

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Chairman of Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd



NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—Vice-President U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Sir Henry Keswick, Chairman of Jardine Matheson Holdings Limited (London), at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Tuesday morning.

They discussed matters related to services in engineering, construction, transportation, hotel and beverages, trading of motor vehicles included in the world's top list, real estate, retailing of personal goods, investment in supermarkets and hypermarkets and trading opportunities.

Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin and Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin and officials also attended the meeting.

MNA

**Vice-President U
Nyan Tun shaking
hands with Sir Henry
Keswick, Chairman
of Jardine Matheson
Holdings Limited
(London).**

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

(Order No. 6/2014)

11th Waning of Tabodwe, 1375 ME

(25 February, 2014)

Formation of Anti-Bribery Commission

Under Sections 7, 9 and 10 of the Anti-Corruption Law, the Anti-Bribery Commission was formed with the following persons at the positions shown against each.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| (1) U Mya Win | Chairman |
| Military Serviceman (Rtd) | |
| (2) U Kyaw Kyaw | Member |
| Director-General (Rtd, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) | |
| (3) U Soe Tint | Member |
| Director (Rtd, Office of Auditor-General of the Union) | |
| (4) U Than Aung | Member |
| Director (Rtd, Office of Attorney-General of the Union) | |
| (5) U Maung Shein | Member |
| Military Serviceman (Rtd) | |
| (6) Dr Taik San | Member |
| Professor (Rtd; Defence Services Technological Academy) | |
| (7) U Nay Win | Member |
| Ambassador (Rtd) | |
| (8) Daw Myat Myat Soe | Member |
| Director-General (Rtd, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development) | |
| (9) U Thin Maung | Member |
| Director (Rtd, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development) | |
| (10) U Sun Dok Ciint | Member |
| Deputy Director (Rtd, Office of Attorney-General of the Union) | |
| (11) Dr Nyi Nyi Tun | Member |
| Veterinarian, (Rtd, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development) | |
| (12) U Kyaw Myint | Member |
| Military Serviceman (Rtd) | |

(See page 8)

Khabaung Dam, reliable for summer paddy in Toungoo, Ottwin Tsps

Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is building dams and reservoirs in the nation, aiming at developing the regions, carrying out greening tasks and preventive measures against floods and boosting productions of crops.

Among many dams and reservoirs, Khabaung Dam is located 1.25 miles downstream of Khabaung and Paraing creeks in Ottwin Township of Bago Region. One diversion weir is under construction five miles downstream of the dam.

Damming Khabaung

Creek, earthen Khabaung Dam Project, kicked off in 2002. The embankment is 200 feet high. Main embankment is 920 feet long and saddle dike, 800 feet long. The dam can store 878570 acre-feet of water at its full brim. Water diversion tunnel is 12.12 feet diameter and 1200 feet long.

A hydropower station at the dam is installed with two 15 megawatts generators to generate 120 million kilowatt hours yearly.

Khabaung Diversion Weir is of ogee type, five miles downstream of the dam. It is 150 feet wide and 25 feet high facility. Main

Byline: NLM-018

canal is 46.40 miles long, right canal 30.63 miles long and left canal 15.77 miles long. Left tributary canal is 29.30 miles long and the left one, 11.49 miles.

It is estimated that all irrigation system would be completed in 2014 to benefit 65000 acres of farmlands.

In construction of the diversion weir, a total of 3,934,968 suds of soil were dug for the right main canal and 1,599,942 suds for the left canal. In 2013-14 cultivation season, a total of 20000 acres of farmlands



Sluice gate of left main canal at Khabaung Dam

can be put under summer irrigated by left canal and 40000 acres by right canal, totalling 60000.

In the future, Khabaung

Dam and diversion weir will be an engine for creating job opportunity of the local people, greening the environs, boosting produc-

tion of crops and alleviating poverty of the rural people.

Trs: TTA

LOCAL NEWS

Saw Tsp to get 12 bridges, 19-mile inter-village road

SAW, 25 Feb—Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development is giving priority to transport, availability of safe water, education and health care tasks for development of rural people.

Saw Township Rural Development Department of Gangaw District is building 19 miles long earthen inter-village road linking seven villages and 12 concrete foundation bridges.

Sein Shwewah Co uses machines and heavy machinery for construction of the road and bridges to be completed on schedule.

Head of Magway

Region Rural Development Department U Nay Htet Shein and Head of Gangaw Township Department U Myo Min Thant looked into progress of the earthen road.

Head of Saw Township RDDU Htay Win conducted them round the worksite.

One 200 feet long bridge, one 100 feet long bridge and 10 under 50 feet long bridges are being constructed at a cost of K 589 million.

In the past, local people faced difficulties in transport. Now, the road and bridges are being built so the people are pleased for betterment of road transportation.

MMAL-Yuzana
(Chauk)



Free health care, educative talks given in Bilin

BILIN, 25 Feb—Jointly organized by Thaton District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Women's Affairs Organization, Township MCWA and Health Department, the medical team provided health care services to the local people at mobile clinic on 21 February.

Officials of the team gave educative talks to the local people and gave clothes and refreshment to pre-primary

children at the hall of Kazaing Village administrator. Chairperson of Thaton District MCWSC Daw Sein Sein Soe made a speech. Assistant Surgeon Dr Daw Ei Ei Kyaw of Township Health Department gave talks on TB diseases and other health knowledge. Officials presented clothes and toys to 32 children.

Medical team also provided free health care to 79 patients.

Township level departmental officials and Headmistress Daw Khin Aye Myint of Kazaing BEHS lectured human trafficking, traffic rules and culture and traditional costumes.—Kyemon-Township IPRD

Action taken against undisciplined 30 bikers

KYAUKDAGA, 25 Feb—A team comprising departmental officials, members of auxiliary fire brigade and ward administrators led by Kyaukdaga Township Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee Township Administrator U Htet Aung Phyo stopped the motorcycles on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in front of the ward administrator office

in Kwinnauk Ward of Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region on 24 February. The authorities opened files of lawsuit against 30 motorcycles that offended the traffic rules.

Kyaukdaga Township Court charged them at 1000 per motorcycles and Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee charged K 5000 per motorcycles.—MMAL-Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS HONoured:
Member of Myawady District Census Committee Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Myint made a speech. Assistant Director U Win Myat Soe of District Immigration and National Registration Department explained the census taking process. Officials awarded prize winners in essay contest at Myawady Basic Education High School in Myawady, Kayin State.—MMAL-NADI MYINT MO (MYAWADY)

Voluntary Services

Red Cross Society of Thailand meet with Meiktila Township Red Cross Society

MEIKTILA, 25 Feb—Organizational Development Section of Myanmar Red Cross Society and Thai Red Cross Society held a meeting with Chairperson of District Red Cross Society Daw Kyi Kyi Khaing and Chairperson of Township RC Brigade at the hall of Meiktila Township Red Cross Society on 22 February. Responsible persons of the guest team explained activities of Thai Red Cross Society and training matters. Meiktila Township Red Cross Society explained its activities in the township, and conducting training course on

Inter-Ward Basic First-Aid Course 1/2014.

They visited the training course and held discussions with three groups of trainees who conducted practical works and lectures.

They also viewed activities of Meiktila Township Red Cross Society. The Thai team arrived in one month stay for realizing amity and gaining experiences.

Three members of Myanmar Red Cross Society will pay visits to Thailand in March.—MMAL-Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)



A police member take action against a motorcycle that offends traffic rules in Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region.

WORLD

New Zealand committed to NATO cooperation in Afghanistan

WELLINGTON, 25 Feb — New Zealand Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman will pledge his country's continued commitment to NATO operations in Afghanistan and other areas in Brussels this week.

Defence ministers of NATO-ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) states would discuss the military drawdown in Afghanistan and planning for NATO's post-2014 training, advice and assistance mission, Coleman said in a statement on Tuesday.

"New Zealand remains committed to supporting the final stages of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan to December 2014. It is important to secure the gains made by the international community over the last decade," he said.

"Our 27 NZDF (New Zealand Defence Force) personnel make a small but valuable contribution. The government has previously confirmed that a small number of personnel are expected to remain at the UK-led Afghan National Army Officer Training Academy in training assistance and capacity building roles beyond 2014."

New Zealand was also committed to supporting NATO in areas of common interest, such as international maritime security efforts including NATO's anti-piracy mission, Operation Ocean Shield, in the Gulf of Aden region.

Xinhua

Anti-gov't protest leaders guarded by armed men at protest sites in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 25 Feb — Leaders of anti-government protesters are being guarded by about 500 gun-carrying men at several protest sites in the heart of the Thai capital, said a high-level government official Tuesday.

Acting Labour Minister Chalerm Yubamrung, who heads the government's Centre for Maintaining of Peace and Order, said no less than 500 men have armed themselves with handguns to provide tight security for protest leaders. They are headed by former Deputy Premier Suthep Thaugsuban, who

has been persistently pressing acting Premier Yingluck Shinawatra to step down over the past few months.

Hundreds of the armed guards have circled around the protest leaders at street areas around Patumwan, Rajprasong and Lumpini intersections where they have had their followers occupy since last month, according to Chalerm.

"The unarmed policemen could not arrest protest leaders at the protest sites because they would otherwise get shot by gunmen hired as their guards," he said.

Chalerm said that the police will not use force against the protest leaders or their followers despite emergency rule currently enforced in the capital and outlying provinces.

The CMPO chief said he knew who hired those armed men but was declined to tell. "We not only know who they are and where they come from but know what types of weapons they're using," Chalerm said. The remarks came after Tuesday's arrest of three ex-navy officers in Rayong Province, about 200 kilometers southeast of Bangkok.—Xinhua



Thai caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (C) visits the One Tambon, One Product (OTOP) complex at Phu Khae District in Saraburi Province, Thailand, on 24 Feb, 2014. 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. —XINHUA

Fugitive Ukraine leader wanted for murder, Russia sounds alarm

KIEV, 25 Feb — Ukraine's fugitive president was indicted for "mass murder" on Monday over the shooting of demonstrators as new leaders in Kiev sought urgent Western aid to make up for a loss of funding from Russia, which is angry at the overthrow of its ally.

Moscow said it would not deal with those who led an "armed mutiny" against Viktor Yanukovich, who was elected in 2010, and said it now feared for the lives of its citizens, notably in the Russian-speaking east and Crimea on the Black Sea. Russia's top general agreed with NATO to maintain contact on a crisis that has raised fears of civil war and which UN chief Ban Ki-moon said



Local riot police kneel as they apologize to Lviv residents for taking part in an operation against anti-government protesters in Kiev but said that they did not beat protesters, during a rally in central Lviv on 24 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

called for an "inclusive political process" that "preserves Ukraine's ... territorial integrity".

While Russia, its strategy for maintaining influence in its former Soviet neighbour in shreds, made

clear its \$15-billion package of loans and cheap gas deals was in jeopardy, the European Union and United States offered urgent financial assistance for a new government that may be formed on Tuesday.

They were responding to warnings from Ukraine's acting head of state that the country was heading for bankruptcy.

The acting interior minister — appointed by parliament when Yanukovich fled at the weekend after mass protests sparked by his rejection of closer ties with the European Union — said the 63-year-old was now on the wanted list and had last been seen at Balaclava in Crimea, near Russia's Sevastopol naval base. "An official case for the mass murder of peaceful citizens has been opened," Arsen Avakov wrote on Facebook, referring to the shooting by police marksmen of many of the 82 people killed in two days of bloodshed in Kiev last week.

Reuters

Firms urged to pay into fund for Bangladesh factory victims

BERLIN, 25 Feb — Campaigners are urging all 27 clothing brands linked to a collapsed Bangladeshi factory that killed more than 1,100 people to pay into a compensation fund by the anniversary of the disaster in April.

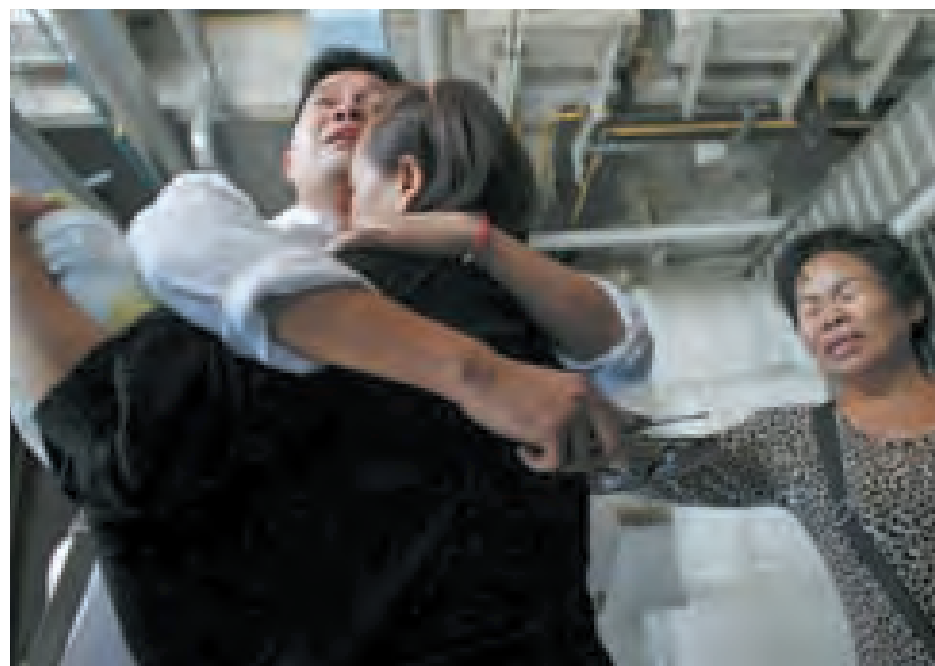
The disaster has galvanized most of the clothing industry's big names to work together to improve safety standards but many brands have shunned a fund that is trying to raise \$40 million for families of the dead and over 2,000 injured.

The Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC), an Amsterdam-based group lobbying for better conditions in the garment industry, on Monday demanded that all 27 brands linked to factories in the Rana Plaza complex should contribute by the first anniversary of the collapse.

"Compensation efforts to date have been completely haphazard, unequal, unpredictable and non-transparent, and have left large groups of victims with nothing," Ineke Zeldenrust of the CCC said in a statement.

Discount fashion retailer Primark, owned by Associated British Foods, and Canadian grocer Loblaw have already paid short-term support to Rana Plaza workers, but have expressed frustration at slow progress in setting up a fund.

Reuters



The parents of two children who were killed in a bomb blast near an anti-government protest site on Sunday mourn as family members arrive to collect bodies from a hospital in Bangkok on 24 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Italy PM Renzi wins confidence vote, pledging tax cuts, reform

ROME, 25 Feb — Prime Minister Matteo Renzi won his first confidence vote in parliament, pledging to cut labour taxes, free up funds for investment in schools and pass wide institutional reforms to tackle Italy's economic malaise.

Facing parliament for the first time, the 39-year-old Renzi who is

Italy's youngest premier, sketched out an ambitious programme of change in an hour-long speech delivered in his trademark quickfire style interspersed with occasional jeers from the opposition benches.

"If we lose this challenge, the fault will be mine alone," he told the Senate.

The euro zone's third-largest economy is in urgent need of potentially painful reforms and is weighed down by a 2-trillion-euro public debt.

Backed by his own centre-left Democratic Party (PD), the small centre-right NCD party, centrists and other minor groups, Renzi won the backing of the upper house by 169 votes to 139

in a vote taken in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

The outgoing 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 criticising his government's record.

Reuters



Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi looks on during a confidence vote at the Senate in Rome on 24 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

Obama approves civilian nuke deal with Vietnam

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb — US President Barack Obama on Monday approved a civilian nuclear deal with Vietnam that allows for US export of civilian nuclear technology and facilities to the Southeast Asian nation. In a memo to Secretary of State John Kerry and Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, the president said he has approved the proposed agreement for cooperation with Vietnam on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and authorized Kerry to "arrange for its execution."

"I have determined that the performance of the agreement will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security," Obama noted.

The US Congress has 90 days to review the pact, which will go into effect if lawmakers do not act.

Under the deal reached in October, Vietnam pledged not to enrich its own uranium but to acquire what it needs on the international market instead.

Xinhua



Rescuers guide students to extinguish a fire during a defence drill at the Ulpna Bnei Akiva school for girls, Pisgat Ze'ev, East Jerusalem, on 24 Feb, 2014. Israeli Education Ministry, together with the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) Homefront Command, the local authorities, the police, Magen David Adam (MDA) as well as fire and rescue forces, held a nation-wide defence drill, including evacuation of wounded students, fire extinguishing and preparation for rocket strikes on Monday to sharpen procedures in case of an emergency for students from elementary through high school, as well as at kindergartens.—XINHUA

Iraq signs deal to buy arms, ammunition from Iran

BAGHDAD, 25 Feb — Iran has signed a deal to sell Iraq arms and ammunition worth \$195 million, according to documents seen by Reuters — a move that would break a UN embargo on weapons sales by Teheran.

The agreement was reached at the end of November, the documents showed, just weeks after Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki returned

from lobbying the Obama administration in Washington for extra weapons to fight al-Qaeda-linked militants.

Some in Washington are nervous about providing sensitive US military equipment to a country they worry is becoming too close to Iran. Several Iraqi lawmakers said Maliki had made the deal because he was fed up with delays in US arms deliveries.

A spokesman for the Iraqi prime minister would not confirm or deny the sale, but said such a deal would be understandable given Iraq's current security troubles.

"We are launching a war against terrorism and we want to win this war. Nothing prevents us from buying arms and ammunition from any party and it's only ammunition helping us to fight terror-

ists," said the spokesman, Ali Mussawi.

The Iranian government denied any knowledge of a deal to sell arms to Iraq. It would be the first official arms deal between Shi'ite Iran and Iraq's Shi'ite-led government and would highlight the growing bond between them in the two years since the departure of US troops from Iraq.

Reuters

Cuba continues to trim state payroll, build private sector

HAVANA, 25 Feb — Cuba continued to shed state jobs and move workers into the private sector in 2013, according to a report issued by the official labor federation at the weekend, as President Raul Castro pressed forward with reforms to the Soviet-style system. The Cuban Communist Party adopted plans in 2011 to "modernize" the economy in search of greater efficiency and improved salaries for state workers.

The plan includes

shedding secondary economic activity in favor of markets, private businesses, cooperatives and leasing systems, while concentrating resources on major state-run companies in hopes of making them more competitive.

The official Juventud Rebelde newspaper said on Sunday that the main report approved by the labour federation's congress over the weekend stated more than 10 percent of state jobs had been cut since 2009. "Jobs

in the state civil sector have decreased by 596,500 since 2009," Juventud Rebelde quoted the report as stating.

Cuba has a potential labor force of over 6 million, of which 5 million were reported employed in 2012, the last official figures available. At the same time, the number of private, or "non-state" workers as Cuba calls them, rose to over 1 million in 2012, close to double the number reported in 2009.

The majority of the



Cuba's President Raul Castro addresses the audience during the opening session of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) summit in Havana on 28 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

non-state workers were farmers, whose numbers have grown under Castro's agricultural reforms, which include leasing state lands

to individuals. The goal is to stimulate local food production and cut the need for budget-draining food imports.—Reuters

No death penalty for 2 Italian marines as India drops anti-terror charge

NEW DELHI, 25 Feb — The Indian government Monday dropped the contentious anti-terror charge against two Italian marines accused of killing two Indian fishermen in 2012, thus exempting the duo from death penalty if convicted.

The government conveyed its decision to the Supreme Court which was approached by Italy last month amid apprehensions that the two marines — Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone — could be tried on the controversial anti-terror charge which carries death penalty.

Meanwhile, the apex court has also agreed to look into Italy's plea challenging the jurisdiction of the anti-terror National Investigation Agency to probe the case.—Xinhua

More radiation detected at US nuclear waste dump

HOUSTON, 25 Feb — Elevated amounts of airborne radiation was detected on Monday in and around an underground nuclear waste repository in New Mexico, according to US media reports.

The results of the new monitoring data show slightly elevated levels of airborne radiation in and around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southeastern New Mexico, local newspaper quoted officials with the US Energy Department as saying.

Officials said the results were from samples collected last week at numerous air monitoring stations at the facility and in the surrounding area. At the same time, officials were reassuring the public that the leak poses no threat to public health.—Xinhua

WORLD

Gov't says nuclear power important in latest draft energy policy

Tokyo, 25 Feb — The government on Tuesday unveiled a draft energy policy that characterizes atomic power as an important electricity source, although the draft waters down some wording in an earlier version that was seen as strongly pro-nuclear in tone.

In the draft, the government said nuclear energy is an “important base-load power source” that usually supplies electricity continuously through the day, while vowing to push for the restart of reactors that have satisfied new safety requirements introduced after the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi complex disaster.

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, who is responsible for compiling the draft of the so-called Basic Energy Plan, told a press conference that the direction of the policy has “not changed in

principle” despite the revisions.

The draft is expected to become official with Cabinet approval in March, after consultations with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition ally, the New Komeito party.

The government initially wanted to finalize the plan in January, having already unveiled a draft document a month earlier. But it apparently decided to proceed more slowly after seeing how the content stirred controversy among some ruling party lawmakers who found the tone of the plan to be too strongly pro-nuclear.

The original draft said nuclear power is “important” and also serves as a “foundation” for the stability of Japan’s energy supply, but the word “foundation” was removed in the latest draft.

Kyodo News

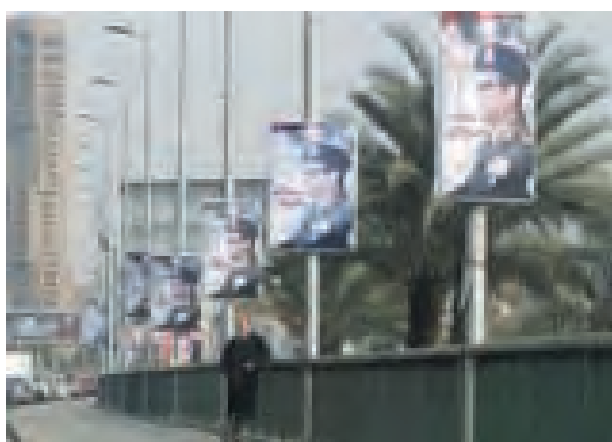


A 158.8-metre chocolate roll cake is exhibited and offered for humanitarian benefit sale during the 6th International Gastronomy, Hotel and Restaurant Equipment and Catering Fair in Zagreb, capital of Croatia, on 22 Feb, 2014. Croatian pastry chefs used more than 60 kilograms of chocolate to set a new Guinness Book of Records entry for the largest roll cake in the world.—XINHUA

Egypt government resigns, paving way for Sisi to seek presidency

CAIRO, 25 Feb — Egypt’s government resigned on Monday, paving the way for army chief Field Marshal Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to declare his candidacy for president of a strategic US ally gripped by political strife.

After the July overthrow of elected Islamist President Mohamed Mursi and subsequent crackdown on Islamists and liberals with hundreds killed and thousands jailed, critics say Cairo’s military-backed authorities are turning the clock back to the era of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, when the political elite ruled with an iron fist in alliance with top businessmen. The outgoing government “made every effort to get Egypt out of the narrow tunnel in



A man stands on a bridge where huge posters of Egypt’s Army chief Field Marshal Abdel Fattah al-Sisi are hung in central Cairo on 3 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

terms of security, economic pressures and political confusion,” Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi said in a live nationwide speech.

Beblawi, who was tasked by interim President Adly Mansour with running

the government’s affairs until the election, did not give a clear reason for the decision.

But the resignation effectively opened the way for Sisi to run for president since he would first have

to leave his post as defense minister in any case. “This (government resignation) was done as a step that was needed ahead of Sisi’s announcement that he will run for president,” an Egyptian official said.

He told *Reuters* that the cabinet had resigned en masse because Sisi did not want to appear to be acting alone. Government spokesman Hany Salah said only: “This government feels that it did what it had to do in this critical period, and maybe it’s time for a change.”

Sisi has unveiled a political roadmap meant to lead to elections after toppling Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood following mass unrest against his increasingly arbitrary rule.

Reuters

S Korean president vows to boost growth with three-year economic plan

SEOUL, 25 Feb — South Korean President Park Geun-hye vowed on Monday to speed up growth to around 4 percent through a three-year economic innovation plan. Park told a Press conference marking the first anniversary of her swearing-in that she will push ahead with the three-year economic blueprint, which focuses on resolving structural and chronic problems inherent in the export-driven economy in the course of rapid growth.

With the three-year economic plan, the potential growth rate will rise to the 4 percent range, while the employment rate will rise to 70 percent and the per capita national income will expand to 40,000 US dollars in her five-year term, she said. The fast growth entailed various side effects such as chronically flagging domestic demand caused by heavy dependence on large-size exporters, fast-follower growth strategy with lack of innovation and abnormal business practices.

Worries mounted about the economy as it could be trapped in low growth due to aging population and lackluster investment in the private sector. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast that South Korea’s potential growth rate may plunge to some 1 percent about 25 years later due to the fast aging population and the expected drop in productive population. The potential growth rate was estimated at around 3.5 percent among local economists.—Xinhua

US Coast Guard reopens

Mississippi River after oil spill

HOUSTON, 25 Feb — The US Coast Guard reopened a stretch of the Mississippi River on Monday, two days after a vessel collision caused an oil spill and prompted closure of the river.

The affected portion of the Mississippi River, a 65-mile (104-km) stretch between New Orleans and Baton Rouge in Louisiana, reopened conditionally to water traffic on Monday, the US Coast Guard said in a Press release. After “a comprehensive assessment of the affected portion of the river,” the Coast Guard “determined the river was safe to transit with restrictions, but “mariners must comply with a broadcast notice by the Coast Guard,” the release said.

The Coast Guard did not specify the restrictions in the release, which, according to media reports, include reduced speed through the area and notification to the Coast Guard of the condition of the particular vessel. A total of 29 vessels have been delayed due to the spill, which happened Saturday afternoon when a tank barge carrying light crude oil collided with a tugboat near Vacherie, 47 miles (about 75.6 km) west of New Orleans.—Xinhua

Suicide bomber kills two, injures 11 in Peshawar, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 Feb — At least two people including a Frontier Constabulary (FC) man were killed and 11 others injured when a suicide bomber blew

himself up in Pakistan’s northwest Peshawar city on Monday afternoon, local media and officials said.

Nisar Khan Durrani, inspector general of police,

and a civilian were killed when the suicide bomber blew himself up after being stopped by the troops at a check post near the Iranian consulate located at University Road area of Peshawar, capital of the country’s northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

Some media reports said that the bomber was dropped near the consulate by his two accomplices who later fled to unknown place after shootout with guards of the Iranian consulate, following the blast.

Senior Superintendent Police Peshawar Ahsanullah Khan said that Iranian consul-general’s house is

also located near the consulate so it is unclear whether the suicide bomber wanted to attack the house or the consulate.

Eyewitnesses said that a bomber wearing police uniform parked his car near the consulate and walked towards it when he was stopped by FC personnel at the check post.

They said that the bomber exploded himself up when the security personnel tried to frisk his body.

Local TV channel Geo reported that the blast also injured 11 people including three FC personnel and seven passersby.—Xinhua



Pakistani policemen inspect a damaged motorbike near the Iranian consulate after a suicide attack in north-west Pakistan’s Peshawar on 24 Feb, 2014.—XINHUA

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Vegetarian diets may lower blood pressure

NEW YORK, 25 Feb — People who eat a vegetarian diet tend to have lower blood pressure than non-vegetarians, according to a new review of past studies. Researchers said for some people, eating a vegetarian diet could be a good way to treat high blood pressure without medication. Vegetarian diets exclude meat, but may include dairy products, eggs and fish in some cases. They emphasize foods of plant origin, particularly vegetables, grains, legumes and fruits.

High blood pressure contributes to a person's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disorders and other health problems. For many people, the only treatment has been medication, but

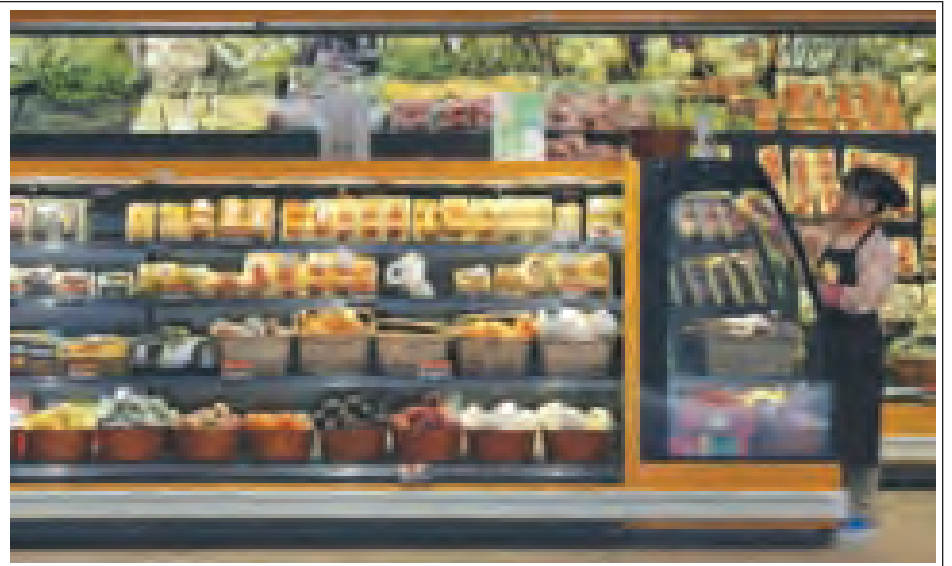
that means costs and possible side effects, lead author Yoko Yokoyama told *Reuters Health* in an email. "If a diet change can prevent blood pressure problems or can reduce blood pressure, it would give hope to many people," Yokoyama said. She is a researcher at the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Centre in Osaka, Japan.

"However, in order to make healthful food choices, people need guidance from scientific studies," she said. "Our analysis found that vegetarian diets lower blood pressure very effectively, and the evidence for this is now quite conclusive."

According to the American Heart Association, blood pressure read-

ings under 120 mm Hg systolic and 80 mm Hg diastolic (120/80) are considered normal. High blood pressure starts at 140/90. The new review, published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, combined results from 39 previous studies, including 32 observational studies and seven controlled trials.

"Observational studies show what happens when people have chosen their own diets and stuck with them, often for years," Yokoyama said. "Controlled trials are different — a diet is given to people who had not tried it before, and that will show the effect of beginning a new way of eating." Together the studies included close to 22,000 people. The researchers found that in



A shop assistant arranges vegetables in a fridge at a super market at a wealthy district in Beijing on 3 March, 2013.—REUTERS

the observational studies, people who had been eating a vegetarian diet had an average systolic blood pressure that was about 7 mm Hg lower than among meat-eaters and a diastolic

blood pressure that was 5 mm Hg lower.

Participants in the clinical trials who were given vegetarian diets to follow had, on average, a systolic blood pressure that was 5

mm Hg lower and a diastolic blood pressure that was 2 mm Hg lower than participants in control groups who were not on vegetarian diets.

Reuters



Kyoto University unveils to the press in Tokyo on 24 Feb, 2014, a prototype model of a transport container that can ensure stem cells for regenerative medicine are kept in sterile condition. KYODO NEWS

Kyushu farm producers join forces for upcoming Hong Kong export fair

FUKUOKA, 25 Feb — Producers of agricultural and fishery goods in the seven prefectures of Kyushu island are jointly holding their first export promotion event in Hong Kong on Wednesday and Thursday to promote a regional brand in place of lesser known local names for their wide-ranging commodities. About 60 organizations will exhibit products such as vegetables, fruits, meat, seafood and processed foods, expecting to attract at least 200 visitors such as buyers and restaurant chefs.

The event is sponsored by the All Kyushu Agriculture Business Promotion Council, with the cooperation of Hong Kong businesses. The council comprises around 500 academic, industrial and government entities. A producer group from Mi-

namishimabara, Nagasaki Prefecture, will show strawberries. It has not been able to export the produce on a consistent basis so far. "Having a large number of buyers is attractive," an official of the group said of the Hong Kong fair. "An event of this scale is not possible without involving all producers in Kyushu."

An official of the JA agricultural cooperative in Kumamoto Prefecture with some experience of exporting rice, said, "We've exported only a limited amount so far. It's better for various prefectures to work together." The organization will promote its rice and tomatoes at the event. Kyushu, which also includes Fukuoka, Saga, Kumamoto, Oita and Kagoshima prefectures, accounts for 20 percent of Japan's agricultural output measured in value.—Kyodo News

Five restaurants with Japanese chefs in France earn Michelin star

PARIS, 25 Feb — Five restaurants with Japanese chefs have earned a star in the 2014 French edition of the Michelin guide, raising the total number of starred restaurants led by Japanese cooks to 20 in France, according to its publisher. Of the five new restaurants, three are based in Paris — Jin, Okuda and Es. Japanese restaurant Jin opened in January last year. "I'm glad my desire to serve authentic Japanese cuisine has been accepted in France," said owner Nina Nikkhau.

Okuda, another Japanese restaurant which opened in Paris last year, is run by chef Toru Okuda who has won Japanese Michelin stars for his Tokyo restaurants as well. Es serves contemporary French cuisine under chef Takayuki Honjo. Lyons-based Takao Takano run by chef Takao Takano serves creative French cuisine. He earned a Michelin star while he was a chef at another restaurant in 2011.

Chef Masafumi Hamano of Au 14 Fevrier, which specializes in creative French cuisine in Saint-Amour-Bellevue in Bourgogne, earned a star, just as he did when he was a chef at the restaurant's original branch in the village of Saint-Valentin. "I'm relieved, as earning a star has been my minimum goal" for this restaurant, he said.—Kyodo News

Researchers develop simple paper test for cancer

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb — US researchers said on Monday they have developed a simple, cheap paper test that could reveal within minutes whether a person has cancer.

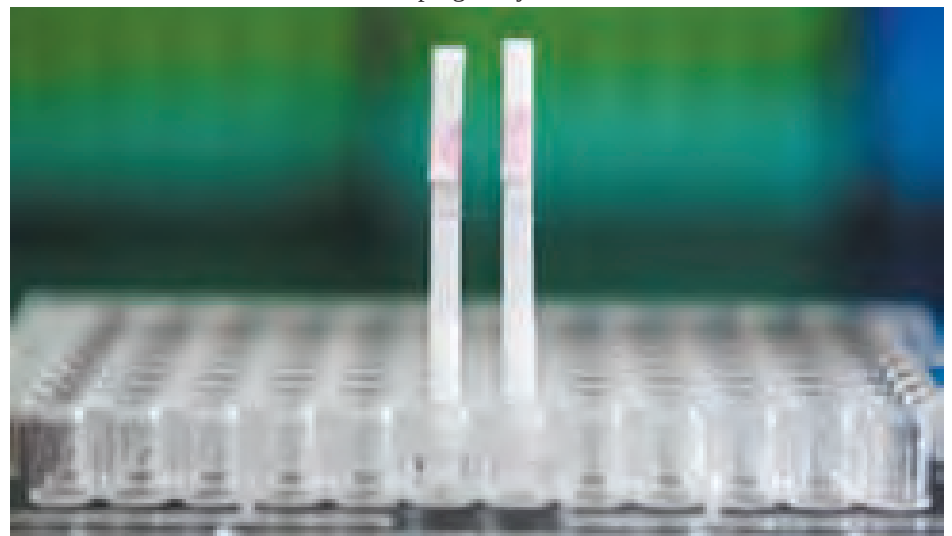
The diagnostic, based on a urine sample, works much like a pregnancy test, researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) reported in the US journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The approach involves using a technology to amplify signals from tumor proteins that would be hard to de-

tect on their own, simply by injecting special nanoparticles into the body, the researchers said.

These nanoparticles, coated with peptides, can interact with tumor proteins called proteases. In a patient's body, these particles congregate at tumor sites, where cancer proteases cleave the peptides, which then accumulate in the kidneys and are excreted in the patient's urine. These biomarkers are easily detectable using an approach known as a lateral flow assay, the same technology used in pregnancy tests. In

tests in mice, the researchers were able to accurately identify colon tumors, as well as blood clots.

MIT professor and the paper's senior author Sangeeta Bhatia described these tests as the first step toward a diagnostic device that could someday be useful in human patients. "This is a new idea — to create an excreted biomarker instead of relying on what the body gives you," Bhatia said. "To prove this approach is really going to be a useful diagnostic, the next step is to test it in patient populations."—Xinhua



Israeli researcher advances Type 1 diabetes treatments

JERUSALEM, 25 Feb — A study led by an Israeli researcher shows that patients suffering from Type 1 diabetes can go for two years without insulin shots, according to a newsletter released by Ben-Gurion University on Monday. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the body's own immune system destroys the

insulin-producing cells, or beta cells, of the pancreas, which are vital in helping the body stay healthy.

Eli Lewis, a doctor and department director at Ben-Gurion University, worked in collaboration with the University of Colorado Health Science Center to study the effects of a new therapy that uses

an anti-inflammatory serum protein to control glucose levels in diabetic patients.

Lewis says that following an eight to 12 week treatment, several patients were able maintain proper glucose levels without the need for insulin injections for more than two years.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Astronaut Wakata to start ISS command on 9 March

TOKYO, 25 Feb — Astronaut Koichi Wakata will become the first Japanese to serve as commander of the *International Space Station* on 9 March, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said on Tuesday.

A change of command ceremony, which according to JAXA will be broadcast live on the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration website, will see current commander Oleg Kotov of Russia pass on the role to 50-year-old Wakata. Wakata will hold the post

for about two months before he returns to Earth on 14 May.

Hakubun Shimomura, Japan's minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology, said at a press conference that he is "proud as a Japanese person" that Wakata is taking the post. "It will give Japan a great boost." Wakata departed on his current mission on 7 November aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket from Kazakhstan. It is his fourth trip to space and his second extended stay on the ISS. —Kyodo News

Windows designer moves to new Microsoft job



Windows' Corporate Vice President and Programs management Julie Larson-Green attends the Windows 8 Consumer Preview presentation at Hotel Miramar during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 29 Feb, 2012. — REUTERS

SEATTLE, 25 Feb — Julie Larson-Green, one of Microsoft Corp's most senior women executives and a leading force behind the latest design of Windows, is moving to a new job in charge of harmonizing the look and usability of Microsoft's wide range of software. Larson-Green, who oversaw the design of Windows 7 and its less popular successor Windows 8, was promoted to run Microsoft's Devices and Studios group as part of former chief executive Steve Ballmer's sweeping reorganization of the company last July.

However, when Microsoft agreed to buy Nokia's handset unit only a few months later, Microsoft planned to put former Nokia boss Stephen Elop in charge of that group, with Larson-Green reporting to him. Elop is still set to take over that group when the Nokia deal is completed, expected in the next few weeks, but with the move

Larson-Green is no longer set to report to him.

"I'll remain in (the) role leading the DnS (Devices and Studios) organization in the interim until the Nokia deal closes and Stephen Elop makes his transition to Microsoft," said Larson-Green in an email to colleagues which was obtained by Reuters. The memo and job change were earlier reported by Seattle-area tech news site GeekWire.

The new job means Larson-Green, known for introducing the 'ribbon' bar to the Office suite of applications, returns to software-focused design after leading the Devices and Studios group which is centered on hardware such as the Xbox game console and Surface tablet. Her official title will be Chief Experience Officer of the My Life & Work Team, which is part of Microsoft's Applications and Services Group, led by Qi Lu.

Reuters

Samsung debuts wearables and latest Galaxy smartphone

BARCELONA, 25 Feb — Samsung Electronics unveiled a new smartwatch and fitness band along with the latest version of its Galaxy smartphone on Monday, demonstrating how the battleground for innovation is shifting from the hand to the wrist.

The world's biggest smartphone maker set a trend less than six months ago for wearable devices that link to mobile handsets with its Galaxy Gear watch, which has seen rivals like Sony and Huawei follow in its wake.

The switch in focus also underlines the challenges the South Korean firm is facing. Low-price Chinese rivals are churning out products that look increasingly similar at a time when smartphone sales have started to ease, taking a toll on Samsung's earnings. To fight back, Samsung is taking a less glitzy marketing approach



New Samsung Galaxy S5 smartphone (L), Gear 2 smartwatch (C) and Gear Fit fitness band are displayed at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 23 Feb, 2014. — REUTERS

to control costs. It has also performed a U-turn, abandoning its previous heavy focus on sweeping hardware improvements to highlight more subtle features in its devices and accessories in a bid to appeal

to a wider audience.

"With the Galaxy S5, Samsung is going back to basics," JK Shin, co-chief executive and president of Samsung's mobile business, told an audience of Samsung employees, part-

ners and media at the annual Mobile World Congress technology trade show in Barcelona. Samsung will roll out the S5 globally on 11 April, with pricing details yet to be disclosed.

Reuters

ZTE launches new products at Mobile World Congress

BARCELONA, 25 Feb — The Chinese telecommunications giant ZTE presents two new smartphones at the Mobile World Congress 2014 which opens here on Monday.

The ZTE Grand Memo II LTE would be a smartphone that "makes the difference," according to Angel Sanchez Diaz, Telefonica Global Account Director at ZTE. The device allows users to carry out several tasks simultaneous-

ly, thanks to its 6-inch TFT IPS screen.

The screen has a 'gloves mode' which is extra sensitive to touch and as the term applies, allows users to operate the device while wearing gloves. Meanwhile it has an Android 4.4 KitKat operating system and uses a dual-core Snapdragon 400 processor.

The second device being presented is another member of the ZTE Open C family which was first



launched in MWC 2013. The device has a 4-inch screen and uses a 1.2 GHz dual core processor.

The annual Mobile World Congress will be held in Barcelona for

three more days until 27 February.

It brings together 75,000 delegates from the mobile communications industry this year.

Xinhua

Facebook CEO riding high — for now, after WhatsApp deal

SAN FRANCISCO / BARCELONA, 25 Feb — Facebook Inc Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg took a victory lap at the world's largest mobile technology conference in Barcelona on Monday, after beating out Google Inc in a \$19 billion acquisition of free messaging service WhatsApp. But he faces bigger hurdles on the horizon.

Just 18 months after appearing at risk of getting crushed by the swelling mobile wave, the No 1 social network is riding high. It gets a huge chunk of ad revenue on world-wide users of smartphones and tablets, from virtually nothing several years ago. Now, Zuckerberg's purchase of WhatsApp — while raising eyebrows with the hefty price paid for a company

that boasts 450 million users but has little revenue — places Facebook at the heart of smartphone communications.

"In the US you can dial 911 and get access to basic services," Zuckerberg said, referring to the country's national emergency services phone number. "We want to create a similar kind of dial tone for the Internet," he said, citing messaging, search and weather information among the

essential online services that he said people throughout the world should be able to access on Internet-connected phones.

It's a vision that is sure to have some telecom bosses in Barcelona gritting their teeth. WhatsApp and its fellow messaging apps, including Viber and China's WeChat, have punched a hole in operators' sales by offering a free alternative to text messages, a \$120 billion mar-

ket for operators. Research group Ovum said telcos lost \$32 billion in text revenue last year and will lose \$54 billion by 2016.

But Zuckerberg is trying to cast Facebook and WhatsApp as partners not foes of the industry. The 29-year-old co-founder of Facebook used his appearance at Mobile World Congress on Monday to talk up his company's recent effort to make wireless Internet access easier and more affordable in developing countries.

With WhatsApp now part of Facebook, Zuckerberg said the messaging service will have the breathing room to put its energy into garnering another 2 billion or 3 billion users, rather than trying to generate revenue.

Reuters



Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg smiles on the stage before delivering a keynote speech during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 24 Feb, 2014. — REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 26 February, 2014

Work more than one job

An abundance of employment opportunities is an essential prerequisite for development of a certain country. It is required to set up more factories and industries allowing full-time and part-time employment of the people. Job creation is needed, particularly in commercial towns. Each and every person needs to be in employment.

It can be witnessed in the developed countries where everyone has a job. There are various types of job not only for the young people but for those wanting to work, but living in retirement. Jobs are available and employment opportunities are abundant. It is possible to work full-time or part-time. There are a number of different job positions, ranging from cleaners to factory workers.

Some work full-time and get second part-time jobs. Some work part-time while doing full-time school. Their part-time jobs provide them with some economic concepts and good experiences, accumulating knowledge and building capacity.

It is important to be able to enjoy benefits from working. It is required to have a decent salary in particular. It is impossible for those working long hours for low salaries to gain a better life. A decent salary is needed to live well. Only a win-win situation could benefit both employees and employers. Then a democratic society can be realized and development can be achieved.

Most of people like working a full-time job. It is hard to see those taking on a second part-time job. More incomes can be generated by working more than one job. Writer P Moe Nin stressed the need to work harder than others to get rich quickly. We need to work more than one job.

All in all, emergence of part-time and full-time is imperative for development of the country. It is required to pay decent wages to workers in accord with their working hours. We all have to work hard. If we want our nation to be a prosperous nation, we have to work ourselves too hard, working two or three jobs. Only then, quick win can be realized.



Secretary Daw Hnin Wai of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association and members seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Cambodia on 25 February to attend ASEAN-Japan Young Entrepreneurs: Partnership for Growth Forum from 25 to 28 February.—MNA

Formation of Anti-Bribery...

(from page 1)

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| (13) Daw Than Than Yi | Member |
| Director (Rtd, Office of Auditor-General of the Union) | |
| (14) U Aung Hlaing Soe | Member |
| Director (Rtd, Office of Auditor-General of the Union) | |
| (15) U Tin Oo | Secretary |
| Ambassador (Rtd) | |

Sd/ Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Joint combat drill of army, air, artillery and armoured forces in progress.—MYAWADY

Senior General...

(from page 16)

the Commander-in-Chief Office, heads of Basic Military Training Schools and trainee officers of National Defence College and Command and General Staff College.

First, an officer gave an account of the military

drill to the Commander-in-Chief at the briefing hall.

Next, the combined forces conducted the military drill. Then, the Commander-in-Chief gave a speech and presented cash awards to members of the forces who participated in

the joint combat drill.

In meeting with trainee officers of National Defence College and Command and General Staff College and officers of Meiktila Station, the Senior General said that the nation's defence policy is to protect the country. He continued that the building of a Standard Army

meeting international standards is underway, he added.

He called for effective use of military equipment and stressed the importance of good management.

After the meeting, the Commander-in-Chief cordially greeted those present.

Myawady

Union minister calls for harmonious efforts in rural development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun met with Kyaukpadaung Township support committee for development on 24 February. He called them for making harmonious efforts in carrying out rural development tasks hoping that Kyaukpadaung Township could be developed as quickly as possible since it has been in NyaungU District's administration.

The Union minister stressed the need to pro-

mote social status of the people by narrowing the gap between rural and urban regions.

He urged the civil servants to cooperate with locals in promoting rural development in line with the rules and regulations. He emphasized that will rural development tasks gain momentum only when the Union government, the region/state government and locals join hands in hands.

Next, the Union Minister attended to the needs

on reports presented by Kyaukpadaung Township Administrator and the township development support committee.

The support committee was urged to make short or long term plans to fulfill basic requirements of local people in cooperation with the governmental organizations.

He highlighted regional peace and tranquility and socio-economic development can bring about prosperity of the State.—MNA

Advice sought from members of SSMNC...

(from page 16)

Taungpaw Monastery, Chairman of Myanmar Leti Kammathanacariya Organization Vice-Chairman of Leti Depani Propagation Organization Presiding Nayaka of Kalewa Tawya Monastery of Mayangon Sayadaw gave advice on construction of the better buildings in line with religious affairs.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Pyi Khema Library put into service for readers of Wetlet Tsp



MONYWA, 25 Feb—Pyi Khema Library was commissioned into service in Maukkyo Village of Wetlet Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Region, on 19 February.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khemacara, Sagaing Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Saw Myint Oo and Library Committee member U Than Naing

formally opened the library.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye formally unveiled the signboard of the library.

The Chief Minister donated books and publications to the library and visited there.

It was also attended by departmental officials, officials of Shwebo District and Township authorities, guests and local people.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Mandalay Region Sangha Nayaka Committee (Shwegyin) Bhaddanta Sijjanasara and Chairman (Sudhamma) Vicittarabhivamsa made a speech.

The Chief Minister offered alms to members of

the Sangha and presented prizes to outstanding students.

A local spoke words of thanks for opening of the library.—*Kyemon-Po Chan (Monywa)*

Rural youth training course kicks off

MEIKTILA, 25 Feb—Rural Development Department under Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department conduct the rural youth training course at Wezayanta Dhammayon of Wundawpyae Monastery in Kyidawgon Ward of Meiktila on 24 February, said Head of Mandalay Region Fisheries Department U Myo Aung.

course. The trainees are representing the departments from Meiktila, Mahlaing, Wundwin, Thazi, Pyawbwe and Yamethin townships. On completion, they have to share their knowledge to rural youths,” he added. Head of the District Rural Development Department U Myo Aung, Head of District LBVD Dr Win Myint Thein and officials gave lectures on food security, ways to assess poverty, control of infectious diseases, biosecurity, fish breeding, rural road and bridge construction, rural water supply, electrification, rural housing.—*MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)*

Globetrotters in flocks arrive in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 25 Feb—Under the supervision of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and arrangements of Myanmar Hill Lodges Travels & Tours Co Ltd, globetrotters arrived at Maha

Nwesin Sports Ground on 35th Street in Mahaaungmye Township on 23 February afternoon.

On 24 February, they visited Maha Muni Buddha Image, Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace, Shwekyanggyi, Mandalay Hill, embroidery industry, gold foil industry, U Bein Bridge, Amarapura silkware industry and Sagaing Bridge. On 25 February, they will leave for Nyaung U and visit ancient pagodas.

Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



A total of 120 fire fighters, members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and staff participated in fire drill as part of efforts to take fire preventive measures at Myoma Market in Minbu of Minbu Township Development Affairs Committee on 23 February. It was attended by Magway Region Hluttaw MP, township administrators, chairman of Township Development Affairs Committee, executive officer and personnel.—MMAL-Tin Tun Oo (IPRD)

Experience recounted for meeting between Chief Justices

MYEIK, 25 Feb—A ceremony to recount experiences in meeting between Supreme Court of the Union, Region/State High Courts was held at the hall of Taninthayi Region High Court on 21 February.

Chief Justice of the region U Myint Win made a speech.

The Region Chief Minister explained the instruction of the Chief Justice of the Union at the meeting and gave instructions.

It was attended by Region High Court judges, the head of Region Judicial Office, and judicial officers.—*Kyemon-473*

Population, housing, census taking process talked in Thantlang Tsp

THANTLANG, 25 Feb—The educative talks on population, housing and census taking process were given in Ward 3 and Ward 1 in Thantlang Township, Chin State, on 23 February afternoon.

At the talks, Township Administrator U Kyaw Win, Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Aung Thein Tan and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U M Inn Lam gave lectures on aims of the taking census process,

correct answers of people to respond the queries of staff of the census taking teams.

They said that only when the correct data

are collected, will the government draw effective plans for fulfilling the requirements of the people.

Over 300 local people attended the talks and

raised questions to the officials.

Heads of township level departments discussed their questions in detail.

MMAL-Township IPRD



WORLD

Venezuela death toll rises to 13 as protests flare



Anti-government demonstrators clash with riot police at Altamira Square in Caracas on 24 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

CARACAS, 25 Feb — Anti-government demonstrators put up barricades and set fire to trash in Caracas on Monday despite calls from within the opposition to rein in protests that have led to 13 deaths in Vene-

zuela's worst unrest for a decade.

Traffic in the capital slowed to a crawl and many people stayed home as protesters burned trash and piled debris along main avenues a day after opposition

leader Henrique Capriles called on them to keep demonstrations peaceful.

"We know we're bothering people but we have to wake up Venezuela!" student Pablo Herrera, 23, said next to a barricade in the

affluent Los Palos Grandes district of Caracas.

Authorities in the convulsed border state of Tachira confirmed another death: a man who fell from his second-storey apartment after being hit by a bullet from a nearby protest.

The demonstrations are the biggest challenge to President Nicolas Maduro's 10-month-old government, though there is no sign they could topple him or affect the OPEC member's oil shipments. Venezuela is Latin America's biggest exporter of crude oil and has the world's largest petroleum reserves. The government says 529 people have been charged over the unrest, with most given warnings but 45 kept behind bars. About 150 people have been injured, authorities say.—Reuters

Turkish PM's office says Erdogan recordings are faked

ANKARA, 25 Feb — Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's office said voice recordings on YouTube purportedly of Erdogan telling his son to dispose of large sums of money on the day news broke of a graft inquiry into his government were fake and "completely untrue".

Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the audio recordings, which were posted on the video sharing site late on Monday. In the recordings, a voice supposedly of Erdogan can be heard asking his son to remove the money from his home.

The recordings are purportedly of Erdogan and his son Bilal discussing how to reduce the funds to "zero" by distributing them among several businessmen. At one point, the voice supposedly of Bilal says some 30 million euros (\$40 million) remain to be disposed of.

The recordings, which appeared two days after

Erdogan's AK Party officially began campaigning for local elections at the end of March, may be the latest purported revelation in a graft scandal Erdogan has cast as orchestrated to unseat him.

"The recordings, which were released via the Internet this evening, accompanied with the allegation that they were a telephone conversation between our Prime Minister Recep

Tayyip Erdogan and his son, are completely untrue and the product of an immoral montage," Erdogan's office said in a statement.

"Those who created this dirty conspiracy targeting the prime minister of the Republic of Turkey will be brought to account within the law," it said.

Erdogan held an emergency meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Besir

Atalay, Interior Minister Ekfan Ala and intelligence chief Hakan Fidan after the recordings appeared, senior Turkish officials said.

The leadership of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) also met and party spokesman Haluk Koc called on the government to resign.

"Turkey cannot continue on its path with this dirt, this burden," Turkish media quoted Koc as telling reporters.

The corruption scandal, which erupted on 17 December with the detention of businessmen close to Erdogan and the sons of three ministers, has spiralled into one of the biggest challenges of his 11-year rule.

The lira, which has been hit by the political uncertainty and fell to a record low in late January, weakened to 2.2 against the dollar in after-hours trading from around 2.1750 when Turkish markets closed on Monday.—Reuters



Turkey's Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan addresses members of parliament from his ruling AK Party (AKP) during a meeting at the Turkish parliament in Ankara on 18 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

UNHCR envoy calls for end to violence in Syria

BEIRUT, 25 Feb — The UN Higher Commissioner for Refugees' special envoy, American actress Angelina Jolie, called Monday for an end to the violence in Syria after visiting to some Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon.

According to a statement by the UN refugee agency, Jolie held talks with Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam, where she

highlighted "the generosity and solidarity shown by Lebanon and Lebanese to its neighbour."

Jolie, on her third visit to Lebanon on behalf of the agency, is to learn the plight of Syrian children as the Syrian conflict enters its fourth year. She welcomed the adoption of a UN resolution on humanitarian assistance to Syria, which she described as "a long

overdue step in the right direction for the hundreds of thousands of innocent Syrian men, women and children."

Jolie met with orphaned Syrian children who are living in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, noting "They have lost their families and their childhood has been hijacked by war. They are so young, yet they are bearing the burdens of their

reality as if they are adults."

The UNHCR envoy also met with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and President Michel Suleiman during the three-day visit.

According to the latest UNHCR report, there are over 934,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon but Lebanese officials say the actual number has surpassed 1.2 million.—Xinhua

Private cars remain popular in Beijing despite heavy smog

BEIJING, 25 Feb — Despite the appeal of public transportation in the Chinese capital, private vehicles remain many residents' first choice for getting around.

"It's horribly crowded in the subway and hard to be on time when taking the bus," said Hu Yanrong, a 32-year-old consultant who drives 18 kilometres to her office every day. "We all know car exhaust contributes to the haze, but it's too exhausting to take a bus to work every day."

"No one wants to make the pollution worse, but you can't sacrifice your career either."

Hu said the government is neglecting its responsibilities by making it the obligation of residents to improve air quality while depriving them of the right to drive.

On Monday, the capital maintained its orange pollution alert, the second-highest level, and severe smog is forecast to linger in Beijing until Thursday.

The concentration of PM2.5 in Beijing soared on Sunday night, the government said. PM2.5 is particulate matter with a diameter less than 2.5 micrometers, a major contributor to the smog.

Beijing Commission of Transport data put this weekend's traffic index at the second-lowest of the past 10 weekends, showing that traffic congestion — or the amount of private vehicles on the road — was significantly reduced.

The commission said the index is based on the average speed of the city's more than 60,000 taxis. An index of 0 to 4 suggests smooth traffic, 4 to 6 reflects slight congestion, 6 to 8 severe congestion, and 8 to 10 the highest congestion.

Xinhua

Israeli PM, German chancellor express hope to advance Mideast peace



Visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shake hands during a news conference in Jerusalem, on Feb. 24, 2014.—Xinhua

JERUSALEM, 25 Feb — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed on Monday evening their hopes to advance the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. Merkel, leading 16 ministers from her cabinet on a 24-hour visit to Israel, said that Germany is committed to advancing the Israeli-Palestinian talks based on the two-state solution.

"Germany has been working with Israel for the past five decades in order to assure its future," the chancellor was quoted by Channel 2 News as saying. "We want to see progress in the negotiations with the Palestinians and I'm an enthusiastic supporter of the two-state solution."

Netanyahu, for his part, said he and the people of Israel "want peace which would end the conflict."

In addition, he said the talks with the German chancellor would also tackle how to prevent Iran from reaching nuclear weapons, calling it "the biggest challenge the world is facing."

Merckel's visit comes amid the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Israel and Germany. A joint cabinet meeting will be held on Tuesday morning.

Merkel is also slated to meet with Israeli President Shimon Peres, who will award Merkel with the Presidential Medal of Distinction — the highest civilian order, and with opposition parliament leader Isaac Herzog from the Labour party.—Xinhua

REGIONAL

Students ride on a double-decker tour bus in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 24 Feb, 2014. Five double-decker tour buses are introduced from Monday to attract more domestic and foreign tourists to the city.
XINHUA



S Korea to set up committee to prepare for Korean reunification

SEOUL, 25 Feb — South Korean President Park Geun Hye said on Tuesday she will set up a presidential committee soon to prepare for reunification of the Korean Peninsula. “I plan to launch a ‘committee to prepare for reunification’ under presidential control and explore ways for a systemic and constructive direction of reunification,” Park told a Press conference on the first anniversary of her inauguration. Park said the committee will include experts from the private sector, including specialists on foreign affairs, national security, economy, society and culture, as well as civic organizations.

Kyodo News

Australia eyes concluding FTA with Japan in April

SINGAPORE, 25 Feb — Australia’s trade minister on Monday expressed his readiness to strike a free trade deal with Japan in April and have it signed in July, when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is expected to visit Canberra, according to a Japanese ruling party lawmaker.

Koya Nishikawa and Australian Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb, who are both currently in Singapore for a ministerial meeting related to the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks, met and discussed trade-related issues.

The momentum for striking a Japan-Australia free trade deal has been picking up toward April, when Australian Prime

Minister Tony Abbott is expected to visit Tokyo.

Nishikawa, a House of Representatives member who heads the Liberal Democratic Party’s TPP committee, also told reporters after the meeting that Robb showed readiness to reduce auto tariffs, while calling on Japan to cut duties on farm products. Nishikawa declined to comment on details.

According to negotiation sources, Australia is asking Japan to cut tariffs on beef, which is currently subject to 38.5 percent tariff. Japan wants Australia to scrap 5 percent tariff on Japanese automobiles.

Japan and Australia launched FTA negotiations in April 2007, but the talks have been stalled

due to differences over how to deal with tariffs on products such as automobiles and beef. The two countries renewed their commitment to accelerating FTA talks after Australia’s change of government in September.

The move to promote bilateral FTA talks comes as 12 Pacific-Rim countries, including Australia and Japan, are struggling to strike a TPP deal amid differences between Tokyo and Washington.

Japan apparently hopes to draw a concession from the United States, which wants Tokyo to scrap tariffs on farm products including beef, in the TPP talks by showing that bilateral FTA negotiations with Australia are well advanced. —*Kyodo News*

Women more likely to experience partner violence

CANBERRA, 25 Feb — Women were two and half times more likely than men to experience violence by a partner, according to the Gender Indicators report released on Tuesday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

ABS Director of Living Conditions, Caroline Daley, said that 1.5 percent of women, or 133,000, aged 18 years and over had experienced violence by a partner in 2012 compared to 0.6 percent of men, or 52,000. Women were also more than twice as likely as men to have experienced sexual violence — 1.2 percent, or 102,000, of women compared to 0.5 percent, or 41,000, of men, according to the ABS.

The new data shows a decrease in the proportion of men who had experienced violence from 11 percent of men in 2005 to nine percent in 2012. But it signals no statistically significant change for women from six percent of women in 2005 to five percent in 2012. “While the number of men experiencing physical violence in 2012 has declined by around 18 percent since 2005, men remain nearly twice as likely as women to experience physical violence,” Daley said.—*Xinhua*

Seven elephants found dead in plantation on Indonesia’s Sumatra

JAKARTA, 25 Feb — Seven rare Sumatran elephants have been found dead, apparently from poisoning, on a plantation area on Indonesia’s Sumatra Island, a conservationist said on Monday.

Suhandri, a project manager dealing with Sumatran elephants for WWF-Indonesia, told *Kyodo News* the cause of the elephant deaths is still under investigation “but some indications show that they have been poisoned.”

The dead elephants were found on Friday in a plantation area that belongs to PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper, one of the world’s biggest pulp mills, near the Tesso Nilo National Park in Sumatra’s Riau Province. According to Suhandri, who likes many Indonesians goes by one name, the seven elephants — an adult male, an adult female and five cubs — appeared to have been dead for at least three weeks.

The discovery brings the number of elephant deaths in Riau to nine so far this year. All of them are believed to have been poisoned.

WWF-Indonesia for Riau Programme said at least 15 Sumatran elephants were found dead in Riau in 2012, and 14 in 2013, most of them having been killed by humans.

Kyodo News

Indian defence minister meets with deputy chief of General Staff of PLA of China

NEW DELHI, 25 Feb — Indian Defence Minister AK Antony on Monday met with visiting Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army of China Wang Guanzhong, who was here for holding the 6th round of meeting of Defence and Security Consultation between China and India.

Antony highly evaluated the results of the just concluded meeting and said that the Indian government and armed forces are committed to maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border areas of the two countries and implementing relevant agreements in the field. He said there exist opportunities for the two countries and their armed forces to develop

good relations and India is willing to enlarge the fields of dialogue and exchanges with China and push forward the relationship with China to contribute to regional peace and stability.

The Indian defence minister also said India and China, while having a long tradition of friendship and exchanges, are experiencing a stable development of relationship now. He said India is glad to see the development of China and looks forward to sharing common development with China. Wang said China and India are two important neighbours, big countries and emerging economies and it is good for the common development of the two countries as well as international and regional peace and stability

that they maintain peace and tranquillity of the border areas and keep a healthy and stable relationship between their armed forces.

He said China is willing to strengthen dialogue and consultation between the institutions of defence affairs and the military of the two countries and seriously implement the spirit of bilateral agreements and work out the consensus reached between the leaders of the two countries. Wang said that China is ready to deepen pragmatic cooperation in all fields with India, properly handle the existing differences between the two countries, and push forward relations between the armed forces of the two countries to a new stage.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 24 Feb, 2014 shows a collapsed suspension bridge in Tam Duong District, northern Vietnam’s Lai Chau Province. At least seven people were dead and about 30 others injured in a bridge collapse in northern Vietnam’s Lai Chau Province, some 300 km northwest of capital Hanoi, local media reported.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1408)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1408) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC - TRANSPORT
S'PORE PTE LTD**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (370)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (370) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (028)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (028) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PHUONG NAM 1 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 1 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV HOANG ANH VOY NO (-)**

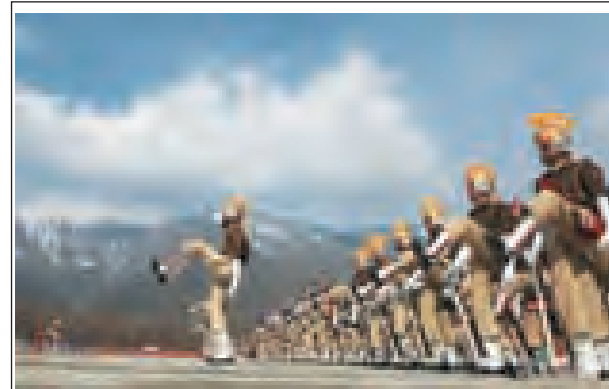
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG ANH VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914



Recruits of Indian police march during a passing out parade at a training centre in Sheeri Baramullah, some 65 kilometers north of Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, on 24 Feb, 2014. A total of 789 recruits were formally inducted into the Indian police after completing nine months of rigorous training in physical fitness, weapon handling, commando operations and counter insurgency, a police spokesman said.—XINHUA

French soldier killed in Central African Republic road accident

PARIS, 25 Feb — A French soldier was killed in a road accident in Bangui, Central African Republic's capital, bringing the total number of French fatalities in the country to three since December 2013, the Defence Ministry announced.

A corporal of the Poitiers Marine Infantry Tank Regiment died in a road accident 400 km from Bangui, during a reconnaissance mission of roads in the region of Bouar, west of the capital, the minister said in a statement issued late on Sunday. Two other soldiers on board of the light armored vehicle were also injured in the accident. Their lives were not in danger, the ministry added.

In early December, France, with the United Nations' support, gave the green light to its forces to launch a military offensive in its former colony to protect civilians following an escalation of the violence in which thousands of people were killed.—Xinhua



Passengers queue toget on trains at the Hefei Railway Station in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 24 Feb, 2014. This year's "chunyun," the peak travel period surrounding China's Spring Festival, came to a close on 24 Feb after 40-day bustling transportation.—XINHUA

Vietnam sets to give measles vaccination to 200,000 kids from February to April

HANOI, 25 Feb — Vietnam has set to give measles injection to the country's 200,000 9-to-23-month-old babies from February to April 2014 to prevent the epidemic from spreading.

Vietnam's state-run radio Voice of Vietnam VOV on Monday quoted the announcement released by an online conference

on combating measles in capital Hanoi as saying the goal of the campaign is to bring the ratio of measles vaccinated children at certain ages to more than 95 percent. In capital Hanoi, about 60,000 kids will be vaccinated against measles during the occasion, said VOV.

Nguyen Khac Hien,

Director of the Hanoi Department of Health said on VOV on Monday that a total of 500 suspected measles cases are reported in capital Hanoi since the beginning of 2014, with 159 cases showing positive test results with the virus. The city plans to control the plague in the coming two months.—Xinhua

Venezuela implements new foreign currency exchange system

CARACAS, 25 Feb — Venezuela on Monday officially launched a new foreign currency exchange system that allows two different exchange rates to be applied to the public and private sectors. The new system, ordered by President Nicolas Maduro in January, also regulates the supply of dollars, by placing an exchange limit on private individuals and entities, and giving priority to state agencies.

All transactions will be under the supervision of the Venezuela's central bank and the Finance Ministry.

The key feature of the new exchange system is that it allows the government, instead of the market, to control the exchange rate, Rafael Ramirez, the vice president in charge of economy, said earlier.

Back in January, Ramirez, said the official exchange rate of 6.3 bolívars to the US dollar would continue to apply to state

agencies that need dollars to import essential goods such as medicine and food, while Venezuelans traveling abroad or other private individuals would pay the market rate.

The market rate, to be set at weekly auctions held by the National Foreign Trade Centre, will apply to travelers using their credit cards abroad, remittances from abroad, insurance companies and foreign investors.

Under the new forex system, individual must report foreign currency revenues or expenditures higher than 10,000 dollars, or its equivalent in other foreign currencies. And export worth of 10,000 dollars or higher must also be declared to the central bank within 15 working days.

The new system also stipulates that those who violate relevant regulations in purchasing foreign currencies will face a fine, alongside potential jail terms.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Oscar producers bank on 'funny, very kind' host Ellen DeGeneres

LOS ANGELES, 25 Feb — Now they know how big the show is and how much people care, but the producers of the Oscars aren't making any apologies for their maiden effort running Hollywood's biggest show last year or the provocative humour of its host, Seth MacFarlane.

Despite some harsh reviews from TV critics, Craig Zadan and Neil Meron pulled in the largest US audience in three years, a ratings bump in the 18-49 demographic coveted by TV networks and, perhaps most importantly for them, a second chance to show what they could

do. "I would say this year we are undaunted," Meron told Reuters backstage at the Dolby Theatre from where ABC will broadcast the Academy Awards on Sunday. Last year, 40.3 million US viewers tuned in to watch the film industry's top honours, a glamorous event broadcast to 200 countries.

For this year, the producers have teased a homage to movie heroes, like Erin Brockovich, Harry Potter and Nelson Mandela, and a heavy dose of hit Oscar-nominated songs by hot artists, including Pharrell Williams and U2. There will be surprises, they

promise.

But the single biggest reason to tune in on Sunday in their minds? Ellen DeGeneres, comedian, day-time talk show maven and soon-to-be two-time Oscar host. "She is funny and yet in her way she is very kind as well, and I think it's a great blend," said Meron.

"We are very proud of last year's show and we love Seth," Meron added. "Seth represents current comedy as does Ellen. They are both experts in their field." But Meron bristles at the notion that the 56-year-old DeGeneres is a safe choice, someone who won't offend like MacFarlane, the

creator and star of TV series "Family Guy" who pushed boundaries with his risque jokes about female nudity and zingers about gays and Jews. *The Los Angeles Times* called the change in hosts from "naughty" to "nice."

"Ellen is a brilliant talent," said Meron, who with Zadan has produced Broadway shows and the film version of the musical "Chicago." "Brilliant talents, I don't think, are ever safe." Unlike some of the other awards shows in town, like the Golden Globes which has Tina Fey and Amy Poehler locked in for three years, the Oscars are chang-



Ellen DeGeneres accepts the award for favourite daytime tv host for her show "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" at the 2014 People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

ing hosts every year. Before MacFarlane there was a return to tradition with nine-time host Billy Crystal

after a widely panned appeal to youth with co-hosts Anne Hathaway and James Franco. —Reuters

Jennifer Lawrence planning a long vacation

LONDON, 25 Feb — Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence, who has been shooting constantly for various films, is apparently planning to take a year-long hiatus from Hollywood.

The 23-year-old actress has been shooting for her films like *The Hunger Games* series and *X-Men* franchise without taking a break, reported *Daily Mirror*. "She is going to take a year-long break where she won't do anything. It's been non-stop for her and she deserves rest," said producer Harvey Weinstein, who worked with Jennifer

for *Silver Linings Playbook*.

"Jennifer is too nice and will do favours for people like agreeing to do a movie like *American Hustle* when she could have had taken a break. She signed on to do *Hunger Games* when she was young and wouldn't have realised how much it would dominate her life. But she's a professional and always will be," he added. —PTI



Jennifer has been shooting for her films in *The Hunger Games* series and *X-Men* franchise without taking a break. —PTI

Neha Sharma: Survival of outsiders tough in Bollywood

MUMBAI, 25 Feb — Actress Neha Sharma says the going gets tougher in Bollywood when you're an "outsider".

"As an outsider (from a non-film background), survival in Bollywood is difficult as networking is very important. Many get work because of recommendations, but still there are auditions for actors," Neha said.

The actress started her Bollywood career with *Crook* in 2010, and has since starred in films like *Kyaa Super Kool Hain Hum*, *Jayantabhai Ki Luv Story* and *Yamla Pagla Dewana*. Neha is now gearing up for the release of *Youngistaan*, in which she shares screen space with Jacky Bhagnani.

She says she is happy with her career graph "as I am not from the industry. I am still an auditioning actor and I am very satisfied at the moment." —PTI



Neha made her debut with the movie *Crook* in 2010. —PTI

Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus kiss during a concert

LOS ANGELES, 25 Feb — Pop stars Miley Cyrus and Katy Perry took everyone by surprise after they shared a kiss during a concert.

When the 21-year-old singer recently spotted Katy watching her performance at the Staples Centre in LA during her on-going *Bangerz* Tour, the *Wrecking Ball* hitmaker plunged in for a kiss, reported *Ace Showbiz*. Perry, whose hit *I Kissed a Girl* rose her to fame, willingly accepted the kiss.

The *Roar* hitmaker



Katy earlier requested Miley to perform her favourite songs on Twitter. —PTI

later posted a photo of her and Cyrus on Twitter. "I adore you Miley Cyrus," she wrote. Perry had even requested Cyrus to per-

form her favourite songs. "I hope Miley Cyrus sings *Breakout* or *The Climb* tonight please!" she wrote on Twitter. —PTI

From bathrooms to museums: odd sets for Oscar statuettes

LOS ANGELES, 25 Feb — The most valuable piece of hardware in Hollywood is the 13-and-a-half-inch (34-cm) golden Oscar statuette, so it is no surprise recipients of the top film honors keep theirs in a variety of safe spots.

Emma Thompson, a two-time winner for "Howards End" and "Sense and Sensibility," has stowed her Oscars in the bathroom, or rather loo, of her London abode.

"It's full of my most precious possessions," Thompson said. "So it's not as if I'm being rude. It's an important place to me. And the downstairs loo is sort of the place that all your guests use. And it's nice for them to have a go, pick them up."

Cate Blanchett, a frontrunner for best actress for her role in "Blue Jasmine" for this Sunday's Academy Awards, has to pay to see her Oscar from "The Aviator." "My Oscar is in a film museum called ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image) in Melbourne," the 44-year-

old star said. "I get to pay a ticket and go see it every now and again."

Winners of the 2,809 Oscars awarded so far may opt for the more mundane living room, like Charlize Theron for her "Monster" Oscar, or the office, the home for George Clooney's two awards for "Argo" and

"Michael Clayton." But Jennifer Hudson created an award wall and put her statuette for "Dreamgirls" in a starring role. "It's actually a hidden wall," said Hudson.

"You don't realize it's a wall and it goes into my futuristic office, this is the truth, and it sits there in

the middle of all the other awards and goes, ahhhh!" Sandra Bullock has entrusted her "The Blind Side" best actress trophy to a confidant: her young son, Louis. "I'll let him tell you if he wants to tell you, but it's his and he knows where it is," she said.

Reuters



Oscar statuettes are displayed at the "Meet the Oscars" exhibit in New York on 25 Feb, 2010. —REUTERS

SPORTS

Barca pay 13.5 million euros in Neymar tax case

MADRID, 25 Feb — Barcelona have paid 13.5 million euros (\$18.53 million) to the Spanish treasury after they were charged last week with tax fraud in the signing of Brazil forward Neymar.

The Spanish champions reiterated that they did not consider they had committed any offence and said they had made the payment due to a “possible difference of interpretation” about how much they owed after signing Neymar in the close season. Club president Josep Bartomeu said Barca would fight to defend themselves “because we are in the right” and expressed surprise that the case had blown up so quickly. Barca members, or “socios”, who own the Catalan club, had no reason to be concerned, he told a news conference after a board meeting on Monday.

“It is very strange,”

he said. “Everything is going very fast and we do not know why. The Barca members should be satisfied with what we have explained, it is the truth.” The exact amount transferred to the public coffers was 13,550,830.56 euros, Barca said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.es), meaning the club have now paid just short of 100 million euros to secure the player’s services. The aim of the payment was “to cover any potential interpretation made concerning the contracts signed in the transfer process for Neymar, although we remain convinced that the original tax payment was in line with our fiscal obligations,” Barca said.

“As we have done so far, the club will continue to give maximum collaboration to the law courts in order to clarify the facts of the case,” they added. “The

board again insists that in relation to this signing, the club has scrupulously

fulfilled its fiscal obligations in

line with its awareness at the time of the contracts and agreements signed in good faith.”

It was not immediately clear whether the payment would mean the fraud charges laid by a Madrid court would be dropped. Barcelona were forced on to the defensive over the deal after a member filed a complaint against Bartomeu’s prede-

cessor, Sandro Rosell, alleging misappropriation of funds. Rosell, who denied any wrongdoing, stepped down saying he wanted to protect the club’s image. But when details of Neymar’s signing came to light the judge overseeing the case granted the public prosecutor’s request to lay charges for tax fraud. After Rosell’s exit, Barca admitted Neymar had cost 86.2 million euros, including payments to the player and his family, and not 57.1 million as they originally said. Together with Monday’s payment to the treasury, Neymar has cost the club almost as much as the record 100 million euros arch-rivals Real Madrid paid for Wales winger Gareth Bale last year.— Reuters



Barcelona’s Neymar (R) fights for the ball with Real Sociedad’s Zaldúa during their Spanish first division soccer match at Anoeta stadium in San Sebastian on 22 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Scorer Hejduk officially retires from Avalanche

NEW YORK, 25 Feb — Milan Hejduk, who spent all 14 of his National Hockey League seasons with the Colorado Avalanche, on Monday announced his retirement from hockey. Hejduk, a three-time NHL All-Star and an Olympic gold medallist, had helped the Avalanche win the Stanley Cup in 2000-01, scoring 23 points in the playoffs.

The 38-year-old Czech native, an unrestricted free agent this summer, had not played this season. He had 11 points from 29 games last season. “I was fortunate to play many years at this level with a great organization and unbelievable teammates,” the right winger said in a statement released by the Avalanche.

“I realized my lifelong dream of not only playing in the NHL but winning a Stanley Cup,” Hejduk had

375 goals and 430 assists in 1,020 games with the Avalanche, scoring 20 goals 11 consecutive seasons and notching 50 goals in 2002-03. He also found success in international competition as a member of the Czech team that won gold at the 1998 Nagano Olympics,

the first one featuring NHL players. He also won the bronze medal at the 2006 Turin Olympics.

“Milan was one of the most humble players I ever had the privilege of competing with,” Joe Sakic, the Avalanche’s executive vice President of hockey

operations, said. “On the ice, he had one of the quickest and smoothest hands of any teammate I ever played with. His release, along with his hockey sense and vision, made him one of the premier goal scorers in the NHL during his prime.”

Reuters



Colorado Avalanche’s Milan Hejduk (R) scores the first goal in the shoot out against Edmonton Oilers’ Semyon Varlamov (L) during their NHL hockey game in Denver, Colorado on 10 March, 2012.—REUTERS

Parma draw with Fiorentina 2-2

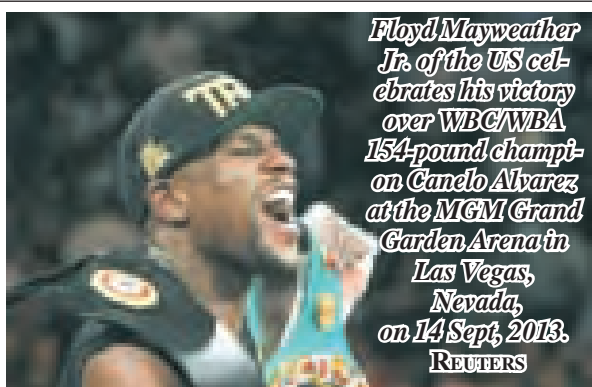
ROME, 25 Feb — Parma and Fiorentina played to an action-packed 2-2 draw which witnessed three red cards on Monday. Parma, who were trying to extend their record 12-game unbeaten run, went ahead in the 39th minute through Antonio Cassano, but Juan Cuadrado equalised for the visitors two minutes later. Amauri put Parma in front again in the 51st minute, two minutes before Viola defender Modibo Diakite was sent off.

Mati Fernandez levelled for the visitors five minutes from time with a thrilling free-kick which stirred up a tense finale where Gianni Munari and Borja Valero were dismissed. Fiorentina head coach Vincenzo Montella criticised his players for losing their minds. “We could’ve finished the first half better and it’s a real shame to have lost two players,” he said. “We must learn to control ourselves and be more clear-headed

when dealing with certain situations. Even with 10 men and in a tough arena, the team had a great reaction to equalise,” he said.

His Parma Roberto Donadoni gave Fiorentina credit for fighting back with 10 men to hold Parma. “It’s a shame about the draw, as it was legitimate to expect the victory, but we must give credit to our opponents and to Mati Fernandez for that goal,” he said.

Xinhua



Floyd Mayweather Jr. of the US celebrates his victory over WBC/WBA 154-pound champion Canelo Alvarez at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 14 Sept, 2013. REUTERS

Mayweather to face Maidana on 3 May

LOS ANGELES, 25 Feb — Five-division world champion Floyd Mayweather Jr will face Marcos Maidana of Argentina in a welterweight title fight on 3 May, the American announced on Monday.

Mayweather, who turns 37 on Monday, revealed the news via Twitter, ending months of speculation about his next opponent.

Mayweather defeated

Saul Canelo Alvarez in his most recent bout in September and subsequently announced the 3 May fight without identifying his next opponent.

The site for the matchup has yet to be announced.

Mayweather has a perfect 45-0 record while Maidana is coming off an impressive win against Adrien Broner to be 35-3.

Reuters

Rangers extend manager Washington through 2015

NEW YORK, 25 Feb — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington, who twice led the American League team to the World Series and posted 370 wins over the past four seasons, has been given a one-year contract extension through 2015.

The Rangers made the announcement after Monday’s intrasquad game at their spring training complex in Surprise, Arizona. Washington’s contract was set to expire after the

upcoming season. Entering his eighth year as Texas manager, Washington has compiled 611 wins, the most ever by a Rangers manager, and his .538 winning percentage is highest for the franchise.

General manager Jon Daniels said there was never a question about an extension for Washington, whose chief disappointments were World Series defeats in 2010 to the San Francisco Giants and in seven games to the St. Louis Cardinals in 2011 when the Rangers were twice within one strike of victory.

Reuters



GENERAL

Villarreal snatch 2-1 win at Espanyol

MADRID, 25 Feb — Villarreal earned a 2-1 victory at Espanyol Monday thanks to goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo's heroic performance to deny a stoppage-time penalty in the Spanish La Liga. Asenjo dove correctly to his right to deny Sergio Garcia's spot kick after Villarreal defender Gabriel Armando handled inside the area.

Villarreal led 2-0 by the 50th minute, starting with teenage midfielder Matias Nahuel picking out Moises Gomez's run into the area before Jeremy Perbet doubled the advantage by scoring from a through ball into the area.—Xinhua



A woman sits on a motorcycle during the 27th Toronto Motorcycle Show in Toronto, Canada, on 23 Feb, 2014. Ontario's biggest motorcycle show displayed over 400 new motorcycles, ATVs, and scooters from the world's top manufacturers from 21 to 23 Feb this year.—XINHUA

Pentagon chief plans to reduce US army size

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb — US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel outlined on Monday his priorities for 2015 defence budget cut, including plans to reduce the size of the US army to its pre-World War II levels.

"We are repositioning to focus on the strategic challenges and opportunities that will define our future: new technologies, new centres of power and a world that is growing more volatile, more unpredictable and in some instances more threatening to the United States," Hagel said at a Pentagon Press conference. The Pentagon chief unveiled his budget-cut proposals as the Obama administration is preparing



US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel (L) and Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, attend a Press conference at the Pentagon, Washington DC, the United States, on 24 Feb, 2014.—XINHUA

to pull out most US troops from Afghanistan following an almost 13-year war.

"As we end our combat mission in Afghanistan, this will be the first budget to fully reflect the transition DOD (the Department

of Defence) is making after 13 years of war, the longest conflict in our nation's history," said Hagel.

Among the proposals, Hagel announced his plans to further reduce the size of US Army to between

440,000 to 450,000 active-duty soldiers. This would mark the US Army's smallest force since World War II. The active-duty troop level has already been slated to go down to 490,000 by 2015 from a peak of 570,000 after 11 September attacks, 2001. Hagel's proposals also include to retire the US Air Force's entire A-10 fleet and to seek another round of base realignment and closure.

Hagel said the recommendations favour "a smaller and more capable force, putting a premium on rapidly deployable, self-sustaining platforms that can defeat more technologically advanced adversaries."—Xinhua

Three out of four Aussie Internet users shop online

CANBERRA, 25 Feb — In 2012 - 13, 76 percent of Australia's 15.4 million internet users made a purchase or order over the Internet, according to figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Tuesday. Data shows that the proportion of internet users is 84 percent among males, slightly higher than women's 83 percent. However, the reverse is true for online shopping in 2012 - 13. Some 76 percent of female internet users shopped online compared to 75 percent of male Internet users.

The most popular types of purchases were travel, accommodation, memberships or tickets of any kind for both males and females, ABS Assistant Director of the Innovation and Technology Statistics Branch, David Taylor said.

The second most popular online shopping items for females were clothes, cosmetics or jewellery (59 percent), in comparison to males second most popular purchases of CDs, music, DVDs, videos, books or magazines (50 percent).

The two most popular activities performed on the internet at home were paying bills or banking online and social networking. Social networking was more common for younger people — 90 percent of 15 to 17 year olds and 92 percent of 18 to 24 year olds performed this activity.

Xinhua

Olympic athletes receive enthusiastic welcome home from Sochi

NARITA, (Japan), 25 Feb — Approximately 900 fans welcomed athletes of Japan's Sochi Olympic team at Narita airport on Tuesday morning as they returned home aboard a chartered plane.

The athletes, including men's figure skating champion Yuzuru Hanyu and women's snowboard parallel giant slalom silver medalist Tomoka Takeuchi, were met with a deluge of camera flashes when they showed up in the arrival lobby 90 minutes later than scheduled.

"I came to see gold medal winner Yuzuru Hanyu," said Ayumi Tobai, 26, from Chiba Prefecture.

Mami Ogawa, 25, also from Chiba, said, "I was impressed by Mao



Mao Asada arrives at Narita airport near Tokyo on 25 Feb, 2014, as the Japanese figure skating squad returned from the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.—KYODO NEWS

Asada's performance." Asada put a poor short programme behind her with a strong free skate to finish sixth.

Japan took home its second most medals at a Winter Olympics after the 1998 Nagano Games where it won 10, winning

eight medals for its largest haul overseas — one gold, four silvers and three bronzes.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(26-2-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:40 am

2. Law Ka Ni Ti

8:00 am

3. News/ International News

9:30 am

4. Documentary

10:15 am

5. T V Drama Series

11:30 am

6. Teleplay

12:00 pm

7. News / International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm

8. Myanmar Movie

3:00 pm

9. News

4:15 pm

10. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Physics)

5:00 pm

11. News

6:20 pm

12. Shwe Yin Khone Than

6:40 pm

13. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

14. News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

15. People Talks

9:00 pm

16. News

17. Documentary

18. Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

26-2-14 07:00 am ~ 27-2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Visit to Nga Mye Ya Pyi Shwe Bo
- * World News
- * The Photographer (Portraiture) "Aung Kyaw Moe"
- * Local News
- * Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge
- * World News
- * Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
- * Local News
- * Green Grocer
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
- * Local News
- * A Worth Studying Site for Ancient Myanmar Heritages
- * World News
- * Crocodile Keeper
- * 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

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Anti-Bribery Commission

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved Anti-Bribery Commission comprised of 15 members led by U Mya Win on Tuesday.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung presented Union Taxation Bill 2014 to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He gave an account of the submission of the Bill, saying that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is responsible to amend tax laws before passing the Bill as of this year in accord

with the Constitution.

Then, the deputy minister made clarifications on the report on the Union Budget account for the first six months of fiscal year

2013-2014.

Afterwards, the Public Accounts Joint Committee submitted its findings on the report to the Hluttaw. —MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes joint combat drill

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected a joint combat drill carried out by army,

air, artillery and armoured forces on Tuesday.

Also present were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Com-

mander-in-Chief (Navy) General Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint, senior military officers of (See page 8)

Advice sought from members of SSMNC for relocation of religious buildings in Letpadaung Valley



NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—Chairman of the Implementation Committee for the Report of the Investigation Commission on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project Union Minister U Hla Tun, together with Union Ministers U Win Tun and Dr Myint Aung, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye and deputy ministers, sought advices on removal and construction of religious buildings at Letpadaung Valley from members of the State

Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Region Sangha Nayaka Committee and members of the Sangha from Letpadaungtaung region on Tuesday afternoon.

At the office of Salingyi Township Sangha Nayaka Committee, Chairman of SSMNC Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara, Chairman of Sagaing Region Sangha Nayaka Committee, the Vice-Chairman (Shwegyin) Salingyi (See page 8)

Union Minister U Hla Tun seen at the ceremony of seeking advices on relocation of religious buildings in Letpadaung Valley from members of the Sangha.—MNA

2nd diploma in emergency medicine course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—The 2nd diploma in emergency medicine course, jointly organized by Royal Australia College of Surgeons, Australia College of Emergency Medicine and International federation of Emergency Faculty, was opened at the University of Medicine 1 (Yangon) on 24 February.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin

made a speech on the occasion.

Ms. Bronte Moules, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar, explained purpose of the course.

Dr Than Zaw Myint, Director-General of the Medical Science Department, presented certificates of honour to the organizers of Australia and Hong Kong.

The Union minister

also attended the opening of a training course at the University of Public Health in Yangon.—MNA

Promotion of tourism sector discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe attended the 5th World Eco-tourism Conference which was held in Cebu City of the Philippines from 20 to 22 February. The deputy minister said conservation of biodiversity and wet land mangrove forest are being carried out along waterway and coastal areas

of Myanmar. He also highlighted outbound tourism service will be kept open in Myanmar soon. He encouraged the travel agencies in Philippines and travel tours companies in Myanmar to cooperate with each other to create mutual benefit.

He then met the Cebu Mayor of the Philippines and discussed promotion of tourism sector.—MNA

Two primary schools in Taninthayi Region through Japan's GGP

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance totaling US\$ 231,162 in 2012 for two humanitarian assistance programs entitled:

“The Project for Construction of Myeik Taung Basic Education Post Primary School in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region”, US\$123,408

“The Project for Construction of Basic Education Primary School No.7 in Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region”, US\$107,754

The hand-over and

Public Works, SAMBO sign MoU

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—Deputy Minister of Construction Dr Win Myint delivered an address at the ceremony of signing MoU between Public

Works under the Ministry of Construction and SAMBO Engineering Co. Ltd of the Republic of Korea on Tuesday morning.

Managing Director

of Public Works U Kyaw Linn and Chairman of SAMBO Engineering Co. Ltd Mr. Lee Chang Yoon signed an MoU and exchanged the notes.

MNA

Myanmar under this GGP scheme since 1993. Among them, 299 education projects, 170 health care projects, 133 public welfare and environment projects, 30 infrastructure projects and 35 other projects are included. It is expected that these assistances will further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar which falls 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in this year.

NLM

Myanmar golf tour 2014 to kick off first event

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—Myanmar golf tour 2014 will be held from March to November in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay and Bagan.

The first event will take place from 13 to 16 March at Royal Myanmar Golf Club in Nay Pyi Taw and My-

anmar Golf Club in Nay Pyi Taw. Professional, amateur (handicap 0-12) and women golfers will be allowed to take part in the event.

Those wishing to take part in the round robin matches may enlist at Royal Myanmar Golf club in Nay Pyi Taw and My-

anmar Golf Training Club in Yangon with K 20,000 fee. Transport service will be given for players along Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw route. For further information, anyone may dial 09 5177956, 09 73080112, 09 420017835 and 09 2037671.—Pho Thaw Zin



Palaw sees a newly-opened basic education primary school building.—MNA