

Myanmar, Austria to cooperate in education sector

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Dr Christoph Leitl, President of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

At the call, they cordially exchanged views on establishing fair and genuine partnership for long-term interests of both sides, mutual trust, qualified vocational training courses, EU's grant of GSP rights to Myanmar and cooperation in energy and environmental conservation, food security, education, health, banking services, finance and technology.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and departmental heads. The delegation was accompanied by Austrian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Johannes Peterlik.

MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Dr Christoph Leitl, President of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace.

MNA



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Information Team

Press Release (6/2013)

6th Waning of Pyatho, 1374 ME
(1 February, 2013)

1. The Government of Myanmar welcomes peace gesture proposed in the statement issued by KIO's Central Committee on February 1, 2013.
2. From the beginning, GOM has believed that the genuine peace desired by all Myanmar people can be achieved only through political dialogue.
3. The Government of Myanmar welcomes peace efforts facilitated by ethnic ceasefire groups and other organizations to assist the Union Peace Working Committee and KIO/KIA to resume peace talks and put an end to armed conflicts. GOM remains committed to cooperating with those organizations facilitating the resumption of peace talks with KIO/KIA.

Information Team

English for Liaison Officers for SEA Games 2013 concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Singapore-Myanmar Technical Cooperation Programmes of English for Liaison Officer for SEA Games 2013 jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Singaporean Embassy was concluded at Nay Pyi Taw Training Center-1 this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union minister urged the liaison volunteers to reinforce constantly the knowledge and experiences gained from the course so as to play an important part in XXVII SEA Games which Myanmar has waited for 44

years to host.

The Union Minister presented gifts to course instructor Mr Denial Tint Lwin. A total of 32 trainees attended the course which lasted from 14 January to 1 February.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (1-2-2013)

Loilem	2°C
Haka	3°C

Rosy future of Myanmar hospitality industry



The open door policy of Myanmar put her back on the list of tourist destination as a place with unexploited unique beauty of the nature. The increasing number of inbound tourists has also led to an upward trend in demand of hotel rooms.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been setting stars to hotels to meet the different demands of different globetrotters. Following the legitimization of foreign investment, hospitality industry has seen a number of foreign-invested hotels, joint venture hotels, state-owned hotels and private-owned hotels.

There are 787 hotels

with 28291 rooms holding licenses of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism according to 31-12-2012 data. As non-smoke industry has become the fastest-growing industry around the world, Myanmar is like a fresh face for globetrotters from four corners of the world.

The number of hotel rooms has increased in Yangon from 8727 in November to 8915 in December last year. Currently, there are four hotels under construction in Yangon as joint ventures with Ministry of Hotels and

Tourism.

As the number of inbound tourists has been growing year by year, we need to be hospitable towards visitors and create more pleasure for eye to attract their second visit.

The gradual transparency, better relations with international community, reforms for development and increase in trust in the government are believed to make Myanmar a fresh major tourist destination.

Myanma Alinn: 1-2-2013

Trs: TTK

**Byline: Maung Maung Myint Swe
Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)**

Mural paintings at Pakhan region depict works of early Konbaung era



YESAGYO, 1 Feb—Mural paintings in early Konbaung era are still located at Labha Kyawswa Ordination Hall in Myaykhetaung Village in ancient Pakhangyi city of Yesagyo Township in Pakokku District.

The village, four miles

west of Pakhangyi was established in Inwa era, it was learnt.

The mural paintings depict works of Buddha Jataka and activities of monarchical period at the ordination hall of the West Monastery.

“In 2004, we could enjoy the works of mural paintings with colourful. Now, some of them were damaged. So, the departments concerned are to preserve the works for their existence in colour,” said a local people.

Kyemon

Shwegu Township facilitated with new transformer

SHWEGU, 1 Feb—Electricity Supply Enterprise has allowed to upgrade installation of 3000 KVA transformer in the placement of 1000 KVA transformer at 66/11 KV main power station in Shwegu of Kachin State.

The new 66/11 KV 3000 KVA transformer arrived in Shwegu on 2 January.

Kachin State Deputy Electrical Engineer U Hla Kyi and officials supervised installation of new transformer at the power



station.

As of 5.30 pm on 5 January, the new transformer

launched supply of electricity to the local people.

Myanma Alinn

Tribute paid to ancient Shan literati's tomb in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 1 Feb—Kyaukme Township Shan Literature and Culture Association held the Shan Sarsodaw Day and the ceremony to pay tribute to ancient Shan literati in Kaungmupuk Village of

Kyaukme Township of Shan State North on 26 January.

In the morning, the participants paid tribute to the tomb of ancient Shan literati. After that, responsible persons gave lectures on the uplifting of

Shan literature and culture.

Myanma Alinn

Free teaching given to matriculation students in Kamayut Township

YANGON, 1 Feb—The free teaching for students who are in difficulties to sit for the matriculation examination due to various reasons is being conducted at Basic Education High School No 5 in Kamayut Township as of 26 January.

The teaching of senior assistant teachers from the basic education schools and teachers from tuitions is supervised by Township Administrator U Zaw Zaw Oo and officials.

The teachers give

Tailoring course opened in Mahlaing

MAHLAING, 1 Feb—Organized by Mahlaing Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the tailoring course No 1/2013 was opened at Wad 2 in Mahlaing on 19 January morning with the aim of creating job opportunity

for women and increasing income of families.

Altogether 42 trainees are attending the course that will last 45 days.

The trainees are taking practice of making knitting, tailoring and other subjects

Myanma Alinn

2013 66th Anniversary Union Day



Systematic runs of bus line discussed in Kalay

KALAY, 1 Feb—A coordination between local authorities and bus line owners was held at the hall of bus terminal in Kalay on 14 January.

A total of 47 bus lines

runs their transport services in Kalay.

These bus lines are based at the main bus terminal near the District General Administration Department on Railways Station Road

in Taungzalat Ward of Kalay.

At the meeting, departmental officials explained transport service of bus lines and avoidance of carrying illegal commodities.

Myanma Alinn

Basic archery course kicks off

YANGON, 1 Feb—Under the joint arrangements of the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Sports, the Tatmadaw Archery Committee and Myanmar Archery Federation jointly conducted the basic archery course No 1/2013 at No 1 Vehicle Store Depot in Mingaladon of Yangon Region on 21 January.

Chairman of the Tatmadaw Archery Committee Lt-Gen Tin Myint Thein made a speech.

General Secretary of the federation Deputy Head of Office of the Ministry of Sports U Kyaw Oo delivered an opening speech.

Next, selected archers and coaches demonstrated their skills. The general secretary explained point system with the use of circle.



The compound and recurve events of archery course are being conducted from 8 am to 11.30 am and from 2 pm to 5 pm

daily. The course will last four weeks at the archery range of Myanmar Archery Federation at Kyaikkasan Grounds.—Myanma Alinn

Reading skill contest held at Htonbo BEHS

PADAUNG, 1 Feb—Jointly organized by Myanmar Writers

Association and Myanmar Libraries Foundation, Padaung Township Writers Association held the reading skills contest at Dr Ye Aung Hall of Basic Education High School in Htonbo of Padaung Township on 20 January morning.

Altogether 41 students participated in the contest. Officials presented handsome prizes to the winners.

Myanma Alinn



Time and tide waits for no man

WORLD

Clinton says US failing to explain policies to Muslims

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb —The outgoing US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Thursday that America has not been successful in explaining its policies to the Muslim world.

When questioned on why favouritism toward America in recent years has even been lower than the Bush administration, Clinton responded: "I take responsibility, along with our entire government and our Congress and perhaps our private sector."

Clinton made the remarks at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington in her final address as secretary of state. She is expected to step down on Friday and be succeeded by Democratic Senator John Kerry.



In this file photo, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw.

Photo taken on 2 Dec, 2012.—MNA

Clinton said one of the reasons is the United States has "not done a very good job in recent years reaching out in a

public media way or in a culturally effective way to explain ourselves."

She said she had encountered many

depictions on US policies by media in the Arab and Muslim world, which she believed are "absolutely untrue."

"Our response has been—nobody will either believe it or we can't possibly contest it," Clinton said.

To change the dynamics, Clinton called for active engagement with the media in the region, including al-jazeera, the popular pan-Arab satellite channel, who she viewed as "relentlessly negative" about America.

"You can't be in the arena and expect there to be a change if you're not willing to get off the bench," she said. "And from my perspective, that's our fault."

MNA/Xinhua

Two killed, three wounded in explosion at US embassy in Turkey

ANKARA, 1 Feb—A suspected suicide bombing occurred in front of the US embassy in the Turkish capital of Ankara on Friday, killing two people and wounding three others, according to private NTV news channel.

The explosion occurred at the entrance used by the embassy personnel and visitors, reported CNNTurk, saying that a security guard at the X-ray machine at the entrance was killed in the explosion when a suspected suicide bomber was passing through the machine.

"At approximately 13:15 on 1 February, there was an explosion at the US Embassy. Appropriate measures have been taken by the Turkish Police who

are now investigating the incident," US Embassy in Ankara confirmed in a written statement.

Television footage showed that the embassy door had been blown out, with the wall around scattered and body parts strewn around the scene. Dozens of ambulances and fire engines have rushed to the scene, also home to other diplomatic missions. Ankara Governor Alaaddin Yuksel told reporters, "It was a suicide bombing, and the blast occurred inside the US Embassy building," adding that the gate is the visa section of the embassy compound.

One of the killed was an US security guard and the other was the suicide bomber, said Yuksel.

The Turkish governor, however, declined to comment if they had received any intelligence before the attack. In his first comments following the explosion, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he needs to be briefed on the explosion.

Turkish police stepped up security measures around the embassy and cordoned off the area for fear of a second possible attack. Police helicopters were also screening the area over the embassy building. Ankara governor and police department chief went to the site to closely coordinate security measures.

MNA/Xinhua

Egypt opposition to protest after deadly week

CAIRO, 1 Feb—Opponents of Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi have called mass demonstrations on Friday, raising the prospect of more bloodshed despite a pledge by politicians to back off after the deadliest week of his seven months in office.

Protests marking the second anniversary of the uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak have killed nearly 60 people since 25 January.

It prompted the head of the army — the institution that effectively ran Egypt for six decades

until Mursi's election — to warn that the state was on the verge of collapse.

The country's most influential Islamic scholar hauled in rival political leaders for crisis talks on Thursday and persuaded them to sign up to a charter disavowing violence and committing to dialogue as a way to end the crisis.

But barely had those talks ended at a mediaeval university, when Mursi's foes called for new nationwide protests, including a march on the presidential palace in Cairo, which his followers



Protesters opposing Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi surround a burnt riot police vehicle after protesters seized it from the Qasr al-Nile bridge during previous clashes with riot police at Tahrir Square in Cairo on 31 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

see as a provocative assault on a symbol of his legitimacy.

"We are going out tomorrow, to Tahrir, and there is a group going to the palace," said Ahmed Maher, a founder of the 6 April youth protest movement which helped bring down Mubarak in 2011.

"We also confirm our peacefulness and that weapons must not be used, because we see that violence, weapons and molotovs have cost us a lot," he added after attending the talks.

Reuters

Explosion at Mexican oil giant Pemex headquarters kills 25



An injured woman is transferred after an explosion in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 31 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA

MEXICO City, 1 Feb —A powerful explosion rocked the Mexico City headquarters of state-owned oil giant Pemex on Thursday, killing at least 25 people, injuring more than 100 and trapping others inside.

The mid-afternoon blast shattered the lower floors of the downtown tower, throwing debris into the streets and sending frightened workers running outside.

A government official, speaking on condition of

anonymity, said preliminary findings suggested the blast was caused by a gas boiler exploding in a Pemex building next to the tower. But the cause was still being investigated, the official added.

The explosion was the latest in a series of safety problems to hit Mexico's national oil monopoly.

Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong said the blast killed at least 25 people, up from a previous count of 14, and injured 100.

Dozens of employees were believed to be still trapped inside, and rescue workers said the death toll at the Pemex skyscraper could keep rising.

Reuters

Two years on, Benghazi threatens "another revolution" in Libya

BENGHAZI, 1 Feb—As night fell over Benghazi, a familiar sound echoed across the eastern Libyan city — an explosion, and then gunfire. A bomb had just been thrown at a police car on patrol, injuring an officer.

It was the latest of many attacks on local security forces. Two months before, the man whose job it was to ensure Benghazi was safe, the police chief, was shot dead outside his home.

Two years after Libya's second city kindled the uprising that ousted Muammar Gaddafi, it epitomises a popular revolution gone awry—rival militias and Islamist gunmen more powerful than the police, moving residents to ask: where is



People look at the wreckage of a police car after an attack, in Benghazi on 14 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

the state?

"Imagine a city taken over by militias when all you want is to support the state," activist

Mohammed Buganah said. "People feel insecure. They are very upset and annoyed about this."

There have been

assaults on diplomats and international missions, including the 11 September killing of the US ambassador, amid a rising tide of kidnappings, bombings and assassinations, mainly of security officials.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Space shuttle Columbia's second life — as a cautionary tale

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 1 Feb — Space shuttle Columbia's flying days came to an abrupt and tragic end on 1 Feb, 2003, when a broken wing gave way, dooming the seven astronauts aboard. Although Columbia now lies in pieces, its mission is not over.

The recovered wreckage, painstakingly retrieved from Texas and Louisiana for months after the accident, was preserved for a

unique archive and education program at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

"I can talk about safety, but once I open those doors and folks enter into the room, it becomes a different conversation," said Michael Ciannilli, who oversees NASA's Columbia Research and Preservation Office.

"When you come face to face with Columbia in the room, it becomes real."

It becomes extremely real."

Ten years ago, Columbia was on its 28th mission, a rare research initiative in the midst of International Space Station construction flights. The crew included the first astronaut from Israel, Ilan Ramon, and six Americans—commander Richard Husband, pilot William McCool, flight engineer Kalpana Chawla, payload commander Michael Anderson and flight surgeons David Brown and Laurel Clark.

After 16 days in space, the shuttle was gliding back to Florida for landing when it broke apart due to wing damage that had unknowingly occurred during launch.

Accident investigators determined that a chunk of insulating foam from the shuttle's fuel tank had fallen off 81 seconds after liftoff and hit a carbon composite wing panel that turned out to be unexpectedly fragile. The breach proved fatal. NASA had no idea falling foam debris, a common occurrence during shuttle launches, could do so much damage.—Reuters



File photo showing the space shuttle Columbia during lift-off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 16 Jan, 2003.—REUTERS

Take-Two delays launch of Grand Theft Auto V video game

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Feb — Ake-Two Interactive Software Inc said on Thursday it has pushed back the launch of the latest game from its hit "Grand Theft Auto" franchise to 17 September from its previously announced release window of spring 2013. Shares of Take-Two were down six percent at \$12.31 in early afternoon trading on the Nasdaq. The delay was to allow Take-Two's Rockstar Games studio, which develops "Grand Theft Auto" games, additional development time, the video game company said.

"Grand Theft Auto V" will be released worldwide for Microsoft Corp's Xbox and Sony Corp's PlayStation3 game consoles on 17 September, the company said. The action-adventure game lets players complete criminal missions in urban settings. The franchise's last title "Grand Theft Auto IV" has sold over 25 million units since its release in 2008. Grand Theft Auto V is set in a fictional city inspired by present-day Southern California. The delayed launch pushes earnings from Grand Theft Auto V sales from June to September, Sterne Agee analyst Arvind Bhatia said. The new title of the massive-

ly popular franchise has the potential to rake in close to \$1 billion in retail sales and sell 15 to 20 million units, according to Bhatia.

"It adds to their development cost and it's launching closer to what we think is going to be a period where new consoles will be coming out and there will be more competition from other titles," Bhatia said.

The video game industry has been struggling to cope with flagging sales over the last year. Analysts say consumers are holding back from buying hardware and software as they wait for rumoured next-generation versions of Sony Corp's PlayStation and Microsoft Corp's Xbox, expected later this year.

The delay could mean Take-Two is possibly creating a "cross-generation" title that could work on current and next-generation consoles, said analyst Mike Hickey of National Alliance Capital Markets. "Remember, Xbox signed an exclusive deal with Rockstar at the beginning of the prior cycle for episodic content, and Sony provided exclusive resources for the completion of Grand Theft Auto IV," Hickey said.—Reuters



Actor and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger

Schwarzenegger calls for more readiness in combating climate problems

VIENNA, 1 Feb — Actor and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger called for more willingness in combating climate problems at the opening of his Vienna R20 Conference on Thursday. "We should not be part of the problem, but part of the solution. Together we can bring the destruction of the environment to a stop—terminate it," he said.

Schwarzenegger mentioned three points in a "recipe for success" which he said he used to turn California into a green flagship state. Firstly, political ideology needed to be removed from the issue, he said, adding

"There is no liberal or conservative air, we all breathe the same air." Secondly, he said "do not wait for international climate agreement," and that while he would look forward to such agreements to eventuate, one could not let the process of waiting for international decisions paralyze forward progress.

Finally, he said people should not be demotivated and made to think they are helpless to do anything on climate protection, but rather efforts should be made to "tell the people how they can do it," particularly with the aid of newly emerging technologies.—Xinhua

Armenia to join international pacts on peaceful use of outer space

YEREVAN, (Armenia), 1 Feb — Armenia will join five international treaties on peaceful use of outer space, the Armenpress news agency reported on Thursday.

Becoming a member of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS), Armenia will join the five international agreements — Outer Space Treaty, Rescue Agreement, Convention on Liability, Convention on Registration and Moon Agreement — that regulate the activities of members in space.

Armenia in December was elected as a member of COPUOS in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The membership gives Armenia a chance to take part in new space projects.

In the frameworks of such projects, Armenian scientists will have the opportunity to visit scientific centers of space agencies of the United States, Europe and Russia.—Xinhua

NASA sees Earth-directed coronal mass ejection erupt from Sun

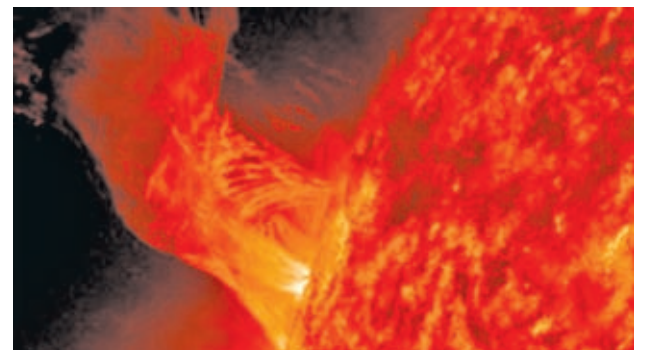
WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — The Sun erupted with an Earth-directed coronal mass ejection, or CME, at 2:09 am EST (0609 GMT) on Thursday morning, US space agency NASA announced.

Experimental NASA research models, based on observations from the Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory, and Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, show that the CME left the sun at speeds of around 575 miles per second, which is a fairly typical speed for CMEs. Historically, CMEs at this speed

are mild, NASA said in a statement.

A CME is a solar phenomenon that can send solar particles into space and reach Earth one to three days later.

Earth-directed CMEs can cause a space weather phenomenon called a geomagnetic storm, which occurs when they connect with the outside of the Earth's magnetic envelope, the magnetosphere, for an extended period of time. In the past, similar CMEs have caused



NASA sees Earth-directed coronal mass ejection erupt from Sun.—XINHUA

auroras near the poles but didn't disrupt electrical systems on Earth or interfere

with GPS or satellite-based communications systems.

Xinhua

Sony ignites talk of PS4 unveil with Playstation meeting



A visitor walks past Sony's booth at the Camera and Photo Imaging Show 2013 in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 31 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 1 Feb — Sony Corp will this month host its first major Playsta-

tion meeting in two years, sparking a flare-up in online speculation the Japanese

consumer electronics giant is preparing to unveil the successor to its 70 million-selling PS3 games console.

Sony declined to say whether it would release a new product at the meeting in New York on 20 February. "We will be talking about the Playstation business," spokesman Masaki Tsukakoshi said on Friday. A Google search for "Sony 20 Feb Playstation" returned more than 7 million hits. The last time Sony held a Playstation event, in January 2011, it presented a prototype of its handheld Vita console. Before that, it convened a gathering in

2005 two months after it first demonstrated the PS3 concept. A meeting in 1999 revealed designs for the PS2.

It has been more than six years since Sony launched the PS3 home console, a longer gap than between it and its PS2 predecessor, adding to the anticipation that it will soon disclose its next gaming concept. Since Sony's last home console launch, the games market has been transformed by the boom in smartphones and tablet computers that have wooed players with free or cheap games.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Breastfeeding reduces ovarian cancer risk: Australian study

SYDNEY, 1 Feb — Women who breastfed their babies for at least 12 months have significantly lower risk of ovarian cancer, a study by Australia's Curtin University researchers revealed on Thursday.

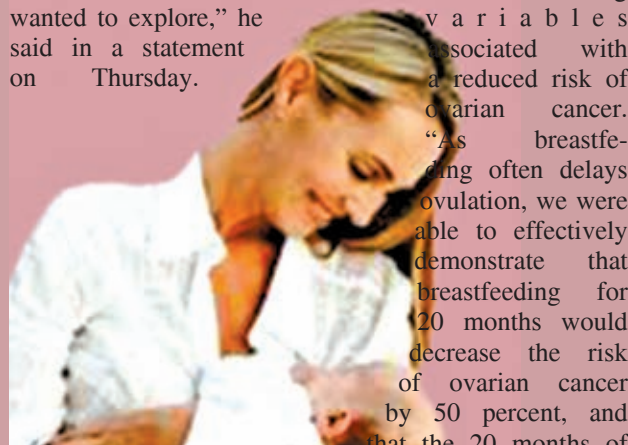
Curtin University's study extends what was known about the beneficial effects of breastfeeding on mothers.

The university said a case-control study was undertaken in Guangzhou, China, where information on the number of months of lactation and number of children breastfed was collected from a sample of 493 incident ovarian cancer patients and 472 hospital-based controls.

Curtin's Health Sciences Professor Colin Binns said China was chosen for the study due to its high population size, which provided a higher number of ovarian cancer cases to explore.

"The lower incidence of ovarian cancer in China suggests there are factors

operating there to reduce the incidence which we wanted to explore," he said in a statement on Thursday.



"We also knew that Chinese women breastfed for longer than women in the western world so it was an ideal location," Binns said the study added further knowledge to the relatively limited amount of research from countries with a low incidence of the

disease, with more details on the breastfeeding variables associated with a reduced risk of ovarian cancer. "As breastfeeding often delays ovulation, we were able to effectively demonstrate that breastfeeding for 20 months would decrease the risk of ovarian cancer by 50 percent, and that the 20 months of breastfeeding could be spread over a number of children and still have the same effect," he said. "The results of our study would recommend that mothers breastfeed for 12 months to gain substantial effect—and longer if they wish." Xinhua

Toyota tops car brands in US consumer perception: survey

DETROIT, 1 Feb — Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) again topped an annual US consumer survey on brand perception released on Friday as all the top automakers' scores rose from last year. Ford Motor Co (F.N), Honda Motor Co Ltd (7267.T), General Motors Co's (GM.N) Chevrolet, Daimler AG's (DAIGN.DE) Mercedes-Benz and Volvo (0175.HK) rounded out the top six, which was unchanged from last year, according to Consumer Reports, the influential consumer magazine that conducted the survey last month.

"The brand leaders have a really strong hold on the mind-share of the consumer," Jeff Bartlett, deputy auto editor online for Consumer Reports, said in an interview. "We're seeing much less space between brands."

In other words,

consumers seem to think many excel in the areas that matter most to them and it's harder for brands to stand out." For example, he said safety is very important to consumers, but most cars are pretty safe. The survey comes less than a month after the Detroit auto show, during which the industry showed off its latest vehicles and concept cars.

Bartlett said the survey was "one window into what consumers are thinking" and is often a lagging indicator influenced by news headlines or neighbourhood experiences. Each of the top 10 saw perception scores rise in the survey. It is based on how consumers perceive each brand in seven categories: quality, safety, value, performance, design, technology and green attributes. The first two categories remain the top buying factors, the magazine said. Toyota led

with a score of 133 points, up about 11 points from last year. Ford, Honda



and Chevy saw their total perception scores respectively rise about 2 points to 117.8 points, about 26 points to 114 and more than 7 points to 94.4.

Rounding out the top 10 after Mercedes (77.4 points) and Volvo (76.5 points) were GM's Cadillac (66.2 points), BMW (BMW.GE) (65.6 points), Chrysler's (FIA.MI) Dodge brand (55.8 points) and Tesla (TSLA.O) (54.8

Toyota's Corolla Fielder (L) and Corolla Axio are reflected in a Toyota Forte's logo at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on 5 Nov, 2012. REUTERS

points). Tesla, relying largely on its new Model S all-electric sedan, gained about 13 points and Dodge's 23-point gain bumped Toyota's Lexus brand to 11th from 9th last year. The bottom five in the survey were BMW's Mini brand (10 points), Fiat (8 points), Chrysler's Ram (7 points) and Mitsubishi (7211.T) and Toyota's Scion (each at 6 points).

Reuters

Sharp logs 2.5 bil. yen operating profit in 3rd qtr

OSAKA, 1 Feb — Struggling Sharp Corp has logged an operating profit of around 2.5 billion yen for the October-December period, due to a weaker yen and robust sales of smartphones equipped with its advanced liquid crystal panels, people familiar with the matter said on Friday.

It is the first time in five quarters that the electronics



maker has made operating profit. The company will officially announce the earnings results Friday afternoon. Sharp has been urged by its main creditor banks to return to the black on an operating basis for the second half of the current business year through 31 March as a condition for continued financial support.

Kyodo New

Kenya's HIV/AIDS transmission among infants drops

NAIROBI, 1 Feb — Kenya's health officials said HIV/AIDS exposed infants have reduced from 27 percent in 2007 to 14.9 percent in 2011, due to increased uptake of elimination of mother to child transmission (EMTCT) and voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) services. Director of National Aids Control Council (NACC) Alloys Orago revealed that 69 percent of HIV positive pregnant women receives antiretrovirals prophylaxis hence the reduction in infection.

The prevalence in Kenya has peaked between 1995 and 1996 at 10.5 percent, subsequently falling by approximately 40 percent and remaining stable for several years. "Today, 69 percent of HIV positive pregnant women receives antiretroviral

prophylaxis hence has reduced the proportion of HIV exposed infants from 27 percent in 2007 to 14.9 percent in 2011," Orago said at the launch of the Kenya AIDS Epidemic update for the year 2012 in Nairobi. The NACC director said it was important gains have been made in preventing new HIV infections through services that prevent mother to child transmission.

He revealed that Kenya performed more than 230,000 voluntary medical male circumcision procedures from November 2008 to December 2010 helping reduces the risk of female to male HIV transmission by 60 percent. He said 1.6 million Kenyans are currently living with HIV/AIDS and are in dire need of antiretrovirals, adding that sexual transmission remains the primary



driver of the epidemic in the country. "Periodic household surveys indicate that Kenyans on average are less than half as likely to have multiple sex partners to day as in late 1990s while condom use has more than doubled," he added.

Reuters

US tablet shipments soar during holidays, threaten to surpass PCs

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Feb — Apple Inc Chief Executive Tim Cook's prediction that tablets would one day outsell personal computers appears to be coming true. Holiday season shipments of tablet computers touched a record 52.5 million, up 75 percent from a year ago, as consumers snapped up a wide range of the touch-enabled mobile devices and lower priced offerings, according to International Data Corp (IDC), which tracks both markets. Growth of the tablet market handily outpaced that of personal computers, with PC shipments sliding 6.4 percent to 89.8 million in the October-December period.

In another sign of the rise of tablets, Apple, the No. 1 seller of tablets, shipped 22 million of them in the fourth quarter, compared with 15 million personal computers shipped by No. 1 PC seller Hewlett-Packard

Co during the same period. But increasing competition means that Apple's one-time stranglehold on the tablet market continues to loosen. The market share of its iPad fell to 43.1 percent in the fourth quarter from 51.7 percent the previous year, IDC said. Samsung Electronics, the No. 2 seller of tablets with its flagship Galaxy brand, captured 15.1 percent of the market, more than double its 7.3 percent share a year earlier.

Software maker Microsoft Corp, which launched its Surface with Windows RT tablet during the holidays, shipped about 900,000 units, IDC said. Microsoft has been banking on Surface to showcase its new Windows 8 software to compete with Google Inc's Android-based tablets and the iPad. Amazon.com Inc, despite having a wider range of products for the holidays, saw its share slip to 11.5 percent from 15.9 percent.—Reuters

Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks about the iPhone 4S at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, California on 4 Oct, 2011. REUTERS



WORLD

Surveillance aircraft gather at US base in Okinawa

TOKYO, 1 Feb —The US military appears to be boosting its monitoring capabilities in preparation for North Korea's expected third nuclear test. It's amassing surveillance aircraft at a US base in Okinawa Prefecture, southwestern Japan.

A US WC-135 plane arrived at the Kadena air base

in mid-January. It can collect radioactive particles that would be released into the atmosphere by a nuclear test. The craft is currently performing take-off and landing exercises. On Thursday, it took off shortly before 10 am and returned to the base about 2 hours later.

A US RC-135 electron-

ics reconnaissance plane was also reported to have flown on Thursday morning. It collects communication data.

A special aircraft converted from a business jet also landed at the base on Tuesday. It can detect information on ground units by using radar.—NHK



Algerian troops stand guard near the Tiguentourine gas field complex in Amenas, 1600 km southeast of Algiers, Algeria, on 31 Jan, 2013. A total of 23 hostages and 32 militants were killed in an appalling hostage crisis at the gas field facility of Tiguentourine on 16 January.—XINHUA

Japan to apply for inclusion of Amami-Ryukyu on World Heritage list

TOKYO, 1 Feb—The government decided on Thursday to apply for the inclusion of the Amami and Ryukyu Islands in southern Japan on UNESCO's provisional list of candidates for World Heritage sites.

The Environment Ministry is hoping to secure World Heritage status for the islands in Kagoshima and Okinawa prefectures in the summer

of 2016.

If the islands are registered by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a World Natural Heritage site, it will be Japan's fifth listing.

The Amami-Ryukyu region under consideration comprises Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the northern part of Okinawa's main island

and Iriomote Island, inhabited by rare species such as Amami rabbits and Okinawa rails, according to ministry officials.

It is expected to take more than a year for the ministry to define the area to be registered as a World Natural Heritage site.

The government also officially decided to recommend the Tomioka silk mill, the oldest Japanese

government-run silk mill, in Gunma Prefecture as a World Cultural Heritage site.

The government submitted the recommendation of the silk mill to UNESCO on Thursday. The World Heritage Committee will decide whether to register the mill as a precious cultural site in the summer of 2014.

Kyodo News

At least three killed, 20 hurt in multi-car crash in US

CHICAGO, 1 Feb—At least three people were killed and roughly two dozen injured in a series of crashes involving 30 to 40 vehicles in "white-out" conditions along a slippery stretch of highway in Detroit on Thursday, according to officials of the US state Michigan. Two children were among those who died in eight to 10 collisions that occurred on an elevated stretch of the interstate highway, Michigan State Police Lieutenant Michael Shaw

said. Another 20 to 25 people were injured in the morning rush hour accidents, according to police estimates.

The multi-vehicle crash on southbound I-75 from Springwells to Schaefer Highway forced closure of the road for hours, as authorities and emergency crews helped the injured. "Visibility was reduced to zero and an incident occurred and then you had a chain reaction multi-car pile-up," Michigan Department of Transporta-

tion spokesman Rob Morosi said, adding it will probably be early evening before the freeway is again totally reopened to traffic.

The number of killed and injured could change as the investigation continues.

Weather forecasters earlier bumped up their Thursday snowfall predictions for Metro Detroit and issued a winter weather advisory for the area, which could see up to 10 centimeters of lake effect snow.—Reuters

Syria protests over Israel attack, warns of "surprise"

BEIRUT/AMMAN, 1 Feb —Syria protested to the United Nations on Thursday over an Israeli air strike on its territory and warned of a possible "surprise" response. The foreign ministry summoned the head of the UN force in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to deliver the protest a day after Israel hit what Syria said was a military research centre and diplomats said was a weapons convoy heading for Lebanon.

"Syria holds Israel and those who protect it in the Security Council fully responsible for the results of this aggression and affirms its right to defend itself, its land and sovereignty," Syrian television quoted it as saying.

The ministry said it considered on Wednesday's Israeli attack to be a viola-

tion of a 1974 military disengagement agreement which followed their last major war, and demanded the UN Security Council condemn it unequivocally. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed "grave concern". "The Secretary-General calls on all concerned to prevent tensions or their escalation," his office said, adding that international law and sovereignty should be respected.

Israel has maintained

total silence over the attack, as it did in 2007 when it bombed a suspected Syrian nuclear site—an attack which passed without Syrian military retaliation.

In Beirut on Thursday Syria's ambassador said Damascus could take "a surprise decision to respond to the aggression of the Israeli warplanes". He gave no details but said Syria was "defending its sovereignty and its land".—Reuters



An Israeli soldier stands guard next to Iron Dome rocket interceptor batteries deployed near the northern Israeli city of Haifa on 31 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

Brazil police blame toxic foam for 235 deaths in nightclub

SANTA MARIA, 1 Feb—A highly flammable foam was responsible for the death of 235 people in a nightclub in southern Brazil last weekend, filling the venue with a thick poisonous smoke within three minutes, police investigators said on Thursday.

The toxic soundproofing foam, responsible for the illnesses of many survivors, may have been the Kiss club's greatest hazard, according to police in Santa Maria, who also faulted broken fire extinguishers and a single, obstructed exit for the tragedy.

"If it weren't for this material, no one would have died," said Santa Maria police chief Marcelo Arigony, holding a piece of foam, which was installed without a flame retardant coating. "In parts of the club without the foam, almost nothing burned."

Police are investigating whether city officials were negligent in allowing the club to operate. As part of a separate criminal investigation, police have also detained the club's owners and two members of the band, suspected by police

of starting the blaze with a cheap flare on early Sunday morning.

Santa Maria's mayor and fire officials have traded blame for an irregular operating license and expired safety plan at the club. On Thursday, the mayor suspended the licenses of all the city's nightclubs and music venues for 30 days.

A nationwide crackdown on unsafe nightclubs also gathered steam, as Brazil's most populous state, Sao Paulo, and its capital city signed an agreement for the joint inspection of bars and clubs. On Wednesday alone, authorities inspected 300 establishments in the state of Sao Paulo.

Reuters



Anna Carolina is comforted by a relative during the funeral at a local cemetery in Rio de Janeiro, on 30 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Train crash injures 150 in South Africa

PRETORIA, 1 Feb—Two commuter trains collided in South Africa, injuring at least 150 people, including many children.

The accident occurred when one train rear-ended stationary cars near a station in the capital Pretoria on Thursday morning.

The carriages involved were mangled. Both trains were packed with commuters at the time of the acci-

dent.

The injured are receiving treatment at hospital. But around 20 of them, including the male driver of the moving train, are in serious condition.

Local media says the rail authority suspects that the crash may have happened due to manual operation, in place after a cable to send a stop signal to trains was stolen.—NHK

WORLD



Israeli President Shimon Peres (R) meets with representatives of Balad (National Democratic Assembly) about forming a new Israeli government in Jerusalem on 31 Jan, 2013, after receiving the official results of the general elections held on 22 January. Shimon Peres continued on Thursday his consultations with Knesset (parliament) newly-elected factions ahead of announcing the next premiership candidate.—XINHUA

Armenia presidential candidate shot, hospitalized

YEREVAN, 1 Feb—Armenian presidential candidate Paruyr Hayrikyan was shot on late Thursday by an unknown gunman and immediately taken to hospital, local media reported.

The 63-year-old leader of the National Selfdetermination Union was seriously wounded but his life was not in danger, said the reports.

Hayrikyan is one of eight candidates in the 18 Feb presidential vote but not regarded as a close rival for incumbent Serzh Sarkisyan, who is expected to be re-elected for a second five-year term.

While visiting Hayrikyan at the hospital, Armenian parliament speaker Ovik Abramian said the attack on the candidate could be aimed at destabilizing the situation in the country.

But whether the vote is to be postponed depends on Hayrikyan's condition, Abramian said. The shooter has yet to be identified as the search for him is still underway.—Xinhua

Japanese gov't panel on collective self-defence to meet on 8 February

TOKYO, 1 Feb — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has decided to convene the first meeting of a panel on 8 February to consider lifting Japan's self-imposed ban on exercising the right to collective self-defence, a senior government official said on Friday.

Abe will attend the meeting, set to consist of members of a panel that had existed during his previous stint as prime minister in 2006 to 2007 to study Japan's exercise of the right,

or coming to the defence of an ally under armed attack, the official said.

Under the current interpretation of the pacifist Constitution, Japan does not permit itself to exercise the right because doing so would go beyond self-defence allowed under the charter. Abe, who became prime minister again in December, plans to visit the United States in late February in a bid to enhance Japan's alliance with the country. At the coming pan-

el meeting, Abe is expected to receive a report on the final conclusion of the previous panel as he failed to get it due to his resignation in 2007 before it was compiled, the official said.

"Concerning the issue of collective self-defence, the government will reconsider appropriate responses in view of the new security environment," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato said at a press conference.

Kyodo News



Carmen Gonzalez (R) is carried into a swimming pool by a friend during her quinceanera (coming-out for 15-year-olds) party, on 19 Jan, 2013. As nearly all Cuban girls dream of having a quinceanera, the industry that moves around that dream is large, with clients ranging from wealthy Cuban-Americans who travel back to the island to sponsor lavish parties, to regular Cubans who save a few hundred dollars over several years from their monthly \$18 state wage. Picture taken on 19 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

Gun shooting comes amid call for stricter control

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—One person has been killed and two others wounded in a shooting in the US state of Arizona. The incident is spurring ongoing arguments over gun control in the country. Police say a gunman shot at 3 men in an office building in Phoenix on Wednesday morning. The suspect re-

mains at large.

Police say the suspect is believed to have fired a gun during a meeting when he got into a dispute with the men he shot. The incident prompted many people to evacuate the building. The shooting came on the same day former Democratic congresswoman Gabrielle Gif-

fords, who was shot in the head in Arizona 2 years ago, testified at a Senate hearing. She appealed for bipartisan support for stricter gun control.

Calls for tougher rules have been growing in the United States since last month's shooting rampage where a man killed 20 chil-

dren and 6 staff members at a Connecticut elementary school. President Barack Obama is seeking new legislation to ban the sale of assault weapons with high-capacity magazines.

Many US media outlets are reporting the incident along with Giffords' testimony.—NHK

Armed robbers kill three policemen in Nigeria

KADUNA, 1 Feb—Dare devil armed robbers on Thursday killed three policemen in an operation which lasted two hours in central north Nigeria's Kaduna State. The robbers also razed a police station and two banks in Birnin-Gwari, a town in the Brinin Gwari Council of Kaduna, Aminu Lawan, the state police spokesperson told Xinhua. Lawan said three policemen were killed by the armed robbers during the attack.

He said the robbers who were about 100 in numbers over-powered the police and they had to retreat.

As at the time of filing this report, he said no arrest has been made but that the

command had launched an investigation into the incident. A resident of the area told Xinhua that the robbers struck in the early hours of Thursday.

The armed robbers headed for the police station in the area and engaged in gun duel with the policemen on duty where the shot sporadically for hours and overpowered the men on duty, the resident added.

The incident came barely 24 hours when the Emir of Birnin Gwari, Zubairu Jibril raised the alarm that armed robbers had taken over his domain, declaring that the men of the underworld were in charged of affairs of the area. Jibril spoke when he

led other traditional rulers, politicians and traders on a courtesy visit to the Kaduna State Governor, Mukhtar Ramalan Yero to laid a formal complain on the activities of armed bandits in the area.

He told his audience that the robbers raped wives of their victims and that over 7,000 cattle had been stolen so far by the bandits. In October 2012, the sleepy town of Dogodawa in Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area of the state was attacked by unidentified gunmen who went haywire killing 20 people in the process. Those killed in that attack were mostly Moslem worshippers returning to their houses in the early hours.—Xinhua



Japanese eel designated as endangered

TOKYO, 1 Feb —The government has designated the Japanese eel an endangered species due to a sharp decline in its population.

The Environment Ministry added the eel to its Red List of threatened species. The eel is listed as IB, the second highest category in terms of risk of extinction.

The population of wild Japanese eels is estimated to have dropped by at least

50 percent over the past 10 years. Experts blame over-fishing and water pollution.

The Red List designation does not restrict fishing or trading of the eel as it is not legally binding. Environment Minister Nobuteru Ishihara said the eel is an indispensable part of Japanese culinary culture.

He pledged all-out efforts to conserve the eel.

NHK

Three police officers injured in explosion at refugee camp in Kenya

GARISSA, 1 Feb—At least three police officers were on Thursday evening seriously injured when unknown assailants hurled a hand grenade at their vehicle at Ifo1 refugee camp, 9 km from Dadaab town. Dadaab District Officer Bernard Ole-Kipuri said the latest explosion occurred at 8:30 pm (1630 GMT). Ole Kipuri said the injured three police officers who were with others were on a normal night patrol in the sprawling camp which has experienced insecurity incidents in the recent past.

"The officers who had just patrolled the expansive camp were returning to their police post but were attacked just 50 metres before reaching," Ole Kipuri told Xinhua by telephone.

He added that after the hurling the grenade at the police officers, the attackers suspected to be insurgents from Somalia later proceeded to shoot other passersby indiscriminately although no civilian was injured.

Kipuri said that the three who sustained serious injuries have been admitted at the Dadaab district hospital. The administrator said no arrest had been made in connection to the incident but noted that the police were on hot pursuit of the suspects.

Dadaab town that hosts the four main refugee camps has witnessed a series of grenade, gun attacks and kidnappings which have been linked to members of the Somalis Al-Shabaab group.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 2 February, 2013

Dealing with debts

Myanmar could finally find a way to reduce the burden of national debt by taking out bridge loans and clearing the outstanding debts due to Asian Development Bank, World Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency following the Paris Club creditor countries' cancellation of 50 % of the total arrears due to them. And more debt cancellation is coming on the way in the next six months.

The immediate benefits of the debt settlement may be the low-interest-rate development loans from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. World Bank has contributed USD 80 million toward community-driven project for development of 15 village-tracts—one each in seven regions and seven states and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area—to be implemented over a period of six years from 2012 to 2019. It is expected those villages will set an example for other villages across the country.

While we might need a monitoring programme like the one of International Monetary Fund (IMF) called staff monitored programme which provides a framework for economic cooperation between IMF and the Union government to ensure resources made available by debt relief and fresh loans are used properly and effectively in infrastructural development and poverty alleviation programmes, we need to empower and educate the rural folk to be able to make use of what they have in hand.

Despite increasing irrigation facilities, increased amount of agricultural loans and efforts at mechanized farming, weather still determines the harvest and untimely rain and floods especially in these years seem to be fond of paying frequent visits to the farmland in delta region, driving farmers into indebtedness.

The government as part of rural development and poverty alleviation scheme is introducing microfinance services. And since the basic aim of microfinance is to lift people out of poverty and not to drag them into debt trap, we need to ensure its real benefits toward the poor and reconsider the way it is offered for money from loans is often used for durable consumer goods or consumption instead of being used for productive investments.

Small and medium enterprises are expected to become the major driving force of the economy. We are therefore to strengthen microfinance organizations not only for reducing poverty but also for encouraging small entrepreneurs.

Yan Myo Aye, Zin Min Thu win IBTC Open Golf Championship

YANGON, 1 Feb— The fourth-day of the 18-hole events of the Myanmar Golf Tour-2013 IBTC Open Golf Championship ended today, awarding winners of the competitions at Royal Mingaladon Golf &

Country Club in Mingaladon Township.

In the Professional Golfers-level, Yan Myo Aye (RMGCC) has become the champion with 279 strokes winning the K 3 million cheque card, Nay Bala

Union Minister meets Head of the department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of EU's Foreign Policy

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb— Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay received Mr. Robert Cooper, Head of the department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of the EU's Foreign Policy Mrs Catherine Ashton, and party at his office, here, yesterday.

Both sides discussed relief and rehabilitation tasks being carried out by the Union government in collaboration with UN agencies and international organizations for recovery of the sufferers from recent riots in Rakhine State and ways to overcome obstacles being encountered. Besides, they concentrated on setting up a long-term plan for social services namely transportation, job opportunities, education, health and human resources

development for all of the local people including both societies.

MNA



Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay receives Mr. Robert Cooper, Head of the department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of the EU's Foreign Policy Mrs Catherine Ashton.—MNA

Myanmar, Austria discuss upgrading of cooperative universities, extension of vocational training courses



Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan and party hold discussions with President of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Cooperatives Dr Christoph Leitl and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb— While the government is striving for political, economic, administrative and social reforms, the Ministry of Cooperatives is making concerted efforts in implementing microfinance project in order to make progress

Win Myint (Srixon) won the second prize with 281 strokes and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon), the third prize with 282 strokes.

In the amateur level, Zin

towards socio-economic development. Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan, President of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Cooperatives Dr Christoph Leitl, Austrian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Johannes Peterilk and party held discussions on

Min Thu won the first prize with 287 strokes, Myo Win Aung the second with 287 strokes and Ye Htet Aung the third prize with 287 strokes.—MNA

U Tin Yu presents his credentials to Russian President

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb— U Tin Yu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, presented

his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, President of the Russian Federation, on 24 January 2013, in Moscow.

MNA

cooperation of upgrading Cooperative Degree Colleges/Universities and fulfilling the need of teaching aids and course instructors in extension of vocational training courses, at his office, here, this morning.

Director-General U Kyaw Ngwe of Small Industries Department and Manager Mr Stephan Seidel of Anita Asia Ltd signed an agreement on five years extension of land lead bond of Anita Asia Ltd of Australia and exchanged notes.

MNA

Old roads and bridges have been repaired! New roads and bridges have been built!

But we all have yet to follow traffic rules.

Bingo!



Ko Kaung (Cartoon)

NATIONAL

MP voices concern for safety and potential of air transport

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency called for explanation of the cause of Heho plane crash so as to win back the confidence of local and foreign travelers, asking about the measures against recurrence of such incident.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein replied that F-100 of Air Bagan crashed while landing to Heho Airport on 25 December, 2012 and the Union Transport Minister and personnel rushed to the scene for investigation, five-member investigation commission was then formed and the plane crash publicized through State-owned media in the aftermath. The investigation commission on 25, 26 December conducted necessary investigation and asked Air Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) of Singapore to analyze flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder. As it suggested analyzing them at Australia Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB), five

members from investigation commission went to ATSB in Canberra of Australia from 21 to 25 January.

Chairman of the Investigation Commission Deputy Director-General of Civil Aviation Department would meet the press at the CAD Headquarters in Yangon today. The investigation commission will publicize final investigation results when finished. Instructions have been given to pilots and control towers to ensure non-recurrence of such incident.

The questioner U Tin Maung Oo said “This case seems to be just normal on the surface. But when the foreigners come into our country, as the State has enacted FDI Law, they will necessarily use air transport. At present, some travelers going to Kalaw no more use plane. They are using motor cars. It is a matter of concern for our future economy. In fact, the answer I want (from the deputy minister) is they are promoting Myanmar Airways in cooperation with foreign missions abroad.”



The 12th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

“He said there will be press conference today. But what is the point is I want to know the condition of airports, planes and pilots. The crashed airplane had been used for 21 years. So, the deputy minister’s answer didn’t get the point, I would say”, added the questioner.

The Hluttaw approved the bill amending the law on emoluments, allowances and facilities of region/state level personalities and the bill on securities exchange as amended by Amyotha Hluttaw.

As regards the first bill, U Win Oo of Yebyu Constituency said “National

regions affairs ministers from regions and states need to have the same rights and power like other ministers, I think. So, it is really great to have the law amended. It would contribute much to national unity.”

The Hluttaw Speaker informed the Hluttaw that he would nominate Director-

General of Supreme Court of the Union (Retd) U Mya Thein, Barrister U Mya Thein and Barrister U Myint Lwin to the President for reconstitution of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union today.

The 13th day session continues on 4 February.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw approves Minimum Wage Bill (2012)



Amyotha Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Five questions were answered, one bill approved and two proposals, submitted at 12th day session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

Regarding the question of U Paul Htan Htaing of Chin State Constituency No.3 on whether current regions and former divisions, “Wa” Self-Administered Division and its former status, and Regions and States are same, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint said that according to the Constitution, the status of current regions and former regions are exactly the same. “Wa” Self-Administered Division is not same as its former status. And Regions

and States have same status.

Minimum Wage Bill (2012) sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw was approved. Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal on urging the Union government to change the policy of being the students who passed the grade-9, 10 and 11 at their own regions in selecting medical students from remote townships. Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal on urging the Union government to open rural-centered youth nursery training schools in border regions and hilly regions for youth development. The 13th day session will go on 4 February.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw hotel staff need more trainings

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Staff of Nay Pyi Taw hotels need further trainings, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung said in the concluding ceremony of hospitality course in Myat Mingala Hotel here this morning.

Out of about 5000 staff in service in 31 hotels of Nay Pyi Taw, about 800 staff have

only completed the course.

He stressed the need to fulfill the satisfaction of guests and called on hoteliers and general managers of the hotels to conduct more trainings.

He awarded outstanding trainees and presented completion certificates to the trainees.

MNA

Korea to make more investments in Myanmar

YANGON, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and the vice-president of UMFCFI held a meeting with a Korean delegation led by National Policy Committee of the Korean National Assembly Chairman, Korea-Myanmar Economic Exchange

Association Chairman Mr. Kim Jung-Hoon and Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Kim Hae-Yong, at the UMFCFI office, here, on 30 January.

The meeting focused on further promoting of bilateral cooperation in trade and investment sectors by mutually forming business councils.

During the meeting,

the delegation discussed potentials for investments and cooperation in construction of rail railroads, sea and air transports, food industry, sugarcane plantation and

feed stuff production. Furthermore, they assured that more investments would be made in Thilawa Special Economic Zone project in coming near.

MNA

Every Cloud has a Silver Lining.

WORLD

Yang Xiong elected mayor of Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 1 Feb — Yang Xiong was elected mayor of Shanghai at the first session of the 14th municipal People's Congress on Friday, the local legislature announced.

Yang, born in 1953, was appointed vice mayor of Shanghai in 2003 and became acting mayor of Shanghai in December 2012.

He graduated from the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences with a master's degree in economics in 1985.—Xinhua



Miss Universe 2012 Olivia Culpo of the United States attends a press conference at Sahid Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 31 Jan, 2013. Olivia Culpo visited Indonesia for the Putri Indonesia Beauty Pageant on 1 February. —XINHUA

“Nappy” hunters leave Norwegian baby bottoms bare

OSLO, 1 Feb—Southern Norway is in the midst of a diaper shortage after a supermarket price war lured enterprising bulk shoppers from eastern Europe who have cleaned out the shelves, customs officials and retailers said.

Norway is one of the world's most expensive countries. However, supermarkets in the south trying to lure local customers by undercutting rivals on the price

of “nappies” inadvertently made it profitable enough for residents of nearby countries to start trading in them.

“They buy every last diaper, I mean everything we have on the shelves, throw it in the back of their car and take them home, where they sell it for a nice profit,” says Terje Ragnar Hansen, a regional director for retail chain Rema 1000.

“It's not stealing and it's not even criminal but it's

a big problem, ... they leave nothing for our regular customers.

Customers come into Norway from Sweden, drive along the coast to fill their cars, then take a ferry back to the continent, said Helge Breilid, the chief of customs in Kristiansand on Norway's southern coast.

Some have been stopped with diapers worth up to 50,000 crowns (\$9,100), roughly 80,000 diapers, a

Dr Phil says Manti Te'o hoaxer admits to love for linebacker

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb—A California man who has admitted to fabricating Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o's fake girlfriend in an elaborate hoax told talk show host Phil McGraw he felt a deep romantic love for the football player, McGraw said on Wednesday.

“Here we have a young man that fell deeply, romantically in love,” McGraw told the television morning show “Today” to discuss his two part interview with Ronaiah Tuiaosopo, which will air on “Dr Phil” on Thursday and Friday.

“I asked him straight up, ‘Was this a romantic relationship with you?’ and he says yes. I said, ‘Are you

then therefore gay?’ And he said, ‘When you put it that way, yes.’ And then he caught himself and said, ‘I am confused,’” McGraw told “Today.” Te'o has said in a previous media interview he is not gay.

The fake girlfriend hoax involving Te'o, who was a finalist for college football's highest individual honor the Heisman trophy, caused a sensation when it was revealed earlier this month on news website Deadspin.com.

Tuiaosopo says he played the part over the phone of Lennay Kekua, the fictitious woman who was Te'o's girlfriend in the

hoax. Te'o, 22, had spoken about the woman in media interviews, and reports described her surviving a car accident and then dying of leukemia in September.

Te'o has said since the hoax was exposed that he was the victim of an elaborate prank, that he never met Kekua and that his acquaintance Tuiaosopo admitted to him that he was the one who played the part of Lennay.

Dr. Phil said in a segment on “Today” on Wednesday that after an extensive interview with Tuiaosopo, he believes Te'o had no role in creating the hoax.—Reuters



Dr Phil McGraw (L) interviews Ronaiah Tuiaosopo on the set of his show in this January 2013 handout photo obtained by Reuters on 30 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

German biscuit-maker appeals to “Cookie Monster” thief



A handout picture from Hannoverische Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper shows an extortionist dressed as the ‘Cookie Monster’ from children’s television series ‘Sesame Street’ pretending to take a bite from the golden biscuit, in Hanover, on 29 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

BERLIN, 1 Feb— One of Germany's most famous biscuit-makers has appealed to an extortionist dressed as the “Cookie Monster” to return its prized golden biscuit emblem.

The Bahlens biscuit company's emblem has hung above its headquarters in Hanover since 1913 and was first reported stolen a week ago.

Just days after it went missing a ransom note arrived at the local newspaper which included a photo of the thief dressed as the “Cookie Monster” from children's television series “Sesame Street”, pretending to take a bite from the golden biscuit.

In a message posted on Facebook on Thursday and addressed to the monster, Bahlens promised to donate

52,000 packets of biscuits to charities if the 20 kg (44 pound) golden biscuit was returned.

The original ransom note demanded that Bahlens give biscuits to children in hospitals across Hanover and donate a 1,000-euro (\$1,400) reward for the emblem's return to an animal home.

A spokeswoman denied media suggestions that the theft and ransom note were part of a marketing stunt and said the firm was anxious to recover the emblem as soon as possible.

Reuters

Five robbery suspects killed in Nigeria's oil rich state: police

PORT HARCOURT, (Nigeria), 1 Feb—Five robbery suspects were killed in gun battles with security agents in Nigeria's oil rich Rivers State in January, local police authorities said on Thursday.

State Commissioner of Police Mohammed Indabawa told reporters at a monthly news conference in Port Harcourt, capital of

the southern state, that 67 persons were also arrested for various crimes committed in the first month of the year. Those arrested include 13 suspected cultists, 19 kidnap suspects, 32 armed robbers and three suspected vandals of oil pipelines.

“Among the 32 armed robbery suspects, 19 were wounded by the police in the process of their arrests.

legal shipment even though Norway is not part of the European Union.

“They told us that the only reason they came to Norway was to drive around and buy diapers to bring back home and resell,” Breilid said.

“These people mainly come from Poland and Lithuania, and we have no reason to believe that they are part of any criminal gangs.”

Reuters

Ancient petroglyphs stolen from California site recovered

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb— Four ancient petroglyphs that were stolen from a historic site in Northern California last year have been recovered, but no suspects have been identified in the brazen theft, federal authorities said on Thursday.

The petroglyphs,



A damaged Paiute Indian petroglyph located at a major rock art site on the Volcanic Tableland north of Bishop, California is shown in this handout image released to Reuters on 20 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

They are said to represent a pristine example of

which were carved into volcanic rock more than 3,500 years ago, were discovered missing in October from the site in the Volcanic Tablelands, east of Yosemite, near California's border with Nevada.

“We want to, therefore, urge residents to continue to furnish the police with useful information in order to rid the state of criminals,” he added.

Xinhua

Great Basin rock art that portrayed the daily hunter-gatherer activities that took place in the area at the time.

“Recovery of the petroglyphs was a priority from day one. I am pleased that they were returned,” Bernadette Lovato, manager for the bureau's field office in Bishop, California, said in a statement.

“Now we need the public's help to identify the vandals responsible for damaging the site,” Lovato said. A Bureau of Land Management spokesman declined to release further details about the recovery of the petroglyphs, citing an ongoing investigation. The bureau said the suspects may have experience with masonry cutting and access to such tools.

The Volcanic Tablelands are described by the Bureau of Land Management as a vast volcanic landscape formed more than 700,000 years ago by materials spewing from the Long Valley caldera.

Reuters

REGIONAL

Premier invites more foreign talents to work in China



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (1st R) attends a seminar with representatives of foreign experts and their relatives in Beijing, capital of China, on 31 Jan, 2013. Wen extended greetings to the foreign experts and their families at the seminar on Thursday prior to the Chinese Lunar New Year.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 1 Feb—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Thursday invited more foreign talents to work in China, pledging better conditions for them.

With the Chinese Lunar

New Year around the corner, Wen extended new year's greetings to about 20 veteran foreign experts working in China's education, research, culture and health sectors. They were

invited to the Great Hall of the People for a seminar with the premier on Thursday.

Wen said foreign experts have contributed to China's revolution and modernization drive, which the Chinese people will always keep in mind.

He also said China will unswervingly stick to the reform and opening-up policy.

"A nation can be prosperous only when it is open and inclusive," the premier said, adding that the number and quality of foreign experts reflects how open and civilized a country is.

Foreign experts made about 529,000 visits to China in 2011, according to the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs.

Xinhua



A new N700A bullet train enters a platform at JR Tokyo Station on 1 Feb, 2013. Central Japan Railway Co gave a ride for reporters before the train's launch on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line on 8 February. KYODO NEWS

Australia to provide further fund to protect Great Barrier Reef

CANBERRA, 1 Feb—Australian government will provide a boost to the Great Barrier Reef, with increased funding to fight the crown-of-thorns starfish, Environment Minister Tony Burke said in a statement on Friday.

"The Gillard government is absolutely committed to protection of the Great Barrier Reef as a top priority," Burke said.

The coral eating crown-of-thorns starfish, which can reach almost one

meter in diameter when fully grown and destroy coral faster than it can regenerate, are recognized as a significant threat to the reef.

According to him, an additional 800,000 AU dollars (almost 833,320 US dollars) will be provided this financial year, building on the 1.43 million announced last year.

Last year the Gillard government provided 1.43 million to the Association of Marine Park Tourism

Operators, which has a track record of engaging its members to control crown-of-thorns starfish.

"Under the first round of funding, tourism operations have removed more than 37,500 crown-of-thorn starfish from tourism hotspots around Cairns, Port Douglas and the Whitsundays, restoring the ecological balance and strengthening the resilience of the target areas," Burke said.

Xinhua

Fukushima reactor buildings to be cleaned by robots from late July

TOKYO, 1 Feb—The operator of the tsunami-hit Fukushima nuclear power plant said on Thursday it will use robots from late July to accelerate work to reduce radiation levels in buildings housing three crippled reactors.

The method, decided

by Tokyo Electric Power Co and the government, is aimed at making the buildings more accessible for workers to conduct preliminary investigations necessary to decommission the reactors that contain melted fuel.

The details of condi-

tions inside the reactor containers are currently unknown. Under the plan, remote-controlled robots are expected to clean the interior of the Nos. 1 to 3 reactor buildings with high-pressure water and other means.

Kyodo News

Cambodia begins funeral procession for late ex-King Norodom Sihanouk

PHNOM PENH, 1 Feb—An estimated 1 million mourners took part in a funeral procession on Friday to move the body of late Cambodian former King Norodom Sihanouk from the royal palace to an ornate, custom-built crematorium in a park in the capital's parks.

The body of the most revered monarch, who died of illness at the age of 90 in Beijing on 15 October last year, was transported in a Khmer architectural float from the palace, where it has been exhibited for more than 3 months, and paraded through the city to the cremation site.

As the body began to leave the palace at around 08:45 am local time, the 101-gun artillery salute was fired in honour of the late King Father and Buddhist monks chanted in religious

language, while mourners, handed with lotus flowers, wreaths, or Sihanouk's portraits, silently walked in the procession.

Among the mourners are Sihanouk's wife Queen Mother Norodom Monineath and his son King Norodom Sihamoni, President of the

Senate Chea Sim, President of the National Assembly Heng Samrin and Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The procession ceremony was live televised through all local television channels and most of the radio stations.

Xinhua



People attend the funeral procession of the late King Father Norodom Sihanouk in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 1 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Indonesian gov't outlines ways to improve water supply infrastructure, irrigation

JAKARTA, 1 Feb—An Indonesian minister said that government has set plans to improve water supply for the public and repair national irrigation system so as to increase rice production, local media reported on Friday. National Development Planning (Bappenas) Minister Armida Alisjahbana said that the implementation of the plans require intense coordination between central and regional governments.

"The target of clean

water pipe network was set at 68 percent by 2015, and now it has entered 55 percent at the average," she was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying. The 2015 water supply target was part of Indonesia's efforts to comply with Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Some 65.27 trillion rupiah (about 6.4 billion US dollars) is required to finance the projects, she said, adding that 12 trillion of the funds would be provided by

the government while the remaining lion part of 52.27 trillion rupiah was expected to be contributed by investors. More than 100 million people in Indonesia lack access to drinking water, according to the data issued by the ministry.

The minister said the inadequate water supply problem was incited by insufficient operation of the state-run firm following financial restructuring process in the firm.

Xinhua

Seminar held in Tokyo to draw Indonesian trainees

TOKYO, 1 Feb—The operator of an international trainee programme backed by Japan's government has held a seminar in Tokyo to attract more Indonesian trainees to the country. The event on Thursday was attended by about 50 agricultural, fishery and food makers' associations from Japan and 26 Indonesian groups that send trainees to the country.

In 2011, the number of foreign trainees in Japan topped 82,000. About 60 percent were from China.

But amid China's economic growth, the number of trainees from the country has been falling. A survey in January last year showed that almost 40 percent of Chinese trainees in areas hit by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami returned to China. The head of an ice makers' association in Miyagi, one of the prefectures hit hardest by the disas-

ter, says 60 Chinese trainees returned to China. He adds that no one responds to recruitment ads of businesses in affected areas, and that he hopes Indonesians will help rebuild them. Indonesia has the world's 4th-largest population.—NHK

Train derailment injures 14 in Australia

BRISBANE, 1 Feb—A passenger train derailed and crashed into a station in eastern Australia, injuring 14 people.

The incident occurred at a terminal in Brisbane on Thursday.

An eyewitness says the 6-car train jumped the tracks and crashed into the station almost without slowing down.

Local police say 15 people, including passengers and the driver, were on board at the time.

The accident destroyed the lead car and the toilet area of the station. But no one was killed as the toilets and the platform were empty. The train's operator suspects that the crash was caused by electricity problems.

NHK



Vehicles move on a road in north China's Tianjin, on 1 Feb, 2013. A strong wind hit Tianjin on Friday, blowing away the smog that lingered in the city for days.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (165)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (165) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD.

Phone No: 256916/256919

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (008)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (008) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-2-2013 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 HAI PHONG 05 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAI PHONG 05 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G. LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914



Relatives of Javier Flores, a member of the Kombo Kolombia band, mourn at his grave after a funeral service at a cemetery in Monterrey on 30 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Ministry of Information

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Invitation to Tender for Purchase of Newsprint Paper

1. Newsprint papers for News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be purchased as follows:-

(a) Newsprint Paper (48.8 Gsm) (30") High Bright 9775 tons

2. Open tender forms may be drawn from the following addresses from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr daily during the period from 4-2-2013 to 14-2-2013.

3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of members of the Tender Board at Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 15-2-2013. The overdue forms will not be considered.

4. For further information, may dial 067-412123 and 067-412128 during the office hours.

Address to draw out tender forms
News and Periodicals Enterprise
Ministry of Information
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-412123; 067-412128

Address to submit tender forms
Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-412327

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAKASSAR HIGHWAY VOY NO (3)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAKASSAR HIGHWAY VOY NO (3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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: SEALS CO. LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914



Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (L) delivers her opening remarks while seated next to her husband, former Navy Captain Mark Kelly, during a hearing held by the Senate Judiciary committee about guns and violence on Capitol Hill in Washington, on 30 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

India congratulates Kerry on becoming US Secretary of State

NEW DELHI, 1 Feb—India has congratulated John Kerry on his becoming the new US Secretary of State, saying it is confident that India-US relations will continue to grow in his term, said local media Friday.

Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid sent a letter on Thursday to Kerry, saying over the past four years, "India and the US have developed a broad agenda of cooperation covering a vast array of collaborative pursuits," according to the reports.

"These efforts reaffirm our shared conviction that we have a fundamental stake in each other's success," he said.

"We are confident that with your leadership of the department of state, we will continue to strengthen our partnership, not only for the development and prosperity of our two peoples but also as a pillar of stability amidst the many global and regional challenges confronting us," said the foreign minister.

Xinhua

Drive
Safely

School children dressed as Mahatma Gandhi assemble to mark his anniversary in the southern Indian city of Chennai on 30 Jan, 2013. Gandhi, leader of the Indian nationalist non-violent movement against British rule, was assassinated in 1948. India observes Gandhi's death anniversary as Martyr's day.

REUTERS



Ten homes destroyed in Australia's flood-hit city of Bundaberg

BRISBANE, 1 Feb—At least 10 homes in flood-ravaged Bundaberg in Queensland, Australia, have been destroyed and another 30 have been severely damaged, local media reported on Friday.

Nearly a thousand flood-affected Bundaberg residents gathered at the city's Moncrieff Theater on Friday morning for an update from emergency authorities, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

The residents have been told that the flood damage in North Bundaberg is terrible. Bundaberg Regional Council Chief Executive Officer Peter Byrne told the gathering that residents of North Bundaberg would be allowed to return to their homes to check on their properties by Friday afternoon.

But he warned people to take extra care when going inside their properties because they may not be structurally safe.—Xinhua

M4.7 quake jolts eastern Japan, no abnormality at nuclear plant

TOKYO, 1 Feb—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude reading of 4.7 shook northeast of Tokyo just before on Thursday midnight, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

There were no immediate reports of damage and no tsunami warning has been issued after the 11:53 pm quake originating in northern Ibaraki

Prefecture. No abnormality has been reported at the Tokai No. 2 nuclear power station in Tokai village in the prefecture, the prefectural government said.

On the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7, lower-5 was registered in Hitachi city in the prefecture. The focus of the quake was around 10 kilometres underground.

Kyodo News

ENTERTAINMENT

“Cloud Atlas” poised for box office success

BEIJING, 1 Feb—The highly-anticipated film “Cloud Atlas” is poised to throw “Skyfall” from its seat at the top of China’s box office when it debuts here on Thursday, online polls showed on Wednesday.

“Cloud Atlas” had attracted more than 8,300 votes at mtime.com and another 1,800 at m1905.com

as of Wednesday morning, making it the most anticipated film among Chinese moviegoers.

After debuting on 21 January in the Chinese mainland, “Skyfall,” the latest installment in the James Bond series, came out on top in the week ending 27 January. It raked in about 224 million yuan (about 36 million US dol-

lars) in Chinese theaters, accounting for more than 56 percent of ticket sales that week.

The domestic cartoon hit “Pleasant Goat and the Big, Big Wolf” came in behind “Skyfall,” with 63 million yuan, while “Bring Happiness Home,” a domestic comedy, came in third with 43 million yuan.

Xinhua



A poster of movie “Cloud Atlas”.—XINHUA

Whitney Houston anniversary to be marked with TV Grammy special

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb—Grammy organizers plan to mark the first anniversary of the sudden death of Whitney Houston with a behind-the-scenes TV show on how they scrambled to honour the singer just 24 hours after she died. The Recording Academy said on Thursday that the hour-long special entitled “The Grammys Will Go On: A Death in the Family” will air on 9 February, the day before the 2013 Grammy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

Houston, who sold hundreds of millions of records and scored the mega hits “I Will Always Love You” and “I Wanna Dance with Somebody,” drowned in a bathtub at a Beverly Hills hotel room on 11 Feb, 2012—the eve of last year’s Grammy Awards show. Houston’s unexpected death at age 48 cast a shadow over the event, which quickly changed its programme to pay homage

to the soaring voice that had dominated the Grammys in decades past.

Singer and actress Jennifer Hudson performed a medley of Houston’s hits at last year’s Grammys, and rapper and host LL Cool J opened the show with a prayer. The TV special on broadcaster CBS features rehearsals and interviews with artists — including Hudson, Bruce Springsteen and Taylor Swift — and the show’s producers in the hours before and after Houston’s death. The Recording Academy produces the annual Grammy awards.

Reuters



Lindsay Lohan reportedly arrived in time to reluctantly confirm that she has parted ways with her long-term lawyer Shawn Holley.—PTI



LONDON, 1 Feb—Lindsay Lohan narrowly escaped a warrant being issued for her arrest. The Liz & Dick actress splashed out on a last minute first class flight

from New York to Los Angeles after being warned she could be jailed if she failed to appear in court to confirm the substitution of her lawyer on 30 Jan, 2013 because she was too ill. The 26-year-old star reportedly arrived in

time to reluctantly confirm that she has parted ways with her long-term lawyer Shawn Holley in favour of being represented by Mark Heller, according to gossip website TMZ.com.

The actress initially attempted to get out of her scheduled court appearance by submitting a doctor’s note that said she was too ill to fly, however she reportedly panicked after photos emerged of her shopping in New York on Saturday, the same day on which she was examined and deemed to have an upper respiratory infection. Dressed in a black Chanel dress, the

26-year-old troubled starlet —whose probation remains revoked because she allegedly lied to police about driving her car during a crash last June—was told by Judge Stephanie Sautner: “Glad to see you’re feeling better,” after her new lawyer admitted, “I know there was some drama with her appearing today.”

A pre-trial hearing has now been set for 1 March, but the judge said that Lindsay is not required to appear for it. She then ruled that she must be present for the actual trial, which will take place on 18 March.

PTI

Amitabh Bachchan, Shaan sing at peace concert

MUMBAI, 1 Feb—Bollywood Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and other artists like Aadesh Srivastava and Shaan sang live for peace at the ‘Global sounds of peace’ organised by musician Aadesh Srivastava. “I want to thank the public for attending the concert.

Normally the concerts related to films have a different ambience and music. I didn’t know that they like such music too. It was a little classical,” Amitabh Bachchan said after the concert. Talking about performing live, Amitabh Bachchan said that it was tough.

“Performing live is always tough. It involves a lot of hard work. Here there is live music and audience which makes it tough,” he added. A white carpet instead of a red one was organised as a symbol of peace.

“It was a good idea to have a white carpet as a symbol of peace,” Amitabh Bachchan said. The other celebrities who walked the white carpet included Ayushmann Khurrana, Udit Narayan, Kunal Kapoor, Kavita Seth, R Balki and Ashutosh Gowariker, among others. Amitabh

Bachchan sung Raag Basanti and his performance was clearly awaited by all the celebrities.

“I am waiting for Amitabh Bach-



Amitabh Bachchan singing at the concert.—PTI

chan’s performance. But all the other artists were also very good,” Kavita Seth told the media. Actor Ayushmann also seemed excited over Big B’s performance. “Amit ji is like a living legend. He is such a great performer and even if he just stands on the stage, it is a big thing,” he said.

Bachchan was accompanied by Aadesh Srivastava during his performance which was clearly mesmerising with the stage being decorated with huge white swans. White peace balloons floated in the sky throughout the performance.

Singer Udit Narayan

was happy with the message of peace being spread to the masses through such concerts. “It feels very nice to have such programmes for peace. Amitabh Bachchan, Aadesh Srivastava and so many other artists have come together for this cause.

I am so happy that the message of love and peace is being spread,” he said. Kunal Kapoor said that it was tough to get so many musicians together for such a good cause. “It is tough to get so many musicians together. The cause of peace is good and the world is in need of it,” he said.

PTI

“30 Rock” closes its doors with a sentimental farewell

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb—Emmy-winning TV comedy “30 Rock” bowed out after seven seasons on Thursday with bittersweet farewells but giving all its zany characters a happy ending. The satirical show-within-a-show about the inside workings of a fictional television sketch series saw Tina Fey’s hapless writer Liz Lemon try to round up her unruly cast for a last hurrah. Along the way, unpredictable sketch star Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) causes chaos, self-centered actress Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) attempts to find her true calling on



Actress Tina Fey of the TV comedy “30 Rock” arrives at the 19th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, California on 27 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Broadway, and producer Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) finally achieves his dream to disappear without a trace.

The show’s simpleton

page-turned-janitor Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) finds himself in his element with his sudden promotion to head of television network NBC. But under the jokes, the cast showed some real emotion in Thursday’s hour-long series finale. “There’s a reason people don’t say honest goodbyes. It’s because when stuff is coming to an end, people freak out and they act crazy,” Liz tells Tracy. Despite small audiences, “30 Rock” became a cult favorite, while Liz has been a hero for single geeky women as she tackled the male-dominated world of network television, with phrases such as “what the what,” “blerg” and “I want to go to there” becoming popular.

The show’s finale comes after perpetual unlucky-in-love Liz finally got her happy ending earlier in the season with her marriage to hot dog vendor Criss Chross (James Marsden) and they adopt two children. But after grappling with the trials of being a stay-at-home mother, Liz and Criss agree to swap roles and she returns to work.

Reuters

‘Special 26’ role was challenging: Akshay Kumar

NEW DELHI, 1 Feb —Stepping away from his usual comic and action roles, Akshay Kumar will be seen portraying a serious character in his upcoming movie “Special 26” and the actor says he is happy to reinvent himself.

The 45-year-old, who plays a fake CBI person in the movie, said the role is different from what he has done earlier and was a challenge worth taking.—PTI



SPORTS



Mexico's Javier Aquino (L) reacts during a friendly match against Denmark held at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Phoenix, Arizona, US, on 30 Jan, 2013. -- XINHUA

Balotelli officially joins AC Milan

MILAN, 1 Feb—AC Milan club formally announced on Thursday that Italian striker Mario Balotelli has signed contract with them after completing the standard medical.

The Serie A giant released a brief note on their website confirming confirmed that the forward has

signed a contract until 30 June 2017.

Balotelli arrived in Italy on Wednesday for his medical. It is understood that he has cost the Rossoneri 20 million euros.

He will be unveiled to the Press at San Siro on Friday evening at 19:00 hours local time.—Xinhua



Striker Mario Balotelli

Talented 49ers roster finally comes of age

NEW ORLEANS, 1 Feb—Barely three years since being derided as a sorry parody of the franchise which once dominated the NFL, the San Francisco 49ers have a chance to claim a record-equalling sixth Super Bowl win on Sunday. It has been 18 years since the 49ers last appeared in a Super Bowl—their fifth victory coming against San Diego Chargers in Miami in 1994—and in that time the franchise endured some poor seasons.

Six straight years of losing records from 2003 tested the patience of even the most loyal of Niners fans but while change was to come, particularly on the coaching side, the franchise resisted the temptation to make it wholesale. "It is really good to see that we didn't throw the baby out with the bathwater," chief executive Jed York said on Thursday. "I

think that is something that a lot of teams do—'well, we didn't win anything this year, we need to fire everybody and get rid of them'. That is not my philosophy and I think it has paid off in that we have kept a lot of the pieces together. That is satisfying."

Jim Harbaugh, who took over as head coach for the 2011 season, has rightly

earned much of the credit for the transformation but York notes that plenty of things were in place before he arrived from Stanford University. "I always thought we had talent on this team and that started with Mike Nolan and (former general manager) Scott McCloughan in 2005, really building the foundation," he said.—Reuters



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick (C) leads his team in a stretching exercise during a NFL Super Bowl XLVII football practice in New Orleans on 31 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

China's Super Dan set to miss All England Championships

LONDON, 1 Feb—Chinese badminton superstar Lin Dan is almost sure to miss this year's All England Badminton Championships due to a lack of training after retaining the Olympic champion in London.

Lin, dubbed "Super Dan" among his fans, has been on holiday after the Olympics and got married to his long-time girlfriend Xie Xingfang. He is expected to resume training with the Chinese team in February and bid for his sixth All England champion in Birmingham in early March. "We have consulted Lin Dan

before submitting the participating players' list for All England, but he chose to withdraw citing a lack of training," Li Weiguo, team manager of the Chinese national team, told Xinhua.

Lin won his fifth singles title at All England in 2011, but skipped all inter-



Chinese badminton superstar Lin Dan

national Grand Prix events on the 2012 calendar in preparation for the London Olympics.

But the 28-year-old southpaw said earlier that he will not retire from badminton. "I never thought about hanging up my racket after next year's world championships," Lin said. "I need some time to think about the next four years. I will consult my family, friends and coaches so that I can get fully ready for all the possible challenges once I return to the court next year."

Xinhua

Singh withdraws from Phoenix Open

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb—Vijay Singh pulled out of the Phoenix Open on Thursday before the start of the first round, a day after admitting he had used deer antler spray which contains an ingredient banned by the PGA Tour. The former world number one, who was scheduled to tee off in the company of American Ryan Moore and Swede Carl Pettersson at the TPC Scottsdale, cited a back injury for his withdrawal.

Singh, 49, was replaced in the field by American Richard H Lee. A three-times major winner, Fijian Singh revealed earlier this week he had been using deer antler spray for a couple of months in an interview with *Sports Illustrated* magazine. On Wednesday, he issued a

statement in which he expressed shock that the spray contained IGF-1 (insulin-like growth factor), a natural anabolic hormone that stimulates muscle growth.

"While I have used deer antler spray, at no time was I aware that it may contain a substance that is banned under the PGA Tour anti-doping policy," said Singh, who has battled assorted health problems in recent years, especially with his back. "I am absolutely shocked that deer antler spray may contain a banned substance and am angry that I have put myself in this position. I have been in contact with the PGA Tour and am cooperating fully with their review of this matter."

The PGA Tour is now "looking into the matter"

and has a variety of sanctions at its disposal, including disqualification, a one-year suspension for a first violation and up to five years for a second violation. Since the Tour's anti-doping programme was launched in 2008, American journeyman Doug Barron is the only player who has been suspended for a

violation. Barron, then 40, was banned for one year in November 2009 for taking a performance-enhancing drug.

Reuters



Vijay Singh of Fiji smiles as he looks at the Fedex Cup trophy after the conclusion of the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Georgia, on 28 Sep, 2008.—REUTERS

Ajax grab last semifinal berth in Dutch Cup

THE HAGUE, 1 Feb — After AZ, PEC Zwolle and PSV, Ajax secured the last spot in the semifinals of the Dutch Cup, de KNVB Beker, by crushing Vitesse 4-0 in Emmen on Thursday.

The match was played in front of only a few thousand fans in Emmen, because the stadium of Vitesse in Arnhem was not available due to a dance party. Both teams had already played each other in the Dutch league last Sunday when Vitesse beat Ajax 3-2 after bouncing back from a 2-0 deficit.

This time Vitesse was not able to produce a comeback. Danny Hoesen opened the scoring in the 7th minute, while in the second half Lasse Schone finished a Siem de Jong pass for the second goal.

When Patrick van Aanholt tackled substi-

tute Kolbeinn Sigthorsson, Schone could have scored his second goal from the penalty-spot, but he missed the awarded penalty. In the rebound Sigthorsson did find the net and the Icelandic striker, who made his comeback after an injury lay-off of five months, also headed in the fourth Ajax goal.

On Tuesday AZ Alkmaar had already qualified for the semifinals by defeating first division side FC Den Bosch 5-0. On Wednesday PEC Zwolle beat Heracles Almelo 3-2 and PSV was too strong for Feyenoord (2-1) with Mark van Bommel becoming the late match winner.

Xinhua



GENERAL

Fire drill demonstrated at Myat Mingalar Hotel

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—The talks on fire preventive measures and the fire drill were held at Myat Mingalar Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw Council Hotel Zone, on 30 Jan, 2013.

U Win Myint, Assistance Director of Nay Pyi Taw Fire Services Department, gave talks on danger of fire. Members of Fire Brigade led by No. 4 Fire Station In-charge Kyaw Khaing Htun and Hotel staff members demonstrated fire fighting with the use of fire extinguishers.—Kyemon



Hotel staff members demonstrate fire fighting with the use of fire extinguishers at Myat Mingalar Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw Council Hotel Zone, on 30 Jan, 2013.

Three penalties as Atletico Madrid take narrow semifinal advantage



MADRID, 1 Feb — Atletico Madrid will take a 2-1 lead to Sevilla's Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium after a semifinal first leg which saw three penalties in their Vicente Calderon Stadium this Thursday night. The 90 minutes of football heated up through a game in which neither side had control and which also saw three red cards handed out by referee Ayza Gamez. Sevilla coach, Unai Emery gave a debut in goal to recent signing, Beto, although he left winger and former Atletico Madrid player, Jose Antonio Reyes out of his starting 11.

Meanwhile Diego Costa and Adrian Lopez

started in attack for Atletico with Koke given his chance in midfield. The first half kicked off with both sides making mistakes perhaps due to the tension of the occasion, but as time wore on it was Atletico that began to take control, although Diego Simeone's side were clearly missing the threat of Radamel Falcao, still missing with a muscle problem. Koke was the first to miss a chance, but his error in front of Beto was soon to be repeated by Adrian Lopez, who blazed over after great control on a long pass.

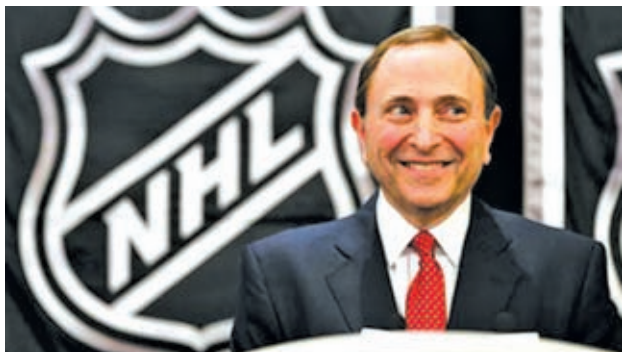
Adrian then did well to cross from the right only for Diego Costa to misstime his header and fail to make contact with the ball just six yards from goal. Costa was then guilty of an even worse miss just before halftime when he dragged a shot wide when put clean through. Sevilla's best chance also came in the closing moments as Alvaro Negredo saw a long range effort tipped over by Courtois in the Atletico goal. The game changed

three minutes after the break after Emir Spahic gave away a penalty for a clear handball, for which he also saw his second yellow card to leave his side with a player less.

Lopez made no mistake from the penalty spot, sending Beto the wrong way, but Atletico's joy and numerical advantage was short lived as Negredo saw his chip hit Diego Godin's slightly extended arm resulting in a penalty for Sevilla, which Negredo scored, and a red card for Godin. There's a Spanish saying that 'you don't get two, but three,' and it was shown to be true, 20 minutes from time as Sevilla defender, Fernando Navarro committed the third handball for penalty after challenging Costa, who again made no mistake to put Atletico back in front.

There was still time for Navarro to be sent off for a bad challenge on Costa, but the score failed to move in the closing minutes, leaving the tie well balanced for the return leg in four weeks.

Xinhua



National Hockey League (NHL) Commissioner Gary Bettman announces the end of labour negotiations between the NHL and the NHL Players Association (NHLPA) in New York in this file photo from 9 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

TORONTO, 1 Feb — Gary Bettman will mark 20 years as commissioner of the National Hockey League (NHL) on Friday and on YouTube fans have posted a 97 second appraisal of his performance. It is an unflattering montage chronicling two often stormy decades of Bettman awarding the Stanley Cup to the winning team, backed by a soundtrack of rancorous booing and

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(2-2-13 09:30 am ~ 3-2-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Trip to Kanbaw with Total E & P Myanmar (Part-1)
- * News
- * Trip to Kanbaw with Total E & P Myanmar (Part-2)
- * News
- * "Youths & Career" Massaging
- * News
- * The First ITAB Meeting for 2014 Census (Press Briefing)
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Let's grow and green to save the World
- * Elephant Survey in Hukaung Tiger Reserve
- * News
- * "Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes" Yein Yein Mustard and Meat Roll
- * A Day in the Life of a Mahout
- * News
- * Your Shopping to Youth Empowerment
- * Myanmar Movies "Servant of Love"

MYANMAR TV

(2-2-2013, Saturday)

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|--|--|
| 7:00 am | 2:10 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 15. Documentary |
| 7:15 am | 2:50 pm |
| 2. Dhamma Puja Song | 16. International News |
| 7:30 am | 4:00 pm |
| 3. Morning News | 17. Opening Song |
| 7:40 am | 4:30 pm |
| 4. Nice & Sweet Song | 18. 2013 University Entrance Examination (English) |
| 7:50 am | 5:05 pm |
| 5. Health Programme | 19. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 8:00 am | 5:25 pm |
| 6. Poem Garden | 20. Beautiful ASEAN |
| 8:25 am | 5:35 pm |
| 7. Teleplay (Health) | 21. Game For Children |
| 11:00 am | 6:00 pm |
| 8. Martial Song | 22. Evening News |
| 11:10 am | 6:20 pm |
| 9. Musical Programme | 23. Celebrity and Dinner |
| 11:25 am | 6:50 pm |
| 10. Game For Children | 24. TV Drama Series |
| 11:50 am | 7:00 pm |
| 11. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News | 25. News |
| 12:50 pm | 8:00 pm |
| 12. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme | 26. TV Drama Series |
| 1:00 pm | 10:00 pm |
| 13. Teleplay | 27. News |
| 1:55 pm | 28. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |
| 14. Solo Favourites | |

Goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes joins Hoffenheim on loan

BERLIN, 1 Feb — Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes joined German side Hoffenheim to replace struggling goalkeeper Tim Wiese, the both clubs announced on Thursday. Both sides agreed on a loan deal until the end of the season, as Gomes is

Tottenham's third choice behind Hugo Lloris and Brad Friedel.

Therefore the Brazilian international will replace out of form German international Tim Wiese, whose goalkeeping abilities have been questioned since his transfer to Hoffenheim in the summer 2012 following

several misjudgements. "With Heurelho Gomes we signed a goalkeeper with a lot of experience on the highest, national and international, level. I'm convinced that he will the club keeping up in first division," Hoffenheim general manager Andreas Mueller said. The 31-year-old goalkeeper joined the "Spurs" in 2008 to make 96 appearances.

He started his career in his native country at Cruzeiro Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where he made 59 matches between 2001 and 2004. In 2004 he joined Dutch side Eindhoven to play 128 times in four years. Hoffenheim sit on before last position of the Bundesliga standings with only 13 points out of 19 rounds. — Xinhua



Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes joined German side Hoffenheim.

After 20 years of booing, Gary Bettman still standing

occasional chants of "Bettman sucks."

A member of the exclusive commissioner's club, Bettman's counterparts—the National Football League's Roger Goodell, National Basketball Association's David Stern and Major League Baseball's Bud Selig—will also not likely win many popularity contests among their various constituencies. But the commissioners concede that

Bettman's job requires a thick skin to shield him from the wrath of agitated hockey fans.

"He's got a tough job, there is a little more required of Gary because of a matter of practice the Canadian media seems to kill him," Stern told Reuters. "That is a skill set that I'm not sure who else could take it but him. "Roger (Goodell) has the same thing when he says the New Orleans Saints

have to be sanctioned. I get it on discipline matters and lockouts but it seems that the harshest is saved for Gary. ... As a result he has had to put several coats of armor on his shield."

Bettman, a smallish man with elfin features and a purposeful walk, is an anonymous figure who can slip in and out of the NHL headquarters in Manhattan unnoticed by most passerby.

Reuters

PR system, a prerequisite for attracting foreign investors: Vice-President U Nyan Tun

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb— Chairman of Permanent Residence System Management Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun addressed the second coordination meeting of the committee at the Ministry of Immigration and Population here this morning.

The meeting was also attended by Committee Secretary Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Union ministers, the Union attorney-general, deputy ministers, departmental heads, guests and officials.

The Vice-President said in his address that the government vowed to push through wide-ranging reforms and to establish genuine national re-conciliation. He said it is also initiating economic reforms for socio-economic development.

He said sound foundation has been laid for development of macro-economy.

He said the permanent residence is a prerequisite for attracting foreign investors. He also said favourable economic environment would be established.

He quoted the President as saying in meeting with Myanmar citizens in US on his US tour in the sideline of 67th UN General Assembly that the government has the plan to grant permanent residence to Myanmar nationals in foreign countries and foreigners who would contribute their experience and expertise to economic development of the country as the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship law does not grant the dual citizenship. He said the management committee was tasked with this duty.

He called for concerted efforts to grant PR to foreigners who would like to help the country. As it was the first time for the country to provide PR to foreigners, the process would be implemented in



Vice-President U Nyan Tun addresses the second coordination meeting of Permanent Residence System Management Committee.

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line with the national interest and the security in legal, nationalist and international

aspects.

Union Minister U Khin Yi elaborated on facts

in Permanent Residence System and future work programmes.

officials participated in discussion.

Union ministers, the Union attorney-general, deputy ministers, departmental heads and

Vice-President U Nyan Tun called for prompt actions in his concluding remarks.

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Public Service Media Course No 1/2012 concludes

YANGON, 1 Feb— Public Service Media Course No 1/2012 conducted by the Governing Body of PSM concluded today.

A total of 31 trainees from Ministry of Information attended the 8-week course.

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway delivered address at the ceremony to conclude the course at the training hall of the Governing Body on Theinbyu Road here.

Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Kyaw Soe presented completion certificates to the trainees.

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when finished. Investigation and accident control will be conducted in line with the procedures prescribed in

Annex-13 of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

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Excursion groups from Mandalay and Bago Regions observe Hluttaws

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb— The region Hluttaw representatives led by Mandalay Region Hluttaw speaker, members of National League for Democracy from Kyaukdaga Township of Bago Region and students and teachers

from International School of Myanmar this morning observed the progress of 12th-day six regular sessions of first Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. They then looked round hluttaw buildings.

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Press conference on Heho plane crash held



Japan Gov't donates Myanmar US\$ 479,276 for construction of school buildings

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb— The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has decided to extend assistance of US\$ 479, 276 for construction of school buildings.

Japanese Ambassador

to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata, and Chairmen of each School Building Construction committee signed the grant contracts on 30 January.

Nwalawoe Village Basic Education Middle School in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, Moegaung

Monastic Middle School in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, Tike Kyaung Monastic Primary School in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, Kha Ywe Village Basic Education Post Primary School in Kyaikto Township, Mon

State and Dhamma Thukha Monastic Primary School in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State accepted the assistance.

The assistance will provide the students of those schools with better learning and sanitation environment and further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar.

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