes, among others, Wahab added.

“Revocation on moratorium in the domestic sector would be announced later after Indonesia, Saudi

Arabia and stakeholders involved in the activities agree to implement matters that have been approved by all parties,” said the official. Indonesian Manpower and Transmigration Minister Muhaimin Iskandar signed a bilateral agreement with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Adiel Fakieh on placement and protection of Indonesian migrant workers in that country on Wednesday.

Indonesia imposed the moratorium on sending domestic workers to Saudi Arabia in August 2011, following rampant abuses and legal cases involving Indonesian women working in the domestic sector in that country.—Xinhua



Paper-made pandas are displayed at the Taipei International Flora Expo Park in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 21 Feb, 2014, as an effort to promote people's awareness of protecting the endangered animals.—XINHUA

Laos, Singapore ink agreements on tax, education cooperation

SINGAPORE, 22 Feb — Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, together with his visiting Lao counterpart, Thongsing Thammavong, witnessed the signing of two agreements on tax and education cooperation between the two countries, the city-state's foreign ministry said on Friday.

The two agreements include the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, or DTA for short, and a Memorandum of Understanding on Collaboration in the Field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training between the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) Education Services and the Lao Youth Union.—Xinhua

Cambodian FM denies political deadlock over election row

PHNOM PENH, 22 Feb — Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said on Saturday that there is no political impasse in Cambodia despite ongoing post-election dispute between the ruling and opposition parties.

“I would like to stress that there is no political deadlock in Cambodia,” he told a joint Press conference after meeting with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop. “All the state's institutions are functioning normally.”

He said all actions taken by the government of Cambodia in the past, at the present and in the future would be in accordance with the constitution and laws of Cambodia.

He added that the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) should join the National Assembly to discuss their demand for an electoral reform instead of taking to the street.

Prime Minister Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Sam Rainsy's CNRP have been locked in a dispute over the July 2013 election results which showed that the CPP won 68 parliamentary seats and the CNRP got the rest 55 seats. Claiming serious irregularities in the poll, the CNRP has refused to accept the outcome, boycotted parliament and staged violent protest to push for step-down of Hun Sen and reelection.

On 18 February,

the CPP and the CNRP reached an agreement to form a joint committee for an electoral reform aimed at free and fair elections in the future.

Bishop said the agreement was a positive step towards resolving political dispute in Cambodia and encouraged the two parties to continue dialogue for a peaceful solution.

Bishop arrived here on Friday for a three-day visit to further promote bilateral ties and cooperation between Australia and Cambodia. During her stay, she also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Hun Sen Saturday morning and will meet with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sar Kheng in the afternoon.—Xinhua

Cambodia passes decree on freezing assets of terrorists, relevant organizations

PHNOM PENH, 22 Feb — The Cambodian government on Friday approved a sub-decree on freezing the assets of terrorists and terrorist-related organizations, with an aim of intensifying the country's efforts in combating against terrorism.

The approval was made during a weekly Cabinet meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Hun Sen, said a press statement released after the meeting.

The draft of the sub-decree on freezing the assets of terrorists and terrorist-related organizations consisted of five chapters with 17 articles, the statement said.

“The sub-decree is made in compliance with the United Nations Security Council regulations,” it said.

It added that the Cambodian government has paid high attention to combating against money laundering and terrorism financing by making law and regulations and enforcing mechanism for law implementation.

The country became a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering in June 2004 and has actively joined the international community in combating against money laundering and terrorism financing, the statement said. In 2007, the country promulgated a law on anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing.—Xinhua

Philippine gov't seeks Norway's help to resume peace talks with leftist rebels

MANILA, 22 Feb — The Philippine government said on Friday that it has sought the assistance of Norway to determine how peace negotiations with leftist rebel group Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) can move forward.

This remarks came after CPP founding chairman and National Democratic Front (NDF) panel consultant Jose Maria Sison made the pronouncement that he is open to resuming stymied peace negotiations and meeting with Philippine President Benigno Aquino III on “neutral ground.” Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles said the Philippines is coordinating with the Norwegian government to determine the veracity of reports quoting Sison and to discuss ways to move the peace talks forward. Norway facilitates the peace talks between the Philippine government and NDF, the CPP's negotiating arm. “We want to ensure that when talks resume, it will be based on a platform that has the possibility of reaching a successful conclusion.

The offer to talk to (Aquino) is a new element at this time. The last we heard they were calling on all Filipinos to oust (him),” said Deles.—Xinhua



Vice President of the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) Cui Yu (L, Front) meets with Cambodian Minister of Women's Affairs Ing Kantha Phavi (R, Front) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 21 Feb, 2014.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV NINOS VOY NO (1012)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1012) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (036)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (036) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

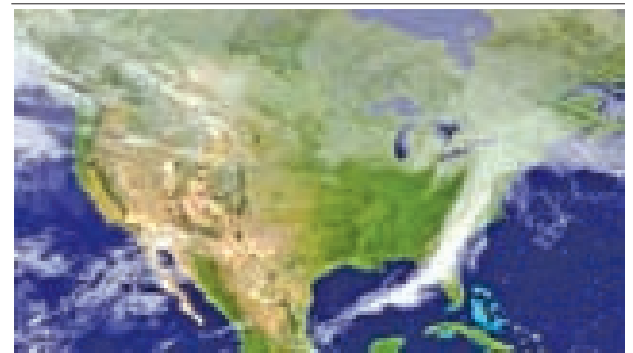
Subject : Extension of the Tender Closing Date
Reference : MOGE's Tender No - IFB - 184 (2013 -2014) for supply of Assorted Sizes of Seamless Casings (10) Items

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.

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



The United States is seen in a composite image taken from the NOAA GOES satellite on 21 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

Winds batter southeast after snowstorm, tornadoes blast Midwest

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — A powerful storm that blasted the north central United States with heavy, wet snow and damaging tornadoes pushed onward Friday, threatening more twisters, severe thunderstorms and high winds in the southeastern states, forecasters said.

In central Georgia, trees and power lines were knocked down, and several buildings damaged on Friday morning, but no injuries were reported, a county official said.

The damaging winds came "very, very close" to a private school with children inside, Laurens County manager Bryan Rogers said.

The storm, called a panhandle hook for its or-

igin in the panhandles of Oklahoma or Texas and its twisting shape, triggered concerns about damaging winds and possible tornadoes from parts of South Carolina through North Carolina, Virginia, southern Maryland and Delaware, forecasters said.

"There is a pretty extensive line of storms that extends from just west and southwest of Washington DC all the way down to the Florida panhandle," said Jeremy Grams, a meteorologist with the Storm Prediction Centre. There were more than three dozen reports on Friday of high winds and damage in southern Georgia, northern Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and eastern Kentucky.—Reuters



Builders work at the Pacific side of the expansion project of the Panama Canal, in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 21 Feb, 2014. The Grupo Unidos por el Canal (GUPC) consortium, responsible of the expansion project of the Panama Canal, resumed the work on Thursday, which was suspended on 5 Feb due to a dispute over cost overruns.—XINHUA

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)14(MR)(ML)	Spares Parts for D.E.L.	48-Items

(YUG)2013-2014

Closing Date & Time - 24.2.2014(Monday) (12:00) Hour.

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 24.2.2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of Thonbya Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994



Two workers of China's State Grid check equipments at a convertor station in Golmud, northwest China's Qinghai Province, on 20 Feb, 2014. After being put into test operation in 11 Nov, 2011, the Qinghai-Tibet AC-DC Interconnection Project has transmitted 1.64 billion kwh of electricity to Tibet Autonomous Region.

XINHUA

Some victims in California tribal office shooting were relatives

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — A woman who opened fire at an eviction hearing at a Native American tribal office in a California killed her brother, niece and nephew plus a fourth person, officials said on Friday, one day after the attack.

Cherie Rhoades, 44, has been arrested but not charged in the attack and is expected to be arraigned in court in Alturas on Tuesday, said a spokeswoman for the Modoc County District Attorney's Office.

Rhoades is accused of using two semi-automatic handguns to fatally shoot her 50-year-old brother, 19-year-old niece and 30-year-old nephew in Alturas, about 30 miles south of the Oregon border, said Alturas City Clerk Cary Baker, an acting spokeswoman for the small town of about 2,800 residents.

Rhoades was originally held at the local jail but moved for her protection because the fourth victim was the 47-year-old wife of

an employee who works at the jail, Baker said.

Two other people at the hearing were critically wounded and remained hospitalized, officials said. One of those people was alert and talking on Friday, they said.

The names of the victims have not been released.

Rhoades had once been a tribal leader with the Cedarville Rancheria tribe, Baker said.

She lived on tribal property in Cedarville, about 20

miles east of Alturas, and was being evicted from that house along with her son, Baker said. The tribal office in Alturas is where day-to-day business is conducted for the Cedarville Rancheria.

After apparently running out bullets, Rhoades picked up a large kitchen knife and chased one person she had already shot, police said. She was detained outside the building where she opened fire, they said.

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT



Ash's spokesperson says she is reading several scripts but has not chosen one.—PTI

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Kalari fighter? False alarm, says her spokesperson

NEW DELHI, 22 Feb —Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has not green-lit director P Vasu's film in which he claimed she would be playing a Kalari warrior. A statement released on Aishwarya's behalf by her spokesperson read: "This statement is in reference to the press release/ rumoured attachment of Ms Aishwarya Rai Bachchan to Mr P Vasu's film which has been doing the rounds very strongly

today in the media and the industry. With due respect to all the professionals concerned, I would like to state that this was one among the several scripts/ ideas she has been approached for but there have been no confirmations at all. This "Press release" came as a huge surprise to all of us. An E-mail clarifying this erroneous 'press release' has already been received by our office from the concerned parties." Days earlier, Southern

filmmaker P Vasu, known for films such as Chandra-mukhi and Chinna Thambi, had said that he had finalised Aishwarya for his upcoming untitled multilingual. "Aishwarya was really impressed with the script. She will be seen in a never seen before powerful role.

She will essay a Kalari fighter in the film and for the same she will undergo special stunt training," Vasu told news agencies in a statement.—PTI

Christoph Waltz returns to present at the Oscars

LOS ANGELES, 22 Feb — Two-time Oscar winner Christoph Waltz will present at this year's Oscars. The Oscars, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres, will air on Sunday, on 2 March.

Waltz won his second Oscar for his supporting performance in *Django Unchained* last year. He

received his first in 2009 for his supporting role in *Inglourious Basterds*.

Waltz's other feature credits include *Carnage*, *The Green Hornet* and *Water for Elephants*. Waltz will next be seen in *Big Eyes* and *Horrible Bosses 2*.

PTI

Meryl Streep to play political activist



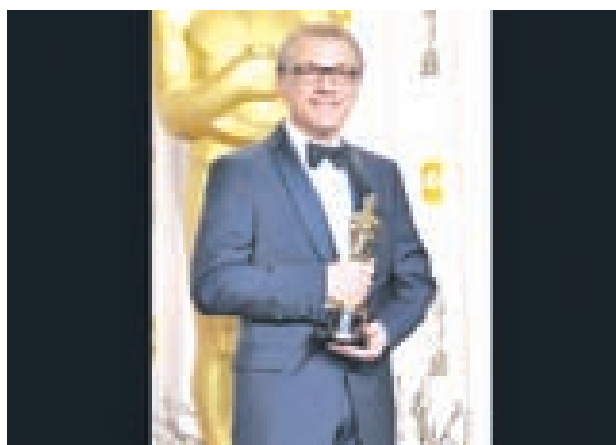
Meryl has won an Oscar for playing Margaret Thatcher. PTI

LONDON, 22 Feb —

After playing the Iron Lady, actress Meryl Streep is set to play a political activist in a new movie.

Meryl Streep, who won an Oscar for playing Margaret Thatcher, will play early 1900s women's rights icon Emmeline Pankhurst in "Suffragette", reports hollywoodreporter.com.

The project, which also stars Carey Mulligan, will go on floors next week. Carey Mulligan is roped in to play the young feminist, who becomes violent after growing frustrated with the Suffragette movement's peaceful protests.—PTI



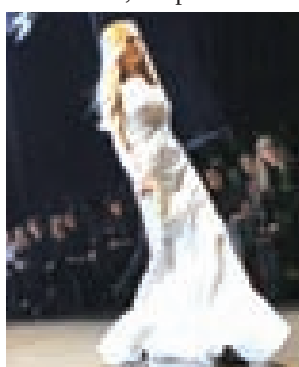
Christoph Waltz won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar last year.—PTI

Designers shake up classic styles as Milan promotes fashion

MILAN, 22 Feb — Classic tailoring received an injection of volume and humor from Giorgio Armani and a shot of bold color from Donatella Versace in Milan on Friday, as the city showed off Italy's fashion industry amid political and economic uncertainty. Fashion fans filled Armani's cavernous theatre and Versace's venue, which was decked out with metal gates and ivy, on the third day of the city's biannual women's fashion week.

Armani dressed models for his youth-focused Emporio Armani line in voluminous trousers pinstriped with lines of pearls, plexiglass neckties and oversized bowler hats. "I wanted to understand if Chanel-style tailor-

ing makes sense for the girls in the street," the 79-year-old designer said after the show. "It makes sense for them as a historical idea of fashion, but revised, adapted to their



A model presents a creation from the Versace Autumn/Winter 2014 collection during Milan Fashion Week on 21 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

mentality." Versace showed flowing fishtail gowns, long-sleeved shift dresses and figure-hugging trouser suits in bright red, petrol blue and green. Jackets and sweaters bore tasseled epaulettes. At Blumarine, models sashayed down a white furry carpet in slashed cocktail dresses which showed a thin layer of lace covering visible skin beneath. Italy's National Chamber of Fashion (CNMI) is promoting the industry as a bright spot in an economy only just emerging from its longest slump since World War Two, and has set up billboards reading "Welcome to Milan Fashion Week" at the city's main airports.

Reuters

Rihanna @ 26: Please Don't Stop The Music

NEW DELHI, 22 Feb — Back in 2006, Rihanna was the new young artist from Barbados who oozed a youthful Caribbean energy in all her songs. But what really made her the phenomenon we see now is her ability to constantly evolve and transform coupled with vast reserves of confidence and showmanship.

Robyn Rihanna Fenty was just 16 when she was

signed by rap legend Jay Z's label Def Jam in 2005. Her first two albums, *Music of the Sun* and *A Girl Like Me*, brought her recognition and fame but superstardom was still some way away. After *A Girl Like Me* released, Rihanna toured with Jay Z and The Pussycat Dolls and her own headlining tour *Rihanna: Live in Concert*. During this time she was constantly compared to Beyonce and was accused of trying to copy her style both in persona and performance.

The Beyonce comparisons were rubbished when Rihanna debuted an entirely different look and style in her next single *Umbrella*. The single was the first off her third album *Good Girl Gone Bad* which went on to

become dizzyingly successful. Tracks like *Don't Stop the Music*, *Shut Up and Drive* and *Disturbia* showcased different shades of her personality. The new Rihanna had more energy and a dark side. She grew from being just another singer to a 'cult-leader' and her new style gained her immense attention. This is about the time that her career started treading the path followed earlier by her idol Madonna. If anyone had a doubt that 'this was just a phase', they were silenced when her next album *Rated R* hit the shelves in 2009.

The risqué videos along with sexual-innuendo filled lyrics in songs like *Russian Roulette*, *Hard*, *Rude Boy* and *Te Amo* made her musical direction very clear.

Her live performances also began to employ loads of S&M-inspired themes along with some raunchy dance moves which made headlines all around.

Not content with working on solo projects, Rihanna collaborated with many artists on chartbusters like *Run This Town* (with Jay Z), *Love The Way You Lie* (with Eminem), *Rockstar 101* (with Slash) and *All Of The Lights* (with multiple artists). In the past few years, she express-delivered hits like *Only Girl In The World*, *S&M*, *Princess Of China*, *We Found Love* and *Monster*. 2014 began with a bang for Rihanna fans as she released a single in collaboration with Shakira titled *Can't Remember To Forget You*.—PTI



Rihanna is the most-liked music artist on Facebook and the sixth most-followed artist on Twitter.—PTI

SPORTS

Olympics: Medalists at the Sochi Olympics on Friday

SOCHI, (Russia), 22 Feb — Medalists at the Sochi Olympics after Friday's events:

SHORT TRACK

Men's 5,000-metre relay

Gold - Russia (Victor An/Semen Elistratov/Vladimir Grigorev/Ruslan Zakharov) 6 minutes, 42.100 seconds

Silver - United States (Eduardo Alvarez/J.R. Celski/Chris Creveling/Jordan Malone) 6:42.371

Bronze - China (Chen Dequan/Han Tianyu/Shi Jingnan/Wu Dajing) 6:48.341

Women's 1,000 metres

Gold - Park Seung Hi (S Korea) 1 minute, 30.761 seconds

Silver - Fan Kexin (China) 1:30.811

Bronze - Shim Suk Hee (S. Korea) 1:31.027

Men's 500 metres

Gold - Victor An (Russia) 41.312 seconds

Silver - Wu Dajing (China) 41.516

Bronze - Charle Cournoyer (Canada) 41.617

ALPINE SKIING**Women's slalom**

Gold - Mikaela Shiffrin (US) 1 minute, 44.54 seconds (1st run 52.62/2nd run 51.92)

Silver - Marlies Schild (Austria) 1:45.07 (53.96/51.11)

Bronze - Kathrin Zettel (Austria) 1:45.35 (54.00/51.35)

BIATHLON

Women's 4x6-kilometre relay

Gold - Ukraine (Vita Semerenko/Juliya Dzhyuma/Valj Semerenko/Olena Pidhrushna) 1 hour, 10 minutes, 2.5 seconds (5



Canada's Marielle Thompson celebrates after crossing the finish line to win gold in the women's freestyle skiing cross of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, on 21 Feb, 2014.
KYODO NEWS

penalties)

Silver - Russia (Yana Romanova/Olga Zaitseva/Ekaterina Shumilova/Olga Vilukhina) 1:10:28.9 (4)

Bronze - Norway (Fanny Welle-Strand Horn/Tiril Eckhoff/Ann Kristin Aafedt Flatland/Tora Berger) 1:10:40.1 (5)

Also, 13. Japan (Fuyuko Suzuki/Yuki Nakajima/Miki Kobayashi/Rina Suzuki) LAP (11)

CURLING**Men**

Gold - Canada

Silver - Britain

Bronze - Sweden

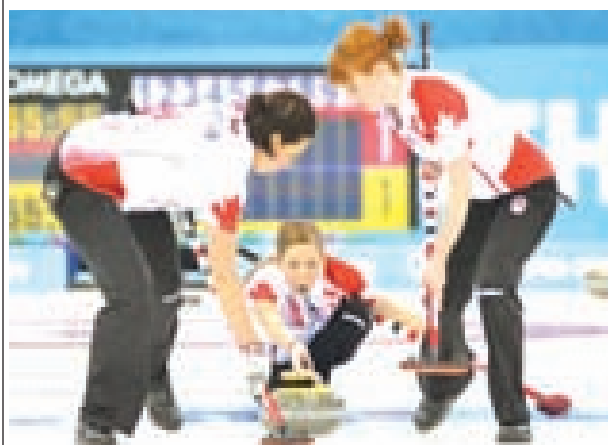
FREESTYLE SKIING**Women's ski cross**

Gold - Marielle Thompson (Canada)

Silver - Kelsey Serwa (Canada)

Bronze - Anna Holmlund (Sweden)

Kyodo News



Canadian vice skip Kaitlyn Lawes (C) releases the stone during the third end of the women's curling gold medal match against Sweden at the Ice Cube Curling Center during the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, on 20 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Brazil must up its game to finish work for World Cup

FLORIANOPOLIS, (Brazil), 22 Feb — Brazil still has a lot of work to do to finish stadiums and other infrastructure in time for the World Cup and needs to up its game in the 111 days before the kick off, FIFA's Jerome Valcke said on Friday.

"There is a strong demand for tickets, a huge demand from abroad, and we have to be prepared for them in the best possible way," the secretary general of world soccer's governing body told reporters on the last day of FIFA's

pre-World Cup workshop. The warning was yet another one for Brazil as it prepares for the 12 June - 13 July tournament. The South American nation has struggled to get ready for the event with four of the 12 stadiums unfinished almost two months after the final deadline.

Valcke said the workshop, at which representatives of the 32 teams discussed logistics and other issues, was an important landmark for Brazil during a week in which the stadium in Porto Alegre opened

and Curitiba's host city status was confirmed. Curitiba had been threatened with exclusion from the tournament but Valcke said it would be ready in time to stage four matches, including one featuring world champions Spain.

"In those two cities there is a lot of work still to be done," Valcke warned. "The stadium in Porto Alegre is more or less ready, the structure is ready, but there is still a lot of work to be done, outside, on the IT projects, in the media center."—Reuters



FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke arrives to speak about the status of the host city Curitiba ahead of the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Florianopolis in Santa Catarina state, on 18 Feb, 2014.
REUTERS

World Cup ticket sales hit 2.3 million

FLORIANOPOLIS, (Brazil), 22 Feb — Fans have already purchased 2.3 million tickets for this year's World Cup following this week's second lottery-style sales phase, world soccer governing body FIFA said on Friday. Almost 10 million requests have been made by fans from 228 countries and regions since sales began in August last year.

Supporters in Brazil have acquired the most tickets with 906,000, followed by the United States (125,000), Colombia (60,000), Germany (56,000) and Argentina (54,000).

"We have a very high demand for tickets," FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke said at a Press conference. "There's a very high demand from overseas

fans." Seven of the tournament's 64 matches are already sold out: the final, England-Italy, USA-Portugal, quarterfinals in Porto Alegre and Sao Paulo and the semifinal in Belo Horizonte.

An additional 159,000 tickets will be made available on a first-come-first-served basis on 12 March.

Xinhua

Kenseth, Hamlin favourites at crash-hit Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, (California), 22 Feb — Joe Gibbs Racing team mates Matt Kenseth and Denny Hamlin surged into the roles of favorites for the Daytona 500 on Sunday after roaring to victories in preliminary races at Daytona Speedway.

While Kenseth and Hamlin claimed the spotlight in their Toyotas, concerns grew that the Speedway could be turned into a collision course in NASCAR's season-opening spectacular as pack-racing has led to crashes that have wrecked 20 cars this week. Kenseth, a two-time winner at the 2.5-mile, high-banked oval, won his preliminary 150-mile race on Thursday, holding off Kevin Harvick and Kasey Kahne.

In 2012, Kenseth went on to win the Daytona 500 after winning his qualifying race.

Hamlin, who missed most of 2013 due to a back injury, not only won his crash-marred qualifying race but also won a race on the track last Saturday.

Garage insiders consider the preliminary events good indicators for the 56th edition of the event known as the Great American Race.

Under unique race rules, only the front row of pole winner Austin Dillon and Martin Truex Jr. had been locked into their starting positions before the qualifying races. However, Truex wrecked his car in the qualifier, sending him to the rear of the 43-car grid in his back-up

car when they start on Sunday. Kenseth starts third and Hamlin fourth in the second row. Despite the

impressive showing, team owner Gibbs, the former three-time winning Super Bowl coach of the Wash-

ington Redskins, was not overconfident about seeing one of his cars win Daytona for the first time since

1993 with Dale Jarrett.

"It shows you what a tough race this is, the 500," said Gibbs. "We won once. Probably one of the greatest sporting experiences I've ever had. I was thrilled."

Multi-car accidents in a preliminary NASCAR race last week, in one of Thursday's qualifying races and in practice for Sunday's Daytona 500 suggest the 56th edition of the event could produce one of the wildest races in years.

To keep the race cars under 200 mph at Daytona and also at Talladega, NASCAR requires cars use a device called a restrictor plate that reduces engine horsepower.

Reuters



GENERAL

US soldier killed, 7 injured during training exercise at Fort Bragg

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — A US Army soldier was killed and seven were injured during a training exercise involving a large gun at Fort Bragg in North Carolina on Friday, officials at the base said. The 82nd Airborne Division soldiers were participating in an early morning live-fire training exercise with a M777 light, towed howitzer gun when the incident occurred, the Army said in a statement.

It provided no further details on how exactly the mishap occurred. The Army said two medics provided life-saving care to the wounded at the scene.

Reuters



An excavator demolishes illegal houses in Zhenggezhuang Village, Beiqijia Township of Changping District on the outskirts of Beijing, China, on 20 Feb, 2014. Those illegal houses cover an area of 108.55 mu (about 7.24 hectares), which will be used for tree planting after complete of demolition.

XINHUA

MYANMAR TV

(23-2-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta by Hilly
Region Missionary
Sayadaw

7:20 am

2. MRTV Youth
Programme

8:00 am

3. News/ International
News

9:50 am

4. Beautiful ASEAN

10:15 am

5. Teleplay

11:15 am

6. Gitadagale Phwintba
ohn

12:00 pm

7. News / International
News/ Weather
Report

2:40 pm

8. Song Varieties

3:00 pm

9. News

4:15 pm

10. 2014 University
Entrance
Examination
(Maths)

5:15 pm

11. Sing & Enjoy

6:20 pm

12. Cartoon Series

7:15 pm

13. Weekly
Entertainment

8:00 pm

14. News/ International
News/ Weather
Report

8:50 pm

15. Hit Songs of Stars

9:00 pm

16. News

17. Tamyethnar
Takwetsar

18. New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

23-2-14 07:00 am ~
24-2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-4)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * Local News
- * Myanmar National Poet and Literary Icon "Min Thu Wun" (Part-III) (His Public service & Literary world)
- * World News
- * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- * Local News
- * Gold: King Of All Metals
- * World News
- * Myanmar - Bridges to change
- * Local News
- * Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory Of Bago City
- * World News
- * Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
- * 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
- * Art Students: Sculpture
- * Me N My Travel With Maria (Pyay-Shwe San Taw)(EP-4)
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Historic Temples Of Massiveness And Unique Structure
- * Nang

Security staff strike brings chaos to Frankfurt Airport

FRANKFURT, 22 Feb — A strike by security staff at Frankfurt Airport caused nearly 50 flight cancellations and delayed thousands of passengers, bringing chaos to Europe's third largest hub on Friday, the busiest day of the week for travellers.

Trade union Verdi had called on around 5,000 staff who carry out security checks on passengers, baggage and freight at the airport to strike for the entire day to push for their pay to be brought into line with counterparts at other German airports.

Hordes of people jostling to get to the front of lines at check-in and service desks thronged the airport, which usually handles

150,000 passengers on a typical Friday.

Almost 50 flights were cancelled, with Lufthansa scrapping nearly 40 but the biggest problem was getting people through check-in and thinly-staffed security, airport operator Fraport

said. At around 1330 GMT, Fraport halted security checks and advised people not to travel to the airport. It said those already there should ask airlines about train tickets or hotel rooms for the night.

Fraport said service

staff would help those forced to camp out in the airport overnight.

"We're trying our best but it's a challenge," a spokesman said earlier. "We tried to inform people but the strike was called at such short notice." Passengers booed striking staff as they walked through the terminal blowing whistles and waving placards saying: "We're worth it."

"We get 11.70 euros (\$16.04) an hour once our trial period is over. People in Stuttgart get 14 euros an hour but we're the ones working at Germany's largest airport and the work is getting more stressful," Nsimba Gore, a 32-year old security assistant, said.

Reuters



Flight passengers wait during a strike at Frankfurt Airport, on 21 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Rooney hands troubled United another soothing balm

LONDON, 22 Feb — Manchester United's season of turmoil received another huge lift when England striker Wayne Rooney committed his future to the Premier League champions on Friday. Languishing seventh in the table after a stuttering campaign under new manager David Moyes, United's prospects of turning things round improved significantly when Rooney signed a four-year contract extension with the Old Trafford club. Close to leaving in 2010 and wooed strongly by Chelsea last year, the 28-year-old Rooney has been in excellent form, dispelling doubts about his fitness which surfaced under former manager Alex Ferguson last season to score nine league goals.

It was widely expected that Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho would revive his bid to recruit Rooney at the end of the campaign but the former Everton forward has decided to try to write his name into United folklore by breaking Bobby Charlton's club scoring record.

"This is definitely something I would like to achieve," Rooney told the United website (www.manutd.com). "If I managed to do it it'd be something I'd be very proud of. My aim is always to score and create as many goals as possible, so if I can continue to score regularly and break the record then I would be delighted." Rooney has netted 208 goals for United in 430 games, 41 fewer than England World Cup winner Charlton, and his

continuing presence at Old Trafford will be a relief for Moyes who made another important move by signing Spain midfielder Juan Mata from Chelsea last month.

Rooney, who reports say is now the highest paid player in the Premier League, has won five Premier League titles with United since joining from Everton in 2004 as well as the 2008 Champions League and Club World Cup, and two League Cups. "They've just put their money where their mouth is by bringing in Mata, now it's time to re-build the team around these key players and get back towards the top of the Premier League," former England midfielder Jamie Redknapp told Sky Sports. "The important thing is that he's staying. At the



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney celebrates scoring a goal against Cardiff City during their English Premier League soccer match at Cardiff City Stadium in Cardiff, Wales, on 24 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

moment there's only four or five in that United squad who David Moyes thinks 'you're the type of player I want' — and Rooney is one

of those."

With Mata and Rooney signed up, Moyes can turn his attentions to the further rebuilding which

is so obviously required as he struggles to qualify United for next season's Champions League.

Reuters



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham enjoys Union Cup Golf Tournament 2014

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—The Union Cup Golf Tournament 2014 took place at Nay Pyi Taw City Golf Course and Yepyar Golf Course, here, on 22

**Vice-President
Dr Sai Mauk Kham
tees off at Union Cup
Golf Tournament
2014.—MNA**

February.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham together with Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Union Minister U Tint Hsan kicked off the tournament.

Altogether 172 golfers from 40 teams participated in the tournament.

In men's above-25 team event, Mandalay Region Team led the event with 234 strokes while Kyaw Kyaw (Mandalay) led in men's above-25 singles event with under-par-17.

Yangon Region Team stood in the first position with 233 in men's U-25

team event while Sithu Aung (Nay Pyi Taw) led in men's U-25 singles event with under-par-16.

Shan State Team took lead in the women's event with 293 and Phu Pwint Yati Khaing (Yangon) in women's singles event with under-par-nine.

This tournament continues tomorrow in conjunction with prize award ceremony.—MNA

Union Ministers hold talks with entrepreneurs, representatives of business entities

YANGON, 22 Feb — The Union Ministers held talks with entrepreneurs and representatives from business entities shortly after a meeting between

the President and the latter at Mingala hall of Yangon Region government on 22 February morning.

Those from private sector elaborated on work

progress and challenges economic enterprises are facing and needs to be attended by the ministries concerned.

Next, Union Ministers

U Soe Thane and U Tin Nang Thein, Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and officials made clarifications on respective sectors.—MNA

Electricity supply for exam students

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—For enabling matriculation students to have convenient studies, the Ministry of Electric Power arranges to supply electricity to the townships through power supply system round

the clock during the examination period from 12 to 22 March.

The ministry has a plan to extend power supply hours at night in some townships with the use of diesel generators.—MNA

New Social Security Law to benefit over 600,000 workers

Social Security Plan has been implemented in Myanmar as of 1956 in accordance with 1954 Social Security Act. There have been 33,423 sections and 685,289 insured workers under the plan, according to statistics in December, 2013. Social Security Board has been giving health care services to insured workers in three workers' hospitals, 93 township social security clinics and 42 factory clinics across the country.

New Social Security Law was enacted on 13 August 2012 to implement Social Security Plan of Myanmar in line with international norms and standards after comparing it with current situations and ILO conventions. According to the new law, health care services and benefits will improve

YANGON, 22 Feb—Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award presenting ceremony took place at Park Royal Hotel here Saturday.

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi urged writers to keep abreast with rapidly changing technologies so as to effectively share their knowledge through writing books.

He continued that knowledge is a tool for disease control. The less knowledge the public have, the more diseases they can suffer. Therefore, writers are to make efforts for sharing knowledge through writing books.

He was delighted to hear that Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association had planned to apply digital system with the use of modern techno-

12th Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award presenting ceremony held



Wife of Sayawun Tin Shwe, Daw Aye Thant awards a prize winner.—MNA

logical devices.

Next, on behalf of the chairman of Myanmar Writers Association, mem-

ber of Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award Scrutiny Committee U Kyaw Win (Manoketha) extended

greetings and explained purpose of presenting Sayawun Tin Shwe award.

(See page 9)

**By Khin Maung
Htwe**



while raising insurance fees.

With a aim of providing health care services to the workers in Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha industrial zones and the townships, coordination is being made to acquire a land plot for construction of workers' hospital in Shwepyitha Township. A mobile medical vehicle imported from Republic of Korea is being put into service, providing health care to workers at their work-sites. The number of insured workers will reach over 1 million in the near future due to expansion of insured departments and increased benefits, according to "Conference on Japanese Medi-

cal Service for Contributing towards the Advancement of Medical Care" jointly organized by Social Security Board and Japan International Medical Technology Foundation (JIMTF) and Foundation for International Development/Relief under the arrangement of Myanmar's Cultural, Educational, Health and Economic Development Association, Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association, Shin Ye Htut Group and MORI Group at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 22 February in commemoration of 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Japan.

At the conference, Union Minister U Aye Myint, Deputy Minister Daw Win Maw Tun and the representative director of JIMTEF delivered addresses and JIMTEF donated two ambulances and 14 kinds of medical equipment to SSB.

Arrangements are being made to hold seminars not only in Japan but also in Myanmar. Today's conference aims at improving technology and creating job opportunities for youths, said U Ye Htut, Secretary of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association and Chairman of Shin Ye Htut Group.

Trs: KHS