

President U Thein Sein felicitates Kuwaiti Amir, Prime Minister of the State

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jabar Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2014.—MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Vice Minister of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—President U Thein Sein received Mr. Ai Ping, Vice Minister of the International Department, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and party at the Hall of the Presidential Palace on Monday morning.

At the call, they discussed matters on promotion of pragmatic cooperative sector between the two governments and peoples, peace process with ethnic armed groups, realization for progress of the country, stability and rule of law and striving for attracting foreign investment beneficial to both countries.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Aung Kyi, and U Soe Thane, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and officials. The Chinese guest was accompanied by the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and the Chinese military attaché.—MNA



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Mr. Ai Ping, Vice Minister of the International Department, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and party.—MNA

Thilawa Special Economic Zone: An engine for job creation in Yangon

Byline: Maung Sein Lwin; Photo: Min Htet



Photo shows Class A Development site of Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Foreign investments in Thilawa Special Economic Zone which is expected to become the largest industrial complex in Southeast Asia is about to take shape in this May, said Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Sett Aung

who accompanied the President during the latter's visit to the zone on Saturday.

Aiming at boosting national economy along with sweeping reforms in the country, implementation of the establishment of Special Economic Zones—

Thilawa, Kyaukpyu and Dawei—in Myanmar is taking place.

U Sett Aung stressed the importance of water and electricity supply which are key to the timely completion of the projects.

He continued: "So far

land preparation of Thilawa SEZ has been completed by 80 percent. It is required to finish some sections, especially in water and electricity supply and road construction, of the project ahead of the start of

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Myat Pyinnya Library put into service in South Dagon

YANGON, 24 Feb— With the aim of broadening horizon of the students and local people and raising reading habits, a ceremony to inaugurate Myat Pyinnya Library was held in Ward 65 of Dagon Myothit(South)Township, here, on Sunday.

World Vision donated 4.4 million and local people K 2.6 million for construction of library that has 20 feet wide and 60

feet long.

Yangon Region Hluttaw MP Daw San San Win, Deputy Director U Myint Swe of Yangon Region Information and Public Relations Department, Township Administrator U Myint Lwin and Chairman of Township Supportive Committee U Tin Maung Nyeint formally opened the library.

Region Hluttaw

representative Daw San San Win, Staff Officer U Soe Nyunt Shwe of Yangon East District IPRD and Township Administrator U Myint Lwin accepted TV set and publications donated by wellwishers.

Also present at the opening ceremony were departmental personnel, students, responsible persons of NGOs and local people.—MMAL-Soe Nyunt Shwe

National Objectives of 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as national policy
- To work on national security by the Tatmadaw joining hands with the government and the entire people
- To cooperate with the government in implementing rural development and poverty alleviation scheme, and
- To actively participate in restoring eternal peace and building a developed democratic nation based on the Union through peace and stability

Myingyan Township residents focusing on electrification for rural areas

Myingyan Township formed with 19 wards and 186 villages is gaining development momentum due to opportunity to enjoy electricity.

A total of 47 villages of 186 need electrification while 139 villages are enjoying supply of electricity.

Fourteen villages of 47 are making arrangements to supply electricity to the people.

Myingyan District Electrical Engineer U Kyaw Myint and electricians are striving for illuminating 1114 villages in its area through various ways and means.

In 2013-14 fiscal year, Myingyan District applies power grids, solar panel system, hydropower, diesel engine and bio-gas power supply facilities to supply power to 139 villages in Myingyan, 181 villages in Kyaukpadaung,

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

78 villages in Taungtha, 29 villages in Natogyi and 54 villages in Ngazun townships.

However, 47 villages of Myingyan Township needs electrification, 158 in Kyaukpadaung Township, 165 in Taungtha Township, 159 in Natogyi Township and 104 in Ngazun Township.

District and township electrical engineers install transformers ranging from 100 KVA to 315 KVA depending on consuming loads of villages. Myanma Electric Power Enterprise in Myingyan gives assistance to the villages that wish to do electrification on a self-reliant basis, according to District Electrical Engineer U Kyaw Myint.

Township Electrical Engineer U Aung Tun Min said that cost of electrification will differ from using consuming loads, and it may be K 50 million to K 100 million.

The power consumers are to abide by preventive measures against danger of electricity prescribed by MEPE.

Trs: TTA

Take Fire Preventive Measures



Myanmar Libraries Foundation to fund construction of village library

MYEIK, 24 Feb—Staff Officer Daw Hla Hla Htay and staff of Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department on 21 February made field trips to the villages where libraries will be constructed through the fund of Myanmar Libraries Foundation.

They viewed the site chosen for construction of the village library and discussed with village administrator and supportive committee members.

At Basic Education Middle School Branch, the staff officer gave talks on emergence of outstanding students.

They inspected the construction of library in Mayanbinchaung Village and discussed durability

of the library.

The village library is located beside Myeik-Dawei road. It will be 27 feet long, 18 feet wide and 11 feet high.

As of 14 April 2013, the construction was started

by local people under the aegis of Ashin Chandobhaya of Masoeyin Monastery of Mandalay.

At present, they have spent K 7 million on construction tasks.

On completion, the

library will serve the readers with various subjects of books.

The library will conduct computer course at the hall.

Kyemon-Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)

Head of Yangon North District Rural Development Department U Ye Min Kyaw inspects progress of concreting Taikkyi-Sinku Road in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region on 18 February spending fund of the department in 2013-14 fiscal year.

KYEMON-HLA KYWE (HLEGU)



WORLD

Meeting between Venezuela government, opposition may help ease protests

CARACAS, 24 Feb — A meeting between a top Venezuelan opposition leader and President Nicolas Maduro on Monday may help ease nearly two weeks of violent anti-government protests that have killed at least eight people.

State governor Henrique Capriles will meet Maduro at a routine gathering

of governors and mayors and will likely get a chance to present the opposition's grievances.

The daily unrest has sharpened the bitter divide between critics and supporters of the ruling Socialist Party, although even Maduro's rivals appear to be growing weary of blocked streets and constant clashes between

students and police.

"Dialogue is not about listening to what the government wants to say, it's about making sure the demonstrators' voices are heard," Capriles, a two-time opposition presidential candidate, wrote on Sunday in his weekly column.

Five people have died from gunshot wounds in

the unrest that began on 12 February with the death of a student protestor and was later fueled by the arrest of hard-line opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez.

A 23-year-old female student died on Saturday after being shot in the face with rubber bullets, while others have died in accidents caused by the roadblocks.

Maduro, who has vowed to nurture the self-styled socialist revolution he inherited from late president Hugo Chavez, calls the demonstrations acts of terrorism by "fascists" seeking a coup similar to the one that briefly ousted Chavez in 2002.

But he has expressed willingness to meet Capriles.

"Welcome, governor (to the meeting) ... we'll speak there," said Maduro, 51, before a rally of supporters on Saturday.

His government has freed almost all of the nearly 100 students arrested during the recent unrest. That has been a central opposition demand, so could encourage dialogue.

Reuters

G20 growth pledge easier in the making than the execution

SYDNEY, 24 Feb — The Group of 20's proposal to lift economic activity by 2 percent over the next five years has so many holes in it, there's no wonder it was the first official target that all members felt happy to agree on.

Each country has until November to come up with its own supposedly "concrete" plans, but there is nothing to enforce their implementation except the moral suasion of other members. The International Monetary Fund has said it will be watching for progress on the plans, but it has no power to compel or punish.

The target is also a moving one, as it is based on beating an estimate for growth which itself is just a best guess. Forecasting is by its nature a highly imprecise art and the IMF is forever revising its forecasts up or down. Predicting growth for the next quarter is tough enough, no matter over five years. "We're not even sure where we are now on growth. How will we be able to judge if these targets are being met?" said Michael Blythe, chief economist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Reuters



Thai soldiers check the site of a bomb explosion in Bangkok, Thailand, on 23 Feb, 2014. At least 24 people, including three children, were injured in a bomb explosion near an anti-government protest site in the Thai capital of Bangkok on Sunday afternoon, local media reported. — XINHUA

Thai PM leaves Bangkok as bombs, gunfire punctuate unrest

BANGKOK, 24 Feb — Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, the target of anti-government protesters who have blocked parts of Bangkok for weeks, has left the city and is staying 150 km (90 miles) away, her office said on Monday, without specifying the location.

The protests, punctuated by occasional gunfire

and bomb blasts, including one on Sunday which killed a woman and a young brother and sister, are aimed at unseating Yingluck and erasing the influence of her brother, ousted ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra, regarded by many as the real power behind the government. Yingluck's office told reporters she was not in Bangkok and asked media to follow a

convoy outside the city where they said Yingluck was "undertaking official duties" 150 km away.

The office would not confirm how many days Yingluck had been working from outside the capital. She was last seen in public in Bangkok nearly a week ago, last Tuesday, and is due to attend a corruption hearing there capital on Thursday.

Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchai-kul said Yingluck would hold a cabinet meeting on Tuesday. "It is highly likely that we will hold the cabinet meeting outside of Bangkok. As for the prime minister's exact whereabouts today, I have not been informed about her location," Surapong told reporters.—Reuters

Ukraine sets European course after ouster of Yanukovich

KIEV, 24 Feb — Ukraine's interim leadership pledged to put the country back on course for European integration now that Moscow-backed Viktor Yanukovich has been ousted from the presidency, while the United States warned Russia against sending in its forces.

As rival neighbours east and west of the former Soviet republic said a power vacuum in Kiev must not lead to the

country breaking apart, acting President Oleksander Turchinov said late on Sunday that Ukraine's new leaders wanted relations with Russia on a "new, equal and good-neighbourly footing that recognizes and takes into account Ukraine's European choice".

European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton will travel to Ukraine on Monday, where she is expected to discuss measures to shore

up the ailing economy.

Russia said late on Sunday it had recalled its ambassador in Ukraine for consultations on the "deteriorating situation" in Kiev.

A day after Yanukovich fled to the Russian-speaking east following dozens of deaths during street protests aimed at toppling him, parliament named its new speaker, Turchinov, as interim head of state. An ally of the ousted leader's jailed



People surround a makeshift memorial as they gather to commemorate the victims of the recent clashes in central Kiev, on 23 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

rival, Yulia Tymoshenko, he aims to swear in a government by Tuesday that

can provide authority until a presidential election on 25 May.—Reuters

G-20 urges US to ratify 2010 IMF reforms

SYDNEY, 24 Feb — Finance chiefs of the Group of 20 major economies called on the United States to ratify the 2010 International Monetary Fund Quota and Governance Reform under which emerging economies will be given greater voting rights. "We deeply regret that the IMF quota and governance reforms agreed to in 2010 have not yet become effective," the G-20 members said in a communique released after they wrapped up their two-day meeting in Sydney.

"Our highest priority remains ratifying the 2010 reforms, and we urge the US to do so before our next meeting in April," they added.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, who attended the G-20 gathering, also said in a statement, "I look forward to continuing discussions on this matter and many of the issues explored in Sydney at the meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) scheduled for April in Washington."—Kyodo News

Iran says expert-level nuclear talks to start next week

TEHRAN, 24 Feb — Expert-level nuclear talks to discuss the details of a possible comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear issue will be held next week, the senior Iranian nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday. "Expert-level negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 group will be held next week on the sidelines of the IAEA Board of Governors meeting," Araqchi was quoted as saying by official IRNA news agency.

Issues like uranium enrichment, removal of sanctions against Iran and international cooperation for peaceful nuclear activities will be on the agenda of the expert-level talks, he said.—Xinhua

S Korea, US begin joint military exercises

SEOUL, 24 Feb — South Korea and the United States on Monday began their annual joint military drills designed to increase the alliance's readiness to defend against a North Korean attack.

Key Resolve, a computer-based command post exercise, lasts until 6 March, while Foal Eagle, a field training drill involving ground, air, naval, expeditionary and special operations, ends on 18 April, according to the headquarters of US forces in South Korea.

North Korea has called the drills a rehearsal for invasion and demanded they be cancelled, but

South Korea and the United States have insisted the drills are purely defensive in nature.

The drills come as North and South Korea are holding reunions of families that remain separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War at Mt. Kumgang, a resort on the North's east coast.

North Korea had earlier threatened to boycott the family reunions, citing the South Korea-US military drills, but later agreed to hold them as planned. The reunions, the first in nearly three years, started last Thursday and will end Tuesday.

Kyodo News



Security officials inspect the blast site in northwest Pakistan's Kohat, on 23 Feb, 2014. At least 10 people were killed and 15 others injured as a bomb blast hit a passenger vehicle near a police building in Pakistan's north-western district of Kohat on Sunday afternoon, officials said. —XINHUA

Italy's new PM Renzi faces first parliamentary test

ROME, 24 Feb — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi faces his first test before a fractious national parliament when he goes before the Senate on Monday to put flesh on his ambitious reform plans and seek to win a confidence vote in his newly installed government.

Backed by his own centre-left Democratic Party (PD), the small center-right NCD party, centrists and other miscellaneous groups, he should have enough support in the 320-seat upper house.

But there will be close attention to the size of his majority after some left-wingers in his own party threatened to vote against the government. If he falls significantly below the 173 secured by his predecessor Enrico Letta in December, his authority could be weakened from the start.

With the euro zone's



Newly appointed Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi attends his first cabinet meeting at Chigi Palace in Rome on 22 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

third largest economy in urgent need of potentially painful reforms and weighed down by a 2-trillion-euro public debt, Renzi's room for maneuver is limited and an uncertain parliamentary majority will not help. "If parliament is with us, good. Otherwise, Renzi is certainly not afraid of the ballot box," his chief of staff Graziano Delrio told RAI state television.

The 39-year-old mayor of Florence, who won the leadership of the PD in December, forced his party rival Letta to resign as prime minister earlier this month after repeatedly attacking his government's reform record.

He took office on Saturday promising a radical increase in tempo, with an overhaul of the electoral and constitutional system

to ensure more stable governments in future, tax and labor reforms and a shake-up of the bloated public administration, all within his first 100 days. Delrio said the government would cut taxes on non-wage labor costs, financing the reduction through spending cuts and privatization revenues.

It may also raise taxes on financial earnings from investments like short-term treasury bills, which are popular with many savers.

But Delrio ruled out a new wealth tax, which some opposition politicians have suggested could be in the pipeline. He also said that the government would respect the European Union's deficit ceiling of 3 percent of gross domestic product after comments from Renzi suggesting that he will seek room to breach the limits temporarily to finance structural investments.—Reuters

Activists say Syrian security forces abduct prominent dissident

AMMAN, 24 Feb — Akram al-Bunni, a prominent leftist writer and former political prisoner, was abducted by Syrian intelligence agents as he left a wedding reception at a Damascus hotel on Saturday, opposition activists said.

They said Bunni, who had previously spent two decades as a political prisoner, was snatched by agents from an intelligence division run by Hafez Makhoul, a cousin of President Bashar al-Assad.

His brother Anwar al-Bunni, a human rights lawyer who was also a political prisoner for five years, said Akram had riled the authorities by publicly supporting a democratic alternative to the four-decade rule of the Assad family.

"This regime has not been satisfied that it stole 20 years of Akram's life and the effect that left on his health," Anwar al-Bunni told Reuters on Sunday from Damascus. "We are trying to get medicine to him. He has a heart condition."

He said his brother, who is in his late 50s, had chosen to remain in Damascus despite the systematic persecution of dissidents since the uprising against al-Assad erupted with pro-democracy demonstrations in March 2011.—Reuters

UK says to use Merkel visit to push curbs to 'welfare shopping'

LONDON, 24 Feb — Britain said on Sunday it planned to use a visit by German Chancellor Angela Merkel this week to try to persuade Berlin to support measures to discourage people from moving within the European Union to tap welfare benefits.

If re-elected next year, Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron has promised to try to reform the EU before giving Britons an in/out membership referendum by the end of 2017 amid widespread public skepticism about the bloc.

Trailing in the polls, Cameron has said he wants to eventually restrict migrants from poorer EU states relocating to richer ones like Britain to take advantage of its comparatively more generous welfare system, a practice British politicians have dubbed "welfare shopping". Cameron has suggested possibly capping the annual number of EU migrants allowed to enter Britain each year or withholding full freedom of movement rights until a new EU member state achieves a certain gross domestic product per head. Such ideas are part of his overall plan to shake up the bloc, full details of which he has yet to disclose. On Sunday, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said the government hoped to use Merkel's visit on Thursday to discuss enacting such reforms to the EU.

Reuters



Photo taken on 13 Feb, 2014, shows children of refugees who have fled fighting to a base for a UN peace-keeping mission in Juba, South Sudan. KYODO NEWS

WORLD

Japan not to rule out arms exports to nations involved in conflicts

TOKYO, 24 Feb — Japan plans to ease its self-imposed restrictions on arms exports by not ruling out delivering weapons to nations involved in international conflicts, signaling a major policy shift in its long-held “three principles” on arms exports that ban such action, a Japanese government source said on Sunday.

Critics warn the change could undermine Japan’s pacifist stance after World War II and pave the way for Japanese-made weapons and technology to be used in global conflicts.

The change is expected to be reflected in Japan’s envisioned new arms export control guidelines as the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is reviewing the current rules, believing that weapons exports would help boost Japan’s security ties with its allies.

Tokyo adopted the three principles on arms exports in 1967 to block the transfer of weapons to communist states, countries subject to embargoes under UN resolutions and those involved in international conflicts.

The rules became a virtual blanket ban in 1976, with some exceptions made by past governments. In 2011, Japan relaxed the rules to allow exports for humanitarian and peaceful purposes, and make it easier to participate in joint development and production of weapons.—Kyodo News



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (2nd L) addresses the weekly Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, on 23 Feb, 2014. Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday voiced his concern that Iran would become a nuclear threshold state amid its current round of talks with the P5+1 countries in Geneva, according to a statement by the prime minister’s office.—XINHUA

France risks long stay after misjudging CAR

PARIS/DAKAR, 24 Feb — When France sent troops to halt violence between Christians and Muslims in Central African Republic, commanders named the mission Sangaris after a local butterfly to reflect its short life. Three months later, it is clear they badly miscalculated. Buoyed by a swift victory in last year’s war against Islamists in Mali, France’s military predicted six months would be enough to quell sectarian conflict in Central African Republic, which began in March when Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in the majority Christian country.

Some defence ministry officials said in private that a show of French force



Fighters from the Christian “anti-balaka” militia stand at the headquarters in the northern Bangui suburb of Boeing, an area near the Mpoko International Airport of Bangui on 22 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

would be enough to restore order and no shots need be fired. With its military budget stretched by Mali, Paris gambled on sending a small force of just 1,600

men. Now, with the country sliding into what the top UN human rights official termed ‘ethnic-religious cleansing’, as Muslims flee northward to escape vi-

cious reprisals by Christian militia, France faces a long fight with scant support from Western allies to stop the nation of 4.5 million people splitting in two.

France’s parliament is due to vote on extending Sangaris on Tuesday, but officials say Paris has already accepted its troops will stay at least until elections due by February next year, at the request of Interim President Catherine Samba Panza. “It will take longer than expected because the level of hatred and violence is worse than we had imagined,” French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian admitted last week. “No-one can accept partition. It must be stopped.”—Reuters

Tariff, intellectual property on agenda on 3rd day of TPP talks

SINGAPORE, 24 Feb — Countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks will tackle contentious issues including tariff removal and intellectual property rights on the third day of a ministerial conference on Monday in Singapore.

On the margin of a plenary session, Tokyo and Washington are seeking to solve outstanding bilateral issues of whether Japan can retain tariffs on its sensitive farm goods and the phase-out period of US auto duties. But a Japanese minister attending the four-day conference through Tuesday said more working-level bargaining needs to be done before bringing the issues to the ministerial level. Akira Amari, Japan’s minister in charge of the TPP, and US Trade Representative Michael Froman held bilateral talks over the issues on Saturday.

Holding ministerial talks without enough preparation is “not necessarily a good idea,” Amari told reporters on Monday morning, suggesting that many differences remain between the two sides. “We need to know (before setting up next ministerial talks) that we won’t end up having the same results” as the previous bilateral meeting, he said. Japan has been under strong pressure from other negotiating peers, especially Washington, to further open up its agricultural market, as the US-led TPP aims for the abolition of all tariffs in principle.

Kyodo News

Pakistan jets pound militant hideouts, killing 38

PESHAWAR, (Pakistan), 24 Feb — Pakistani fighter jets attacked suspected militant hideouts in tribal areas on the Afghan border on Sunday, killing at least 38 insurgents, officials said, in the third air strike in recent days.

The raids came after peace negotiations with Taliban insurgents broke down last week and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif authorized the army on 20 February to attack militants in the volatile region on the Afghan border.

“Fighter jets pounded training facilities of the terrorists in Tirah valley

early on Sunday,” said one military official.

He said the facilities destroyed had been used to train suicide bombers and make explosives.

“There are confirmed reports that 38 terrorists including some important commanders were killed,” said another security official, adding that at least six hideouts were destroyed.

There were no immediate reports of civilian casualties.

Despite the violence, both sides insist they are still open for negotiations. Many observers are

skeptical about peace talks with a group which has killed 40,000 people since 2007.

The Sunni Islamist Taliban told the government last week there was no chance of peace in the country unless Pakistan changed its political and legal system and officially embraced Islamic law.

This year has been marked by a surge in violence and Sharif is under intense pressure from hawks in the armed forces to mount a tougher military response against the militants.

Reuters



A shop assistant arranges red coral accessories in a craft market in Tunis, capital of Tunisia, on 23 Feb, 2014. Tunisia is prolific in the production of red corals.

XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China's Huawei seeks US foothold in smartphone race

BARCELONA, 24 Feb — China's Huawei Technologies believes it can take advantage of recent changes in how operators in the United States sell phones to get a foothold in the all-important market, an executive with its consumer division said on Sunday.

Huawei, best known as a maker of telecom network gear, became the world's third-biggest smartphone manufacturer last year, through the sale of mid-priced handsets within its fast-growing domestic market and an increasing appeal to price-conscious consumers in western

Europe. But the group, which lags market leader Samsung and Apple, has yet to gain a foothold in the high-end segment of developed markets such as the United States, where it is viewed with suspicion after lawmakers flagged Chinese telecommunications equipment as potential security risks.

It has also suffered from its difficult-to-pronounce brand name, its executives have acknowledged. After launching five new devices at the Mobile World Congress trade fair in Barcelona, Huawei's Colin Giles said the group

was taking early steps in the United States to build better relationships with mobile operators and directly with consumers via online shops.

"We recognize that the US is a very competitive and very tough market for us," Giles, the executive vice president of Huawei's consumer business group, told Reuters. "Recently there has been quite some change in the US in terms of the whole subsidy landscape, and so that provides a new opportunity for players like us to come with a slightly different distribution strategy than what we



The Huawei Ascend Mate2 4G mobile telephone with an Android operating system is shown at the annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada on 8 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS

used to have."

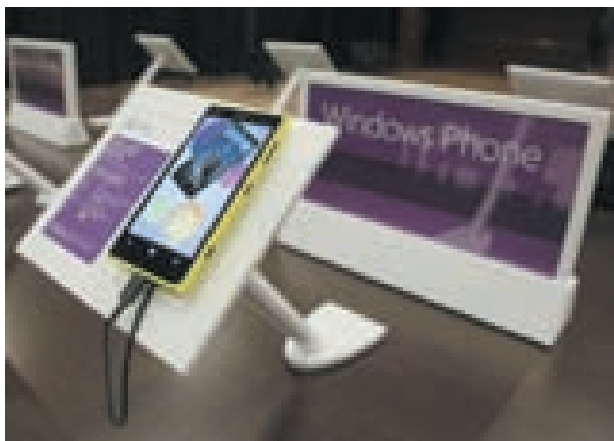
In the third quarter of last year, Huawei accounted for 3 percent of all phones sold in the United States, respectively,

trailing Apple's 36.2 percent and Samsung's 32.5 percent, according to IDC.

Traditionally, mobile operators buy phones in bulk from manufacturers

like Apple and then offer them for free or a low upfront cost to customers when they sign a new one- or two-year contract.

Reuters



A Windows Nokia Phone is seen on display at Microsoft's annual shareholder meeting in Bellevue, Washington on 19 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

Microsoft resets Windows Phone to reach lower cost markets

WASHINGTON, 24 Feb — Microsoft Corp is pushing to reach a far wider audience for smartphones running its Windows Phone software by turning to cheaper chipsets and easing restrictions on how phone makers use its software to encourage them to drive down costs. Nick Parker, Microsoft's senior vice president for handset makers, said the changes have attracted a range of new handset makers to build Windows Phones, including

South Korea's LG Electronics, India's Xola and Karbonn, and ZTE, Foxconn, Lenovo, Gionee and Longcheer." We are open for business on Windows Phone to anyone who wants to build a Windows phone," Parker said at the Mobile World Congress trade fair on Sunday.

Windows Phones typically sell for several hundred dollars a piece, although Nokia's Lumia 520 handset has an unsubsidized price

of about 139 euros (\$190) in Europe. The sub-\$100 smartphone market, however, is dominated by Google's Android operating system, which has lower licensing costs, is more adaptable by device makers, and runs on more, and cheaper, chip sets that run radio and other functions. Android phones from dozens of handset makers accounted for almost four out of every five smartphones sold, or 781.2 million units, last year, according to Strat-

egy Analytics. Microsoft was a distant third in market share terms, behind Apple, which shipped 153.4 million smartphones.

Some 5.7 million Windows Mobile units were shipped worldwide, Strategy Analytics said. While it gained a more than 10 percent share in some markets, for example Italy, other markets like the United States remained tough, Vice President Joe Belgiore said in Barcelona.—Reuters

Uneasy rest begins for China's troubled Yutu rover

BEIJING, 24 Feb — China's lunar rover Yutu entered its third planned dormancy on Saturday, with the mechanical control issues that might cripple the vehicle still unresolved. According to the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND) on Sunday, Yutu only carried out fixed point observations during its third lunar day, equivalent to about two weeks on Earth. Yutu's radar, panorama camera and infrared imaging equipment are functioning normally, but the control issues that have troubled the rover since January persist.

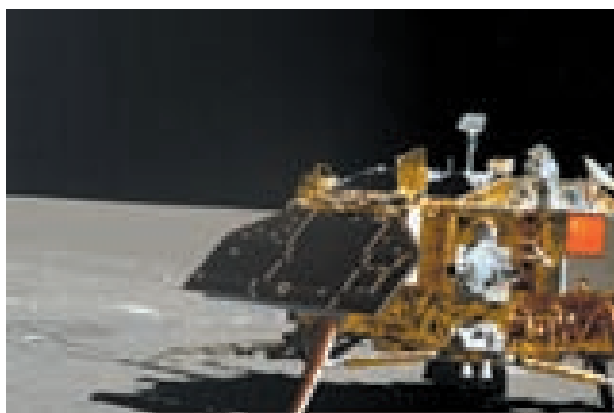
The rover went to sleep mode on Saturday afternoon. During the lunar night, there is no sunlight to power Yutu's solar panels. In this period, the rover is expected to stay in a power-off mode and communication with Earth is cut. Yutu, named after the pet rabbit of the lunar goddess Chang'e in Chinese mythology, touched down on the moon's

surface on 15 December, some hours after lunar probe Chang'e-3 landed. The rover was designed to roam the lunar surface for at least three months to survey the moon's geological structure and surface substances and look for natural resources.

But problems emerged before the rover entered its second dormancy on the moon on 25 January as the lunar night fell.

According to SASTIND, the mechanic control abnormality occurred due to the "complicated

lunar surface" Experts had feared that it might never function again, but Yutu "woke up" on 12 February, two days behind schedule, and caused a stir in China's social networking circles. A the awakening was announced by an unverified user named "Jade Rabbit Lunar Rover", which posts first-person accounts in the "voice" of the probe, and has gone viral on Weibo.com. "Hi, anybody there?" it asked, prompting over 60,000 reposts and 40,000 comments within two hours.—Xinhua



This undated photo taken by the camera on the Yutu moon rover shows the Chang'e-3 moon lander and the moon surface. The Chang'e-3 lander entered its third dormancy on early 23 Feb, 2014.—XINHUA

Rock around the clock: zircon crystal is oldest piece of Earth

WASHINGTON, 24 Feb — To put it mildly, this is one gem of a gem. Scientists using two different age-determining techniques have shown that a tiny zircon crystal found on a sheep ranch in western Australia is the oldest known piece of our planet, dating to 4.4 billion years ago. riting in the journal *Nature Geoscience* on Sunday, the researchers said the discovery indicates that Earth's crust formed relatively soon after the planet formed and that the little gem was a remnant of it. ohn Valley, a University of Wisconsin geoscience professor who led the research, said the findings suggest that the early Earth was not as harsh a place as many scientists have thought.

To determine the age of the zircon fragment, the scientists first used a widely accepted dating technique based on determining the radioactive decay of uranium to lead in a mineral sample. ut because some scientists hypothesized that this technique might give a



A 4.4 billion-year-old zircon crystal from the Jack Hills region of Australia is pictured in this undated handout photo obtained by Reuters on 23 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

false date due to possible movement of lead atoms within the crystal over time, the researchers turned to a second sophisticated method to verify the finding. hey used a technique known as atom-probe tomography that was able to identify individual atoms of lead in the crystal and determine their mass, and confirmed that the zircon was indeed 4.4 billion years old.

To put that age in perspective, the Earth itself formed 4.5 billion years ago as a ball of molten rock, meaning that its crust formed relatively soon thereafter, 100 million years later. The age of the crystal also means that the crust appeared just 160 million years after the very formation of the solar system.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Global warming won't cut winter deaths as hoped

OSLO, 24 Feb — Global warming will fail to reduce high winter death rates as some officials have predicted because there will be more harmful weather extremes even as it gets less cold, a British study showed on Sunday. A draft UN report due for publication next month says that, overall, climate change will harm human health, but adds: "Positive effects will include modest improvements in cold-related mortality and morbidity in some areas due to fewer cold extremes,

shifts in food production and reduced capacity of disease-carrying vectors."

However a report in the journal *Nature Climate Change* on the situation in England and Wales said climate warming would likely not decrease winter mortality in those places. It suggested more volatile winters, with swings from cold to mild linked to rising greenhouse gas emissions, might even raise death rates.

Lead author Philip Staddon of the University of Exeter told *Reuters* that

the findings were likely to apply to other developed countries in temperate regions that risk more extreme weather as temperatures rise.

Excess winter deaths (EWDs), the number of people who die in winter compared to other times of the year, roughly halved to 31,000 in England and Wales in 2012-13 from 60,000 typical in the 1950s, official data show. Staddon's report said the decline was due to better home insulation, heating, health care and other

non-climate factors with no link to a decline in the number of cold days.

"Winter cold severity no longer predicts the numbers affected," the authors wrote. "The correlation between the number of cold winter days per year and EWDs, which was strong until the mid-1970s, no longer exists."

Staddon's findings are at odds with a 2012 Climate Change Risk Assessment by the British Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) that said global warming

would bring "some potential benefits, for example, a projected reduction in winter mortality." Asked to comment on Sunday's report, a Defra spokesman said an updated climate assessment was due in 2017. "We will continue to take account of the latest scientific evidence," he said.

Many governments are reviewing health spending priorities and summer heatwaves are often seen as a bigger threat than winter cold. UN studies say it is at least 95 percent probable that most warming in

recent years is man-made. Staddon said developed nations should avoid a radical shift in spending to heatwave protection, such as better air conditioning in homes for the elderly, from measures to ease cold such as subsidies for insulation or winter heating. "Heatwave deaths will increase a lot but there will still be more winter deaths," he said. In 2003, the worst European heatwave in centuries killed up to 70,000 people, including about 3,000 in Britain.

Reuters

Toshiba wins 18.6 bil yen order for power equipment in India



TOKYO, 24 Feb — Toshiba Corp said on Monday it has won an order to supply steam turbine equipment for a thermal power station in Darlipali, India, for about 18.6 billion yen.

The Japanese electrical machinery manufacturer said its local unit will deliver two 800-megawatt super-critical steam turbines and other equipment for the power station to be operated by NTPC Ltd, India's largest state-owned energy service provider, by early 2018.

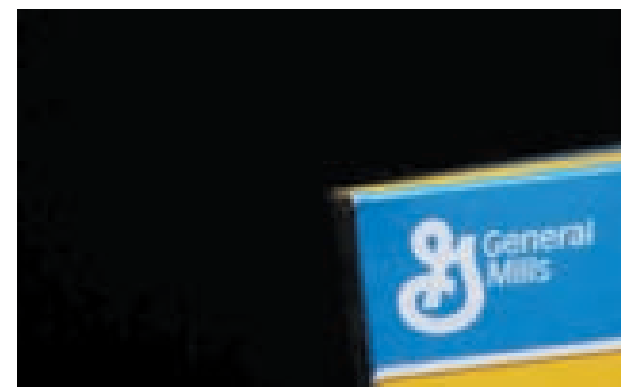
Toshiba said it aims to expand its energy-related business in India and neighboring countries where rapid growth in power demand is expected.

Kyodo News

Big consumer companies cut costs, Wall Street wants bolder steps

BOCA RATON, (Florida), 24 Feb — Investors are growing impatient with the makers of global brands like Cadbury chocolate, Campbell Soup and Tide laundry detergent, as these stalwart consumer

Investors flocked to packaged food stocks last year, hoping to benefit from dividend increases and potential takeovers following the purchase of HJ Heinz. Now they have begun to trade out, mak-



The General Mills logo is seen on a box of Cheerios cereal in Evanston, Illinois, on 26 June, 2012.—REUTERS

products companies try to boost profits through cost cuts and brand makeovers while smaller rivals take risks and grab market share.

Organic and soy milk seller WhiteWave Foods Co, privately owned yogurt maker Chobani Greek and Keurig coffee brewer seller Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc have shaken up their categories and chalked up enviable growth while big companies such as ConAgra Foods Inc, Danone SA and General Mills Inc struggle.

Shares of the companies that make everything from Cheerios and Pepsi-Cola to Pampers disposable diapers have been a defensive play for investors in uncertain times. But the companies have been struggling with weak demand in North America and Europe, cooling emerging markets and increasingly fickle consumers empowered by social media and online search and comparison tools.

ing consumer staples the worst-performing sector over the past six months. Analysts warn their shares could sink further.

During the last five years, the Standard & Poor's 1200 Consumer Staples index had a total return of 117 percent, ranking sixth out of the 10 sectors measured. Over the past six months its return has been the worst of the 10, down 0.55 percent.

"You're going back to the fundamentals now, which really are pretty abysmal," said Wells Fargo food analyst John Baumgartner. He and others said there may be room for further declines.

"The stocks still aren't cheap." Helped by predictable, strong cash flow and generous dividends, the 25 biggest consumer staples firms still trade at 18 times forward earnings estimates, according to Thomson Reuters data. That's not far from the 20 multiple enjoyed by the fast-growing technology stocks.—Reuters

China overtakes India as top gold consumer

BEIJING, 24 Feb — China overtook India as the world's largest gold consumer for the first time in 2013, official data showed.

China's gold consumption hit 1,176 tonnes in 2013, up 41.4 percent, as declining gold prices enticed buying, according to the Ministry of Information and Technology (MIT).

The precious metal fell 26 percent last year from 1,670 US dollars to 1,243 US dollars per ounce.

Last year was the 7th consecutive year that China was the world's No1 gold producer and production rose 6.2 percent to reach 428 tonnes, nearly 15 percent of the world's total.

Xinhua



Consumers wait in a line to check out at a gold jewellery shop in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 18 April, 2013.

XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 25 February, 2014

Information is knowledge and knowledge is power

Generally data means measurements or statistics used as the basis for reasoning or discussion. But philosophically the word refers to things known or assumed as facts, forming as the base for reasoning or calculation. In some fields such as computer science data is a kind of semi-information and not fully reliable yet. Technically, data is a mixture of fact and fiction. It is like a raw material that can be refined into finished good.

On the other hand, information is knowledge that we get about someone or something or facts or details about a subject. Some dictionaries define the word as knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance. So, normally, any collection on something or some person that is accurate and credible can be called information.

But how do we make information? It is something like manufacturing a product. A manufacturer refines raw materials into consumer-friendly finished goods. Likewise, data can be called raw material or semi-finished good that can be distilled into reader-friendly information.

Actually, it is the work of the media and mass communication networks. They first collect data and then filter it into information meaning removing out all the parts that are unreliable and inaccurate. Here, constant research, careful analyses, human capital, knowledge and ethics are the devices for producing accurate and reliable information. In the media, the people of the newsroom or editorial staff as they are called make the information more attractive and reader-friendly. We are receiving daily such kind of information from the media as news. So it is important that every piece of news must be accurate, credible, striking, harm-free and digestible. All in all, information is knowledge and knowledge is power.

*Speaker of
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
and Pyithu Hluttaw
Thura U Shwe
Mann receives
Chinese Vice
Minister Mr Ai Ping
of International
Department,
Central Committee
of CPC. (News on
page 16)—MNA*

12th Meeting on Implementation of Myanmar-China Border Areas Management & Cooperation Agreement held

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—A Chinese delegation led by Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, which arrived in Myanmar on 19 February 2014 to attend the 12th Meeting on the

Implementation of the Myanmar-China Border Areas Management and Cooperation Agreement, left Yangon yesterday afternoon by air.

The Chinese delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the staff of the Chinese Embassy in

Yangon.

The 12th Meeting on the Implementation of the Myanmar-China Border Areas Management and Cooperation Agreement was held at Myat Mingalar Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 and 21 February 2014.

U San Lwin, Director-General of the Political

Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Ouyang Yujing, Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of China co-chaired the said meeting and discussed the issues relating to Myanmar-China Border Areas and boundary related matters.—MNA

Myanmar Independent Living Initiative Organization opens Mohnyin branch



MOHNYIN, 24 Feb—Myanmar Independent Living Initiative Organization of persons with disabilities opened its branch in Mohnyin of Kachin State on 23 February.

Mohnyin Township administrator U Kyaw Swa Aung and four young people with disabilities cut the ribbon to open the new branch.

The organization targeted at the disabled persons to stand on their own and to enjoy equal rights in social field.

A total of 45 disabled youths attended the ceremony.

NLM-001

The country is drafting a law to protect the rights of farmers and serve their interest.

Ah, it's a foundation for sustainability.

We are now witnessing rural development undertakings and farmland reforms.

In fact, we are creating markets as there is progress in farm mechanization and growth in production.

Farmers are now enjoying income increase and social progress.

Sometimes the late comer has more advantages. So farmers should work hard, stay away from over-indulgence and stop all unnecessary spending.

Cartoon Tha Byay

Thilawa Special Economic ...

(from page 1)
foreign investments in the zone. As the President said, the more we fulfill the requirements, the sooner the project will be completed. So, it is necessary to ensure each and every task is working on all cylinders."

The main investor of the project is Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Limited formed with Myanmar and Japanese investors and the government. The project is being implemented as Joint Venture of the Myanmar entrepreneurs' participation to not more than 51 per cent and that of Japanese entrepreneurs to not more than 49 per cent.

Under the 51 per cent rule, 10 per cent is owned by Thilawa SEZ management committee and 41 per cent by Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited. MMS Thilawa Development Co., Ltd grouping three Japanese companies—Mitsubishi, Marubeni and Sumitomo—has 39 per cent and the Japan International Cooperation Agency 10 per cent.

It is learnt that 2.145 million shares will go on sale for public in the early of this March, pricing one share at K 10,000.

A local living near the zone voiced: "The President stressed the need to employ

not only graduates but also ordinary people. I have no idea what will happen but no doubt that local people are looking forwards to seeing the start of the project for employment in the zone."

During the President's visit to the zone, the Union ministers reported that measures are being undertaken in the areas of electricity and water supply for sooner completion of the project. It is learnt that there is a plan to build a power plant developed with clean coal technology in the zone for adequate supply of electricity.

"We are ready to help local and foreign investors as much as we can, facilitating their investments. It is envisaged that more foreign

investments will take place this year. The government, on its part, is introducing relaxations to promote FDIs. It is sure the under-construction Thilawa SEZ which is the zone of international standards will bring more job opportunities, contributing towards better socio-economic status of local people", said U Aung Naing Oo, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Thilawa Special Economic Zone located 14-mile south-east of Yangon is one of the country's largest development projects attracting the wide interest from local and foreign investors.

Myanma Alinn: 24-2-2014

Trs: YM

NATIONAL

Myanmar's step towards...

(from page 16)

future. Reaching a preliminary ceasefire with 16 armed groups is an invaluable result for those who suffer the evil consequences of decades-long internal armed conflicts. Thanks to it, peace and stability has restored to almost all con-

flict-affected regions.

Now, there are few fighting between the Defence services and armed groups. The Vice-President expressed his hope that nation-wide ceasefires will materialize soon. It can be said that the ceasefire is the begin-

ning of peace-building process. All stakeholders including the MPs are responsible for reaching an eternal peace through the ceasefires. Myanmar's sweeping reforms are recognized by the world countries. Armed conflict is one of the reasons that cause the hindrance

to the country's economic growth. KNU, RCSS and CNF pointed out in a peace talks on 30 September 2013 that political crisis is the root cause of armed conflicts and the Unlawful Association Act is a major barrier to close relations between the two sides.

Myanmar's future is at the crossroad. The prevalence of armed conflicts could cause less flow of foreign investment into the country, and the country may fall into the hands of super powers. He urged all to have a hand in the peace-making process.

Later, Vice-Chair-

men Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister U Aung Min, MP U Thein Zaw submitted the reports. And Union Minister U Khin Yi reported on the 2014-nation-wide census taking process. Those present discussed the peace-making matters.

MNA

Union government gives first...

(from page 16)

and has been undertaking development task for women and gender equality in collaboration with international donors, UN agencies and departments concerned, he added. Plan is underway to establish an enhancement of women and gender equality division led by a director.

At the session, the Hluttaw sought the approval of the MPs for "Anti-Terrorism Bill".

The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development cooperated with UNDP in compiling Integrated Household Living Condition Assessment Survey-IHLCA with the assistance of UNICEF and SIDA (Sweden International Development Agency) in 2005 and 2010, said Daw Lei Lei Thein, Deputy Minister for NPED at the Amyotha Hluttaw session on Monday.

The IHLCA-I was collected in 2004 and 2005 and the IHLCA-II in December 2009 and May 2010 for livelihood of families and poverty matters. The ministry plans to collect the IHLCA again in 2015 in cooperation with UNDP. Poverty rate de-

clined to 15.7 per cent in urban and 29.2 per cent in rural areas in 2010 compared with 21.5 per cent of poverty rate in urban and 35.8 per cent in rural areas in 2005. The Union government gives first priority to rural development and poverty alleviation in its tasks.

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint replied to the question whether there is a plan to approve the list of 135 national races after census has been taken. He said that the national census taking processes were carried out in 1973 and 1983 based on 135 national races. When the census has been taken, the number of national races will be re-approved. Depending on the actual list of national races on the ground, necessary organization will review the list.

Dr Win Myint Aung of Sagaing Region Constituency No 4 and Daw Yi Yi Myint of Mon State Constituency No 1 read out the 2013-14 third quarter work report of Amyotha Hluttaw National Planning and Development Project Committee.

MNA

Union Minister for Education meets guests

YANGON, 24 Feb—Union Minister for Education Dr Khin San Yi held talks with Mr Gwang-Jo KIM, Director of UNESCO-Bangkok, Mr Sardar Umar Alam, Head of UNESCO-Myanmar Office and

Mr Oleksandr Shtokvych of Open Society Foundation separately at Yangon University Diamond Jubilee Hall, here, today.

They discussed matters relating to cooperation in education.—MNA

Kyaukpyu SEZ project implementation taking shape

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—Kyaukpyu deep-sea port region located in Kyaukpyu region of Rakhine State is of the strategic importance of world trade route. Implementation of the long-term plans for building a deep-sea port and establishment of Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone is taking place. Upon completion, it can contribute to the economic development of the country including Rakhine State as

well as Kyaukpyu region.

Now, developers are being invited for the implementation of Kyaukpyu SEZ through the tender process of international standard. While the tender progress is in progress, selection of a consultant company that could conduct as consultant in the process of supervision on project implementation is on the final stage.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung

Thein, vice-chairman of the Board of Evaluation Advisory Committee, and members made a final discussion with a group of consultant companies that was chosen as a first choice at the office branch of the Kyaukpyu SEZ management committee at Sakhantha Yeiktha in Yangon Railway Station on Sunday and Monday.

Union Minister for National Planning and

Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, chairman of the Board of Evaluation Advisory Committee, and members continued coordination with the company at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday. As results came out from the coordination, the name of the group of consultant companies that won the tender will be announced within a few days to come, it is learnt.—MNA

Enactment of National Planning Bill discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—A work coordination meeting on enactment of National Planning Bill for 2014-2015 FY took place at Zabuthiri Hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building on Monday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Amyo-

tha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, the Union Ministers, the deputy ministers, chairmen and secretaries of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Committees, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw committees.

First, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker made an opening speech and those present discussed matters related to the National Planning Bill.

MNA

Knowledge on parliamentary affairs of Germany shared

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, delivered an address at the meeting of

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) at Royal Kumudra Hotel here today.

At the meeting, representatives of FNF shared

knowledge on legal affairs and experience of Germany. Mr. Manfred Richter of FNF clarified parliamentary affairs of Germany.

It was attended by rep-

resentatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.—MNA

Union Minister visits training schools in Yangon Region



Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint inspects Center for Vocational Training School on Strand Road.—MNA

YANGON, 24 Feb—Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint visited Center for Vocational Training School (CVT) on Strand Road in Botahtaung

Township in Yangon on 22 February.

Labour Department and private employment agencies have been conducting proficiency courses for workers to create job

opportunities. If workers have been trained to be

skilled workers, their salary and allowance will be increased, said the Union minister at a meeting with the trainees at Htet Oo pro-

iciency training school in Hlinethaya Township on 23 February.

He attended concluding of basic industrial proficiency course of Thukha Susan training school. He said that as half of Myanmar's population is working-age, the government is creating job opportunities for them by adopting reform processes. Green light was given to private employment agencies to open training schools for human resources development in cooperation with the government in line with market-oriented system. All are urged to seek decent jobs not only at home but also abroad in order to alleviate poverty, he added.

He then visited Kabar training school in Yangon industrial zone in Mingaladon Township.

MNA

MMCWA's community-based mobile clinic arrives in Lewe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—As part of efforts for providing basic healthcare to local people, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized a community-based mobile clinic program at Yayka village in Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

MMCWA members and dental and eye special-

ist teams offered vitamin pills and refreshment to the seniors and iodized salt and food to the expectant mother.

During the program, Daw Thazin Nwe, secretary of MMCWA, Dr San San Hline and Dr Myo Min Oo gave educative talks to local people and presented magazines for the village library.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Plums earn increased income for rural people



MAGWAY, 24 Feb—Local people can earn income from sales of plums collected from plum trees around the villages in Magway Township during their spare time after completion of farming

works in summer.

They sell one basket of ripen plum per K 1200 and dried plum per K 1800. They can sell seeds of plum at the price of one basket per K 7000.

Plum can be made as

jam. Seeds of plum can be produced as fuel for production of bricks.

Purchase centres are kept open for plums. These centres near 30-ton Oil Mill of Thandaw Village near Taungdwin Road at the exit

of Magway and Kanbya Village on Magway-Nay Pyi Taw Road.

Thus, the local people can earn increased income for their families through marketable plums.

MMAL-Zar Zar (Magway)

Boards “Your Speed” installed on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway for transport security

Recently, our correspondents had an interview with Police Col Nay Win, Commander of Expressway Police Corps, on security measures along Yangon-Mandalay Expressway for reducing traffic accidents.

The police Colonel said the Expressway Police Corps is formed with 15 police station, 40 police outposts and one Nay Pyi Taw control office along Yangon-Mandalay Expressway so as to ensure security of vehicles and reduce traffic accidents day and night.

It is estimated that about 5000 vehicles run along the expresway daily, according to the statistics of toll gates.

The traffic accidents occur on the expressway based on three factors—man, vehicle and road errors. For example, some drivers dizzied in driving, reckless driving in alcohol and misdriving of ways. Some drivers run their vehicles in high speed so they cannot control driving. In consequence, the vehicles caused overturns severally.

From January to

By Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)

December 2013, there were a total of 259 traffic accidents on the expressway.

With regard to the installation of the board Your Speed, the Ministry of Construction has installed 14 boards along the expressway. Drivers should take care of their vehicles after checking speed. The board put their speeds on record. So the drivers cannot argue their speeds. As a result, the over speed vehicles can be controlled by the police.

A plan is underway to install more 20 speed feedbacks along the expressway.

I had given advice that it is necessary to install the speed boards near police stations and police outposts for security of them.

Some solar panels and batteries lost on the road. It was due to lack of security because police members take a break at day time after discharging duties the

whole night. If the solar panels and batters are kept near the police stations and outposts, police can safeguard them not to be lost.

The police outposts are assigned three miles distance each. The police squads led by the station heads go patrol at night for security.

If necessary, the police stations and police outposts will be extended for security of expressway.

Motorcycles are not allowed to drive on the expressway for prevention against traffic accidents. However they are allowed to run along Original Ground on either side of the expressway for their convenient transportation. In the future, the ground will be concreted for motorcycle way.

From January to date 2014, there were 52 traffic accidents on the expressway due to man and vehicle errors.

News in Brief

Agricultural loans paid back

Pyu, 24 Feb—Farmers in Pyu Township, Bago Region, have harvested monsoon paddy on 153,426 acres of farmlands and produced over 12 million baskets of paddy. Local farmers get good prices of selling their paddy.

“Manaw Thukha, Hsin Thukha, Pyawtun, Palethwe, Thukha-2 and Ayeya Min paddy strains were sold at K 12500 to K 13000 per basket last year.

This year, we fetched K 14500 to K 15000 per baskets of paddy. So we could pay back agricultural loans to Agricultural Development Bank earlier than that of last year.

As the government disbursed K 100,000 per acre to us, we all are pleased for the government,” said a farmer of west Kyungon Village, Pyu Township.

Kyemon-Pyu Myint Oo



Football friendly held at UDNR

SAGAING, 24 Feb—Football team of University for Development of National Races and Sagaing University held a football friendly at the football ground of UDNR on 20 February.

UDNR Rector U Soe Tint and Sagaing University

Rector Dr Thura Oo greeted the players.

Both football teams prepare their skills for taking part in the Inter-University Champion League and further strengthen friendly ties between the two universities.

Kyemon



So, light trucks should drive 80 km per hour instead of 100 km per hour on the expressway so as to prevent traffic accidents.

**Police Col
Nay Win,
Commander
of
Expressway
Police Corps.**



REGIONAL

India's Modi widens lead, BJP may win half the seats in key state



Gujarat's chief minister and Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi, the prime ministerial candidate for India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), wearing a turban addresses his supporters during a rally ahead of the 2014 general elections in the northeastern Indian state of Assam on 22 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 24 Feb — Opposition leader Narendra Modi has widened his lead as candidate to become India's prime minister and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party is likely to emerge as the single largest party in coming elections, according to a new opinion poll.

The BJP also picked up support in Uttar Pradesh

and is set to get half the seats in the heartland state which sends the largest number of lawmakers to parliament, according to the ABP News-Nielsen poll forecast, published on Saturday.

The results present a challenge to Rahul Gandhi, the fourth generation member of the long-ruling Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, who is

leading the ruling Congress party-led coalition in national polls due by May.

About 57 per cent of respondents in the survey, conducted in February, picked Modi as their favorite candidate for prime minister, four points more than in the agency's January survey.

Gandhi trailed with a rating of 18 percent, though

he picked up three percentage points from January.

The poll predicted the BJP and its allies would win 236 of 543 seats at stake in parliament's lower house, while the Congress and its allies would drop to double-digits.

More than 800 million people are eligible to vote in the world's largest democratic exercise to choose a new government. India, Asia's third largest economy, is growing at its slowest clip in a decade, choking off employment opportunities for thousands of young people who join the workforce each month.

To rule, a party needs the support of 272 lawmakers. The BJP, even with the biggest number of seats, will have to seek out coalition partners if the poll's predictions are correct.

In Uttar Pradesh, which accounts for 80 seats, the BJP was estimated to win 40, up five from the January poll. The Congress party was expected to win seven seats, a drop of one from last month's forecast. More than 29,000

people across the country were interviewed for the poll. Local opinion polls have had a mixed record in the past, given the country's huge and diverse electorate.

Gandhi has struggled to draw support for the Congress party, which is mired by corruption scandals and policy paralysis. He has seemed distant at times, unsure of how to stop the slide in the 129-year-old party's fortunes.

Compared with the relatively untested Gandhi, Modi has years of experience as the chief minister of the western state of Gujarat, where he has built a reputation as an efficient, business-savvy administrator. But charges that Modi was complicit in riots in Gujarat that killed at least 1,000 people, most of them Muslims, have cast a shadow over his ambitions for the top job. Critics accuse him of not having done enough to stop the violence, allegations he has strenuously denied and have never been proven.

Reuters

Laos to draft national plan to end violence against women, children

VIENTIANE, 24 Feb — The Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women met to draft a national plan for the eradication of violence against women and children, local media reported on Monday.

The draft was part of the Lao government's efforts to this effect, said Chansoda Phonphip, head of the commission's secretariat, at the meeting.

"We need participants to give advice on the sentences of the draft's contents after the presentation from the officials of the secretaries so as to make it perfect," she said.

The commission is in the final stage of drafting the national plan for 2014-2020 before submitting it to the government for approval.

According to a secretariat official, Laos still lacks clear statistics regarding the level of violence against women and children. The commission in cooperation with the National Committee for Mother and Child and the Statistics Center of the Ministry for Planning and Investment are carrying out surveys about violence nationwide.

A Lao Women's Union interview of over 1,200 men and women over the last decade including interviewees from six provinces showed that violent events were exacerbated by drunkenness and monetary concerns.

Xinhua



Over 20,000 couples attend the 9th Chengdu (Spring) Wedding Expo in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 22 Feb, 2014.

XINHUA



Local villagers surround at the site where six children have drowned in Pingyao County, north China's Shanxi Province, on 23 Feb, 2014. The children, aged from 5 to 11, fell into water while ice skating on a section of Huiji River in Nanzheng Village on Saturday afternoon. They were found by rescuers and rushed to hospital, but all died from drowning.

XINHUA

UN chief urges immediate end to escalating violence in Thailand

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday called for an immediate end to escalating violence in Thailand, urging all sides to engage in meaningful dialogue toward ending the crisis.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson here, Ban condemned "the escalation of violence in Thailand over the past week, in particular armed attacks against

protesters in which even children have been killed."

He called for violence from any quarter to cease immediately, and for the government to bring those responsible to justice.

"The Secretary-General believes strongly that there should be no place for violence by any side in resolving political differences and disputes," stressed the statement, adding that Ban is ready to assist in any way

possible.

The UN chief urged the parties to respect human rights and the rule of law, prevent any new attacks and "engage in meaningful dialogue" toward ending the crisis and advancing reform.

Thailand has seen sporadic violence since political unrest erupted in late 2013. The protesters are reportedly seeking to overthrow Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's administration and

implement anti-corruption reforms.

At least 24 people, including three children, were injured in a bomb explosion near an anti-government protest site in the Thai capital of Bangkok on Sunday afternoon. On Saturday night, unidentified attackers shot and threw grenades at a protest site in east Thailand's Trat Province, leaving a five-year-old girl dead and 34 others injured.—Xinhua

Major fire breaks out at Mumbai suburb

MUMBAI, 24 Feb — A major fire broke out at a tyre factory in the eastern suburb of Nahur in Mumbai area on Sunday evening, local media reported.

Ten fire engines and eight water tankers rushed to the spot. The fire broke out at 5:40 pm and firefighting operations are still under way. Eyewitnesses said they saw the flame rising as high as 20 metres, engulfing the entire with smoke. Train services of the Central Railway were affected by the fire. Passengers at Nahur station panicked when they saw a huge blaze from the station. Many commuters left the platform and went to other stations by taking auto-rickshaws. —Xinhua

Landslide in Papua, Indonesia kills 11

JAKARTA, 24 Feb —Heavy downpours wreaked havoc in the provincial capital of Papua that incurred flash floods and landslides, killing 11 people and leaving two missing on Saturday night, official said on Sunday. Three rivers burst their banks and drove the flash floods carrying heavy materials, smashing houses, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster agency told Xinhua via phone on Sunday. "Eleven people have been dead and two remain missing," he said. Rescuers, soldiers and police rushed to the scenes to search for the missing persons and repair the blocked roads, said Sutopo. Scores of people have fled homes to escape the catastrophe, he said.

Seasonal downpours have often incurred floods each year in Indonesia, a chain of 17,500 islands where over millions of people live in vulnerable flood plains near the rivers.

Xinhua



M.O.B



" Expression of Our Deep Appreciation "

We would like to express our sincere thanks to heads of the Government Departments, Representatives of the Foreign Banks, distinguished persons from the business circles and our valued customers for their honorable presence at the signing ceremony of agreement on “ Global Trade Finance Program – Guarantee Facility ” between Myanmar Oriental Bank Limited, and International Finance Corporation held at Traders Hotel (Bago Room) on 18th February 2014.

Myanmar Oriental Bank Limited

The Ministry of Science and Technology The Department of Advanced Science and Technology Call for Application: Post Graduate Diploma in Software Development Course

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar in cooperation with the Republic of India is offering a 9- month Post- Graduate Diploma in Software Development Course on 5th May, 2014.
2. The first six months of the PGDSD will be held at The International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIITB) in India, and the last three months at Mandalay.
3. The Government of India shall meet all the costs toward course fees, living expenses and travel expenses during their stay in India for six months.
4. The cost of boarding and lodging for the three months period at Mandalay will have to be met by the candidates.
5. M.E (IT), M.C.Sc, M.C.Tech, B.E (IT), B.C.Sc (Hons), and B.C.Tech(Hons) degree holders are eligible to apply the course but they are required to obtain 60% or more marks in every year of their collage education and complete the college education not earlier than June 30, 2011.
6. Interested eligible candidates may submit applications online at (<http://www.ucsm.edu.mm>) not later than 28 February, 2014.
7. One passport size photo (taken in the last six months period), a copy of Degree certificate, and certificates of marks in every year of college education must be attached.
8. Applicants who meet the submission requirements have to take the entrance examination on 15th March, 2014.
9. List of exam Seat-No and exam centers will be announced on The University of Computer Studies, Mandalay Website .
10. Visit The University of Computer Studies, Mandalay Website or call 09-6502215, 09 6505012 for additional information.

S Korea proposes to DPRK for FMD vaccine aid

SEOUL, 24 Feb —South Korea proposed on Monday to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to offer vaccines and disinfection equipment against foot-and-mouth disease which has swept over the

Northern neighbour, multiple local media reported.

An unidentified official at Seoul's Unification Ministry told reporters that the South Korean government offered to hold working- level talks with

the DPRK Monday morning to discuss how to help prevent the further spread of the foot-and-mouth disease in the North. No detailed schedule for the dialogue was predetermined, the official said.—Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Myanmar Mamee Double Decker Ltd a Company incorporated in Myanmar and having its registered office at No 41, Trank Road, Pyinmabin Industrial Complex, Mingalardon Township, Yangon is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:-



Reg. No 14754/2013

in respect of " all types and varieties of instant noodles and readymade meals made of different type of noodles."

Action will be taken in a Court of Law for any fraudulent imitation or other infringements or unauthorized use of the above Trade Mark.

U Nay Lin Tun, H.G.P (Licence-28290)

Phone:0943159906



Staff with panda-shaped hats register guests for welcoming the arrival of giant pandas at Pairi Daiza Zoo, about 60 km southwest of Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 23 Feb, 2014. A pair of giant panda from China, Xing Hui, the male, and Hao Hao, the female, arrive at Belgium on Sunday and will stay here for the next 15 years for a scientific research programme.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

Invitation to Open Tender

1. Opened Tender are invited by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications for **Ka↔Ku Bandwidth 56 Mbps** that shall not any effect (or) Service outage to existing services of Ku-Band related MPT Satellite Terminal System.
2. Service charges will be paid by foreign currency.
3. Tender closing date is (27.2.2014) and details can be asked on (24.2.2014) at Head Office Building, Overseas Communications Department, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, 8th Mile Junction, Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Mayangone T/S, Yangon.
4. Please get price quotation when we call you the day for price bargaining.
5. For further detail, please call 01 650118, 09 450000142.

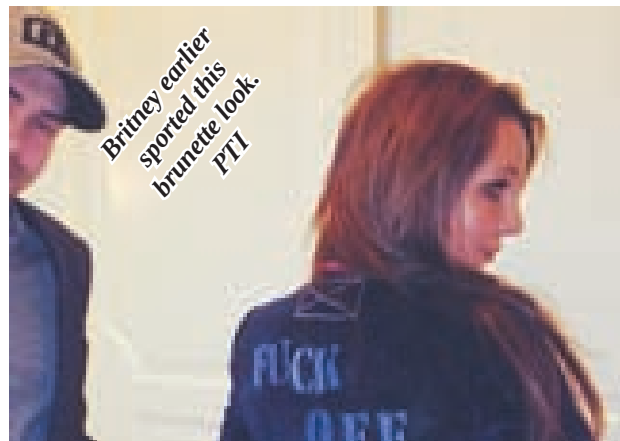
Myanma Posts and Telecommunications

Britney Spears turns into redhead

LOS ANGELES, 24 Feb — Singer Britney Spears has changed her hair colour yet again with a red-flaming locks. Britney Spears, 32, who is known for her long blonde locks, flaunted her new look just two weeks after debuting a brunette hairdo on an Instagram picture, reported Ace Showbiz.

The mother of two showed off her new fiery tresses while performing for her residency show at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

She strutted her stuff in various outfits that included a black leather corset and a sparkly mesh bodysuit. Spears kicked off her show in the Sin City late December last year and is expected to run around 100 shows. Celebrities like Katy Perry, Selena Gomez, Miley Cyrus, and Adam Lambert were spotted coming to watch her performances. —PTI



Britney earlier sported this brunette look. —PTI

Eva Mendes, Ryan Gosling are still together

LOS ANGELES, 24 Feb — Actor Ryan Gosling was spotted visiting girlfriend Eva Mendes' Hollywood Hills home thereby squashing the rumours of a split between him and the actress.

Ryan Gosling, 33, was photographed holding onto his phone as he stood behind Eva Mendes' driveway gate. With only his upper body



exposed, the Gangster Squad actor was spotted smiling in the picture, reported Us magazine. Speculation of a split between the couple of two years has surfaced as of late.

Ryan Gosling was also seen driving Eva Mendes' SUV in Beverly Hills on 9 February. The hunk and Girl in



Progress star haven't been photographed together in three months; they were last seen smiling arm-in-arm during a Thanksgiving stroll in NYC.

—PTI

The couple hadn't been photographed together in three months. — PTI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV GIANG HAI 11 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GIANG HAI 11 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) 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 RK SHIPPING**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ROYAL 16 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ROYAL 16 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) 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 RK SHIPPING**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Nelson Mandela's daughters invited for 2014 Oscars

LOS ANGELES, 24 Feb — Former South African President Nelson Mandela's daughters Zindziwa and Zenani have been invited to the 86th Academy Awards, where song Ordinary Love from Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom will be performed.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences invited the late anti-apartheid hero's daughters to catch U2's performance of the Oscar-nominated song



The song Ordinary Love from Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom will be performed at the Oscars. — PTI

during the ceremony, reported Deadline.

"This is especially meaningful to us because of how much our father loved watching movies. This song was inspired by the beautiful letters that my father and mother exchanged while he was imprisoned at Robben Island," the girls said in a statement.

The award show is slated to take place on 2 March.

—PTI

Tabu discharged from hospital after having breathing problems

SRI NAGAR, 24 Feb — Bollywood actress Tabu, who was admitted to a hospital here following breathing problems, got discharged after remaining under observation for three hours.

The 42-year-old actress is currently shooting in Kashmir for Vishal Bhardwaj's Haider. Tabu had to be taken to a hospital on 21 February and she got released by the evening

and returned to shooting. "Tabu was hospitalised here on Friday (February 21) and kept under observation for three hours.

She was discharged in the evening," an official of the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS)

hospital here said. He said the actor was complaining of some breathing problems due to inhalation of smoke on the sets of Haider. Tabu later returned to work and completed the shoot.

The film also which stars Shahid Kapoor, Shraddha Kapoor and Irrfan Khan. It is based on Shakespeare's tragedy Hamlet. — PTI



Tabu is shooting for Vishal Bhardwaj's Haider in Srinagar. — PTI

SPORTS

Sochi closes Olympics in the glow of success



The Sochi Winter Games closes on Sunday night. International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach hails the Olympics as “the athletes’ Games”.

XINHUA

SOCI, 24 Feb — Russia has delivered a “spectacular” Olympics as the Sochi Winter Games closed on Sunday night with the whole country basking in athletic achievements and compliments from the Olympic chief. In a fitting end to the Sochi Olympics, Alexander Legkov led Russia’s podium sweep at the men’s 50km cross country skiing and the host four-man bobsled team won a second gold, consolidating Russia’s top place on the

medal table — an ending few would have imagined after it finished only 11th in the 2010 Games.

Despite a few glitches including an unopened Olympic ring that marred the otherwise perfect opening ceremony, the Games was generally well-run. International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach congratulated Russia in the closing ceremony for delivering “all what it had promised” and thanked President Vladimir Putin for his role

ensuring their “extraordinary success”. Bach said the Games showed “the face of a new Russia, efficient and friendly, patriotic and open to the world”, hailing the Olympics as “the athletes’ Games”.

Earlier in the day, Bach rated the Sochi Olympics as a “great” Games without a single complaint from athletes. Bach said all participants had “overwhelmingly positive” response to the Games and they “loved” the venues and facilities. “Whether you speak with

the athletes, national Olympic committee, international federations, sponsors or broadcasters you hear a lot of praise for these Games,” he said. Bach’s recognition was music to ears to the hosts who spent more than 50 billion US dollars on a world-class resort, six stadiums and long-term infrastructure improvements for the Sochi region.

Russia, according to Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak, has fulfilled every pledge made by President Putin when he successfully bid for the Olympics in 2007 and promised a “really spectacular event”. Russia, shut out of top 10

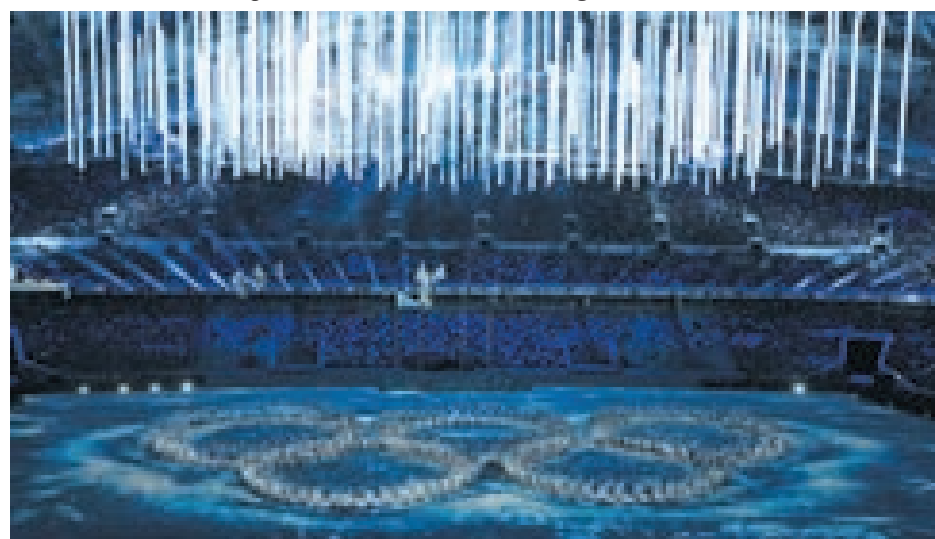
with only three golds at last Games, proudly perched atop this time, having garnered 33 medals including 13 golds. About one fourth of Russia’s golds came from former South Korean Victor An, who won Russian hearts by sweeping three golds and one bronze to be the most successful athlete in Sochi. An now has eight Olympic medals in total after also winning three golds and a bronze for South Korea in 2006.

Norway, spearheaded by Marit Bjergen and Ole Einar Bjoerndalen, came second overall with a 11-5-10 haul. Bjergen, 33, won a record sixth gold

in the women’s 30km mass start, equalling the record of Soviet speed skater Lidia Skoblikova and Russian cross country skier Lyubov Yegorova in taking six golds at Winter Olympics, the most by any woman. Bjoerndalen became the greatest Winter Olympian in history by taking a record 13th medal. His eight winter Olympic golds tied compatriot Bjoern Daehlie’s record.

Canada ranked third overall on its 10th gold from the 3-0 ice hockey victory over Sweden. It also swept two curling titles.

Xinhua



The Sochi Winter Games closes on Sunday night.—XINHUA

Motor racing—Earnhardt Jr wins Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, (Florida), 24 Feb — Dale Earnhardt Jr. drove his Chevrolet to victory in the rain-interrupted Daytona 500 on Sunday in the season-opening NASCAR race.

Denny Hamlin was second in a Toyota and Brad Keselowski finished third in a Ford.

The crashed-marred race was a marathon contest, completed after a six hour, 21 minute rain delay that was the longest single day delay in the 56 years of the race.—Reuters



Crew members of NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Denny Hamlin (11), Kyle Busch (18) and Kasey Kahne (5) put covers over the cars during a rain delay during the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway. REUTERS

Losing finalist Dubuisson makes big PGA Tour splash

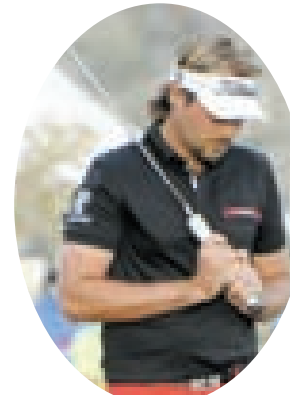
LOS ANGELES, 24 Feb — Three months after bursting into the limelight with his maiden victory on the European Tour, Victor Dubuisson elevated his profile on the PGA Tour in spectacular fashion Sunday at the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship.

Despite never having played matchplay golf until this week’s elite event in Marana, Arizona, the 23-year-old Frenchman produced several moments of magic, along with a bucketful of birdies, as he stormed through to Sunday’s final. Though bitterly disappointed after losing one down to Australian Jason Day in a marathon title match that lasted 23 holes

at Dove Mountain, Dubuisson had much to be proud of after making only his fifth start on the US circuit.

“I’m happy but, at the same time, disappointed because this afternoon I didn’t play very well,” the Cannes native told reporters after a birdie by Day at the 23rd hole, the driveable par-four 15th, ended the match.” I just battled, especially the back nine. And at the end, I really battled hard because I wanted to take a chance, at least try to take my chance. “I’ve learned that my nerves, my mental approach, can be very solid in a difficult situation. I’ve learned that anything can happen. I did well this week and I had some good nerve against my opponent. I know what I have to do now to improve.”

Dubuisson, who in November won the inaugural Turkish Airlines Open where Tiger Woods and US Open champion Justin Rose were also in the field, conjured two spectacular recovery shots on Sunday that fans watching will never forget.—Reuters



Japanese figure skater Mao Asada successfully lands her trademark triple axel during a free programme in the women’s figure skating competition at the Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia on 20 Feb, 2014, as seen in this composite photo.—KYODO NEWS

GENERAL

OBITUARY

David Peter McCormack

Aged 79 years

Retired General Manager British Airways Yangon (1972-1975), Retired General Manager Myanmar Airways International (1993- 1994), son of the late Mr. & Mrs. L.G McCormack, beloved husband of Sheila Joyce (a) Mya Mya Than, passed away peacefully at home in UK on 30th January, 2014 at 1:20 pm.

Funeral service will take place at Worthing Crematorium, West Sussex on 27th Feb '14. Friends and relatives please accept this as the only intimation.

Two kids killed by rock slide in southeast France

PARIS, 24 Feb — Two children were killed on Sunday morning after a rock crushed a cottage located in Isola village in southeastern France, local media reported.

The two victims, aged seven and 10 years old respectively, were found under the rubble by rescue teams while five adults were unharmed, the local broadcaster Europe1 said.

"Early this morning, north of Isola, a large rock of tens of cubic meters fell

on the road and slammed into the three-storey cottage which stood at roadside," colonel Gael Marchand, commander of gendarmerie group of Alpes-Maritimes, was quoted as saying.

A total of 60 firefighters were deployed to carry out rescue operation, according to the report. Earlier this month, a rock slide had derailed a tourist train in les Alpes-de-Haute-Provence in southern France, killing two people and injuring several others.—Xinhua

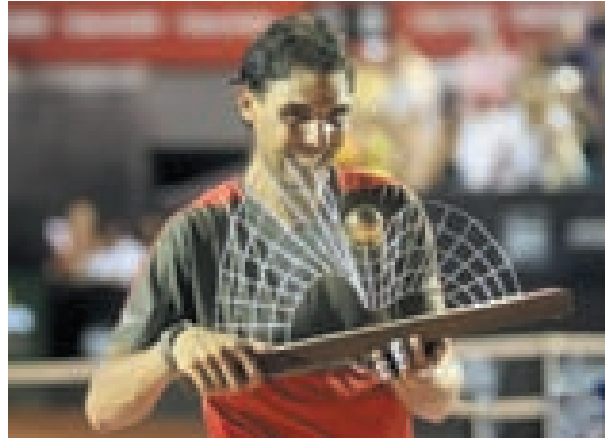
Australian youth unemployment reaches crisis point

SYDNEY, 24 Feb — Youth unemployment in Australia has hit a crisis point, with jobless rate reaching 21 percent in some key hotspots of the country, according to an analysis of the latest official figures released on Monday by welfare group Brotherhood of St Laurence.

The Brotherhood of St

Laurence says its analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 at an alarming 12.2 percent across Australia in the year to January, up from 8.8 percent in 2008. The organization says its snapshot reveals youth unemployment rate in some parts of

Nadal wins Rio Open



RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Feb — Rafael Nadal brushed aside injury concerns by winning the Rio Open on Sunday, beating Alexandr Dolgoplov 6-3, 7-6 (3). In his first tournament since tweaking his back during his loss to Stanislas Wawrinka in the Australian Open final last month, Nadal secured his 48th ATP title on Rio's outdoor clay.

He needed just 39 minutes to take the first set but Dolgoplov emerged with renewed verve in the second, breaking the Spaniard as he served for the match. Having taken the set to a tie-break, the Ukraine's composure buckled with a double fault followed by an unforced error as Na-

dal marched to his 43rd clay-court title. "Clearly, it was important for me to get back and win after what happened in the final in Australia," Nadal said.

The 27-year-old is already looking forward to defending his title next year and returning for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

"I leave with the sensation that Brazil is something special for me," he added. Earlier, Japan's Kurumi Nara clinched the women's title by beating top-seeded Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 4-6, 6-1. "I love Rio. I can't believe I won the tournament but I am very happy," Nara said.

Xinhua

young people who want to work but are getting locked out of the workforce and locked into welfare dependency because they have no choice," he said in a statement on Monday.

"It's a disaster for communities, leading to more homelessness and despair for young people and their families."—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(25-2-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:40 am

2. Documentary

8:00 am

3. News/ International News

9:30 am

4. Documentary

10:15 am

5. T V Drama Series

11:30 am

6. Musical Programme

12:00 pm

7. News / International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm

8. Myanmar Video

3:00 pm

9. News

4:15 pm

10. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Chemistry)

5:00 pm

11. News

6:20 pm

12. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

6:35 pm

13. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

14. News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

15. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:00 pm

16. News

17. Documentary

18. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe

19. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

25-2-14 07:00 am ~
26-2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Hiker's Journey (Taung Gyi City)(Ep-1)
- * World News
- * Dengue Fever
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations - The Making Procedure of Goldsmith
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * Let's Unite (Lihsu Traditional Dance)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Master Class "Still Life (Fruit)"
- * Local News
- * An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques
- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Local News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Sunee
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (EP-2)
- * World News
- * Art Students: Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * Rakhine Tourist Area
- * World News
- * [Doctor][Painter]
- * Local News
- * Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises
- * World News
- * A Monk's Robe

Int'l community calls for unity in Ukraine after president ousted

KIEV, 24 Feb — International community has called on all sides in Ukraine to preserve the country's unity and avoid violence after President Viktor Yanukovich was dismissed by parliament following more than three months of protests.

Expressing strong support for actions taken by the Ukrainian parliament, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday urged all sides in the conflicts to refrain from violence and respect Ukraine's democratic institutions.

In a telephone talk with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, he said his country hoped Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and dem-

ocratic freedom of choice will be respected by all the parties.

The top US diplomat also hoped that Russia could join the United States and the European Union to help Ukraine "turn the page and emerge from this crisis stronger, united and moving forward through new elections and critically needed reforms."

U.S. President Barack Obama's National Security Adviser Susan Rice said "it's not in the interests of Ukraine or of Russia or of Europe or of the United States to see the country (Ukraine) split."

On Sunday, Ukrainian lawmakers voted to hand over the duties of the president to new parlia-

ment Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov, one day after the lawmakers ousted Yanukovich from his post and set an early election for 25 May. Considering the escalation of the situation in Ukraine, Russia decided on Sunday to call its ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov back to Moscow for "consultations."

In a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed that "Ukraine must quickly get a government capable of acting and its territorial integrity must be preserved."

The European Union also expressed its support for Ukraine to stabilize the country's economic situa-

tion and find a lasting solution to the political crisis.

EU's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton will pay a visit to Ukraine on Monday for talks, saying that everyone in the conflicts should behave responsibly with a view to protecting the country's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius on Sunday urged Ukrainians to preserve the country's unity and integrity and to refrain from violence.

"We want a respect of the constitution, the formation of a new government and the preparation of elections as soon as possible," he said.—Xinhua



A woman does the shopping while sitting on Honda Motor Co's Uni-Cub personal mobility device during a demonstration at the Grand Front Osaka shopping and business complex in the city of Osaka on 21 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Myanmar's step towards a democratic country at the crossroad: Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at coordination meeting of Union Peace-Making Work Committee.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—A coordination meeting of Union Peace-Making Work Committee took place at the meeting hall of President's Office here on Monday morning, attended by Chairman of the Union Peace-Making Work Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

It was attended by Vice-Chairmen of the Committee Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Aung Min, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Zaw, Union Ministers, Re-

gion/State Chief Ministers, deputy ministers, MPs, deputy Attorney-General, Police Chief and officials.

In his speech, the Vice-President said that a series of peace talks with armed groups have been opened during four months after the current government took office. In an

attempt to ease the country's longest armed conflicts with several armed national races groups, the government has systematically formed the committee for inclusiveness of all stakeholders. In that regard, Union Peace-Making Central Committee and Work Committee were

formed in May 2012. The government has spent 30 of 35 months of its tenure for peace-making efforts. The peace-building is an uphill battle, which causes a loss to lives and distrust among national races.

That's why, the government is seeking every possible way to bring the cases to the negotiation table. The country sees good potentials for finalizing the peace talks in the near future. (See page 9)

Myanmar, China discuss amity & bilateral cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Mr Ai Ping, Vice Minister of the International Department, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) at Hluttaw Complex, on Monday noon.

Present at the call together with the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw were

Chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee U Htay Oo, U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Zaw, U Thein Swe, Thura U Aung Ko, U Hla Myint Oo, U Htay Myint, commission member U Khin Maung Tun and responsible persons from the Hluttaw Office. The visiting delegation was accompanied by the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.

They had a cordial discussion on amity and bilateral cooperation.—MNA

Myanmar seeks way to implement integrated water resources management

YANGON, 24 Feb—Myanmar is cooperating with other countries in the sector of water resources development at present. Water requirement of the country is rising due to population and economic growth and it needs to conserve river basins for sustainable use of water. Myanmar has been carrying out integrated water resources management (IWRM) phase by phase, said U Han Sein, Member of National Level Water Resources Committee and Deputy Minister for Transport, at the Workshop on How to Implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Roles of River Basin Or-

ganizations at Micasa Hotel in Yangon on Monday.

Chairman of Ayeyawady River Basin Research Organization (AR-BRO) Dr Swe Swe Aye and Representative Mr Shigeharu JIKAN of Japanese Water Agency & NARBO explained matters related to integrated water resources management and river basins. Then, the scholars gave suggestions on integrated water resources management of Myanmar, integrated water resources management experience of ASEAN countries and Japan and ways to implement integrated water resources management in Myanmar.—MNA

Union government gives first priority to rural development and poverty alleviation

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—Myanmar Industrial Development Bank had disbursed K 10 billion loans with an 8.5 percent interest rate to 62 small-and medium-scale entrepreneurs across the country. The bank has not limited the number of borrowers and has been disbursing not only State loans but also bank loans to them on an equal basis in accord with rules and regulations, said Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung in his response to a question raised by MP U Ko Gyi of Aung-

myethazan Constituency at the Pyithu Hluttaw session held on Monday.

There is no discrimination against women in Myanmar society according to Myanmar's custom, tradition and culture and they have better chances comparing with those from other Asian countries, said Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung in his reply to the question by MP Daw Zartalam of Thantlang Constituency. He continued that provisions on gender equality

are stated in the Constitution, adding Social Welfare Department held two workshops with the participation of representatives from political parties and MPs for enactment of a law on violence against Myanmar women in coordination with Gender Equality Network. Women made up of 51.42 % of staff population in the government organizations in 2008-09, 51.65 % in 2009-10 and 52.39 % in 2010-11, he said.

Myanmar had signed The United Nations Com-

mittee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in July 1997 and launched National Level Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women for 10-year period. Twelve tasks were designated depending on Beijing Platform for Action and UNCEDAW and its fundamental purpose is to alleviate poverty and enhance likelihood of women.

Social Welfare Department formed Working Group for Enhancing Women's Empowerment (See page 9)

Thai-Myanmar Friendship Cycling Festival held

MYAWADY, 24 Feb—Thai-Myanmar Friendship Cycling Festival was held on Maesot-Myawady Friendship Bridge on 22 February.

The chairman of Tak District of Thailand and party, the Myawady District deputy commissioner and officials opened the ceremony. Over 900 cyclist students from Maesot of Thailand and over 300 cyclist students from Myawady stopped over at Wei Shan Middle School compound near Myawady Friendship Bridge.



Funfairs and lucky draw arrangements for students followed.

The team left Wei Shan Middle School for Thailand passing through

the friendship bridge. Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Border Town)