

President inspects renovation of lakes in Wundwin Township, observes cultural heritage conservation works in Bagan

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb — President U Thein Sein called on local people in Wundwin Township to maintain and conserve the lakes which are being dredged and renovated.

The Irrigation Department is dredging and renovating the silted Hthilaing Lake and 13 lakes which were constructed in Bagan Era in Wundwin Township as part of efforts for assisting in supplying drinking water to local people and irrigating farmland so that they can enjoy higher socio economy.

The local people are relying on the Hthilaing Lake and 13 lakes in its irrigated areas for drinking water and irrigation.

In meeting with local people during his visit to the Hthilaing Lake in Wundwin Township on Wednesday, the President expressed his delight for assisting in renovating the irrigation facilities which would help the local people to practice double cropping system and to expand their livestock breeding.

Irrigation Department launched the work on renovation of the Hthilaing Lake and 13 lakes in its irrigated areas as from January with the use of 123 heavy



Silted Hthilaing Lake is under dredging and renovation in Wundwin Township.—MNA

machinery and the work is expected to be completed in March. Upon completion, the lakes would benefit about 8500 population from 1500 households and

1390 acres of farmland.

Being silted, the Hthilaing Lake can not store water enough to supply 1407 acres in its irrigated area and the embankment

of the lake broke in 2001 and 2005.

President U Thein Sein observed cultural heritage conservation works in Bagan Ancient Cultural

Region.

On his arrival at Bagan Archaeological Museum, he heard reports on cultural heritage conservation works in Bagan, efforts

being made to put Bagan into the World Heritage List and matters related to the town plan and tourist arrivals.

(See page 8)

One bridge in Shan State, two BEMS's in Kayah State through Japan's grass-roots assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—The government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance totaling US\$ 342,733 in 2012 for humanitarian assistance programs.

The hand-over and opening ceremonies of one

community bridge and two middle schools were held in Shan State and Kayah State on 18 and 19 February 2014.

The community bridge that cost USD 120,159 between Inn Hmi and Ywa Gyi Villages will benefit about 11,000 population who are facing difficulties in socio-economic situ-

ation due to deteriorated wooden bridge.

The two middle school construction projects that cost USD 102,447 and USD 120,127 in Lawdalay Village and Nwar La Woe Village in Loikaw in Kayah State will benefit around 850 students, who are now studying under insufficient learning environ-

ment in old buildings.

It is expected that these assistance will further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar.

Mr Toshihiro WATANABE, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, attended those ceremonies.

MNA

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Bawkyo Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya to be held in Hsipaw

HSIPAW, 26 Feb—Ancient Bawkyo Pagoda, one of the many pagodas and zedies in Shan State (North), is located west of Hsipaw between Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Union Highway and railroad, north of Dokhtawady River.

The Pagoda was built by King Narapatisithu in 1174 AD.

The king also built the pagodas in Shan State—four in Bawkyo region of Hsipaw Township, one each in Mingon region of Kyaukme Township, Mongpan region of Nawngkhio Township and Homein region of Hsihseng Township in Shan State (North) and Kengluk region of Kehsi Mansan Township and Mongkai Township of Shan State (South).

Bawkyo Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya is held in March yearly.

This year, the Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya will be held from 10 to 15 March.

The pagoda board of trustees makes arrangements for the pilgrims and devotees to be able to offer gold foils to the pagoda, carry out electrification and make cash donation for the pagoda.

Kyemon-Sai Tha Hlaing (Leinmawmyay)

Yankintha Beach in Nyaungdon of Ayeyawady Region to commence recreation season



NYAUNGDON, 26 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the Peasant Day, the Yankintha Beach (previous Nyaungchaungtha Beach) will be inaugurated in Nyaungdon of Ayeyawady Region on 2 March.

In the past, Yankintha Beach, located at the confluence of Ayeyawady and Panhlaing Rivers, was lack of development due to weak management and service.

This year, Township Development Supportive Committee and Yankintha Beach Organizing Committee jointly supervise the discipline,

service and security of the beach with the facilities of floating hotels, recreation centres, shelters, playgrounds on the beach, rising and so on for the visitors.

While enjoying beach facilities, the visitors may take fresh air.

They may pay homage to the pagoda built by Princess Ohnmadanti.

The beach is accessible to Nyaungdon, Bo Myat Tun Bridge crossing Ayeyawady River and Yangon through Panhlaing River.

On the trip to the beach, the visitors may pay

homage to Naingngan Aye Pagoda, Atula Marazein Bronze Buddha Image, Okshithla Maha Pagoda and Mogok Pagoda.

On 2 March morning, the beach committee will organize the entertainments presented by film stars and vocalists with dances and songs at the opening ceremony.

On that day, free service will be given to the visitors with recreation centres, shelters and chairs, according to the Township Development Supportive Committee.

MMAL-Win Myint Kyaw (Nyaungdon)

Anti-Smuggling and Trafficking Training Seminar for Border Officers opened in Myawady



MYAWADY, 26 Feb—The Anti-Smuggling and Trafficking Training Seminar for Border Officers was opened at the hall of the Commander of Myawady District Police Force on 24 February.

Police Col Aung Htay Myint of Transnational Crime Department of Myanmar Police Force and Mr Giovanni Broussard of UNODC Patrol Programme Coordinator made speech.

A total of 24 trainees from the Myawady District Deputy Commissioner, the Commander of District Police Force and officers of General Administration Department, Forestry, Customs Department and Immigration and National Registration Department attended the training

course.

It was aimed at further raising prevention against Myanmar-Thai cross-border crimes.

The training course was opened with the assistance of UNODC.

In June and November 2013, similar training courses were conducted in Tachilek and Kawthoung.

The training course

will run up to 27 February.

Instructors from UK, Austria, Italy and the US are giving training to the trainees.—*Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Border Town)*

Fire brigade members check sawmills and workshops in Sagaing Township and urge entrepreneurs to keep fire extinguishers for fire preventive measures.



Fire Brigade inspects private sawmills, factories in Sagaing Township

SAGAING, 26 Feb—Head of Sagaing Township Fire Services Department U Tun Tun and members checked fire preventive

measures at 15 private factories and workshops in Sagaing of Sagaing Region on 22 February.

The Head of the

department explained outbreak of fire and loss of property in various regions of the nation, fire drills at factories and workshops in Sagaing Industrial Zone and urged responsible persons to keep fire extinguishers.

In Sagaing Township, outbreaks of fire occurred for 14 times, reducing 12 houses into ashes in 2013.

Moreover, one vehicle was blazed and one poultry farms burnt. It was worth K 1,316,000 loss of fire in the incidents. Fire preventive groups were formed in 18 wards and 76 villages.

Officials presented 3035 sets of uniforms provided by Myanmar Fire Brigade and K 10000 each to fire fighters.

Kyemon-Htwe Myint Naing

WORLD

Gunfire by night becomes new norm in downtown Bangkok

BANGKOK, 26 Feb — Shots fired by unknown gunmen on Wednesday rattled parts of the Thai capital where anti-government protesters have set up camp for weeks, with small but occasionally deadly bombs and gunfire fast becoming the new norm in the city.

No one was wounded in the shootings in the central commercial area of Bangkok, although five people were killed in weekend violence in the city and the eastern province of Trat, four of them young children. National security chief Paradorn Pattanabutr said there had been no reported deaths or injuries in the incidents in the early hours of Wednesday. "As for the perpetrators, we still don't know who they are," he told Reuters. "Recently we have

been seeing more incidents like this happening more frequently ... It is noticeable that there are incidents like this every day."

Occasional contact between the two sides, amid calls for putting an end to the violence, has so far led to nothing. Bluesky TV, the protesters' TV station, showed demonstrators pushing against the wrought iron gates of the national police headquarters in Bangkok, demanding the proper investigation of more than 20 deaths since the beginning of the protests. "We want the police to do their job honestly and straightforwardly," said Anchalee Paireerak, a protest leader and former television news anchor. "We urge them to stop serving the Thaksin regime and join our movement."—Reuters



A security agent stands under a stage as protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban addresses anti-government protesters in their encampment in central Bangkok on 25 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Japan envoy urges US to remove more sanctions against Myanmar

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb — The Japanese ambassador urged the United States on Tuesday to lift more sanctions against Myanmar so Tokyo and Washington can jointly help the Southeast Asian country's economic and democratic reforms smoothly.

"It's the time for the United States to review the current sanctions and to make Myanmar business people to be able to come to the United States and do business more freely," Kenichiro Sasae said in his speech at an event in Washington.

The US government has lifted most sanctions it slapped against Myanmar in the past as reward for its promoting democratization. "But there are still some sanctions remaining," Sasae said.

Sasae indicated further economic development of Myanmar through future Japan-US cooperation will be necessary for the country to solve political problems in the process of democratization. Sasae voiced hope that Myanmar, which has been implementing economic and political reforms, will play a role as chair country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this year to help stabilize the region.

Kyodo News

Iran not to shut down any nuclear facilities

TEHRAN, 26 Feb — Iran will not shut down any of its nuclear facilities, Ali-Akbar Velayati the senior advisor to Iran's supreme leader was quoted as saying by *Teheran Times* daily on Tuesday, emphasizing Iran's commitment to develop its nuclear program despite objections from some in the international community.

Iran will not reduce the number of its centrifuge machines and will not shut down the Fordo uranium enrichment plant and the Arak heavy-water

reactor as part of a comprehensive nuclear deal with the major powers, Velayati was quoted as saying.

The Islamic republic will continue nuclear talks with major powers, he said, adding that the Iranian negotiating team has completely moved within the guidelines set by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

His statements come a week after the US officials tried to allay their Gulf allies' concerns about a comprehensive deal with Iran by stressing the Unit-

ed States will continue to enforce sanctions against Teheran.

"We will not relent in our efforts to confront Iran's destabilizing behavior... not relent in enforcing sanctions," Deputy Secretary of State William Burns said last Wednesday.

Earlier Tuesday, Asghar Zare'an, deputy chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran for Protection and Security, echoed Velayati's position in a strongly worded statement condemning any attempts to pressure Iran

to shut down its nuclear facilities.

"We need to bear in mind that the hostility of the enemies toward the Islamic Republic of Iran is endless. Therefore, we should wisely and prudently turn the enemies' hope into despair," Zare'an said. On 20 January, Iran and the P5+1 group, including United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany, started to implement the interim nuclear deal they clinched in Geneva on 24 November, 2013.

Under the agreement,

Iran suspended 20-percent uranium enrichment and started the process of diluting and oxidizing its 196 kg stockpile of 20-percent enriched uranium in exchange for partial relief of the sanctions imposed on its energy and financial sectors.

After three days of intensive negotiations for a comprehensive deal, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Iranian foreign minister announced on Feb. 20 the timetable for the next round of the talks.

Xinhua

Fukushima students visit Marshall Islands



Keiko Takahashi (L front), 24, a law student at Fukushima University, talks to Dean Langinbelik, a local assemblyman in the Marshall Islands, in the capital Majuro on 25 Feb, 2014. Takahashi and three other university students from Japan are undertaking a weeklong tour of the Marshall Islands to share their experience about the nuclear disaster in Fukushima and learn about the Marshallese struggle in the aftermath of US nuclear testing there 60 years ago.

KYODO NEWS

hardships in consequence of the nuclear testing. That is why I hope the people in Fukushima, especially the younger ones, start to know about Marshall Islands as

they think about their future," Takemine added.

The Marshall Islands will mark this Saturday the 60th anniversary of the US nuclear testing at Bikini

Atoll which left some islands uninhabitable due to nuclear contamination and thousands of people ill as a result of exposure to radiation. The Marshallese continue to demand justice from the US government, saying financial compensation was never sufficient and cleanup of their islands remains unaccomplished.

Keiko Takahashi, 24, a law student at Fukushima University, said she wants to bond with the Marshallese people because she and her family also had to abandon their home in Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, after a huge earthquake and tsunami crippled the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex on March 11, 2011, and triggered extensive leakage of radiation.

"This nuclear problem is very huge. I think, everywhere, the system is similar. In August last

year, I went to Ukraine and also met with survivors of the Chernobyl accident," Takahashi said, referring to the 1986 nuclear disaster.

Already resigned to the fact that she and her family will never be able to return to their home in Okuma, which is just 5.6 kilometers away from the damaged nuclear power plant, Takahashi said she intends to immortalize the culture and tradition of Okuma in an academic paper for the benefit of the future generations of Fukushima people.

She vows to deal with the compensation problem faced by the people in Okuma by finishing her law degree. "Even if I don't like law, because we have problems with our compensation, I force myself to study the Japanese civil code," she said.

Kyodo News

Frustration mounts over Japan-US deadlock in TPP

SINGAPORE, 26 Feb — The 12 countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks kept up the appearance that hope remains for an early conclusion of the pact, but frustration is growing over deadlocked Japan-US talks that hampered reaching a broad agreement at a just-ended ministerial meeting.

“We saw significant progress in difficult areas. We have determined the direction of our negotiations,” Japan’s TPP minister Akira Amari said, expressing a rather optimistic view about the prospects for realizing one of the world’s biggest regional trade accords. “It’s not that talks broke down...we made good progress for the next (ministerial meeting).”

However, Japan and the United States remained far apart over whether Japan can retain its tariffs on sensitive farm products as well as over the phase-out period for US auto duties — issues seen as the biggest sticking point in the whole negotiations.

The two sides held bilateral talks twice in Singapore on the sidelines of the plenary gathering, but no significant progress was made. While the US-led TPP seeks to scrap all tariffs in principle, Tokyo is seeking to retain tariffs on five farm product categories — rice, wheat, beef and pork, dairy and sugar — amid strong concerns from domestic farmers that the agricultural industry would be battered by an influx of foreign goods.—*Kyodo News*

Syrians set to replace Afghans as largest refugee population

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Feb — Syrians are about to replace Afghans as the world’s largest refugee population, fleeing a conflict where barrel bombs leave bodies in pieces and a generation of children are physically and emotionally scarred, top UN officials said on Tuesday.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the UN General Assembly that the world body would do everything to implement a UN Security Council resolution — adopted on Saturday to boost humanitarian aid access — and get help to millions in need.

“Supplies are ready to go into areas that have been hard to reach, and into the towns and cities that have been under siege,” Ban said. “What we need is guaranteed safe passage for humanitarian supplies along key routes.”

“It is incumbent on the Syrian government and all parties to the conflict to reach these agreements,” he said.

Some 9.3 million



Residents wait to receive food aid distributed by UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) at the besieged al-Yarmouk camp, south of Damascus on 24 Feb, 2014, in this handout released by Syria’s national news agency SANA.—REUTERS

Syrians — almost half the population — need help, the United Nations said. Some 2.4 million of those people have fled the country during the three-year civil war.

“Five years ago Syria was the world’s second-largest refugee hosting country. Syrians are now

about to replace Afghans as the present biggest refugee population worldwide,” UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres said.

“It breaks my heart to see this nation that for decades welcomed refugees from other countries, ripped apart and forced

into exile itself,” Guterres told the 193-member UN assembly.

The unanimously adopted Security Council resolution demands cross-border aid access in Syria, an end to the use of weapons such as barrel bombs in cities and towns and threatens “further

steps” in cases of non-compliance. UN diplomats say Syria’s ally Russia is unlikely to agree to any action if the Damascus government was found to be in non-compliance.

But Western envoys expressed a strong intent to push for Security Council action if the resolution is ignored.

UN human rights chief Navi Pillay told the General Assembly that imprecise weapons, notably barrel bombs, had reportedly killed hundreds of people in February alone.

She added between 15-28 December, 2013: “Barrel bombs landed on more than 12 districts, exploding on residential buildings, marketplaces, a bus station, a school and in close proximity to hospitals. This resulted in inhumane loss of life.” “As described ... by one witness after an attack on a bus station, I quote, ‘bodies arrived in pieces, there were parts of bodies and parts of vehicles hanging on the power cable,’” Pillay said.—*Reuters*

Eyeing Afghan exit, US intensifies campaign against Haqqani militants

KABUL/WASHINGTON, 26 Feb — The United States has intensified its drive against the Taliban-linked Haqqani network in an attempt to deal a lasting blow to the militants in Afghanistan before foreign combat forces depart this year, according to multiple US officials.

The effort is taking on added urgency as the clock ticks down on a NATO combat mission in Afghanistan set to end in December, and as questions persist about whether Pakistan will take action against a group some US officials believe is quietly supported by Pakistani intelligence.

The Obama administration has created a special new unit based in Kabul to coordinate efforts against the militant group, according to officials familiar with the matter. It was set up late last year, as part of a new strategy that involves multiple government agencies.

The unit, headed by a colonel and known in military parlance as a “fusion cell,” brings together special forces, conventional forces, intelligence personnel, and some civilians to improve targeting of Haqqani members and to heighten the focus on the group, the officials said.

“Things are coming together in terms of the more comprehensive approach (against the Haqqanis). So, there’s a lot of focus — there’s a lot of energy behind it right now,” said a US defence official, who asked not to be identified.

It was not immediately clear whether the intensified focus on the Haqqanis has led to increased strikes on the group by the US military or

the CIA, which operates drones over Pakistan’s tribal areas.

And it remains to be seen, this late in the NATO combat mission, how much damage the United States can inflict on the Haqqani network, which has proven resilient and uses Pakistan’s tribal areas as a sanctuary. The White House announced on Tuesday that President Barack Obama had ordered the Pentagon to prepare for a possible complete withdrawal of troops following Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s refusal to sign a bilateral security pact.

The Haqqani network, which professes obedience to Taliban leader Mullah Omar, is believed to have been involved in some of the most audacious attacks of the Afghan war. These include assaults on hotels popular with foreigners, a bloody bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul, a 2011 attack on the US embassy, and several massive truck bombing attempts. The group is also believed to be holding Bowe Bergdahl, the only known US soldier missing in the war in Afghanistan.

Some US lawmakers have complained that the Obama administration has dragged its feet in cracking down on the group after designating it a “foreign terrorist organization” in September 2012.

For example, it is unclear what diplomatic pressure Washington is putting on Islamabad to arrest individuals connected to the group, the lawmakers say.—*Reuters*

White House says raised concerns with Iraq about report of arms deal with Iran



A member of the Iraqi security forces takes up position with his weapon during clashes with al Qaeda-linked Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the city of Ramadi, 100 km (62 miles) west of Baghdad on 23 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb —The US government raised concerns about a reported arms deal between Iraq and Iran “at the highest levels” with Iraq’s government, White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters on Tuesday.

Carney said that the Iraq government has denied in a Press release that any contracts were signed, and noted that the US government will follow up with Iraq on the issue.

Reuters

Britain lost 131 mln working days to sickness absences in 2013

LONDON, 26 Feb — Britain lost 131 million working days due to sickness absences last year, most of which were minor illnesses, showed official figures on Tuesday.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said sickness absence rates have fallen for both men and women since 1993 with men consistently having a lower sickness absence rate than women.

The lost 131 million days on sickness absences were much less than 1993, which recorded 178 million days.

Figures released by the government showed that as many as 960,000 employees in Britain were on sick leave for a month or more each year on average between October 2010 and September 2013.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) believed that more than 130 million days are still being lost to sickness absence every year in Britain and working-age ill health costs the national economy 100 billion pounds (167 billion US dollars) a year.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

Syria proposes to complete chemical shipment by mid-April

THE HAGUE, 26 Feb — The Syrian government has made a new proposal to an international chemical watchdog saying it will ship chemical materials out of the country by mid-April, the head of the international organization said Tuesday.

After failing to meet the 5 February deadline to ship out all chemical materials, Syria earlier said that it would need about 100 days for shipping them out, a plan that would require until late May to complete, not leaving enough room to meet the end-of-June deadline to scrap the stockpile.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations have pressed to shorten the shipment period.

od.

In reference to the new Syrian proposal, OPCW Director General Ahmet Uzumcu told reporters, "I'm quite optimistic that this removal can take place."

About the destruction process following the shipment, he said, "I think this may take us till the end of June or just a little further than the end of June."

The OPCW executive

council is expected to discuss the proposed changes.

On Tuesday, Japanese Ambassador to the Netherlands Masaru Tsuji and Uzumcu exchanged documents on the Japanese government's offer of 1.4 billion yen (about \$13.69 million) to a fund to cover the costs of chemical stockpile disposal, said to be the largest contribution to the fund so far.

Syria has so far moved out 11 percent of



Japanese Ambassador to the Netherlands Masaru Tsuji (L) and Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Director General Ahmet Uzumcu shake hands at the OPCW headquarters in the Hague, on 25 Feb, 2014. KYODO NEWS

its chemical weapons. The government has cited

security situations related to the country's civil war

as a reason for the delay.

Kyodo News

Three killed, five others injured in foiled robbery in Kenya

NAIROBI, 26 Feb — Two suspected robbers were gunned down by police and five others wounded in a dramatic shootout along a busy street in the Kenyan capital Nairobi's central business district on Tuesday.

Nairobi police commander Benson Kibue said the slain gangsters were on a robbery mission in the city center. Unfortunately, another woman who was caught by stray bullets also succumbed to her injuries at the hospital.

"We gunned down the two gangsters and recovered two pistols from them in a foiled robbery mission. The injured were rushed to the hospital," Kibue said.

Two victims in critical conditions were transferred by St John Ambulance to Kenyatta National Hospital, while three others remained admitted at the nearby Acacia Clinic.

Most people had to seek cover under vehicles as police pursued the armed gangs. One suspect was shot dead on Kimathi Street while the second one was gunned down on Kamba lane, off Moi Avenue.

The incident took place as the Chinese government donated motorcycles worth 150,000 US dollars to help the police in the fight against soaring crime in the city. Police said most of the criminals operate on motorcycles to enable them to flee through paths and corners that police vehicles can't go through.—Xinhua

US expels Venezuelan diplomats in tit-for-tat move over unrest

CARACAS, 26 Feb — The United States on Tuesday ordered three Venezuelan diplomats to leave in reprisal for President Nicolas Maduro's expulsion of three American embassy staff accused of fomenting unrest that has killed at least 13 people.

Students and others opposed to Maduro want him to quit over high rates of crime and inflation, lack of basic foodstuffs and what they call his heavy-handed suppression of their protests.

Disputes between the ideologically opposed governments in Washington and Caracas were common during the 1999-2013 rule of late socialist leader Hugo Chavez and have continued under his successor Maduro. When it comes to oil, though, pragmatism trumps politics and the United States remains the OPEC member's main export market.

The US State Department

ment said in a statement that two first secretaries and a second secretary at the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington had been declared personae non gratae in response to Caracas' February 17 move against the three Americans.

"They have been allowed 48 hours to leave the United States," it said.

Venezuela and the United States have been without ambassadors since 2008, and Maduro expelled the three US diplomats last week on accusations of recruiting students to hold violent, rock-throwing protests against him.

Washington has rejected the claims as baseless.

Despite the latest dispute, Maduro's government proposed Maximilien Sanchez, a former envoy to Brazil, as its new ambassador to Washington on Tuesday to try to kick-start talks and combat what it sees as propaganda.

"US society needs to know the truth about Venezuela," Maduro said in the latest of his daily speeches to the nation at a meeting with state governors late on Monday.

"They (Americans) think we're killing each other. They think we can't go out to the corner. They're asking for US military intervention in Venezuela. What madness! Should that happen, you and I will be out with a gun defending our territory."

The crisis, in which more than 500 people have

been arrested and about 150 injured over two weeks, has brought remonstrations from the US government and attracted wider attention.

The great majority of those detained in connection with the protests have been freed pending trial, but celebrities such as Madonna and Cher have condemned Maduro.

The 51-year-old former union activist, who narrowly won a presidential election in April to replace Chavez, says international media are in league with "imperialists" abroad to project an image of chaos and repression in Venezuela.

Argentine former soccer great Diego Maradona backed that stance while signing a deal to be a commentator for Caracas-based

Telesur network at the upcoming World Cup in Brazil.

"We're seeing all the lies that the imperialists are saying and inventing. I'm prepared to be a soldier for Venezuela in whatever is required," said Maradona, a friend of both Chavez and Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, before declaring:

"Long live Chavez, long live Maduro, long live Venezuela!"

Sporadic protests continued on Tuesday, with students mounting roadblocks in the more affluent eastern districts of the capital. In a sign of spreading violence, officials and residents in the provincial cities of San Cristobal, Maracaibo and Maracay all reported looting.

Reuters

Bombings and shootings kill 26 around Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Feb — A parked car bomb blew up by a crowded Baghdad market on Tuesday night, killing at least 14 people and bringing the day's total death toll in political violence around Iraq to 26, security and medical sources said. The bomb went off in a side street in the Shi'ite district of Karaada in eastern Baghdad. It set cars on fire, shattered windows, tore apart stalls and demolished some storefronts. Security forces fired off a fusillade of warning shots in the blast's aftermath. At least 14 people were killed and 45 wounded, medical and security officials said.

Baghdad has been hit by wave after wave of bombings since April as the precarious peace enjoyed since the end of Iraq's

sectarian war in 2008 has unraveled. In western Anbar province, where government forces are fighting rebellious Sunni tribes and an al-Qaeda splinter group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, three soldiers were killed and 18 others wounded when a car bomb rammed into the entrance of the governor's compound in the provincial capital Ramadi, according to medical and security sources. Elsewhere, gunmen speeding in a car killed three policemen by a police checkpoint west of the oil refinery town of Baiji in northern Iraq. Most Sunni areas in central and northern Iraq have seen violence erupt as relations between the Shi'ite-led government in Baghdad and the Sunni minority have deteriorated.

Reuters



Taizo Nishimuro, president of Japan Post Holdings Co, briefs reporters on the company's three-year business plan in Tokyo on 26 Feb, 2014. Nishimuro said Japan Post Holdings will invest 1.3 trillion yen over a three-year period from April to enhance its business base in preparation for its initial public offering planned in spring 2015.—KYODO NEWS

NASA to use space images to help monitor California drought

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Feb — NASA scientists plan to use images shot from space and within the Earth's atmosphere to help California monitor one of the worst droughts in its recorded history, officials said on Tuesday. Scientists said they would deploy imaging tools to measure snowpack and groundwater levels and use a host of other technologies to help better map and assess the water resources in a state that produces half the nation's fruits and vegetables. "We're on the verge

of being able to put all of these different kinds of instruments together, these measurements together, and start looking at the concept of perhaps closing the water budget of California," Tom Farr, a NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory geologist, told reporters at a news conference. While much of the United States has experienced torrential rains and heavy snowfall this winter, California is in the midst of a drought threatening to inflict the biggest water crisis in its modern history. Gover-

nor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency last month and has called on state officials to prepare for water shortages and develop solutions for potentially long-term dry weather.

The California Department of Water Resources has contracted with NASA to use data that will be collected next month with airplane mapping tools to measure water stored in the California snowpack, according to Jeanine Jones, the department's interstate water resources manager.

Reuters



A tumbleweed is seen at an irrigation channel on a farm near Cantua Creek, California on 14 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

Panasonic jumps more than 6 percent on report of Tesla battery plan



Panasonic Corp's Amagasaki plasma display plant No.4 building is seen in Amagasaki, western Japan on 9 Oct, 2013. — REUTERS

TOKYO, 26 Feb — Shares in Panasonic Corp jumped more than 6 percent to a three-week high of 1,271 yen on Wednesday after the *Nikkei* newspaper said the firm is inviting a

number of Japanese suppliers to join it in investing in a US car battery plant it plans to build with Tesla Motor Inc.

The newspaper said the investment for the new

plant was expected to reach more than 100 billion yen (\$979 million).

Panasonic was the second-most traded stock on the main board.

Reuters

360 million newly stolen credentials on black market

BOSTON, 26 Feb — A cybersecurity firm said on Tuesday that it uncovered stolen credentials from some 360 million accounts that are available for sale on cyber black markets, though it is unsure where they came from or what they can be used to access.

The discovery could represent more of a risk to consumers and companies than stolen credit card data because of the chance the sets of user names and passwords could open the door to online bank accounts, corporate networks, health records and virtually any other type of computer system.

Alex Holden, chief information security officer of Hold Security LLC, said in an interview that his firm obtained the data over the

past three weeks, meaning an unprecedented amount of stolen credentials is available for sale underground.

The sheer volume is overwhelming," said Holden, whose firm last year

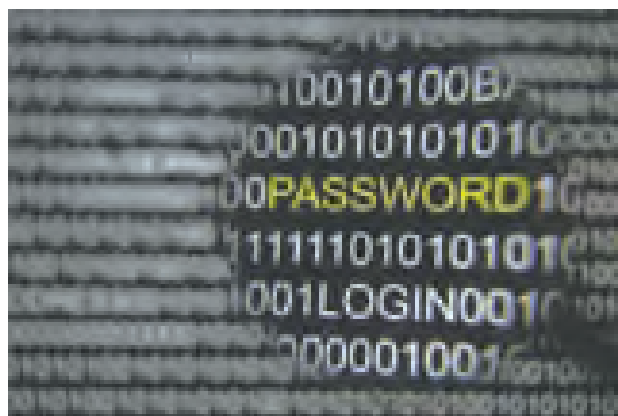
helped uncover a major data breach at Adobe Systems Inc in which tens of millions of records were stolen.

Holden said he believes the 360 million records were obtained in

separate attacks, including one that yielded some 105 million records, which would make it the largest single credential breaches known to date. He said he believes the credentials were stolen in breaches that have yet to be publicly reported. The companies attacked may remain unaware until they are notified by third parties who find evidence of the hacking, he said.

"We have staff working around the clock to identify the victims," he said. He has not provided any information about the attacks to other cybersecurity firms or authorities but intends to alert the companies involved if his staff can identify them.

Reuters



A magnifying glass is held in front of a computer screen in this picture illustration taken in Berlin on 21 May, 2013. — REUTERS

Moon punched in the face by a meteorite

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 26 Feb — A meteorite as large as 4-1/2 feet in diameter smashed into the moon in September, producing the brightest flash of light ever seen from Earth, astronomers said this week. Similarly sized objects pummel Earth daily, though most are destroyed as they plunge through the planet's atmosphere. NASA says about 100 tons of material from space enter Earth's atmosphere every day.

The moon, with no protective atmosphere, is fair game for celestial potshots. The evidence is all over its cratered face and is occasionally recorded by cameras on Earth.

Such was the case on 11 Sept, 2013, when a pair of telescopes in Spain, which were automatically trolling for lunar meteorite impacts, hit pay-dirt with the longest, brightest flash ever observed on the

moon."At that moment I realized that I had seen a very rare and extraordinary event," astronomer Jose Madiedo, with the University of Huelva in Spain, said in a statement.

Typically, flashes of light from meteorite impacts on the moon last just a fraction of a second. The September flash was nearly as bright as Polaris, the North Star, and the afterglow lasted another eight seconds, a video recording made by Madiedo shows.

"Anyone on Earth who was lucky enough to be looking at the moon at that moment would have been able to see it," the United Kingdom's Royal

Astronomical Society said in a Press release. Scientists estimate the meteorite was between 2 feet and 4.6 feet in diameter and weighed about 882 pounds (400 kg.) Moving faster than 37,900 mph, the meteorite smashed into a region known as Mare Nubium with the force of about 15 tons of TNT.

It likely left behind a 130-foot (40-meter) wide crater. Based on their ongoing observations, Madiedo and colleagues estimate that objects roughly 3.3 feet (1 meter) hit Earth's atmosphere about 10 times more often than previously thought.

Reuters



Photo shows the moon and Venus seen close to each other in the sky over a torii gate in Heian Jingu, a shrine in Kyoto, western Japan, at 5:36 am on 26 Feb, 2014. — KYODO NEWS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Dollar holds in lower 102 yen zone as US, China worries remain

TOKYO, 26 Feb — The US dollar remained in the lower 102 yen zone in Wednesday morning trading in Tokyo, as traders retained concerns over the US and Chinese economies that saw the yen strengthen overnight. At noon, the dollar fetched 102.35-43 yen compared with 102.19-29 yen in New York and 102.32-33 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm on Tuesday. The euro was quoted at \$1.3742-3744 and 140.65-66 yen against

\$1.3741-3751 and 140.38-48 yen in New York and \$1.3750-3751 and 140.69-73 yen in Tokyo late Tuesday afternoon.

The yen strengthened in New York overnight as soft US data combined with worries on China's economy amid a sharp fall of the yuan stoked risk aversion. Optimism about the US economy waned when the Conference Board said its consumer confidence index dropped to 78.1 in February from 79.4 a month ear-

lier. The dollar rebounded slightly in the morning in Tokyo but as market participants wait on clearer data out of the United States and China they are unlikely to push the greenback above 102.50 yen, said Yuzo Sakai, manager of foreign exchange business promotion at Tokyo Forex & Ueda Harlow.

"Today Chinese stocks are still lagging so it looks like the concerns remain, and ahead of fresh signs of US economic health, the

dollar's performance will depend on risk sentiment in Asian markets with a focus on China," Sakai said. Market participants are looking ahead to US Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen's testimony at a Senate panel on Thursday for signs of just how much the recent run of weak US indicators can be attributed to adverse winter weather. Yellen is unlikely to say anything specifically critical about the rash of soft data, but if she touches on the weather

situation and seems optimistic about the outlook from March onwards, this indicates that stimulus tapering will continue as planned and should push up the dollar," Sakai said.

"It would be a great surprise if Yellen speaks with nuance about slowing the pace of tapering, but if she does so it will stoke fears that something is fundamentally wrong with the US economy beyond a dusting of snow," he said. Concerns on Ukraine's

tenuous political situation remain a factor in risk avoidance, with the euro taking a fall overnight after Russian deputy finance minister Sergei Storchak's remarks that Ukraine is at a high risk of default on its debt.

"Storchak's comments serve to build on fears of tension between the European Union and Russia on the future of the divided nation," Sakai said.

Kyodo News

Huawei, MegaFon announce 4G+ data network in MWC

BARCELONA, (Spain), 26 Feb — Russia's most important telecommunications company, MegaFon and Chinese telecommunications giant, Huawei on Tuesday announced the launch of fastest mobile data network in the world at the Mobile World Congress. Huawei was involved in providing the infrastructure for the network and Wan Biao, a member of the Board of Directors at the company explained they had supplied MegaFon with the latest technology and the necessary equipment, while he thanked Huawei's Russian partner for the confidence they had shown in them

for the duration of the development. MegaFon's Executive Director, Mikhail Dubin in turn thanked Huawei for making the launch of the network possible in a simultaneous press event from both Barcelona and Russia.

This network uses the latest LTE Advanced, category 6 technology and a new concept 4G+, which has been designed specifically to promote MegaFon's mobile internet, which allows users internet connection speeds of 300Mb per second. At the moment there are no hand held devices which are able to operate at such as fast speed, which would allow



users to download a two-hour long film in less than a minute and the 4G+ users access the network through a Huawei router, which would allow them to link up to 332 smartphones or tablets to that device via WiFi.

The recently closed Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, where MegaFon provided wireless connections and sponsorship, played their role in the development of the network, as both Huawei and Meg-

aFon checked and analyzed how this new network functioned in order to modernize it and adapt it for use in Moscow and other regions of Russia.

The new network is now functioning in the "Garden Ring" in Moscow, but MegaFon intends to expand it into other major Russian cities. MegaFon is controlled by Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov, although it is part-owned by Sweden's TeliaSonera AB (TLSN). —Xinhua

Honda to stop building Insight, its first hybrid car

TOKYO, 26 Feb — Honda Motor Co is planning to end the production of Insight, the company's first hybrid vehicle, at the end of February, a source close to the automaker said on Tuesday. Released in 1999, Insight once led the global hybrid market alongside

Toyota Motor Corp.'s Prius launched in 1997 as the world's first mass produced hybrid car.

While sales of Prius grew steadily, Insight struggled, prompting Honda to decide that its role was completed, the source said. —Kyodo News



File photo shows the Insight, Honda Motor Co.'s first hybrid vehicle released in 1999. Sources close to the automaker said on 25 Feb, 2014, the company plans to cease production of the Insight at the end of February 2014. — KYODO NEWS

US obesity rates remain high despite encouraging signs seen in young children



WASHINGTON, 26 Feb — The prevalence of obesity remained high in the US, with about one-third of adults and 17 percent of children and teens obese in the 2011-2012 period, alongside encouraging development monitored among two- to five- year-olds, a new survey released on Tuesday showed. Researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention examined trends for childhood and adult obesity among 9, 120 persons with measured weights and heights in a

2011-2012 nationally representative study known as National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Overall, the study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, indicated there have been no significant changes in obesity prevalence among two- to 19-year-olds or adults in the United States between 2003-2004 and 2011-2012 periods.

For youth aged two to 19 in the US, 16.9 percent were obese and among adults, 34.9 percent were

obese, it said. Though overall obesity rates remained unchanged, rates in young children did improve. The prevalence of obesity among children two to five years of age decreased from 14 percent in 2003-2004 period to just over 8 percent in 2011-2012 period, a decline of 43 percent, the researchers said.

"We continue to see signs that, for some children in this country, the scales are tipping. This report comes on the heels of previous CDC data that found a significant decline in obesity prevalence among low-income children aged 2 to 4 years participating in federal nutrition programs," CDC Director Tom Frieden said in a statement. "This confirms that at least for kids, we can turn the tide and begin to reverse the obesity epidemic."

Xinhua

Calorie-rich food makes livestock more climate-friendly

VIENNA, 26 Feb — Livestock bred on a high-calorie diet are more climate-friendly and more profitable to farmers, a new Austrian study has found. The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) who conducted the study also believes a switch to such a diet would improve the global food supply, APA reported.

Agriculture currently accounts for about 12 percent of global greenhouse

gas emissions, in part from methane from animals released into the environment. The IIASA believes these emissions could be reduced by about a quarter by 2030 if the pure grass diet of cattle is changed to include high-calorie additives such as corn meal, bran, corn silage and press cake. Leader of the study Petr Havlik said 21 percent of ruminants globally are still fed a pure grass diet.

In addition to the en-

vironmental benefits, cows, sheep and goats also grow faster and produce more milk on a higher-energy diet. As such they could be kept on smaller pastures, the breeding would be cheaper, and the security of supply larger.

Havlik said politicians should take steps to change infrastructure to allow farmers to make necessary changes, and also to improve education.

Xinhua

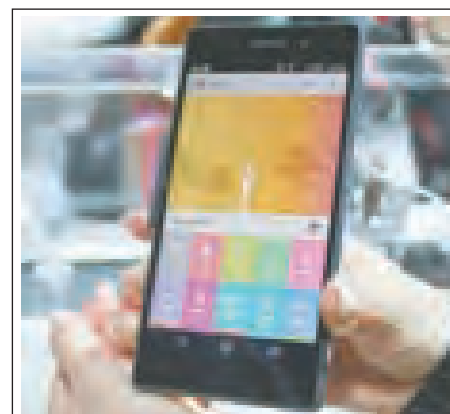


Photo shows Sony Corp's SmartBand SWR10 (bottom) and the display of a special application on a smartphone to be used in conjunction with the wearable device at the Mobile World Congress 2014 in Barcelona, Spain, on 25 Feb, 2014. The wristband-type device logs data such as a user's movements and communications, which can be viewed on a smartphone via the special app.

KYODO NEWS

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 27 February, 2014

An exam season

WE have now landed the exam season of secondary and high school students. Young students have created the active exam season. They burst into midnight and even through dawn by reading out loud. They are putting finishing touches to an academic year. A question arises while parents, teachers and students are bustling around. Is the exam really

important to them? “Yes, why not?” They would definitely answer. They would even mention it the most important moment of the whole academic year. The exam results and marks would define a student next year. It would even define a matriculation student’s life, depending on which university he would join. A matric exam is also approaching. It could become a turning point of someone’s life. An exam marks decide the whole life. In Myanmar, universities and institutes are dispersed. Entry to elite campuses guaranteeing relatively higher career opportunities is limited by marks. Many, if not all, students are working hard to

collect marks as high as they can to make a ticket to a good job in the future. Their motives are driven by their parents and their peers. A few students who have appetite in academic careers could not even voice their intention in the environment. Does our society value lucrative jobs than academicians? A professional might feed his or her own family well. But an academician could contribute to the generations. We need more academic-minded brighter students entering campuses with free souls. We need to cease deciding anyone’s future on grades in exams of parrot learning and start listening to voices of our future academicians, rather than driving them into unfit professional life.



President
U Thein
Sein
observes
mural
paint-
ings at
Ananda
pagoda.
MNA

a Buddha Image and made cash donation. He also observed mural painting conservation works being carried out with the help of Indian experts. Then, the President viewed round archeological excavations at Tharapa Gate and palace sites of King Anawrahta and King Kyansittha on a motorcade. There are 3122 ancient edifices in Bagan Ancient Cultural Region with a total area of 19 square miles. The region is divided into three zones — Ancient Building Zone, Ancient Site Zone and Protected Zone—and conservation of cultural heritages are being undertaken. Moreover, works to expose mural paintings on the lime-painted walls of ancient pagodas are being carried out with the help of experts and advanced technology.—MNA

President inspects...

(from page 1)
President U Thein Sein stressed the need to seek advice from experts on expansion of NyaungU Airport whether airport services can result in damage to cultural heritages, to draw a town planning without affecting the cultural region due to extended construction of hotels,

SSMNC chairman advices to make religious buildings on Latpadaungtaung more valuable, better at new place

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb — Religious buildings on the Latpadaungtaung in Monywa would be moved to designated places in accordance with the rules and traditional practices of Buddhism. The facts that the religious buildings including the Taungya Pagoda would be of value to and would benefit the people at new places are taken into account to remove them, said Sayadaw Bhaddanta

to scrutinize the application to UNESCO for Bagan to be inscribed in the World Heritage List whether it is agreed with rules and regulations and to lay down systematic rules for globetrotters while allowing them to and Sagaing Region Sangha Nayaka Committee, for removal of the buildings as the investigation commission proposed to remove them to proper places. The buildings and the pagoda would be moved to the area which is 400 ft in length and 200 ft in width, about 300 ft south of Kyaw Village in Sal- ingyi Township. Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara, the Chairman of the SSMNC, suggested to envelop the pagoda and to make higher and to rebuild the religious edifices in accordance with the rules of the religion at the new place which is easily accessible by the people. MNA

visit Pagodas. Next, the President visited Ananda Pagoda where he paid homage to



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint holds talks with Master in Public Policy (MPP) students of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of Singapore. (News on page 16)—MNA

National Workshop on countering tobacco industry interference held

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb— National Workshop on countering tobacco industry interference was launched at the Ministry of Health on 25 February. Dr Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health, said that more than five million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use. The annual death toll could significantly rise by 2020. The 56th World Health Assembly confirmed the framework convention on tobacco control. The Union minister urged those present to give suggestions on tobacco control measures at the today’s workshop. Experts participated in the discussion on challenges, experiences and policies of world countries including ASEAN countries. The workshop continues tomorrow. MNA



President U Thein Sein pays homage to Buddha Image at Ananda Pagoda in Bagan ancient cultural region in Mandalay Region.

(News on Page 1)—MNA



Gold mining operators of...

(from page 16)

the questions raised by the Hluttaw committees to the ministries concerned that the Ministry at the President Office had made 1328 replies to Hluttaw Office, 337 to Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and 229 in President Office website. Delays in reply were due some cases that need time to make field trips, he added. Regarding the matters that have no reply, he called on Hluttaw Office to give phone num-

bers if possible apart from the number of the complaint letters, date, matters and name of the department that sent the letters.

Today's Pyithu Hluttaw session approved the Bill amending the National Drug Law that was sent back by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments.

"Bago Region Law and Order Restoration Council allowed an annexed land plot on which a Hindu Temple was built to Linyawkhin village, north of Pyu Town-

ship and 7.31 acres of annexed land to Zeyawaddy village, south of Pyu Township in Bago Region," said Deputy Minister at the President Office U Aung Thein in his response to a question on construction matter at the today's Amyotha Hluttaw session.

Regarding the questions about rural electrification, he said a rural electrification plan, benefiting 1000 households in 18 villages in Falam Township, through a hydropower station will be implemented depending on the budget allocation after

receiving an estimated cost for the plan from Hydro-power Implementation Department.

Today's Amyotha Hluttaw session sought the approval of the members of parliament on amendments and approved the Bill amending the Highway Law and Bill amending the Utilization of Road and Bridge Law.

Next, a work progress report of Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaint and

Petition was presented to the Hluttaw. The report stressed the need to fight against corruption for ensuring the clean government as letters of complaint

carried bribery cases. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker invited MPs who want to hold discussions on the report to list their names.

MNA

"Ministry at the President Office had made 1328 replies to Hluttaw Office, 337 to Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and 229 in President Office website. Delays in reply were due some cases that need time to make field trips."

MOFA, FES sign MoU on bilateral cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the renowned German Foundation Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) signed an MoU on bilateral cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here on Wednesday

evening.

Deputy Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and President of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Mr. Kurt Beck signed the MoU.

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) has been assisting the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development in Myanmar since 2004 on mutually beneficial cooperation projects.—MNA



Signing MoU on bilateral cooperation between Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the renowned German Foundation Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) in progress.—MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Chairman of Jardine Matheson Group Sir Henry Keswick. (News on page 16)—MNA

Record of Discussion on feasibility study and drawing design for Payathonzu-Thanyuayay Road signed

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin delivered an address at the ceremony of signing the Record of Discussion was held at the Ministry on Wednesday evening.

Public Works under the Ministry of Construction and NEDA Company of Thailand signed the Record of Discussion for providing technology and feasibility study and drawing the detailed design for

Payathonzu-Thanyuayay Road development project.

Managing Director U Kyaw Linn and Senior Vice President Mr. Teerasak Mongkolpod of NEDA signed and exchanged the notes.—MNA

Raising reading habit talked in Monghsat Tsp

MONGHSAT, 26 Feb—Monghsat District Information and Public Relations Department of Shan State (East) held the educative talks on human resources, reading skill contest, photo show and wall magazine at Wammaing Village of Kaunghmutan Village-tract in Monghsat Township, Shan State, on 24 February. Deputy Head of the District IPRD Daw Nang Kyi Aye gave talks on advantages of reading and nation-wise census taking process and The reading skill contest followed. The local people viewed round photos and wall magazine showcased at the hall of District IPRD.—*Kyemon-Than Zaw (IPRD)*

Students enjoy wall magazine, photo show at Pyinmana BEMS-5



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Information and Public Relations Department held the wall magazine, photo show and educative talks at No 5 Basic Education Middle School Branch in Pyinmana on 25 February

morning.

Headmaster U Myint Ko Ko of BEMS No 5 branch explained matters related to Bogyoke Aung San and national leaders who signed the Panglong Agreement and emergence of the Union Day.

Deputy Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Department U Zaw Min Tun clarified display of books and publications at the District Library for public reading opportunity and raising reading habit for the local people, issuance

of membership application of the library and free book borrowing system.

It was attended by teachers and students.

They then viewed displays of photos and facts about various reasons at the wall magazine.—*Zaw Min (Shwe Kokko)*

Dams, lakes under repairs for better irrigation

MAGWAY, 26 Feb—The funds of Magway Region government and Rural Development Department are being spent on repairing of dams and lakes in Salin Township of Minbu District on 24 February. Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe and party inspected upgrading of Thiri Mingala Tibo Dam and Monnyaing lake embankment, placing of concrete near mile post 7/5 on Salin-Kanpya-Sedoktara Road, water inlet channel from Mahlwa Creek to Tettu Dam, enhancement of the bund at Lemagan Lake, repair of conduit and spillway. Officials reported on progress of tasks. Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe gave instructions on storage of water at the dam and extension of crops in 2014-15 and development of socio-economy of the local people.—*MMAL-Nan Maung (IPRD)*



Gravel road under construction for rural development

THANATPIN, 26 Feb—Rural Development Department is constructing Bago-Kyaikpadaing-Tarwa-Phalay gravel road for enabling the local people to have easy access to Bago and Kawa townships of Bago Region.

Ngwe Sin Hsan Thit Co is building the road spending K 120 million in 2013-14 fiscal year.

On 22 February, Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Soe Zaw, Bago Region Hluttaw MP U Ko Ko and officials of Rural Development Department inspected progress of two-mile Kyaikpadaing-Tarwa road and attended to the needs. They fulfilled the requirement for electrification of Tarwa Village.—*Kyemon-Tin Aung Hsan (Thanatpin)*

Crime

Illegal timber seized in Pinlebu

KATHA, 26 Feb—The authorities concerned seized 39 pieces of illegal Tamalan timber on board vehicles at Pelangon junction in Pinlebu of Katha District in Sagaing Region.

Police from Pinlebu Township station and senior forester and party of Forest Department, together with witnesses,

acting on tip-off, stopped a Dyna car driven by Myo Win on Pinlebu-Kawlin Road on 20 February.

They seized eight pieces of Tamalan timber weighing 2.0352 tons worth K 508,800.

Action was taken against driver Myo Win, Aik Lin and Tun Tun Naing from the vehicles under the law.

The combined team continued their duty at the junction.

They interrupted a Fuso express vehicle driven by Aung Min Oo in the morning at the junction.

The team seized 31 pieces of illegal timber Tamalan weighing 2.5496 tons worth K 637,400.

Pinlebu Myoma police station opened files of lawsuit against driver Aung Min Oo, Aung Zin Tun, Po Toke, Tin Shwe and Htein Lin of Kawlin under Forest Law.—*Kyemon-Lay Hnyin Hmwe (Katha)*



LED Vehicle tours Mingala Taungnyunt Tsp

YANGON, 26 Feb—Nation-wide census taking process is getting nearer. On 24 February, an LED vehicle bearing census taking process stationed at junction of Banyadala Road and 123rd Street in Thabyegon Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township. Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Khin Maung Nyunt and staff and local authorities distributed pamphlets on census taking process to the local people. The pamphlets were published by Central Census Committee. Moreover, the LED vehicle arrived at Kyidaw Ward and Yedwingon Ward and presented 8000 pamphlets to local people.—*MMAL-Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)*

REGIONAL

Recruiters are left idle at a labor market in Chenli Town of Jinjiang City, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 25 Feb, 2014. Many enterprises here are facing labor shortage after the Lantern Festival, the period that should have seen job hunting season.
XINHUA



BOJ policymaker concerned about effects of slowing growth in ASEAN

TOKYO, 26 Feb — A Bank of Japan policymaker on Wednesday voiced concern about slowing growth in the Association of South-east Asian Nations and its possible adverse effects on Japan's trade at a time when a recovery of exports lacks momentum despite the weakening yen.

While exports of emerging countries have been on an upward trend as they benefit from recovery in developed markets, "Momentum of growth in ASEAN continues to be sluggish," as their capacity to take in such benefits is relatively weak, Koji Ishida said in a speech in Saitama, Saitama Prefecture. Pointing to the unstable political situation in some ASEAN states, Ishida said this raises concerns about the effects on Japan's trade and other aspects of the economy.

Japan's exports have lacked strength in recovery as they are affected by the pace of recovery in overseas

economies as well as structural problems, Ishida said, citing such factors as manufacturing firms shifting production overseas.

"On exports, we are focusing whether they can play the role of leading the economy from the next fiscal year as expected," as they have major influence on capital investments, Ishida said. On the impact of a consumption tax hike in April, he warned that the economy is likely to face a significant downswing from April if a rush in demand prior to the consumption tax increase occurs on a larger-than-expected scale through the end of this fiscal year in March. "It is inevitable that the rise in the consumption tax rate will have a negative impact on real income in households," Ishida said. But he expressed the view that the trend of economic recovery is likely to remain in place backed by the government's stimulus measures.

Kyodo News

Malaysia remains bogged down by domestic concerns in TPP talks

SINGAPORE, 26 Feb — The Malaysian trade minister said on Tuesday that Malaysia will continue to seek flexibility and carve-outs on some contentious issues it faces such as its pro-Malays affirmative action policy and government procurement for a trans-Pacific free trade pact.

"I think we are the country with the most number of difficulties. On the scale of 1 to 12, we are No 12," Trade Minister Mustapa Mohamad said in a Press briefing at the end of a four-day Trans-Pacific Partnership ministerial meeting in Singapore.

"For us, we have some

way to go," he added.

Malaysia's decades-old affirmative action policy accords special treatment to the Malays, who account for over 60 percent of the country's 29 million people.

Perceived as still lacking economically behind the minority ethnic Chinese, the Malays have been receiving state-backed preferential treatment such as greater access to government procurement that is one of the agenda priorities in the TPP negotiations.

"I can say that there has been goodwill and understanding this time around," Mustapa said, noting that

goodwill and understanding do not automatically translate into support.

The Malaysian government has been facing increasing pressure at home to abandon the TPP negotiations. More than 50 organizations ranging from nonprofit organizations like the Malaysian AIDS Council and trade unions to pro-Malay rights groups such as the Malay Economic Action Council have banded together to apply pressure on the government to be more transparent about the free trade negotiations. They have staged many street protests.

Kyodo News

Building collapse in Thailand kills 11

BANGKOK, 26 Feb — A concrete beam of a hospital building under construction in central Thailand's Samut Prakan province collapsed on Tuesday, leaving at least 11 killed and 17 others in-

jured, local media reported.

Two of those killed in the accident, which took place at around 11:30 am local time, have been confirmed to be Cambodian nationals, according to the

Bangkok Post.

As of 4 pm local time, two bodies remained under the debris and the rescue team was still trying to recover them.

Xinhua

Vietnam to build more irrigation works in Central Highlands

HO CHI MINH CITY, 26 Feb — About 950 irrigation works will be built in Vietnam's Central Highlands region from now to 2020, including 670 reservoirs, 250 dams and 30 pump stations, according to local Central Highlands' Steering Committee.

Besides, about 590 kinds of existing irrigation works will be upgraded by 2020. Total investment capital for upgrading and building irrigation works, estimated to be 79 trillion VND (3.7 million US dollars), will come from the state budget, Official Development Assis-

tance (ODA) loans, investors and local residents, local Vietnam News daily reported on Wednesday, quoting sources from the committee.

By 2020, more than 80 percent of the region's farm land is expected to be supplied with water, over 70 percent as of last year, after the upgrading and building of the irrigation works are completed. To date, the region has 2,115 irrigation works, including 1,035 reservoirs, 970 dams and 110 pump stations, reported the steering committee, adding that local existing irrigation works have helped expand

the region's farmland to nearly 1.9 million hectares.

Vietnam's Central Highlands region covers an area of 54,474 square kilometers, accounting for 16.8 percent of the country's total area. The local soil and climate is suitable for cultivation of industrial trees like coffee and rubber. Currently, only 232,600 ha out of 561,534 ha of coffee have water accessed from irrigation works. Local farmers can grow two to three crops a year and achieve an output two to three times higher than areas without irrigation works.—Xinhua

Women's Business Council Brunei Darussalam holds inspiring talk for members

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26 Feb — Entrepreneurship may be the key to solve not just Brunei's unemployment problem but also globally, said Associate Professor Dr. Madeline Berma in the Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment of Brunei Women' forum on Tuesday.

Dr Berma, director of Women's Leadership Centre of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, shared her academic experience and researches with Women's Business Council Brunei Darussalam members in the forum under the invitation of Brunei Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and BAG Networks Sdn Bhd. The event was sponsored by AM Capital and managed by Pentagram Design Sdn Bhd. In the forum, Berma encouraged the members to be innovative and confident in themselves and should not be afraid to face failure. "In fact, one must learn from mistakes," she said.

Haslina Taib, chief executive officer of BAG Networks Sdn. Bhd. (The Brunei Accenture Group), is one of the leading business women in Brunei, and had established a business platform "eBunda", which focuses on development of female leaders, designing outcomes where women can contribute to the progression of Brunei, to promote continuous learning by providing easily accessible and readily available online learning which supports the needs of the women in Brunei and to provide a platform for women in Brunei to connect and collaborate through a supportive network.

Xinhua



Artists of China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Wulanmuqi Performing Arts Group perform traditional dances in Didim of Turkey on 25 Feb. 2014. "Happy Chinese new year" traditional cultural performances by Chinese Ministry of Culture were held in Didim, Turkey on Tuesday. The folk artists from China's Chongqing brought the intangible cultural heritage performances and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Wulanmuqi Performing Arts Group staged a traditional dance performances for local people in Didim. —XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (037)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (037) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (038)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (038) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.2.2014 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.

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV OEL FREEDOM VOY NO (1402)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL FREEDOM VOY NO (1402) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.2.2014 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 ORIENT EXPRESS LINE
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (843)

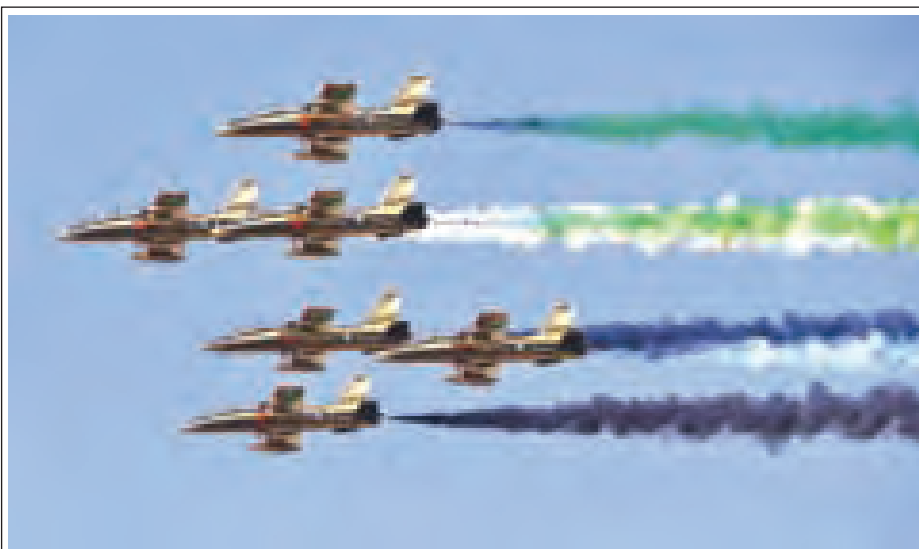
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (843) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Members of Al Fursan, or the Knights, the UAE Aerobatic Display Team perform in the opening ceremony of the Abu Dhabi Air Expo 2014 at Al Bateen Executive Airport in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, on 25 Feb, 2014. The three-day air expo kicked off on Tuesday here.—XINHUA

Haneda airport to open expanded international terminal 30 March

TOKYO, 26 Feb—Tokyo's Haneda Airport will open its expanded, refurbished terminal for international flights with more boarding gates and check-in counters as well as enlarged security screening on 30 March when it starts accommodating daytime flights to and from North America and Europe, according to the operator.

Terminal building-linked boarding gates will increase to 18 from 10 now, while "remote" gates served by bus will more than double to nine from four, Tokyo International Air Terminal Corp said.

Check-in counters will be spread over six "islands" with 144 desks, up from four islands with 96 desks.

There will be two security screening areas in place of one now.

The expanded terminal will have floor spaces of 23.6 hectares, up from 15.9 hectares. The parking building will be able to accommodate 3,000 cars on nine floors, up from 2,300 on seven floors.

In late September, the airport is expecting a hotel with 315 rooms to open with direct access to the departure lobby.

Haneda is increasing flight slots between 6 am and 11 pm by 40 per day on 30 March to allow for long-haul intercontinental services to and from Europe and North America, which are currently restricted to late night and early morning slots.

Kyodo News

Investors pledge \$7.8 billion to kick-start Senegal growth plans

PARIS, 26 Feb — Senegal secured pledges worth about \$7.8 billion at a donor conference that began in Paris on Monday to help kick-start a development plan aimed at doubling economic growth rates over the next decade.

Senegal is one of West Africa's most stable democracies. Its president, Macky Sall, has been praised for anti-corruption measures he has implemented since winning office in 2012. But his government is under pressure to create more jobs and diversify the economy.

The development plan being presented at a gathering of private and public sector institutions in Paris

this week had sought 2.97 trillion CFA francs to help finance development over the next four years, but managed to raise 3.729 trillion CFA francs (\$7.8 billion).

"This shows that Senegal



Senegalese workers gather grass to feed their horses in the shade of baobab trees near Djilakh, on 28 Aug, 2008.—REUTERS

has won the confidence of donors, but that means we do not have the right to fail this trust," Sall told reporters late on Monday. "We have to make sure we put this plan in motion."

The plan aims to boost

output from agriculture, fisheries and agro-industry, as well as the mining sector and tourism. The government also hopes to make Senegal a logistics hub for West Africa's market of some 300 million people.

Sall said the immediate objective was to ensure the former French colony's economy grows about 7 percent annually over the next 4 years from the current 4.6 percent and reduce the budget deficit to 3.9 percent from 5.4 percent.

"About 46 percent of financing is for infrastructure, and we're initially going to focus on 27-28 projects," Sall said, highlighting in particular interest from the

World Bank, French Development Agency, the Islamic Development Bank and China to finance rail projects.

Authorities say the 10-year "Emerging Senegal" plan will cost just over \$21 billion and will eventually target doubling economic growth.

Unlike most nations in the region, Senegal has never seen a coup. Power has changed hands several times during mostly peaceful elections.

Sall has made fighting corruption a priority, a drive that has left about a dozen senior figures from his predecessor's administration in prison.—Reuters

Japan plans to return US plutonium provided during Cold War

TOKYO, 26 Feb —The Japanese government plans to return, at the request of Washington, plutonium provided by the United States for research purposes during the Cold War era, Japanese government sources said on Tuesday.

Japan will do so as the government decided it

needs to be seen contributing to nuclear nonproliferation, the sources said.

The US administration of President Barack Obama has sought return of the plutonium as part of a drive to strengthen nuclear security.

Both governments aim to reach an agreement by

the third nuclear security summit to be held 24-25 March in the Netherlands, the sources said.

At the summit, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to cite the agreement as one specific measure taken by Japan to promote nonproliferation, they said.

The plutonium is kept for use as nuclear fuel at the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's fast critical assembly in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture. The facility is designed to study characteristics of fast reactors.

Some of the plutonium, totaling 331 kilograms at the end of 2012, was

produced in Britain, according to the Cabinet Office. While the Japanese government has told the US government it will comply with the request, Tokyo is demanding the fuel be replaced with lower-grade plutonium for study purposes, the sources said.—Kyodo News

ENTERTAINMENT

Mads Mikkelsen lends steely star power to Denmark's hunt for Oscar

LOS ANGELES, 26 Feb — Danish drama “The Hunt” has at least one advantage over its rivals in its bid to win the best foreign-language picture Oscar: the familiar face of Mads Mikkelsen. Mikkelsen, the 48-year-old star of NBC television thriller “Hannibal,” is no unknown to Oscar voters. The Danish actor has starred in three Oscar-nominated films over the last decade from the nation of about 5.6 million people. Mikkelsen’s work in Hollywood and his association with the upper echelon of the Danish film industry underscore his ability to maintain a high profile in both the United States and his home country.

But any mention of his global recognition may

be greeted with a shrug from the tall Dane known for his steely countenance. “Denmark is a small country and if I can make two films a year (here), people start getting sick and tired of you,” Mikkelsen said

wryly. “So this is kind of nice. I can do more than one (film) per year.” Director Thomas Vinterberg’s “The Hunt” (“Jagten”) is the fourth Danish film to pick up an Oscar nomination since 2006. It is the

third Oscar-nominated film from Denmark to star Mikkelsen, who was in the 2012 period film “A Royal Affair” and the 2006 drama “After the Wedding.”

Danish drama “In a Better World,” by director Susanne Bier, won the best-foreign language Oscar in 2011, but did not feature Mikkelsen. In “The Hunt,” Mikkelsen plays Lucas, a village kindergarten teacher who is wrongly accused of sexually abusing children at the school, after a friend’s young daughter falsely claims he exposed himself to her. The accusations unite the tight-knit community against Lucas, who is ostracized, arrested, loses nearly all his friends and is forbidden from the local grocery store.

Reuters



Best Actor award winner Mads Mikkelsen for the film “Jagten” (The Hunt) poses during a photocall after the awards ceremony of the 65th Cannes Film Festival, on 27 May, 2012. —REUTERS



Musicians and singers from China, Japan and South Korea perform together in Yokohama, near Tokyo, on 25 Feb, 2014, as a cultural exchange programme involving the three countries begins. —KYODO NEWS

Adele, Prince to work on new song?



Adele was seen at Prince’s secret London gig last week.

LONDON, 26 Feb — Award-winning singers Adele and Prince are set to collaborate on producing a new track together. The artistes have reportedly met and discussed the prospect of a collaboration just last week at his secret London gig, reports dailymail.co.uk.

British singer Adele, 25, was spotted at the same nightclub as the gig and she is said to have had a brief discussion about the recording with Prince, 55, before he performed at the gig. The gig was packed with celebrity audience members, including Rita

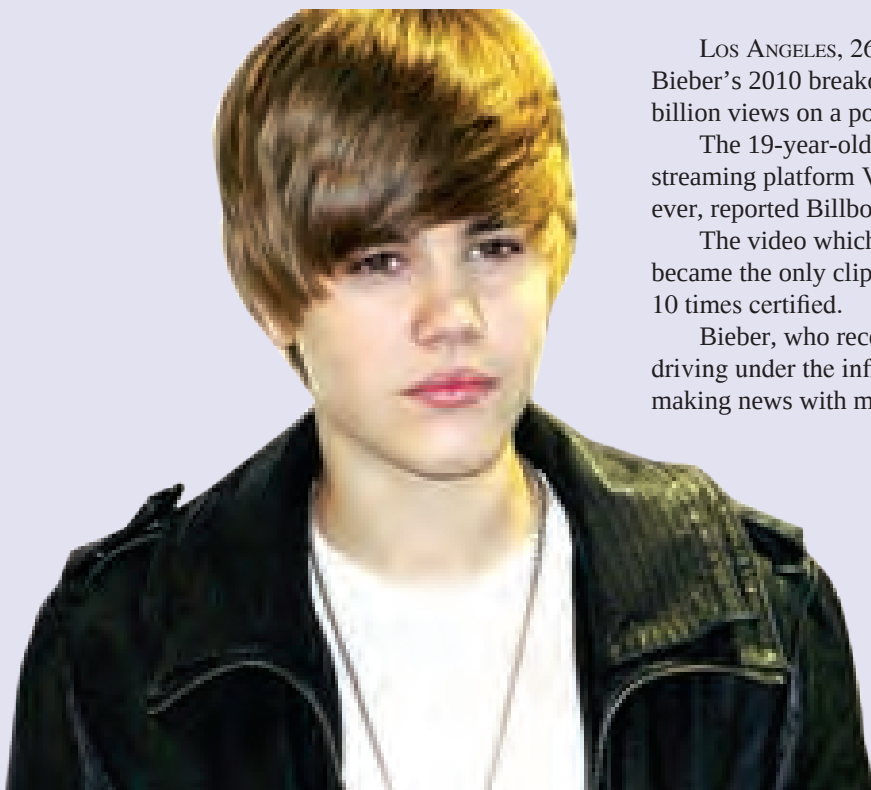
Ora, Kate Moss and Stephen Fry.

According to a source, “The reason Adele only stayed a short time at Prince’s gig at Ronnie Scott’s in London was because it was just a business meeting and she needed to get home. They wanted to work together on a track for her next album.”

However, a spokesman for Prince has denied the claims. “Not true. She just came to enjoy the show,” said the spokesman. Adele is scheduled to release her third studio album this year.

PTI

Justin Bieber’s Baby hits 1 billion on video hosting website



LOS ANGELES, 26 Feb — Teen pop sensation Justin Bieber’s 2010 breakout single Baby has reached 1 billion views on a popular video hosting website.

The 19-year-old singer’s hit track has become the streaming platform Vevo’s most-watched music video ever, reported Billboard.

The video which was uploaded in February 2010, became the only clip on Vevo over the weekend to be 10 times certified.

Bieber, who recently got arrested in Miami for driving under the influence and drag racing, has been making news with many of his controversies. —PTI

The hit track has become Vevo’s most-watched music video ever.

Disney launches cloud movie service for mobile, online viewing

LOS ANGELES, 26 Feb — Walt Disney Co has launched Disney Movies Anywhere, a service for consumers to buy and watch Disney, Pixar and Marvel films online and store them in the cloud, in the latest bid by a Hollywood studio to encourage digital movie purchases.

Disney, like other Hollywood studios, is trying to boost digital sales after consumers moved away in recent years from buying DVDs, cutting a lucrative source of revenue.

The media company said in a statement it launched the new service on Tuesday, coinciding with the digital release of

Disney’s blockbuster animated movie “Frozen.” The service allows consumers to buy digital movies from a library of more than 400 titles through Apple Inc’s iTunes store and the Disney Movies Anywhere website and app.

The purchased movies can be watched on a laptop or desktop computer, or on Apple’s iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch, Disney said. Consumers can also view the films through the Apple TV box.

The service is built on Disney’s proprietary digital rights locker KeyChest, rather than UltraViolet, a cloud storage service used by other major Hollywood studios.



The entrance gate to The Walt Disney Co is pictured in Burbank, California on 5 Feb, 2014. REUTERS

“The beauty of this technology is that it enables us to work with iTunes and future provider partners to

ensure movie lovers have streamlined access to all of their favourite Disney titles no matter what device they

are on,” said Jamie Voris, Disney Studios’ chief technology officer.

Disney said it is in

talks with other retailers about offering the service outside of iTunes.

Reuters

Abe, new Tokyo governor to cooperate on 2020 Olympics



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and Tokyo Gov Yoichi Masuzoe meet at Abe's office in Tokyo on 26 Feb, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 26 Feb —Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and new Tokyo Governor Yoichi Masuzoe agreed on Wednesday to cooperate to ensure the success of the 2020 Olympic Games in the Japanese capital.

The first meeting between the two since Masuzoe's victory in the gubernatorial election on 9 February came after the governor toured Sochi, Russia, through Tuesday to learn how to prepare for Olympic Games.

"Tokyo was chosen as the host as it can surely do it. We would like to do our best," said Abe following Masuzoe's briefing about his meeting with Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach during his stay in Russia.

Masuzoe also expressed his gratitude for the support he received from Abe's Liberal Democratic Party in the election campaign. —Kyodo News

Chess world champ Carlsen launches app and criticizes own game

OSLO, 26 Feb — Norway's Magnus Carlsen, the world's 23-year-old reigning chess champion, has launched an app based on his own past games to make chess more popular, but he'd prefer its players not get good enough to beat him. Carlsen, whose talent and boyish good looks have earned him lucrative sponsorships deals and front-page coverage in his native country, is king of the roost in the chess world since beating Viswanathan Anand of India in November.

A grandmaster since he was 13, he already had the highest rating in the history of the game, ahead of chess great Garry Kasparov's 1999 record,



Norwegian chess world champion Magnus Carlsen reacts while attending the Norwegian Sports Gala in Oslo on 4 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

and was the world chess number one. Now he is the second youngest player to have become world champion — after Kasparov, by a few months, but he also can be his own toughest critic. "I make positional

mistakes, I make evaluation mistakes, tactical mistakes," he told *Reuters* in an interview on Tuesday. "I make mistakes in the opening, I make mistakes in the end games, I make mistakes in the middle games."

Anyone who wants to find out more about his playing style can do so with Carlsen's new app that allows users to play him at the different levels he has achieved since the age of five.

The app is built on hundreds of thousands of different positions from Carlsen's games, be they classical, rapid or blitz, to determine what moves he would make at those ages. The aim is to promote chess among as many people as possible to make the sport more popular and accessible. "The good thing is that you can play me at any age. At age five, anyone has a chance to beat me," Carlsen said.

—Reuters

Earnhardt feels vindicated by Daytona 500 triumph

NEW YORK, 26 Feb —After enduring 55 races without a win and doubts from critics about his competitive fire, Dale Earnhardt Jr was still bubbling with excitement from his Daytona 500 triumph, a victory he said had vindicated him. "If you look at how happy I was Sunday after winning that race, you'll know how bad I want to win," Earnhardt told reporters on a conference call on Tuesday.

"You'll know how much winning means to me, and you'll know from now on that there's no questioning my killer instinct or drive, whatever term you want to use."

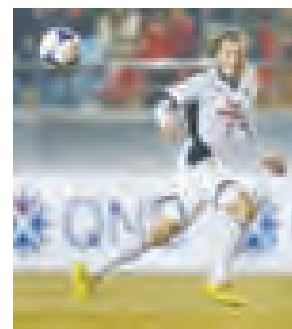
NASCAR's most popular driver for 11 years running, Earnhardt made good on his promise to finally join the social media world should he win Daytona, and his selfie, posed in front of a statue depicting his late

father holding his own Daytona 500 trophy, went to more than 400,000 followers. "Look who I ran into at the Daytona Experience. Dad's Happy!" tweeted a beaming Earnhardt to his legion of fans. The Hall of Fame driver's son, of course, was over the moon by his thrilling victory in the rain-interrupted race that finished late in the night and gave him his second Daytona 500.

"I don't think people realized how much winning mattered to me," said Earnhardt, who had suffered through a fallow period with only two victories since 2006 after winning 15 times in his first five full seasons. "When you look at the critics and you look at their comments, aside from people saying I was overrated, they would always say I didn't have killer instinct, I didn't have the stuff that I needed to drive to win a championship, I didn't want it bad enough," he listed. "When people really pick at your determination, your drive, your hunger, that bothered me more than anything else did, because I grew up around the sport and I love it to death." Earnhardt had no explanation to cover his difficult stretch. "I don't know why, in '09, '10 we were 20th, 25th every week. I look at that now, I can't even imagine it," he said about his early struggles after joining powerhouse Hendrick Motorsports. —Reuters



Chiba volley salvages point for Hiroshima in ACL opener



Uruguay striker Diego Forlan passes the ball after coming on in the second half to make his debut for Cerezo Osaka in their Asian Champions League opener in Group E against South Korea's Pohang Steelers in Pohang, South Korea, on 25 Feb, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

HIROSHIMA, 26 Feb — A well-taken strike from Kazuhiko Chiba rescued a point for Sanfrecce Hiroshima on Tuesday as the two-time defending J-League champions drew 1-1 at home to Beijing Guoan in their Asian Champions League opener in Group F.

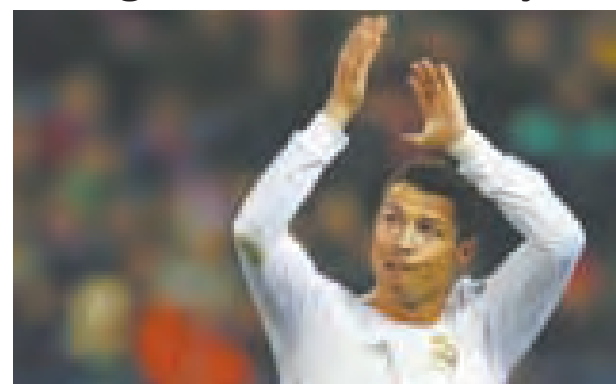
Ha Dae Sung gave the visitors the lead midway through the second half,

but Chiba volleyed in the equalizer 12 minutes from time after Hiroshima had been thwarted by a series of saves by Beijing goalkeeper Yang Zhi.

"We had a lot of good spells and obviously would have liked all three points but we got the absolute minimum done and we can build on that," said Chiba.

—Kyodo News

Ronaldo raring to go after La Liga ban, Ancelotti says



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo reacts while leaving the field as he is substituted by team mate Jese Rodriguez (not pictured) during their Spanish King's Cup semi-final second leg soccer match against Atletico Madrid at Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid on 11 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

MADRID, 26 Feb — Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo is itching to get back into action in Wednesday's Champions League last 16, first leg at Schalke 04 after serving a three-match La Liga ban, coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Tuesday. The Portugal international was sanctioned after being dismissed for violent conduct in the 1-1 draw at Athletic Bilbao on 2 February and has not played since he netted two penalties against Atletico Madrid in the King's Cup on 11 February.

Real are the leading scorers in Europe's elite club competition with 20 goals, Ronaldo scoring a group-stage record nine, and Ancelotti said he would be back in the starting lineup for the match in Gelsenkirchen in a three-pronged forward line with Wales winger Gareth Bale and France striker Karim Benzema.

"He (Ronaldo) is motivated because he really wants to play," Ancelotti

told a news conference. "He was not happy about being sidelined," added the Italian, who is attempting to lead Real to a 10th European title in his first season in charge. "He has prepared well during this period and his physical and psychological condition are optimal." Real have been in fine form in recent weeks and took over at the top of La Liga at the weekend after champions Barcelona and Atletico suffered surprise defeats.

However, they have a surprisingly poor record playing away against German opposition, winning just once in 25 visits and losing 18. Wednesday's game is their first meeting with Schalke, who have former Real striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar in their ranks.

"It is going to be a very intense game," Ancelotti said. "The other team is going to try everything to win and they have a lot of quality and are well organised. To win here we will have to be at our best."

—Reuters

GENERAL

IMF likely to send technical team to Ukraine soon

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb — The International Monetary Fund is likely to send a technical support team to Ukraine soon in order to assist Kiev after its president was toppled by violent street protests over the weekend, IMF chief Christine Lagarde said on Tuesday. “We will probably shortly send some technical assistance support to the country,” Lagarde, the IMF’s managing director, said during an appearance at Stanford University in California. “Because this is our duty to a member if that member asks for that. That is clearly what is likely to happen.”

Ukraine’s parliament does not plan to vote on the formation of a government until 27 February, and the IMF’s rules do not allow it to offer financial support to a country that has not asked for it. The IMF said it has a resident representative in Ukraine who will help in assessing the country’s economic situation.

“Now, to go further, to support better this economy, we need to engage in a dialogue in which the Ukrainian authorities, once designated, will seek out the help and support of the IMF,” Lagarde said. “That’s how it will work. We are ready to engage.” An IMF bailout is widely seen as critical to get Ukraine’s dire economic situation under control, as its government is rapidly running out of cash.—Reuters



Soldiers carry supplies after flood in Beni department, Bolivia, on 25 Feb, 2014. Flood has hit large parts of northeast Bolivia.—XINHUA

Tanker hijacked off Angola in Jan returned, minus \$8 million of diesel

LUANDA, 26 Feb — An oil tanker hijacked for a week off Angola in January has been returned to the country’s authorities, a board member at state oil firm Sonangol said on Tuesday, adding that the hijackers had stolen diesel worth \$8 million from the ship.

The Liberian-flagged MT Kerala was under a time charter contract for Sonangol when it vanished off the coast of the capital Luanda on 18 January before being intercepted by the Nigerian navy a week later.

The incident raised concerns that piracy is spreading south from the Gulf of Guinea, near Af-

rica’s biggest oil producer Nigeria, where most hijacking gangs originate.

Angola is the continent’s second-biggest crude operator and almost all of its production is off-shore.

The incident sparked a row between the Angolan government, which accused the crew of disabling the ship’s communications to fake a pirate attack, and the vessel’s Greek owners, who said pirates hijacked the vessel and stole a large quantity of cargo.

“The MT Kerala was found in Nigerian waters, but as the coast there did not offer security it was taken to Ghanaian waters

and then recovered with help from both countries’ authorities and brought to Luanda,” Sonangol board member Anabela Fonseca told a news conference.

“It is now with Angola government authorities ... We (Sonangol) managed to recover around 78 per cent of the cargo, but they managed to transfer about 12,000 tonnes of diesel, so that is what we lost,” she added, without commenting on who was responsible for the theft.

Mateus Neto, also a member of Sonangol’s board, told the news conference that the diesel the company lost was worth around \$8 million.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(27-2-2014, Thursday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:20 am

2. People Talks

8:00 am

3. News/ International News

9:30 am

4. Shwe Yin Chone Than

10:15 am

5. T V Drama Series

11:15 am

6. Sing & Enjoy

12:00 pm

7. News / International News / Weather Report

12:25 pm

8. Myanmar Video

3:00 pm

9. News

4:15 pm

10. Dance Variety

4:30 pm

11. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Biology)

5:00 pm

12. News

6:20 pm

13. Approaching Science Discovery World

6:40 pm

14. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

15. News/International News/Weather Report

8:35 pm

16. Current Affairs

9:00 pm

17. News

18. Documentary

19. Clever

20. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

27-2-14 07:00 am ~ 28-2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * While I visited around Taunggyi
- * World News
- * Snake Dancer
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (EP-3)(Part-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar - Bridges to change
- * Local News
- * The Pride of Myanmar “Traditional Handicraft”
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Art Teacher
- * Local News
- * Tapestry - A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
- * World News
- * In The Studio : May Phyu Phyu
- * 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
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
- * Local News
- * A Worth Studying Site for Ancient Myanmar Heritages
- * World News
- * Crocodile Keeper

Moyes sees red after limp United show in Athens

ATHENS, 26 Feb — Manchester United’s dwindling hopes of lifting a trophy this season are dangling by a thread after they produced an abject display to lose 2-0 at Olympiakos Piraeus in a Champions League last-16 first leg on Tuesday. Alejandro Dominguez opened the scoring with a clever first-half flick and Arsenal loanee Joel Campbell added a sublime second goal to leave United facing a huge task to overturn the deficit in the return match at Old Trafford on 19 March.

“That’s the worst we’ve played in Europe. We didn’t deserve to get anything,” manager David Moyes told reporters. “I’m surprised, I didn’t see that level of performance coming. “I take responsibility,

we have to play better. The players are hurting.” Defeat at the Georgios Karaiskakis Stadium represented yet another body blow in an inauspicious campaign for last season’s English Premier League title winners. United are out of the FA Cup and the League Cup and trail Premier League leaders Chelsea by 15 points with 11 games left to play.

Moyes’s men looked sluggish and disjointed against an inexperienced Olympiakos side who are bidding to reach the quarter-finals for only the second time in their history. It was the first time the Greeks had beaten United in five attempts. “To beat a great side like United, the way we did, is something very special and I can’t hide the joy and pride I feel for my players,” said

Olympiakos coach Michel. “We picked the best moment to show Greek football is alive and kicking,” added the former Spain and Real Madrid striker. Moyes opted to start with two wingers, Antonio Valencia and Ashley Young, but neither made an impact in a first half in which runaway the Greek league leaders displayed real energy and hunger.

After a cautious opening from both sides amid ear-splitting noise from an enthusiastic home crowd, the first chance fell to Olympiakos as Dominguez burst through the middle on a solo run only to be denied by a last-ditch tackle from Nemanja Vidic. Midfielder Tom Cleverley registered United’s only effort of note in the first half with a 17th-minute half-vol-

Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney (L) fights for the ball with Olympiakos’ Jose Holebas during their Champions League round of 16 first leg soccer match at Karaiskaki stadium in Piraeus, near Athens, on 25 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS



ley that sailed high over the bar. Strike pair Wayne Rooney and Robin van Persie were peripheral figures for the visitors as pot shots on goal from Giannis Maniatis and Hernan Perez lifted the home supporters.

Olympiakos, wearing bright red and white jer-

seys, red shorts and socks, broke the deadlock seven minutes before halftime with a smart piece of improvisation from Argentine forward Dominguez. Patrice Evra’s half-hearted clearance from a corner landed at the feet of Maniatis 25 metres out and

his tame, low shot was expertly diverted past keeper David De Gea by Dominguez’s flick. United, the European champions in 1968, 1999 and 2008, were punished again for poor defending 10 minutes into the second half.—Reuters

Gold mining operators of failing to pay gold debts to government have to face court action

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Gold mining companies have to face a charge of failing to fully pay their gold debts to the government during 2014-2015 FY, said Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung at Pyithu Hluttaw session on Wednesday.

As 35 gold mining operators made no response to the notice published in the state-run newspapers, No (2) Mining Enterprise is trying to contact the managing directors and members of the board of directors of the companies, he added.

Combing operations are underway to interrupt smuggling the nation's resources into the neighbouring countries. A total of 1612 suspects were arrested together with illegal timber logs, vehicles and cattle were seized and punitive actions have been

taken against five officers and 19 personnel during the period from 2004-2005 FY to 2013-2014 FY by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, said Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung.

He continued that sev-

eral arrests and seizure of timber logs, jade and cattle were made and various ways and means including diplomatic means are being undertaken in connection with illegal mining, logging and cattle smuggling in the border regions and illegal fishing in the My-

anmar's water territory. He stressed the importance of mass participation in the fight against illegal trade for the nation's natural resources security.

He responded to the question about whether there is a plan to reply to (See page 9)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Pakistani Ambassador, Jardine Matheson Group Chairman

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann separately met with Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ehsan Ullah Batth and Sir Henry Ke-

swick, Chairman of Jardine Matheson Group and party at the hall of the Hluttaw Building here Wednesday.

Also present on the occasions were chairpersons and members of Pyithu

Hluttaw committees and officials from the Hluttaw office.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets MPP students

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint clarified the reform processes and legislative meas-

ures of the Hluttaw from the time when Myanmar had regained her independence to date in meeting with the Master in Public Poli-

cy (MPP) students of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of Singapore at the hall of the Hluttaw building here on Wednesday.—MNA

U Han Thu presents Credentials to French President

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb—U Han Thu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Francois Hollande, President of the French Republic, on 20 February 2014, in Paris.—MNA

German guests enjoy Bagan's rich artistic heritage

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Under the arrangement of the Asian Trails Tour Co., Ltd, altogether 19 German globetrotters together with a liaison officer of Hotels and Tourism Ministry (Yangon Branch) visited Bagan on Monday.

The guests started their visit on 20 February and scheduled another plans of visit passing Tamu, Kalay, Kalewa, Thetkeyin, Pyinkaing, Tawgyin, Kan-

htooma, Taze, YeU, Shwebo, Mandalay, Bagan and Nay Pyi Taw till 28 February. After their visits, they arrange to leave Mandalay for Bangkok.

"We feel happy to see Bagan's rich artistic heritage and we thank all authorities for their granted travel permission to Myanmar," said a member of the tour group.

The driver of the German tour group and

Salingyi BEPSs get two new school buildings

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Two new school buildings were opened at Htantawgyi/Yonepinyoe Village Basic Education Primary School and Taungpalu Village BEPS in Salingyi, attended by Chair-

man of the Implementation Committee of the Investigation Commission's Report on Letpadaungtaung Mine Project Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, Union ministers and party Wednesday.

These one-story buildings were constructed at a cost of K 30 million each funded by the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD).

The Union Minister inspected the completion

on repairing temporary station hospital in Taungpalu Village and 16-bed station hospital beside Patheingyi-Monywa route and Nyaungbingyi river water-pumping project.

MNA



Union Minister U Hla Tun poses for documentary photo together with local people at new school building opening ceremony at Salingyi BEPSs.—MNA

Transport Ministry lets airlines run charters Maesot-Mawlamyine-Maesot route

The Ministry of Transport has publicized arrangements for Maesot-Mawlamyine-Maesot flight schedule as locals from Mon and Kayin States sent a report to the public affairs management sub-committee on arranging Maesot-Mawlamyine-Maesot airlines for convenience of those who are coming back home from Thailand.

According to the current airlines schedule, Nok Mini airline runs its chartered service SAAB-340B with 34 seats at the cost of USD 60/K59160

as from 1 September, 2013. The flight departs from Maesot at 09:15 and arrives in Mawlamyine at 09:40. It departs from Mawlamyine at 10:15 and arrives in Maesot at 10:35.

In December, the Nok Mini airline has seen the numbers of passenger arriving per day amounted to 270 including ten Myanmar and of passenger departing per day amounted to about 275 including nine Myanmar.

For Mawlamyine Airport has not yet been an international-standard one, such charter services are

allowed to operate. Charter services could be considered to be organized by a tourism company or travel agencies for their customers. But for public chartered flights, tickets could be purchased from a travel agency.

The Ministry of Transport has allowed airlines to fly Maesot-Mawlamyine route as much as possible. Therefore, services of airlines depend on passenger demand.

Public affairs management sub-committee



German globetrotters visit Bagan.—Ko Myo (SHWEPaukkan)