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President U Thein Sein calls for establishment of model integrated farms

President U Thein Sein cordially converses with local people at Nyaungbintha model farm in Pyu Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb— President U Thein Sein called on farmers to jointly engage in farming and breeding, reaffirming the government's commitment to give necessary assistance to them, as he visited 2000-acre mechanized multiple crop farm in Nyaungbintha Village, Pyu Township and 500-acre mechanized farm in Padaukkhin Village, Ottwin Township in Bago Region this morning.

The President while visiting the 2000-acre farm called on the officials concerned to divide the farmland into three categories based on their fertility and provide adequate irrigation water to the triple-copping-pattern-enabled farmland for the whole year.

The President called for effective management of water resources in Bago Region, urging officials concerned to find ways for storage of enough water at dams and reservoirs both for power generation and irrigation.

He also stressed the importance for growing paddy at least for one time in a year for food security as rice is the staple food of Myanmar. He urged them to support farmers to be able to choose quality high yield paddy strains, calling for district-wise establishment of seed production farms for Palethwe hybrid paddy strains.

He noted that Myanmar could only export a million tons of rice despite the fact that it has the second largest land area after Indonesia in South East Asia, calling for tripling the agricultural output, giving green light to region and state governments to cooperate with international organizations development of own regions. He stressed the interrelationship of farming and breeding with the establishment of model integrated farmland. Demanding for a shift to organic farming, he suggested education campaign on milk drinking for health and nutrition.

He also called on Bago Region government to construct dams and reservoirs in the future.

He stressed the need for cooperation with developed countries and thorough study of supply change to get markets for the products.

The President then met farmers from surrounding villages. The president urged them to reclaim the farmland into standard size with the assistance of private companies for increased value of the farmland. He called for a change in the way they operate the farm for higher productivity.

The President and party presented a solar lamp to each household of farmers and cordially greeted them.

They viewed seeds of hybrid maize and groundnut and hybrid maize plantation.

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day

- For all the national races to perpetuate the Union and to cultivate the Union Spirit
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

President U Thein Sein views thriving maize plantation in Pyu Township.—MNA

On arrival at 500-acre advanced mechanized farm in Ottwin Township, the President met the locals.

The President said the farmers would employ multi-cropping approach as the production roads and irrigation facilities had been developed. He said agricultural machinery could be purchased through hire-purchase system from cooperatives societies of the villages.

A private company is running the advanced mechanized farm owned by the Ministry of Agriculture

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LOCAL NEWS

New ferry boat runs along Bhamo-Myitkyina route

MYITKYINA, 2 Feb—Ngwe Ayeya speed boat association of Myitkyina Township in Kachin State launched its maiden voyage along Bhamo-Myitkyina route at 7 am on 24 January.

Under the permission of Kachin State Government, the watercraft of the association started voyage from Myoma ward jetty in Bhamo for Myitkyina.

The ferry daily leaves Bhamo at 7.30 am and Myitkyina at 8.30 am.

The boat that departs Bhamo arrives in Myitkyina at 4 pm and that leaves Myitkyina arrives in Bhamo at 4 pm daily.

Fare for passenger is K 15000 each.

The watercraft is facilitated with life jackets, fire extinguishers and emergency rescue items.

At present, the association operates its water transport service with 17 watercrafts.—*Myanma Alinn*

International Customs Day observed

YANGON, 2 Feb—A ceremony to mark the 22nd International Customs Day, organized by the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, was held at its training school at the corner of Maha Bandoola Street and 49th street, here, at 10 am on 26 January, with an address by Director-General U Tun Thein.

The director-general presented prizes to winners in the contests and exams, blood donors, outstanding staff and students, winners in the sports competitions and other competitiveness.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Fire preventive measures talked in Kamayut Township

YANGON, 2 Feb—A talks on fire preventive measures and fire frill was held at the office of Kamayut Township General Administration Department on 25 January.

Staff Officer Ye Thurein Thein Myint of Sangyoung Township Fire Services Department explained arrangements for prevention against outbreak of fire in Yangon City, installation of CCTVs for taking fire preventive measures, root cause of outbreaks of fire and type of fire.

It was attended by local people, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade. Later, fire fighting demonstration was practised with the use of fire entinguisher.

Myanma Alinn

Yechanbyin BEPPS gets new building in Sittway

SITTWAY, 2 Feb—A new school building was put into service at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Yechanbyin Village of Sittway Township on 27 January, with an address by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin.

Present on the occasion were State ministers, State level departmental officials, the Rakhine State Education Officer U Han Sein and personnel.

The one-storey RC building was constructed with K 43.7 million contribution of Rakhine State government and K 9.9 million by local people.

Myanma Alinn

Rehabilitation of quake-hit areas in Shwebo discussed

MONYWA, 2 Feb—A coordination meeting on rehabilitation works in earthquake-ravaged areas of Shwebo District was held at the hall of Sagaing Region Government in Monywa on 25 January.

Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye made a speech. In-charge of Shwebo Forward Control Camp Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Saw Myint Oo reported on progress of rehabilitation.

Deputy Commissioners U Hla Oo and U Myint Wai of Shwebo and Sagaing Districts submitted reports on undertakings of rehabilitation tasks in their districts. Those present took part in the discussions.

The Chief Minister fulfilled the requirement of works.—*Myanma Alinn*

Plan underway to upgrade Mandalay International Airport

MANDALAY, 2 Feb—Seven companies have been chosen for upgrading Mandalay International Airport to a commodity airport. As Mandalay International Airport is a focal point not only for Myanmar but for Southeast Asian region, arrangements are being made to build it as a navigation service and aircraft maintenance workshop that earn income for the State.—*Kyemon*

Potable water supplied to rural people

SAGAING, 2 Feb—A ceremony to donate drinking water to Taungyin Village where water is scarce was held at Basic Education Middle School branch in Taungyin Village of Sagaing Township at 4 pm on 27 January.

Local people took water from the water donation centre. Two fire engines with 1800 gallon-capacity water tanks and trawlergies supplied water to the local people.

North Taungyin Village is over 16 miles to Sagaing. The village is home to 1088 people of 179 houses and South Taungyin Village, 2328 people from 404 houses.

A plan is underway to lay water pipelines.

Those wishing to donate cash to water supply facility may dial 09-2011412 of Chairman U Zaw Win of the committee.—*Kyemon*

Fire breaks out at fuel station in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 2 Feb—A fire broke out at the fuel station of Green Luck on 78th street between 40th and 41st streets in Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay at 5 pm on 28 January.

The fire started from pumping fuel out of the bowser to the station.

Over 180 members of Fire Brigade and local people fought against fire with the use of 38 fire engines and magaged to put out the fire at 5.15 pm.

The central fire station of Mandalay Region used five gallons of oil fire extinguishers.

A total of 12 tyres, 10 gallons of oil, two shells and 15 feet long pipe lost in the fire. In the incident, Zaw Myint Myat, 32 was injured at left and right thighs and legs, Saw Gay Ku, 25 at right ear, neck and right hand and Zaw Min Yu, 34, at chest.

The injured were rushed to Mandalay General Hospital with the use of ambulances.

Mandalay Police Station No 9 filed a lawsuit against them under the law.

Kyemon

Mexico probes if blast was attack or accident, 33 dead

A view of the inside of the headquarters of state-owned oil giant Pemex in Mexico City on 1 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

Mexico City, 2 Feb—Mexico's government vowed on Friday to find out whether an explosion that killed 33 people at the headquarters of its state-run oil monopoly Pemex was a deliberate attack or yet another stain on the company's poor safety record.

Rescue workers continued to pull bodies from the debris on Friday and officials said the search would continue until they account for everyone inside the Mexico City building.

Government officials have refused to speculate over what caused the explosion on Thursday but said they had deployed large teams of experts to pore through the wreckage.

"The government is determined to find out the truth, whatever that may be ... whether it was an accident, negligence or an attack, whatever," Attorney General Jesus Murillo said on Friday evening. "We are not going to rule out anything."

He said the explosion did not cause a fire but refused to be drawn on what that implied about the cause. Parts of the reinforced concrete ground floor of the building caved in, and the ceiling was a mess of twisted metal pipes and ducts.

The blast at Pemex's complex in the capital killed at least 33 people and a further 121 were injured. The scenes of chaos have dealt another blow to Pemex's image, just as Mexico's new government is seeking to open up the oil industry to more private investment.

Reuters

Sudan riot police clash with students at Khartoum university

Khartoum, 2 Feb—Sudanese riot police fired teargas at students on Friday as government supporters stormed the main university in the capital Khartoum, activists and witnesses said, in a second day of unrest on the campus.

Sudan has avoided the Arab Spring style uprisings which unseated rulers in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, but spiraling inflation sparked small protests which have broadened into demonstrations of discontent with veteran President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's rule.

A *Reuters* witness saw dozens of students running in panic from the campus in the centre of the city where a large fire was blazing. Several students said supporters of Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) had stormed the university early in the evening and set its dormitory building on fire.

"Students from the NCP and other people supporting the government stormed the dormitory and set on fire rooms of pro-democracy activists," a witness said, asking not to be named. "The fire spread quickly to the whole dorm."

A *Reuters* witness could also smell teargas which activists said had been fired by riot police.

Reuters

One dead, dozens hurt as police clash with Egypt protesters

Cairo/Port Said, 2 Feb—At least one protester was shot dead and dozens wounded on Friday when riot police clashed with demonstrators demanding the overthrow of Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi.

Youths threw petrol bombs and shot fireworks at the outer wall of Mursi's Cairo presidential compound as night fell. Police responded by firing water cannon and teargas leading to skirmishes in the surrounding streets.

Two witnesses said they had seen a protester shot dead in Cairo with live ammunition in front of them. "It's verified. I am at the morgue. He was shot with two bullets, and that's the report of the hospital. The shots were in the neck and the right side of the chest," said one of the witnesses, lawyer Ragia Omran. Medical and security sources confirmed Mohamed Hussein Qurany, 23, was killed with live bullets.

Anti-Morsi protesters gather for a mass protest in front of Al-Etehadya presidential palace in Cairo, on 2 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

The head of Egypt's ambulance service said at least 54 people had been wounded across the country, mostly in Cairo.

The renewed violence brought an end to a few days of calm after the deadliest week of Mursi's seven months in power.

Protests marking the second anniversary of the uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak have killed nearly 60 people since 25 January, prompting the head of the army to warn this week that the state was on the verge of collapse. The head of the Republican Guard, which protects the palace, condemned what he described as attempts to climb the compound walls and storm a gate. In a statement to the state news agency, he urged protesters to keep their demonstration peaceful.—*Reuters*

Audit finds Toronto mayor overspent on campaign

Toronto, 2 Feb—A week after a court battle that nearly cost Rob Ford his job as mayor of Canada's largest city, an audit found that the combative Toronto politician had exceeded spending limits during the 2010 campaign that launched him into office.

A report released by the auditors on Friday said Ford had overstepped spending limits by about C$40,000 ($40,000), or about 3 percent in the election campaign. It also found that he had received some goods and services at favourable terms.

Councillor Doug Ford, the mayor's brother and campaign director, told reporters that Ford had nothing to hide, and said different interpretations of rules for campaign fundraisers were behind some of the issues raised by the auditors. "Maybe they should check every single campaign," he said.

A city audit compliance committee will decide if Ford will face a penalty for breaking campaign rules. Penalties could involve reprimands, fines or even Ford's removal from office, although tough penalties are rare for small-scale overspending. The panel will meet later this month to decide what to do.

Ford campaigned on promises to "stop the gravy train" at city hall and keep tight control on spending without tax hikes. But he has made headlines with a series of high-profile gaffes. A photographer captured him reading while driving on a city expressway. He called police when a comedian tried to film part of a popular TV show outside his home, and he skipped city council meetings to coach high school football.—*Reuters*

Toronto's Rob Ford makes a statement to the media in Toronto on 27 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Suicide bomb kills 22 in northwest Pakistan

Hangu, 2 Feb—A suicide bomber killed 22 people on Friday in a crowded market outside two mosques from separate Muslim sects in Pakistan's restive northwest, police and hospital officials said.

Two of the dead were policemen. Forty-eight people were wounded in the attack in a narrow lane in the town of Hangu that houses both a Shi'ite and a Sunni Muslim mosque.

Officials said the anti-Taleban Sunni Supreme Council often holds its meetings in the Sunni mosque, which made it a possible target.

But district police chief Muhammad Saeed said that the attack was aimed at Shi'ites and that Sunni Muslims were unintended victims.

"Most of the dead were moving in and out of the mosques in the marketplace after Friday prayers when the bomb went off," senior police officer Imtiaz Shah said.

Hangu, part of Pakistan's border region with Afghanistan, has been racked by sectarian violence between Sunni and Shi'ite tribes whose mosques, homes and shops are often close to one another.

Hangu is just a few km from Parachinar, which has a significant Shi'ite population against whom hardline Sunni militant groups have launched attacks for years.

No group had claimed responsibility for the attack by late evening.

Reuters

Residents gather at the site of a suicide bomb attack in the northwestern town of Hangu on 1 Feb, 2013.
Reuters

UN under secretary-general visits Burundi to discuss country's 2015 elections

Bujumbura, 2 Feb—UN Under-Secretary-General in charge of political affairs Jeffrey Feltman on Friday began a two-day visit in Burundi to learn the east African country's reality and to discuss with Burundian leaders the organization of fair and peaceful elections in 2015.

Feltman met leaders of civil society organizations in Burundi behind closed doors and discussed the preparation of Burundi's 2015 electoral process.

After the meeting with Feltman, the chairman of the Umbrella of Civil Society Organizations in Burundi (FORSC) told a Press conference that they discussed "possible threats" to the country's 2015 general elections.

"We expressed our concerns regarding the prevailing climate that gives a prelude of bad signs that may occur during the elections in 2015. The top UN official promised that he will talk to the government officials and other partners to create a good climate for the elections," said Pacifique Nininahazwe, chairman of the Umbrella of Civil Society Organizations in Burundi (FORSC).

According to Nininahazwe, the civil society's worries voiced during the meeting include the youths from the ruling party who are being given arms to "terrorize" people from opposition parties.

He also pointed out the delays in analyzing electoral laws, adding that their analysis should be inclusive.

"Other signs that may jeopardize a good conduction of elections in 2015 are insufficient freedoms and social issues like land disputes which are not being properly settled and the delay on setting up transitional justice mechanisms namely the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," said Nininahazwe.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Blimps to bolster Washington's air shield in test

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb— A pair of big, blimp-like craft, moored to the ground and flying as high as 10,000 feet, are to be added to a high-tech shield designed to protect the Washington DC area from air attack, at least for a while. The bulbous, helium-filled "aerostats"— each more than three quarters the length of a football field at 243 feet — are to be stitched into existing defences as part of an exercise of new technology ordered by the Defence Department.

The coming addition to the umbrella over Washington is known as Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defence Elevated Netted Sensor System, or JLENS. Raytheon Co is the prime contractor.

"We're trying to determine how the surveillance radar information from the JLENS platforms can be integrated with existing systems in the National Capital Region," said Michael Kucharek, a spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defence Command.

NORAD, a binational command, is responsible for defending air space over the United States and Canada, including the Washington area with its many pieces of important infrastructure.

The most significant air attack in the area took place on 11 Sept, 2001, when Al Qaeda militants hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, a *Boeing 757,* and crashed it into the Pentagon. To expand the time available to detect and defend against any future attacks from commercial aircraft, major changes were made under Operation Noble Eagle, combat air patrols begun after the 11 Sept attacks.

Airspace restrictions were extended. US Army Sentinel radars for low-altitude radar coverage and short-range Stinger/Avenger missile batteries were deployed.

A Raytheon Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) aerostat is pictured at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, in this on 24 Feb, 2012 photo obtained on Feb 2013.
REUTERS

Washington is currently guarded by an air-defence system that includes Federal Aviation Administration radars and Department of Homeland Security helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft on alert at Reagan National Airport to intercept slow, low-flying aircraft.

The JLENS craft are expected to arrive in the capital area by 30 September, according to Kucharek, who is also a spokesman for the US Northern Command, which coordinates the Pentagon's homeland defence role.

A "capabilities demonstration," as the test is called, is expected to last as long as three years. Its location is being withheld, pending notification of lawmakers and others.

JLENS craft work in a roughly $450 million pair, known as an orbit, each tethered to mobile moorings. One of the aerostats carries a powerful long-range surveillance radar with a 360-degree look-around capability that can reach out to 340 miles. The other carries a radar used for targeting.—*Reuters*

BofA website troubles causes by internal systems issue: source

GREENVILLE, (South Carolina) 2 Feb — Some Bank of America Corp customers weren't able to access their online banking accounts on Friday because of an internal systems issue, a person familiar with the matter said. The second-largest US bank by assets is working to address the problem, said the person, who wasn't authorized to speak on the record. The disruption was not caused by hacker attacks, the person said.

Since last fall, US bank websites have faced a blitz of "denial of service" attacks in which hacker activists disrupt operations by flooding them with information.

Customers logging into Bank of America's website on Friday received a message that said the site was "temporarily unavailable." Some customers took to Twitter to vent their frustrations. The Charlotte, North Carolina-based bank in October 2011 blamed nearly a week of access problems on heavy traffic and an ongoing systems upgrade. Bank of America says it has 30 million active online banking customers.—*Reuters*

A Bank of America sign is seen outside of a branch in Greenville, South Carolina on 18 Jan 2012.
REUTERS

Hackers target Twitter, could affect

An illustration picture shows the logo of the Website Twitter on an Ipad, in Bordeaux, Southwestern France, on 30 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 Feb—Anonymous hackers attacked Twitter this week and may have gained access to passwords and other information for as many as 250,000 user accounts, the microblog revealed late on Friday.

Twitter said in a blog post that the passwords were encrypted and that it had already reset them as a "precautionary measure," and that it was in the process of notifying affected users. The blog post noted recent revelations of large-scale cyber attacks against the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal,* but unlike the two news organizations, Twitter did not provide any detail on the origin or methodology of the attacks.

"This attack was not the work of amateurs, and we do not believe it was an isolated incident," Twitter said. "The attackers were extremely sophisticated, and we believe other companies and organizations have also been recently similarly attacked."

Privately held Twitter, which has 200 million active monthly users, said it was working with government and federal law enforcement officials to track down the attackers.

The company did not specifically link the attacks to China in the blog post, in contrast to the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal,* which both said the hackers originated in China.
Reuters

Airbus says it has a "Plan B" for A350 jet batteries

The main body section of the first Airbus A350 is seen on the final assembly line in Toulouse, southwestern France, on 23 Oct 2012.— REUTERS

TOULOUSE, 2 Feb— France- Airbus has studied alternatives to lithium-ion batteries for its next jet, the *A350,* and has time to adapt to any rule changes prompted by the problems that have grounded Boeing Co's *787 Dreamliner,* its top executive said.

Airbus plans to use lithium-ion batteries on the *A350,* similar to the technology incorporated in Boeing's *787* airliners, and so far has stood by the modern power packs.

"We studied the integration of these batteries on the *A350* very carefully," Airbus Chief Executive Fabrice Bregier told a group of French aerospace journalists on Thursday. "I am very relaxed about this."

The first US grounding of a new model of passenger jet in over 30 years has focused attention on the risks that lithium-ion batteries can overheat and ignite a fire that is harder to put out than most flames, because of the solvents involved.

Airbus warned about the risks of lithium-ion batteries at a closed meeting of airlines in March 2011, according to a presentation first reported by *Reuters* this week.

"We identified this fragility at the start of development and we think we resolved it about a year ago," Bregier said. "Nothing prevents us from going back to a classical plan that we have been studying in parallel."

He did not provide details, but some aerospace industry sources caution that a redesign of the batteries could require months of engineering work and tests to obtain certification.

"We have a robust design. If this design has to evolve, we have the time to do that," Bregier said. "If it has to change in a more drastic way because the authorities reach the conclusion that the technology is not mature, then we have all the time we need to do this on the *A350* before first delivery in the second half of 2014."—*Reuters*

Microsoft sued over search-related patents

NEW YORK, 2 Feb— A lawsuit filed on Thursday alleges Microsoft Corp has been infringing patents that allow Internet search engines to most effectively place advertisements.

I/P Engine Inc said in the suit filed in Manhattan federal court that Microsoft uses search technology based on inventions by two employees of I/P Engine's parent company, Vringo Inc. Microsoft uses the technology in systems that generate advertisements and associated links for users of the world's largest software company's search engine, Bing, the lawsuit said.

Microsoft did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A spokesman for Vringo declined to comment. In November 2012, a Virginia jury awarded I/P Engine approximately $30 million in damages after it found that companies including Google Inc and AOL Inc had infringed the same patents that are at issue in the Microsoft suit. —*Reuters*

The interior of a Microsoft retail store is seen in San Diego On 18 Jan 2012.
REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

HP to close site in Germany, cutting 850 jobs

NEW YORK, 2 Feb— Computer maker Hewlett-Packard Co said on Friday it is planning to close a site in Germany by the end of October as part of its multi-year restructuring plan.

HP said it was closing its site in Ruesselsheim, Germany, southwest of Frankfurt, and that around 850 jobs would be cut. The remaining 250 employees may be able to transfer to HP partners or clients.

The restructuring of its enterprise services business will not affect HP's other major sites in Germany, the company said, adding that it would continue to employ about 10,000 people in Europe's largest economy.

HP said last year that it was planning to lay off 29,000 employees over two years as it tries to return to growth.

The company, which employs more than 300,000 people globally, began a multi-year restructuring last year aimed at focusing the sprawling company on services targeted at corporations.

*A Hewlett-Packard logo is seen at the company's Executive Briefing Center in Palo Alto, California on 16 Jan, 2013.—*REUTERS

HP shares were up 16 cents at $16.67 in morning trading.

Reuters

Apple edges out Samsung for mobile phone sales lead in fourth quarter

A passerby photographs an Apple store logo with his Samsung Galaxy phone on the morning iPhone 5 goes on sale to the public in central Sydney on 21 Sept, 2012.
REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 Feb —Apple Inc became the top mobile phone seller for the first time in the lucrative US market during the fourth quarter of 2012, outshining arch rival Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, a report by Strategy Analytics showed.

Apple's share of the US mobile phone market, including feature phones and smartphones, jumped to 34 percent from 26 percent, while Samsung's share grew to 32.3 percent from 31.8 percent, the research firm said.

Samsung had been the top mobile phone vendor in the US since 2008, the firm said. Indeed, for the full year, Samsung still held the crown for mobile phone sales; it had a 31.8 percent share of the US market in 2012, against Apple's 26.2 percent.

Apple investors have recently been anxious about the future growth prospects for the company amid intense competition from Samsung's cheaper phones, powered by Google's Android software, and signs the premium smartphone market may be close to saturation in developed markets.

Overall, mobile phone shipments rose 4 percent to 52 million units in the US during the fourth quarter of 2012, driven by strong demand for 4G smartphones and 3G feature phones.

But in all of 2012, US mobile phone shipments fell 11 percent to 166.9 million, Strategy Analytics said.

Apple sold 17.7 million iPhones in the US in the fourth quarter, up 38 percent from the previous year, driven by aggressive marketing of its new iPhone 5 and steep carrier subsidies, the firm said. Samsung shipped 16.8 million phones during the same period.

In the international arena, Samsung Electronics, with a range of handsets, has overtaken Apple as the world's top smartphone seller.—*Reuters*

BlackBerry shares slide as new devices face uphill battle

NEW YORK, 2 Feb— The afterglow of Research In Motion Ltd's BlackBerry 10 unveiling faded on Thursday as a flurry of lukewarm reviews signaled the company's struggle to regain momentum in the hyper-competitive smartphone market was just beginning.

Shares of BlackBerry, RIM's new corporate name, fell almost 10 percent early on Thursday, after a 12 percent decline the previous day, as some tech analysts questioned whether the new BB10 devices the company launched on Wednesday were the sure-fire hit that BlackBerry needs to get back into the game.

While *New York Times* reviewer David Pogue gushed that BlackBerry's new Z10 model is "lovely, fast and efficient, bristling with fresh, useful ideas," other reviewers were more tentative in their appraisals.

"The problem with the Z10 is that it doesn't necessarily do anything better than any of its competition," said Joshua Topolsky of technology news website the Verge. "No one could argue that there's a 'killer app' here. Something that makes you want or need this phone because it can do what no other phone can do. That's not the case."

Such lukewarm reviews—combined with disappointment around a later-than-expected and still unspecified date for the US sales debut—spooked investors and prompted analysts to cut their price targets and forecasts.

BlackBerry, which is making a big push to win back the all-important US market with a Super Bowl ad this weekend, said the new Z10 touch-screen device would not go on sale in the United States until sometime in mid-March, saying US carriers need more time to test the model.

*A new Blackberry Z10 is displayed at a branch of UK retailer Phones 4U in central London, on 31 Jan, 2013. Blackberry's new Z10 model went on sale in the UK recently.—*REUTERS

"The shine from the Super Bowl ad will be a fading memory by the time US customers can buy in March," said TD Securities analyst Scott Penner, who has a "hold" rating on the stock.

Samsung Electronics Co may also steal some of BlackBerry's thunder as buzz around its Galaxy IV device heats up before the Z10 hits US store shelves, Penner pointed out.—*Reuters*

Wall Street surges to five-year highs; Dow ends above 14,000

NEW YORK, 2 Feb— Stocks rose to five-year highs on Friday, with the Dow closing above 14,000 for the first time since October 2007, after jobs and manufacturing data showed the economy's recovery remains on track.

The S&P touched its highest since December 2007 after a 5 percent gain in January, which was its best start to a year since 1997. The index is now just about 60 points away from its all-time intraday high of 1,576.09.

Employment grew modestly in January, with 157,000 jobs added. That was slightly below expectations, but Labour Department revisions showed 127,000 more jobs were created in November and December than previously reported.

Analysts attributed the market's robust showing so far this year partly to a deluge of cash flowing into equities.

Investors poured $12.7 billion into US -based stock mutual funds and exchange-traded funds in the latest week, concluding the strongest four-week flows into stock funds since 1996, data showed on Thursday.

"There is a lot of money looking for a home, and people are finally deciding the bond market is done and moving money into equities," said Edward Simmons, managing director and partner at HighTower in Portland, Maine.

"I see the rotation (of assets) pushing the market up in the face of not-massive amounts of good news," he said. "People are overlooking the higher risk in equities."

Other reports released on Friday showed the pace of growth in the US manufacturing sector picked up in January to its highest level in nine months, US consumer sentiment rose more than expected last month, while December construction spending also beat forecasts.

"All the data seems to keep pointing to a slowly, steadily improving economy," said Eric Kuby, chief investment officer at North Star Investment Management Corp in Chicago.

Reuters

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 23 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

Type 1 diabetes rising in kids—study

NEW YORK, 2 Feb — Cases of insulin-requiring type 1 diabetes rose sharply in children under the age of five in Philadelphia over a two-decade span—similar to increases seen across the US and Europe, according to new research.

"Why are we seeing this large increase in type 1 diabetes in very young children? Unfortunately, the answer is we don't know," said lead study author Terri Lipman, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

In research published in *Diabetes Care*, Lipman and her colleagues updated a registry started in 1985 of Philadelphia children diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

Of the two most common forms of diabetes, type 2 typically affects adults who can still produce insulin, but whose bodies cannot use the hormone to regulate blood sugar. Type 1, previously known as juvenile diabetes, typically strikes children whose immune systems have killed off insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. The disease is usually fatal if left untreated.

Type 1 diabetics must take insulin but many type 2 diabetics can control the disease with medications, diet and exercise.

Reuters

WORLD

Four killed in clashes in Lebanese border town

BEIRUT, 2 Feb—One Lebanese army officer and 3 soldiers were killed and a number of others wounded on Friday in clashes between the army and gunmen in the Bekaa town of Arsal, reported various media outlets.

The Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) said that at least five Lebanese soldiers were among six people killed between unidentified gunmen and the army on the border with Syria. It reported that the clashes erupted in light of the shooting and kidnapping of Khaled Hmayyed, identifying him as a member of the group that abducted seven Estonians in Lebanon in 2011 in Arsal.

The seven Estonians were kidnapped in Lebanon in March 2011 as they entered the country by as part of a bicycle tour from Syria.

They were held in the Bekaa area and released in July 2011. The abductors, believed to be a previously unknown group called Haraket al-Nahda Wal-Islah (Movement for Renewal and Reform), had reportedly demanded ransom in exchange for the release of the Estonians.

LBC said that the Lebanese security agencies had labeled Hmayyed as a member of a "terrorist group," adding that his activity was constantly being monitored.

Other sources said he was a member of the extremist al-Nusra Front, which is active in the Syrian revolt.—*Xinhua*

An elderly man is being helped outside the headquarters of state oil giant Pemex in Mexico City on 31 Jan, 2013. A powerful explosion rocked the Mexico City headquarters of state oil giant Pemex on Thursday, killing at least 14 people and injuring 100 others.The blast hit the lower floors of the downtown tower block, throwing debris into the streets and sending workers running outside. Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong said the blast killed at least 14 people and injured 100. It was not yet clear what caused the explosion, and the death toll could still rise, he added.—REUTERS

Eight dead, 32 injured in NW China bus accident

LANZHOU, 2 Feb—Eight people have been confirmed dead and 32 others injured after a bus tumbled into a ravine and caught fire on Friday night in northwest China's Gansu Province, local authorities said on Saturday.

The accident occurred around 10 pm Friday near the county seat of Ningxian, Qingyang City, according to sources with the Gansu provincial government.

The coach from Langfang City in north China's Hebei Province veered off the road at a curve, crashing into the ravine that is more than 10 metres deep and catching fire, the sources said. Six people were killed at the scene and two others died in hospital after rescue efforts failed.

The injured have been sent to local hospitals, yet their conditions are unknown.

It is not immediately known how many people were onboard the coach when the accident happened.

The accident happened at a time when Chin's transportation sector is gearing up for the Spring Festival (Lunar New Year) holiday, when hundreds of millions of people travel back to their hometown for family reunion.—*Xinhua*

Landslide affected villagers relocated in SW China

Photo taken on 1 Feb, 2013 shows the cracked and collapsed houses at Zhongtun Township in Zhenxiong County, southwest China's Yunnan Province. A landslide destroyed 35 houses, damaged 928 others and affected the lives of 712 people here. All villagers who were affected by the landslide have been relocated, the county government said. No casualties have been reported. —XINHUA

KUNMING, 2 Feb — All villagers who were affected by a Monday landslide in southwest China's Yunnan Province have been relocated, local authorities said on Friday.

The landslide destroyed 35 houses, damaged 928 others and affected the lives of 712 people in Zhongtun Township in Zhenxiong County, the county government said.

No casualties have been reported.

The county government has erected tents for affected residents and is implementing an emergency response to the disaster.

On 11 January, a landslide killed 46 people in Zhenxiong, which is located about 550 km northeast of the provincial capital of Kunming.

Xinhua

Death toll rises to nine in expressway viaduct collapse

ZHENGZHOU, 2 Feb—Death toll from an expressway viaduct collapse in central China's Henan Province on early Friday has risen to nine, and an initial investigation has indicated that the collapse was caused by an explosion involving a fireworks-laden truck.

Eleven other people were also injured in the accident, which occurred around 9:00 am on a 30-metre-high viaduct in Mianchi County, Sanmenxia City, about 193 km west of the provincial capital of Zhengzhou.

An 80-metre-long section of the southern lane of the viaduct collapsed after the explosion, according to the rescue headquarters at the scene.

A professional assessment team formed by traffic design institutions has started safety evaluation on the expressway viaduct, said Wang Chunjiang, an official with the construction management office of Henan Communications Department.

The team will evaluate conditions of the uncollapsed half section of the viaduct, to confirm whether rescue equipment can run on it and whether it is still safe for traffic. The result is expected on Saturday, said Wang. The rescue headquarters said on Friday night that six trucks and two cars had been pulled from debris as of 9 pm, and further search and rescue efforts remain underway.

Seven people died at the scene of the accident, while two others died on the way to hospital. Of the 11 injured, four are in serious condition, the rescuers said. Previous reports said 13 people had been injured.

Xinhua

Rescuers work at the accident site where an 80-metre-long section of an expressway bridge collapsed due to a truck explosion in Mianchi County, Sanmenxia, central China's Henan Province, on 1 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Seven killed in attack at security forces camp in NW Pakistan

ISLAMBAD, 2 Feb—At least one security personnel and six militants were killed while eight others sustained injuries on Saturday morning as unknown militants attacked the security forces camp in Pakistan's northwestern district of Lakki Marwat, local media reported.

Local Urdu TV Channels quoting official sources as saying that an unknown number of militants stormed the security forces camp in the Serai Naurang area of Lakki Marwat, a district in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Militants used automatic guns and heavy ammunition including rockets and hand grenades in the attack. The security personnel responded the attack with full force retaliation and stopped the militants to enter the restricted area.

In the cross-firing at least one security personnel was killed and eight others injured while six attackers also became the victim of forces' firing. The skirmish that started at 4:00 am local time continued for two hours before the militants fled the area, leaving the bodies of the dead and heavy weapons behind. All the injured people were shifted to the army hospital in the area.—*Xinhua*

Destroyed buildings are seen on a deserted street in Homs on 30 Jan, 2013. At least 60,000 people have been killed in Syria's civil war. Mostly Sunni Homs, a commercial and agricultural hub 140 km (90 miles) north of Damascus, has been at the heart of the 22-month uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.—REUTERS

13 dead, 21 injured in SW China road accident

GUIYANG, 2 Feb—Thirteen people died and 21 others were injured, including 11 seriously, after an overloaded coach turned over and crashed along a 100-metre slope in southwest China's Guizhou Province on Saturday, local authorities said.

The accident occurred around 9 am in Congjiang County, some 450 km southeast of provincial capital of Guiyang, sources with the county government said.

Five people were killed instantly, while eight others died on their way to or in hospital.

An initial investigation showed that the coach designed for 19 passengers was carrying 34 when the accident occurred.

A further investigation into the cause of the accident is under way.

Xinhua

WORLD

Chinese leaders Hu Jintao, Xi Jinping, Wu Bangguo,Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin, Li Keqiang, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli attend an art performance, extending Spring Festival greetings to the military and the people in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 Feb, 2013.
XINHUA

Performance of servicemen, civilians held in Beijing

BEIJING, 2 Feb—Chinese senior leaders attended a joint art performance of the military and civilians at the Great Hall of the People on Friday night to greet the coming Lunar New Year.

At present were Hu Jintao, Xi Jinping, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin, Li Keqiang, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli.

China's Spring Festival, or the Lunar New Year, falls on 10 February this year.—*Xinhua*

Hiroshima mayor urges national gov't to take lead in nuclear ban

TOKYO, 2 Feb — Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui called on the national government on Friday to take the lead in negotiations to conclude an international pact banning nuclear weapons in a bid to realize a world free of nuclear arms.

After meeting Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo, Matsui quoted Kishida as telling him, "I intend to take the feelings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to heart and steadily coordinate moves with them."

The exchange took place as Matsui submitted to the minister a letter adopted at a meeting of mayors concerned from across the country last month urging the start of talks on the pact banning the manufacturing, ownership and use of nuclear weapons.

"It's effective for Japan, the country that has suffered atomic bombings, to come together and appeal for peace in a bid to send messages of peace to the world," Matsui told reporters after the meeting.

The letter, which says moves to outlaw nuclear weapons are gradually accelerating, was adopted on 18 January at a "Mayors for Peace" meeting held among mayors of Japanese cities seeking to abolish nuclear weapons.

As of the beginning of this year, 5,524 cities worldwide were members of the "Mayors for Peace" conference, including 1,271 in Japan.

Kyodo News

French top model Marine Deleeuw walks during a fitting for the Haute Couture Spring-Summer 2013 fashion collection at Lebanese designer Zuhair Murad's offices in Paris, on 23 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

US condemns attack on embassy

BEIJING, 2 Feb—US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said that several US and Turkish staff at the US Embassy in Ankara were struck by debris from a suicide bombing that killed one Turkish guard. Nuland condemned the attack in the "strongest terms", saying it was a terrorist attack.

Victoria Nuland, spokeswoman of US State Department, said, "One of our direct hire local guards was killed. We offer our deepest condolences to his family. We had two other direct hire guards who were shaken up they were on the other side of some bullet proof glass, we had a Turkish visitor who is in serious condition, but the only other casualties here were several US and Turkish staff who were struck by flying debris, they were treated on the site at by our embassy clinic and released."—*Xinhua*

242,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon: UN

BEIRUT, 2 Feb—The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Friday in its weekly report that the number of displaced Syrians in Lebanon has risen more than 20,000 in a week, reaching 242,000 refugees in all. Of all the refugees, 165,000 have been registered with the commission, and over 77,263 want to register their names, according to the UN report.

On a related note, the UNHCR representative in Lebanon Ninette Kelley said on Friday that the organization does not endorse the building of Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon.

"The commission does not encourage establishing Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon for many reasons," Lebanese Energy Minister Gebran Bassil quoted Kelley as saying.

"The concerned humanitarian parties in reference to UNHCR refute the idea that camps be built on Lebanese territory. Simultaneously we hear various national ministerial authorities seeking to begin building, as they see the creation of refugee settlements as an inescapable dimension of things to come," Bassil said.

Lebanon is facing difficulties dealing with the increasing number of refugees fleeing Syria's violence.

Xinhua

Indian gov't approves death penalty for rapists who cause grave harm to victims

NEW DELHI, 2 Feb — The Indian government has approved death penalty for rapists who grievously harm their victims physically or mentally, after the 16 December horrifying gang rape in the Indian capital, reported local media on Saturday. The government approved an ordinance asking for the death sentence, which will become law as soon as the Indian president signs it, said local daily *Hindustan Times*.

The ordinance also requires Parliament's approval within six months, which the government plans to complete in the budget session due to start later this month.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh convened a special cabinet meeting soon after he met Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Indian Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde presented the broad contours of the proposed ordinance afterwards, said the report. The Delhi gang rape, in which a 23-year-old woman died after being brutally assaulted by six thugs on a moving bus in south Delhi, has triggered unprecedented public anger against crimes against women in India.

Xinhua

Peru, Colombia, Ecuador vow to bolster fight against crime

LIMA, 2 Feb— Senior military commanders from Peru, Colombia and Ecuador have agreed to strengthen the fight against organized crime in the region, the Peruvian military said on Friday. During a four-day meeting in the northeastern Peruvian region of Loreto, military chiefs of the three countries discussed a variety of issues related to bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the Armed Forces Joint Command said in a statement.

They agreed to forge a joint crime-fighting strategy, which takes into account cultural idiosyncracies and self-determination of indigenous communities, and maintain security and stability along their countries' shared borders, the statement said.

The participants also expressed their willingness to consolidate friendship and mutual confidence to promote understanding, development and order in the region, it added.—*Xinhua*

US offers condolences to victims of explosion in Mexico City

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb— The US government on Friday offered its condolences to victims of the powerful explosion in Mexico City, which has killed at least 32 people.

"We offer our condolences to the Mexican people, particularly those who lost family and loved ones in yesterday's explosion in Mexico City," White House said in a statement. The White House said Washington is ready to provide assistance that may be required by the Mexican government.

The death toll from a powerful explosion at the headquarters of Mexican oil giant Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) has risen to 32, with additional 52 people remaining hospitalized, the head of the company said on Friday. But he added that the cause of the explosion is still unclear. Mexican media have suggested causes including a heating problem, or a possible bomb attack.—*Xinhua*

Performers from Shiki Theatre Co's musical "The Lion King" participate in an annual bean-throwing event atop Tsutenkaku tower in Osaka's Naniwa Ward, western Japan, on 1 Feb, 2013. People in Japan customarily throw beans to drive away demons and welcome good luck at traditional "setsubun" events in early February.—KYODO NEWS

A paramilitary policeman (C) stands guard as passengers walk to board their trains at the Beijing West Railway Station on 31 Jan, 2013. According to an official with the Ministry of Railways, railway authorities arranged 358 more passenger trains on Saturday to start handling the estimated 5.2 million daily trips over the next 40-day travel rush period due to the Spring Festival, Xinhua News Agency reported. The Spring Festival, also known as the Lunar New Year, will begin on 10 February this year and usher in the Year of the Snake.
REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 3 February, 2013

Benefits for the grass roots

The First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum last month produced the Nay Pyi Taw Accord after a series of brainstorming sessions among international organizations, foreign investors, local scholars and entrepreneurs on economic and social development framework and effective development cooperation.

In fact, our national development programme covers a large array of areas from poverty alleviation and rural development to macroeconomic development and town and city plans. So, plans are on the go for development of SMEs as they are vital for economic growth and poverty alleviation.

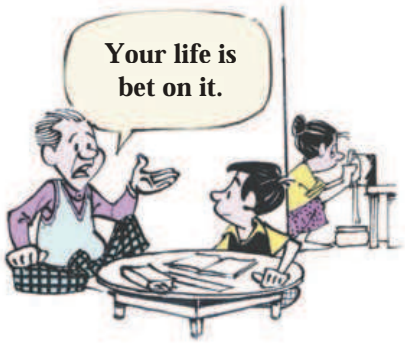
The nation now has the Central Committee and Work Committee for Small and Medium Enterprises Development to help SMEs. And it now starts making connections with international enterprises for necessary technologies, capital and advices. Necessary loans are being disbursed by Small and Medium Industry Bank. More assistance will come and financial and material assistance will flow into livestock sector for its progress.

Besides, there are low-cost housing projects in Yangon and other regions and states all over the country as majority of our people do not even own a house although working from dawn to dusk just to earn their living. As farmers still are the country's majority we have increased the amount of agricultural loans for rice and other crops. As farmland ownership has been legal under existing laws, we are undertaking farmland ownership registration process in order that farmers can obtain working capitals by putting up their farmland as securities when necessary.

Here, we suggest farmers to grasp new financial management methods and opportunities compatible with the opening market. At the same time we are taking into account the modernized farming which can facilitate agricultural development in line with market economy.

Thanks to a series of reforms during the last two years, we can concentrate more on people-centered economic plans that will bring the benefits to the grass roots.

Matric exam is like a boxing competition!



Shwe Min Tha

OPINION

Trust in Reform

Min Bahtoo

(Continued from 27-1-2013)

Trust in government serves as "**governance capital**" that encourages people to cooperate with the government even if it makes unpopular decisions which can yield benefits only in the long-run. Though government participation can help build social trust, sometimes it is of useless to build political trust and can exert negative effects by means of participation only. Therefore, personal interactions with citizens are more important for government rather than ideological and institutional factors in building trust as the former can guarantee better results.

Governments may engender trust in lowering personal investments in actions of other individuals, by enforcing contract that give buyers and sellers reason to trust each other; by restricting the use of coercion to tasks that enhance rather than undermine trust and by eliminating risky personal reliance on other (for example through freeing families of burden of caring for person with disability). However, one point is to be bear in mind that the reckless reliance on subordinate organizations and departments in building trust through society-centered approach might lead to loss of existing social capital.

Examples of some South-East Asian nations

Most of the South-East Asian nations have a host of colonial histories engraved with fights for liberation. These countries also saw national dictators. The region is not unfamiliar with wars as trust has been like a high-priced product to governments. In the late 20th Century, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand were considered "tigers" which experienced higher living standard, drop in birth rate, progress in health and education and economic boom. These facts make some other regional countries to start practice open-door economy and accept the globalization concept. Now, South-East Asia Region can be called a bloc consisting most of developing democracies.

Trust just reflects the people's hope. It does not mean people accept and evaluate the current situation. The vital interaction between government and citizens means government's ability to deliver goods and services to people effectively and efficiently which demands appropriate regulations, funds and competency and morality of staff. These are major input for government's service delivery, which represents the efficiency of a government.

Global Competitiveness Index puts just three questions to measure those inputs—(1) How bad is the red-tape? (2) How much wastage the government expenditure has? and (3) How is the personal quality? The average index of South-East Asian nations is 3.5 according to GCI report and thus is of middle level. Though such sectors as regulations against red-tape, change in procurement system and reasonable use of finances have certain strong points, human resources sector has considerable deficiencies.*

Although the government performance is questionable in every country, building schools and giving medical service for public, position of infrastructural foundation, setting minimum level of pay, and so forth are widely acceptable milestones. World Economic Forum (2001) said South-East Asian governments except Singapore are yet to improve their performances.

Government is to provide everyone with service, especially those marginalized by poverty, poor education, far-flung residence, ethnic minority and physical disability status. Such policy not only could makes social justice but also contributes to stability of the nation, thereby making investments safe and secure. So GCI requested business executives to weigh the level of benefits in making investments.

Except Singapore, Southeast Asian countries stand in the middle of the table as a result of social transfers that do not reach the grassroots and different advantages in schools, health care services and government's policies.

ICT provides equal rights to every person to be able to communicate with anyone at any time. It is required to solve the problem of access by narrowing digital divide, whenever possible, for everyone, regardless of rich and poor, education, gender and different residency. Online services of government organizations assist not only in e-Government system but also in the making great strides to realize the three main characteristics of good governance—anti-corruption, transparency and participation.

Key prospects and challenges

There are significant differences between the Southeast Asian countries and other world nations. The first is that citizens of Southeast Asian countries put their trust in their governments and well-established disciplined institutions to a much greater extent than that of other nations. The second is that people who do not build generalized trust upon each others could trust the government, no matter how the questions are raised on the government. It is because they value mediators and religious teachings and hope allow them to dream of extraordinary.

Accordingly, government's task of building trust with the people in Southeast Asian countries is seen as more trustworthy. Learning from Southeast Asian countries, emphasis should be placed on improvement of service delivery and access which are regarded as the point where there is the interaction between the government and the people. Public service and accessibility for all are given priority and the role of civil service is the second concern. While facing new challenges brought by the newly-launched people-centered policy, reform package is needed in the administrative sector for those who are moving towards on the right track to be able to achieve synergy among them. Award presentation, recognition, guidelines, training and capacity building, promotion, advice and consultation, tour of inspection, standardized audit and leaving behind, if necessary, are vital ingredients in the administrative reform. "Reform in top mechanism" which was carried out in Malaysia is a good example.

Conclusion

I have very firm belief about the lessons from the reform process of Asian countries that these lessons would be the best examples for our country. Political leaders need to take more time to win the sufficient trust of the people, making great strides in achieving political capital, social capital and governance capital. The process can be mentioned as a metaphor for those who are trying to kindle fire by rubbing stones. Pointing to blame for something on each other could not create trust between the two sides. Though there may be great differences in finding facts, we should take examples of some enthusiastic Asian countries which have been working in harmony. Thus, we should set the differences aside and make cooperations in common grounds. If synergy is realized in the favourable environment, the nation will see rapid growth we expected and surpass all other countries that has potentials of influences. So long as anyone or any organization is self-centering, synergy cannot be achieved for our country. So, it is safe to say that to achieve synergy for the sake of the country, **people-centered strategy and unselfish leadership** are the most essentials.

**Source: Building trust in Government in Southeast Asia, contributor—Ledivina V Carino*

(The End)

Trs: TKK+YM

President U Thein Sein calls for...

(from page 1)

and Irrigation by Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon Express Road in Pyu Township in Bago Region. The company reclaimed the land of 2000 acres with the workforce of 700 and the machinery of the company. The farm was irrigated by cannel networks from Kun creek. The company grows maize in winter and Palethwe paddy in monsoon and others. It is planning to breed 5000 cows for producing natural fertilizers.

The farm also has weather stations, silos and other agricultural machinery. The produce would be sold as value-added finished products.

A total of 300 acres of farmlands owned by local farmers in Indai, Ywapugon and Htanbinkauk villages will also be transformed into the advanced mechanized farms.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein inspects power-tillers during his visit to model plot in Nyaungbintha village.

MNA

Construction of Yangon-Thilawa Bridge Project discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb— Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung held discussions with delegates from four companies led by ITOCHU Corporation of Japan at his office here this morning.

They discussed preparation for implementing Yangon-Thilawa Bridge Project which includes railway and motorway and three ways to be linked with Yangon circular train road at three proposed places to be constructed under Yangon-Thilawa bridge project.

MNA

Challenges and opportunities in education sector discussed at Education World Forum

YANGON, 2 Feb—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye after attending Education World Forum for Education Ministers 2013 in London from 28 to 30 January arrived back here yesterday evening.

Around 70 education ministers from across the world attended the forum to discuss challenges and opportunities in education sector and exchange views on education policies.

The delegation also met Minister of State of British Department for International Development Mr Alan Duncan MP and Chief Executive of British Council Mr Martin Davidson separately and held round-table discussion with 10-stakeholder group headed by Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills Mr Matthew Hancock.

MNA

Experts meet to designate Mottama Gulf as Ramsar site

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb— International and Myanmar experts participated in a workshop here today to lay down plans for designating Myanmar's Mottama Gulf as second Ramsar site of the country.

In his opening address at the workshop, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung said that the workshop could lay down future plans for designating the Mottama Gulf as a Ramsar site.

The workshop was jointly conducted by Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) at the ministry here in conjunction with a ceremony to mark the World Wetlands Day.

During the workshop, the experts discussed matters on designating the Mottama Gulf as a Ramsar site, participation of the people in effectively using wetlands, societies-based management on natural resources, sustainable development of coastal areas, experiences and cooperation of the people in Japan and demarcation of the Mottama Gulf.

Moeyungyi Wetland in Bago has been designated as the first Ramsar site of Myanmar.—*MNA*

Coord meeting on formation of new villages held

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb— Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo called for collection of accurate number of households at yesterday's coordination meeting on establishment of new villages for illegal residents living in forest reserve and protected public forest area promising to give land plots to those that have lived in those forest areas within the state for a long time.

Next, director of the state Forest Department, supervisory committee members and peace groups explained future programmes for collection of accurate data and formation of new villages.

MNA

Dy Education minister meets Austrian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb— Deputy Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint met a delegation led by Dr Christoph Lelti, President of Austrian Federal Economic Chamber at the ministry this afternoon.

They discussed matters related to tourism, management and professional academics and signing Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation with universities and education.

MNA

Vegetables and Fruit Show in Mandalay 12 Feb

MANDALAY, 2 Feb—Mandalay City Development Committee will organize the 11th Vegetables and Fruit Show at Kandawgyi Park in Mandalay as of 21 February.

Handsome prizes will be presented to the winners in respective events.

Those wishing to take part in the show may contact the office of Kandawgyi Park Management Office, Tel: 02-59170.

Kyemon

Yadanarbon FC, M-150 sign logo deal

YANGON, 2 Feb—M-150 Energy Drink logo will appear on the suits of Yadanarbon FC following Osotspa Company signing a product placement deal with the Mandalay-based football team nicknamed as Boxing Cake at Park Royal Hotel here this morning.

Chairman of Yadanarbon FC Dr Sai Sam Htun and Deputy Managing Director Mr Keith D Harris signed the logo deal. The two then met the press.—*MNA*

WORLD

Hong Kong aims at smugglers in bid to stop run on baby formula milk

Hong Kong, 2 Feb — Hong Kong introduced measures on Friday to tackle a shortage of baby milk formula as food-safety-conscious mainland Chinese people flock to the city to stock up on supplies ahead of a Lunar New Year holiday.

The Hong Kong government cut the luggage allowance on trains that connect the city to the mainland to 23 kg (50 lb) from 32 kg (70 lb) and limited the number of cans of milk powder a person can take back into the mainland to two per visit.

It said it would also set up a hot line from Friday evening allowing Hong Kong mothers to place orders for seven brands of infant formula and ensure that orders placed by this weekend are delivered by the new year holiday, which starts on 10 February and runs for a week in China, when most shops are closed. A series of scandals involving food produced in China, including milk, has sapped the confidence of many mainland consumers, who have flocked to Hong Kong to shop, angering residents of the wealthy city who say the problem has led to shortages and pushed up prices.

"The scandals here definitely have had an effect," said Kevin Der Arslanian, a business analyst at China Market Research Group in Shanghai. "People don't trust necessarily that the product they buy is real or the quality is good."

High import taxes in China have also created a thriving grey market for traders who buy products tax-free in Hong Kong and take them on crowded trains across the border on trolleys, in suitcases or stuffed in their jackets, to resell for a profit.—*Reuters*

Baby milk formula are displayed inside a pharmacy in Hong Kong on 1 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

Earl Grey descendants sell English tea to China

Truro, 2 Feb—An estate owned by descendants of the 19th century British aristocrat for whom Earl Grey tea was named is turning history on its head by selling English tea to China.

The Tregothnan estate in the southwestern English county of Cornwall started selling tea from its tiny plantation in 2005 and last year produced about 10 metric tons (11.023 tons) of tea and infusions. Although a drop in the ocean of global tea production, which the UK Tea Council estimated to be about 4.3 million metric tons, Tregothnan has found a niche for its products by trading on England's historical reputation as a nation of tea-lovers.

"It's unique. There's no one else who's growing tea in England and putting English tea on the market," owner Evelyn Boscawen told *Reuters*.

The long history of immersing tea leaves in hot water for a refreshing drink is not lost on the son of the current Viscount Falmouth and a descendant of British Prime Minister Charles Grey, for whom the bergamot-flavoured Earl Grey tea is named and whose Reform Act of 1832 sowed the seeds of modern parliamentary democracy and universal suffrage in Britain. Chinese tea has been coming to Britain since the East India Company first imported it in the 17th century for consumption by wealthy aristocrats.

By the Victorian era, taking tea had become a regular ritual at almost every level of society from elaborate afternoon tea for the rich in country houses to tea and gruel for the working poor as depicted by author Charles Dickens. But the Boscawens at Tregothnan are bucking the historic trend of tea flowing from East to West by beginning to export some of their wares to China and elsewhere.

"We do see China as an opportunity at the moment," Boscawen said. —*Reuters*

Wesley Goldsworthy picks tea leaves at the Tregothnan Estate near Truro in Cornwall on 14 Jan, 2013.
Reuters

Mexico declares three days of national mourning for explosion victims

Mexico City, 2 Feb—Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto on Friday decreed three days of national mourning in honour of the 33 people who died following a powerful explosion at the headquarters of Mexican oil giant Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex).

"This tragedy has filled us with sadness, so Mexico is grieving, so I decided to declare three days of national mourning. The national government will support the bereaved relatives at all times, with all they need, "said Pena Nieto while attending a ceremony.

Earlier in the day, Mexican Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong announced that the latest death toll had risen to 33 after rescuers concluded their search in the rubble.

The president announced that he has instructed Osorio Chong to carry out a thorough investigation and that the public can know what had caused the explosion at Pemex Tower. "I have instructed him to have a deep and thorough investigation to clarify the causes of this incident, which will prevent a repeat of a tragedy like it and will not discard any hypothesis," said the president. He reiterated his most sincere condolences to the families of those who sadly lost their lives and his great sympathy to the people who were injured.—*Xinhua*

Russian "sleeping judge" resigns after video exposé

Mexico City, 2 Feb—A Russian judge has resigned after a video apparently showed him asleep during a trial that ended with him sentencing the defendant to five years in a penal colony, Russian media reported on Friday.

Critics of the Russian justice system, which has a notoriously high conviction rate, were outraged when the video purporting to show judge Yevgeny Makhno sleeping through a defence lawyer's speech in court was posted online in January.

"The Judges Qualification Panel accepted Makhno's resignation from his judge's post," regional judge and panel member Valentina Pozharskaya told state news agency *RIA Novosti.*

The film, allegedly shot during a fraud trial last July in the far-eastern town of Blagoveshchensk, seems to show Makhno slumped in his chair fast asleep with his head cocked to one side.

The businessman sentenced to five years hard labour will have a new trial on 14 February after an appeal was lodged over the "unjust" sentence, Russian media said.

Russia's justice system has been in the spotlight recently over several high-profile court cases including the trial of punk protest collective Pussy Riot.

The band's three members were sentenced to two years in prison on charges of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred after they performed an anti-Putin prayer in Moscow's main cathedral in 2012, which Russian and foreign commentators called excessive.—*Reuters*

6,743 suspects arrested in property-related crimes

Beijing, 2 Feb—A total of 6,743 people have been apprehended for their suspected involvement in property-related crimes since 17 Jan, according to the Ministry of Public Security on Friday. A total of 846 crime dens were broken up as part of the arrests.

The ministry said that 21,014 cases of robbery, theft and telecom fraud were uncovered and 8.1 million yuan (about 1.3 million US dollars) had been retrieved. The two-month campaign against property-related crimes was launched on 17 January by the ministry.

Officials with the ministry said it will step up efforts to crack down on such illegal behavior.—*Xinhua*

An one-year-old lion cub is snapped showing off his huge grin at the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, South Carolina. Amateur photographer Randy Rimland, who captured the image admits it was probably yawning.—Xinhua

World's 1st blue Phalaenopsis orchid

Tokyo, 2 Feb—After a decade of relentless efforts, Japanese scientists have finally succeeded in creating the world's first blue Phalaenopsis aphrodite...a kind of orchid. Researchers at Chiba University used genetic engineering technology to cultivate the plant.

Its blue flowers were shown to reporters in advance of its public debut at the exhibition of orchids in Okinawa Prefecture starting on Saturday. The orchid doesn't naturally have a gene for producing the blue pigment, so the research team used genes of blue Asiatic dayflowers to create this rare specimen.

The size of the blue Phalaenopsis aphrodite flower is about 5 centimetres across. It's a little smaller than Phalaenopsis aphrodite seen in nature, but one plant bears nearly 30 flowers.

Yoshihiro Hanashiro is the managing director of the association hosting the exhibition. He says he wants many people to come see the rare blue flowers. They will be on display at the exhibition through 11th February.—*NHK*

The blue Phalaenopsis orchid

REGIONAL

Premier Wen listens to public on government work

BEIJING, 2 Feb—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Friday visited a community in Beijing and listened to residents' opinions on government work, and commented on his own performance.

A forum was held in Beijing's Niujie Street where Wen talked with neighbourhood residents on various issues including ethnic affairs, education and grassroots healthcare.

Wen took a bow to express thanks for the public's recognition of the government's work, but also said he often blames himself for not performing his job well enough.

Niujie Street is an area largely inhabited by people of the Hui ethnic group.

When talking about issues on ethnic affairs, Wen stressed that the focus of the government's work in this regard is efforts to ensure ethnic equality and religious freedom as well as to respect customs and folkways of various groups.

He also said that he is concerned about the price of lamb and beef, which are major meats for Hui ethnic people, who are Muslims.

The price of such food went up due to increased demand, and the government will work to help low-income people in the Hui group, he said.

After listening to a retired teacher's criticism about the increasing burden on students, the premier admitted that the country's efforts to promote their all-round development is unsatisfactory. The mounting pressure of schoolwork is exhausting not only for students but also their parents, Wen said.

He also noted the imbalance in the distribution of good education resources, resulting in students having to scramble and pay exorbitant fees for a good school's admittance.—*Xinhua*

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visits a community and talks with the residents about their suggestions on the government in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Top political advisor stresses bigger role of advisory body

BEIJING, 2 Feb — China's top political advisor reiterated on Friday that the country's advisory body should have a bigger role in national affairs.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remarks at the concluding session of the four-day meeting of the Standing Committee of the 11th CPPCC National Committee.

Jia reviewed the speech given by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, who called on the advisory body to shoulder greater responsibility and act more in building the country.

According to a decision adopted, a new chairman of the national advisory body will be elected at the first annual session of the 12th National Committee of the CPPCC, which is scheduled to open on 3 March.

The upcoming annual session will also elect vice chairpersons, general secretary and Standing Committee members of the 12th CPPCC National Committee.

The session will deliberate and vote on the work report submitted by the 11th CPPCC National Committee and the report on the work proposal.

Members of the 12th CPPCC National Committee will attend the first session of the 12th National People's Congress, the national legislature, which will open on 5 March, to hear and discuss the government report as well as other reports.—*Xinhua*

Jia Qinglin (C front), chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, attends the closing meeting of the 20th session of the Standing Committee of the 11th CPPCC National Committee in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Narita sees record arrivals and departures

TOKYO, 2 Feb — Arrivals and departures from Narita Airport hit a record high in 2012, exceeding 200,000 for the first time.

The international airport near Tokyo saw 208,704 planes arriving or departing last year. This topped the previous record set in 2007 by about 15,000.

The operator of the Narita Airport attributes the increase mainly to domestic services launched by 2 low cost carriers. It says international flights by other airlines also increased.

The operator has improved the airport's taxiways and is set to expand its capacity by the end of March. This will boost the arrival and departure slots to 270,000 a year.

The airport operator plans to increase the slots in phases. It aims to reach 300,000 slots during the fiscal year starting April 2014.

The president of Narita's operator, Makoto Natsume, says the company is only halfway to its goal.

He says his firm will invite new airlines and work with existing clients to open new routes.—*NHK*

Photo shows Narita Airport Terminal 1.—NHK

Panel to propose separating power generation, transmission in 2017-2019

TOKYO, 2 Feb—An expert panel under the industry ministry will propose separating power generation and transmission units of utilities between 2017 and 2019, sources close to the issue said on Saturday.

Major electric power companies conduct the two operations integrally in Japan, and the electricity industry opposes their separation on the grounds that it would damage stable electric supply.

It is expected, however, that the proposal will allow new entrants, including solar power generators, to join the business to stir competition among utilities and will expand the use of renewable energies.

After the proposal is formally adopted at the panel's meeting on Friday, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry aims to submit a bill to revise the electricity business law to stipulate a separation schedule, according to the sources.

The panel will also propose introducing three different licenses to operators engaging in power generation, transmission and retailing, while spinning off part of the ministry's authority for supervising utilities and transferring them to an upcoming new organization to pay closer attention to electricity transactions, the sources said.

Kyodo News

Indonesia takes SEAPAC chairmanship until 2015

JAKARTA, 2 Feb—Indonesia was elected to hold the chairmanship of South East Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) in a regional assembly held in Indonesia's Central Java Province capital city of Semarang on Saturday.

Indonesia replaced the Philippines as the SEAPAC chairman after being mandated by delegations attending the assembly session that began on 31 January.

Eva Kusuma Sundari, member of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), and an Indonesian task force member, said that the Indonesian delegation proposed Pramono Anung Wibowo to lead the SEAPAC. Pramono is the current head of GOPAC Indonesian task force.

Pramono will replace Edgardo J Angara of the Philippines to lead the anti-graft organization joined by members of parliaments in member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Thailand's deputy speaker Surachi Liengboonlerthchan was selected as the SEAPAC deputy chairman.—*Xinhua*

Cambodia releases jailed Thai activist, cuts sentence on another

PHNOM PENH, 2 Feb—Cambodia released one of two jailed Thai activists while the other had his sentence reduced on Friday, a day after more than 400 pardons or sentence reductions were announced.

The pardons and reductions came as Cambodia began on Thursday a four-day "bidding farewell" to former King Norodom Sihanouk who died last October at 89.

Nuth Sa An, secretary of state at the Interior Ministry, told *Kyodo News* on Friday that Ratree Pipatanapaiboon, who was serving a six-year sentence, had been released.

The second Thai activist, Veera Somkwamkid who was sentenced to eight years in prison, had his term reduced by six months.

Veera, a core leader of the Thai Patriots Network, and Ratree, his secretary, were arrested in December 2010 during a protest on the border between Thailand and Cambodia in an area they claim to be part of Thailand.

Both were convicted of illegal entry into Cambodia and collecting information in a prohibited military zone that could damage national security and were sentenced to significant time in Cambodian jails.

Kyodo News

Reservoir leak results in casualties in Xinjiang

URUMQI, 2 Feb—A reservoir leak in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has left one dead and more than a dozen injured, rescuers said on Saturday.

The Lianfeng Reservoir in Kaziwan Village, located about 25 km from Urumqi, the regional capital, began to lose water around 6:10 am, sources with the reservoir administration said.

Water gushed out and flowed into a nearby village, blocking traffic and flooding some local houses.

The point of the leak has since expanded to a break of about 10 meters along the dam, according to *Xinhua* reporters at the scene.

Rescuers have found a deceased elderly person floating on the water and brought 13 others to safety.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 2 Feb, 2013 shows the breached dyke of the Lianfeng Reservoir in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.
XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (327)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (327) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1304)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1304) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-2-2013 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 CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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	Address to submit tender forms
News and Periodicals Enterprise	Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information	Ministry of Information
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw	Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-412123; 067-412128	Tel: 067-412327

Photo shows Tomomi Itano, one of the original and most prominent members of Japanese all-girl pop group AKB48. On 1 Feb, 2013, Itano announced she will leave the group. KYODO NEWS

Obama tapped Kerry for secretary of state before Rice quit: report

President Barack Obama (L) and Senator John Kerry (D-MA) shake hands after the president announced Kerry's nomination as Secretary of State to succeed Hillary Clinton, at the White House in Washington on 21 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb— President Barack Obama offered Senator John Kerry the job of secretary of state a week before Susan Rice, the US ambassador to the United Nations, withdrew her name from contention, the *Boston Globe* reported on Friday.

"He called me, actually a week before Susan got out of the thing," Kerry told the newspaper, offering a timeline earlier than previously reported.

"He called me and said, 'You're my choice. I want you to do this.' He asked me to keep it quiet. I did. I sat on it," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Kerry sought to clarify his remarks later on Friday.

"Private discussions are best kept private and my imprecise, overly casual answer to a question about timing confused things," Kerry, who was sworn in as secretary of state on Friday, said in a statement.

"To clarify, through many private conversations over a long and busy period for everyone, I knew that the President was interested in the possibility of my serving as Secretary of State but the President did not formally offer me the job until later in December," he said.

Kerry did not specify the date of Obama's offer.

Rice, a top aide to Obama during his 2008 presidential campaign, withdrew her name from consideration as secretary of state on 13 December in the face of what promised to be a contentious Senate confirmation battle.

A spokesman for Kerry was not immediately available for comment on his reported remarks.

Reuters

Italian court convicts three Americans for 2003 CIA kidnapping

MIKLAN, 2 Feb—An appeal court in Milan on Friday sentenced former CIA Italy chief and two other agents to jail for their role in the 2003 abduction of Egyptian cleric and terror suspect Osama Mustafa Hassan Nasr, also known as Abu Omar.

Former CIA Rome bureau head Jeffrey Castelli was sentenced to seven years, while agents Betnie Medero and Ralph Russomando were handed a six-year sentence each in the same case. The three Americans had been previously acquitted on the grounds of diplomatic immunity by a lower court.

The appeal court's reasoning was expected to be released in two weeks, and defence lawyers said that they would decide whether to appeal to the highest court after reading it.

Italy's highest court last year upheld the convictions of 23 other Americans sentenced in 2009 in the same case. None of the CIA agents attended the trials nor have been in Italian custody, but they risk arrest if they travel to Europe.

The Italian convictions were the first in the world against CIA agents involved in a practice of extraordinary rendition alleged to have led to torture, local media said.

Abu Omar, a Muslim wanted in Italy on suspicion of recruiting jihadi fighters, disappeared from Milan on 17 February in 2003, and emerged from an Egyptian prison four years later claiming that he had been tortured. He has since been released.

Prosecutors said that he was snatched by a team of CIA operatives with the help of Italy's secret service SISMI, and transferred to a NATO base in Germany before being flown to Cairo.

Xinhua

Customers eat dessert during the media preview of a Barbie-themed cafe in Taipei on 30 Jan, 2013. The 660-square-metre "Barbie Cafe", fashioned with Mattel's barbie dolls themed decor and food dishes, will open on 31 Jan along Taipei's Zhongxiao Dunhua shopping belt. REUTERS

Six Pakistanis killed in mortar shelling from Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, 2 Feb— At least six people were killed on Friday evening as mortar shells fired from Afghanistan side hit Pakistan's northwestern border area of South Waziristan, local media reported.

Local Urdu TV channels, quoting official sources, reported that around 30 mortar shells were fired from Afghan side of the border landed in the Angoor Ada area of the South Waziristan, Pakistan's tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

The official sources did not reveal the identity of the victims.

It was not clear yet who fired these shells from the other side of the border.

Two incidents of mortar shelling from Afghanistan were observed last December, killing at least one Pakistani, wounding five others in the tribal region of North Waziristan.

In the past, such cross-border shelling escalated the tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan as the two countries accused each other of firing.

In November last year, Pakistan lodged a formal protest with Afghanistan over cross-border shelling as Pakistan's Foreign Ministry and the military said that Afghan National Army troops fired mortars into Pakistani territory.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Bradley Cooper likes watching movies at the theatre alone

Bradley Cooper

LONDON, 2 Feb—Bradley Cooper loves going to the cinema alone.

The Silver Linings Playbook actor—who has been single since splitting from Zoe Saldana—insists that, despite his celebrity status, he lives a very "normal" life and still enjoys the same pastimes he did before finding fame.

He said: "One of the things I love doing is to go to a theatre and watch a movie by myself. My life's very normal."

Bradley also spoke his movie Silver Linings Playbook—which also stars Jennifer Lawrence and has been nominated for eight academy Awards.

The 38-year-old star enjoyed the entire filming process especially because he got to reunite with his Limitless co-star Robert De Niro—who played his character's father.

He told Australia's *Herald Sun* newspaper: "It was extremely soothing to be able to say 'Dad' to him. "I trust and love him and know he's going to bring the best out of me."

Bradley - who has been nominated for an Oscar for his work on the film—plays a bipolar disorder sufferer and is proud of how people can relate to the character, and is hopeful the movie can remove the "stigma" around mental illness.

Speaking on Hardball, he said: "I've gone around to many cities around the country and people are talking about, how, 'I actually feel like this film sees who I am.'

"It's heavily stigmatized. It's not a very treatable disease. It's a condition, if we liken it to cancer, diagnosed at stage four, well ... that's way too late. So hopefully, a movie like this will help it become, you know, [more treatable] in the onset."—*PTI*

Beyonce says sang along to pre-recorded track at inauguration

NEW ORLEANS, 2 Feb—Singer Beyonce said she sang along to a pre-recorded track at the inauguration of President Barack Obama, but delivered a stirring a cappella version of the US national anthem at a Super Bowl news conference on Thursday.

She also said would be singing live at the halftime show of the National Football League championship game between the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens at the Superdome on Sunday. Beyonce's performance of the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the 21 January inauguration ceremony sparked a debate over whether she had lip-synched her performance in Washington.

"I am a perfectionist and one thing about me is that I practice until my feet bleed and I did not have time to rehearse with orchestra," the Grammy-winning artist said on Thursday.

"It was a live television show and a very, very important emotional show for me and one of my proudest moments, and due to the weather, to the delay, due to no proper sound check, I did not feel comfortable taking the risk.

"It was about the president and the inauguration and I wanted to make him and my country proud, so I decided to sing along with my pre-recorded track, which is very common in the music industry, and I am very proud of my performance," she said.

Beyonce, 31, one of pop music's biggest celebrities, surprised the media on Thursday by asking them to rise at the start of her news conference and launching into a solo version of the US national anthem.—*Reuters*

Beyonce performs the National Anthem during the halftime show Press conference ahead of the NFL's Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 31 Jan, 2013. The San Francisco 49ers will meet the Baltimore Ravens for the NFL championship on 3 February.—REUTERS

Nicole Kidman

I've tried Botox, but never again: Nicole Kidman

LONDON, 2 Feb — Nicole Kidman, who is married to fellow Australian Keith Urban, is often at the centre of Botox rumours due to her youthful appearance.

The actress, however, says she got out of the wrinkle-smoothing injections because she likes to have control over her facial expressions, the *Daily Mail* reported.

"No surgery for me; I did try Botox, unfortunately, but I got out of it and now I can finally move my face again," she said.

Nicole Kidman credits sticking to a healthy eating plan and rigorous exercise regime for her good looks.

"I am completely natural. I wear sunscreen, I don't smoke and I take care of myself, and I am proud to say that.

Anybody can do anything to themselves— I don't judge—but personally I believe in being physically fit. That's how I was raised.

I can't go in the sun because I'm fair-skinned. It was a nightmare when I was younger but it has its benefits now."

PTI

Why Jennifer Lawrence is concerned about her chest

LONDON, 2 Feb—Jennifer Lawrence is worried about her uneven breasts.

The Silver Linings Playbook actress—who recently revealed she was suffering from pneumonia—was more concerned by her unbalanced chest than any potential lung problems she may be experiencing after undergoing an X-ray during a doctor's appointment.

She told TV talk show host Jimmy Kimmel: "I just went to the doctor today, I got a chest X-ray of my lungs and discovered that my breasts are uneven.

"I was like standing there with these doctors and they're like looking at my lungs and I just couldn't — it felt like an elephant in the room—and I was like, 'Are my breasts uneven?' And they were just kind of, like, stifled and uncomfortable, obviously. So I kept thinking, 'Well, I'm gonna dig myself out of this hole by bringing it up again.'

"So he was like, 'All right, our radiologist will get back to you about your lungs.' And I was like, 'And my breasts?' "

However, the 22-year-old beauty insists she massively concerned about her boobs, but joked she hopes the X-rays are never made public.

She added: "I hope I'm never seen in that light!"

PTI

Jennifer Lawrence.

No romance, just yoga: Russell Brand on Demi Moore rumours

LONDON, 2 Feb—Comedian Russell Brand has brushed off reports suggesting he is Demi Moore's latest toyboy, insisting he only knows the actress through yoga class.

Russel Brand, 37, was linked to the 50-year-old Ghost star last month, but he is adamant there is no romance between them, reported *Sun* online.

"Demi Moore, as far as anything more physical goes—she is just at yoga. I really like her, she is really lovely. I just see her at yoga. She is an older lady, she is incredibly beautiful but that's that," Russell Brand said.

The comedian said that he is a big fan of yoga, and even invited his classmates into his house in Los Angeles for a group session.

"It is full of amazing women. That is a fact. It has been brilliant. The yoga centre I had been going to sacked our instructor, so I have moved everyone into my house. I had 30 people doing it in my house," Russell Brand added.—*PTI*

Russell Brand and Demi Moore.

Deepika Padukone is happy to be busy

NEW DELHI, 2 Feb—Actress Deepika Padukone has been working on back-to-back movie projects, with barely any time for herself. But she seems to be enjoying the busy schedules.

Deepika has four movies lined up this year

She has a number of movies lined up for release this year—Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani, Chennai Express, Ram Leela and Kochadaiyaan.

After finishing promotions for her recently released Race 2, she is now busy shooting for her next movie Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani in Kashmir.

Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani is directed by Ayan Mukherjee. She plays the lead role opposite Ranbir Kapoor.

She is also simultaneously shooting for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Ram Leela and has just wrapped up Rohit Shetty's Chennai Express.

Reuters

SPORTS

Isner, Querrey serve up 2-0 lead for US over Brazil

JACKSONVILLE, 2 Feb — John Isner and Sam Querrey used their big serves to blast the United States into a commanding 2-0 lead over Brazil in their Davis Cup World group first round tie on Friday. Isner sat out the Australian Open with a knee injury but the world number 16 reported fit for duty and recorded a routine 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 victory over Thiago Alves after Querrey began the day by brushing past Brazilian number one Thomaz Bellucci 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Using his booming serve to full advantage on the lightning quick Jacksonville hardcourts, Isner pounded 32 aces past his overwhelmed Brazilian opponent to leave the US one win away from advancing to the last eight. The United States, who have won the competition a record 32 times, were back on home turf in Florida after playing all their ties away last year.

The 20th ranked Querrey provided the early fireworks and, firing down 15 aces at Brazilian lefty Bellucci, was in full control throughout his match."I thought I served great today the whole day," Querrey, who never faced a break point, said. "This is my first home tie. These Davis Cup weeks are so much fun." The spotlight now shifts to Saturday for a showdown between Australian Open champions Bob and Mike Bryan and Brazil's Marcelo Melo and Bruno Soares.The top-ranked Americans, however, can expect a tough test from the Brazilians who hold a 2-1 edge in head-to-head meetings.—*Reuters*

John Isner of the US hits a return to Brazil's Thiago Alves during their Davis Cup tennis match in Jacksonville, Florida on 1 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Sam Querrey of the US hits a return to Brazil's Thomaz Bellucci during their Davis Cup tennis match in Jacksonville, Florida on 1 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Abe eyes attending Tokyo's final presentation in 2020 Olympic bid

TOKYO, 2 Feb—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday he will consider attending a presentation Tokyo will make to an International Olympic Committee meeting in Buenos Aires in September to support the city's bid to host the 2020 Summer Games.

"I'd like to consider (taking part) in a proactive manner, depending on circumstances," Abe said in a parliamentary session. Abe added that hosting the summer Olympic games in Tokyo would "give dreams and hopes to citizens," and be an opportunity to "demonstrate (Japan's) recovery" from the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan in March 2011.

Last month, Abe assumed the post of supreme adviser to the Tokyo 2020 Bid Committee. The IOC will select the host city for the 2020 Summer Games from among the three final candidates—Tokyo, Istanbul and Madrid—at the Buenos Aires meeting.

Kyodo News

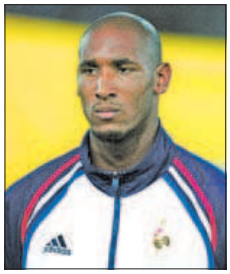
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Anelka happy to join Juventus

MILAN, 2 Feb—New Juventus signing Nicolas Anelka said on Friday that he is delighted to have joined the Serie A champions. The 33-year-old French forward has signed from Shanghai Shenua until the end of the season, and revealed that he already feels at home in Turin.

"I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome," he said at the club's official website. "I am happy to be here, at such a great club. "I am very proud to wear this shirt. Some of my former teammates have told me what a great place this is—and as soon as I arrived in the locker room, I felt at home."

"Italian football is recognized throughout the world—there are some great players in this League and I know it's a very hard championship to win. "I am happy to be in Italy at such a large club. Juventus have all the qualities to succeed in every competition," he said.—*Xinhua*



Nicolas Anelka

Brooklyn Nets overcome road warrior Bulls

NEW YORK, 2 Feb—Brook Lopez led the way with 20 points in three quarters as the Brooklyn Nets outlasted an understrengthen Chicago Bulls 93-89 at home on Friday.

It took a final quarter comeback led by the bench for the Nets to prevail against the Bulls, who were without the services of Carlos Boozer and All Star Joakim Noah because of injury. The Nets improved to 28-19 as Joe Johnson and MarShon Brooks impressed with 13 points apiece. Brooks nailed nine of his in the final quarter when Andray Blatche scored all 11 of his points.

Coming in as the best road team in the Eastern Conference, Chicago dropped to 28-18 after just their third loss in 11 games.

Reuters

Brooklyn Nets forward Kris Humphries (43) shoots between Chicago Bulls forwards Taj Gibson (22) and Luol Deng (9) as Nets forward Reggie Evans (30) and Bulls guard Marquis Teague (25) wait for the rebound in the second quarter of their NBA basketball game in New York, on 1 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Sizzling Mickelson stays four ahead in Phoenix

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb—Phil Mickelson maintained a four-shot lead with another red-hot display at the Phoenix Open on Friday despite double-bogeying the final hole of his second round with a PGA Tour record in his sights. Needing a four at the 18th to establish a 36-hole low on the US circuit, Mickelson surprisingly stumbled when his three-wood off the tee ended up in water to the left. After taking a penalty drop, he failed to get up and down from 161 yards.The American left-hander, who came within a whisker of becoming the sixth player on the PGA Tour to dip under 60 in the first round, had to settle for a six-under-par 65 at the TPC Scottsdale and a 17-under total of 125.

"It's disappointing to finish both rounds the way I did," twice Phoenix Open champion Mickelson, who lipped out with a birdie putt from 25 feet on his final hole on Thursday in his bid for a magical 59, told Golf Channel. "But I've been playing well and I'm having a lot of fun around this golf course. It's a course where you can make a lot of birdies and it's fun, it's fun not to get beat up all the time."

Seeking his 41st PGA Tour title, Mickelson ended another day of dazzling sunshine and ideal scoring conditions in Scottsdale, Arizona four shots ahead of compatriot Bill Haas, who carded a 64. FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker (66) and fellow American Keegan Bradley (63) were a further stroke back at 12 under. —*Reuters*

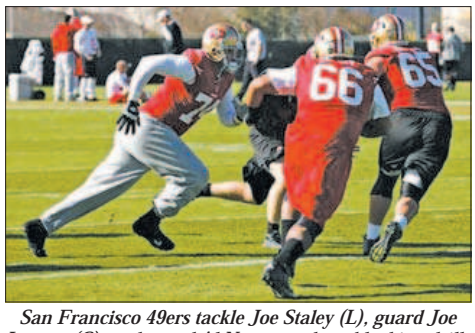
Phil Mickelson

Vegas bookmakers backing 49ers in Super Bowl

TORONTO, 2 Feb—The San Francisco 49ers can count Las Vegas among their newest supporters for this weekend's Super Bowl, but casinos in the gambling city would prefer they win by a small margin in a low-scoring affair. The over-under, or the combined score of the two teams in the National Football League's title game on Sunday, is 47 1/2 points and the 49ers are 3 1/2-point favorites to beat the Baltimore Ravens.

For MGM Resorts International, which operates 10 sports books on the Las Vegas Strip, the millions of dollars wagered so far has made it clear what outcome they are hoping for when the two teams clash in New Orleans. "Our worst case scenario is going to be a Niners win and the over, so we will probably be rooting for any scenario except for that," Jay Rood, vice president of the race and sports book at MGM Resorts, told *Reuters* in a telephone interview.

"A Niners win by a field goal, and for the game to stay under, would probably be the dream for all the bookmakers." San Francisco, powered by second-year quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who took over the starting role after an injury to incumbent Alex Smith midway through the season, are back in the game for the first time since winning in 1995.—*Reuters*



San Francisco 49ers tackle Joe Staley (L), guard Joe Looney (C), and guard Al Netter work on blocking drills during a NFL Super Bowl XLVII football practice in New Orleans on 31 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Fire drill carried out in Bhamo

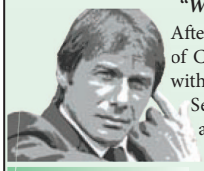
BHAMO, 2 Feb— Myanma Timber Enterprise and Bhamo Township Fire Services Department jointly conducted a fire drill in Bhamo as part of efforts for prevention of fire in the township.

Firemen from the township FSD participated in the drill, extinguishing fire with the use of fire engines and extinguishers at the machinery depot of the Forest Department in Bhamo on 28 January.

Myanma Alinn

World For World

"Whoever wins is always right."



Antonio Conte
Juventus Head Coach

After losing to Lazio in second leg of Coppa Italia semi-final Tuesday with injury-timer winner by Lazio's Sergio Floccari, Conte groaned about the defeat with 3-2 aggregate. He also said, "We did more over the 180 minutes than Lazio."

"Unless we take action on climate change, future generations will be roasted, toasted, fried and grilled."

As world leaders gathered in Davos to discuss climate change, Lagarde gave a clear message to doubters about climate change actions and warned that the future generation would suffer from it if the actions are not taken.

Christine Lagarde
Managing Director of International Monetary Fund

"Now we can breathe freely."

As French and Malian troops drove off rebels from Gao and Timbuktu the northern town of Mali, the residents celebrated the victory and danced in the streets with colourful costumes. Toure tasted the air of freedom after being rescued from the rebels.

- NLM -

Sources: Reuters and Xinhua

Ukraine considers Russian gas bill too costly: PM

KIEV, 2 Feb— Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said on Friday that a 7 billion US dollar bill for Russian gas is too much. The amount of money asked by Russian gas giant Gazprom "is equivalent to three months' pensions for all Ukrainian retirees," said Azarov whose country had refused to pay the bill in 2012.

Ukraine has adopted a number of measures to reduce energy dependence on Russia, and it needs funds from the state budget, the prime minister added. Russia on 25 January demanded that Ukraine pay 7 billion dollars for failing to import the contracted amount of gas.

Under the contract between Ukrainian state-run Naftogaz and Gazprom in 2009, Ukraine agreed to buy 52 billion cubic meters of gas per year or pay for a minimum of 80 percent of that volume, regardless of the actual amount taken.

Kiev, which currently pays 432 dollars per 1,000 cubic metres of gas, reportedly imported 24.9 billion cubic meters from Russia in 2012.—*Xinhua*

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(3-2-13 09:30 am ~ 4-2-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* "Insight Myanmar" Prisons Department (Part-2)
* Trade Negotiation & Trade Policy Development
* Music Programme
* News
* Journey to Unimaginable Spots (Episode-5)
* Marketable Fruits
* News
* Press Conference of Myanmar Image and Photography Workshop
* Orchid Survey in Hponkanrazi
* EU's Czech Republic's First Debut "Business Forum"
* "MI People's Celebrities" Myanmar Style or Western Style
* Mother pf Pearl Arts and Handicrafts
* News
* A Worthwhile Study Tour to Nay Pyi Taw
* Working and Living in Myanmar "Tea House and Internet Cafe"
* Myanmar Movies "A Monk's Single Meal"

MYANMAR TV

(3-2-2013, Sunday)

7:00 am
1. Metta Bhavana By Mingun Sayadaw

7:10 am
2. Dhamma Puja Song

7:25 am
3. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:40 am
4. Nice & Sweet Song

7:50 am
5. Health Programme

8:05 am
6. (38) Phyar Mingalars

8:20 am
7. 66th Anniversary Union Day Programme

11:00 am
8. Martial Song

11:05 am
9. Musical Programme

11:20 am
10. Round Up Of The Week's TV International News

11:30 am
11. Myanmar Movies

2:10 pm
12. Documentary

2:50 pm
13. International News

4:00 pm
14. Opening Song

4:05 pm
15. Musical Programme

4:20 pm
16. Dance Of National Races

4:25 pm
17. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Maths)

4:55 pm
18. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:15 pm
19. Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm
20. Evening News

6:20 pm
21. Cartoon Series

6:40 pm
22. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
23. News

8:00 pm
24. Documentary
25. TV Drama Series

10:00 pm
27. News
28. New Melody

Miyato Sugimori, a senior official of a fishermen's association in Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture, stands by a memorial erected to console the souls of dead whales in the fishing village in the prefecture. Photo taken on 24 Dec, 2012.
KYODO NEWS

Armenian presidential elections could be postponed: candidate

YEREVAN, 2 Feb — Armenian presidential candidate Paruir Hairikyan who just survived an alleged assassination attempt, said on Friday that he expected that 18 February election to be postponed.

Kairikyan, one of the eight candidates, made the remarks in an interview with radio Liberty.

According to the Armenian Constitution, in case of " insurmountable obstacles" for one of the presidential candidates, the elections are to be postponed for two weeks.

On late Thursday evening, an assassination attempt was made at the presidential candidate, leader of the Union of National Self-determination Party Paruir Hairikyan who was immediately taken to the hospital with gunshot wounds near his shoulder. Currently he is in a stable condition.

The police has launched a criminal case about the incident.—*Xinhua*

China publishes Gini coefficient's measurements

BEIJING, 2 Feb— China has published the calculation methods of the Gini coefficient reflecting social wealth gap, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced on Friday.

A new survey system was set up at the end of 2012 to unify the income index for 400,000 households in both urban and rural areas. Historical income data have been adjusted and recalculated, according to an article on the NBS website.

The reformed system has been drafted referring to international norms, wrote Wang Pingping, NBS resident survey office chief.

Internationally comparable, China's recently released Gini coefficient reflects the income trend during the past decade, Wang said.

The 2003-2012 Gini coefficient, reflecting the gap between the rich and poor, was released by the NBS on 18 January All the annual figures were much higher than the warning level set by the United Nations.

China's statistics department used to publish two indexes — per capita disposable income of urban residents and that of rural residents — to reflect income distribution.

Xinhua

Obama names Stock as member of Council of Economic Advisers

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — President Barack Obama on Friday named James Stock to the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Stock has been chief economist for the council since 2012. He was previously an economist at Harvard University and a member of the committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research that dates the start and end of recessions.

Stock's appointment brings the three-member panel to full strength, joining Chairman Alan Krueger and Katherine Abraham. He does not require Senate confirmation.—*Xinhua*

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The New Light of Myanmar

Sunday, 3 February, 2013

University of Medicine-2 (Yangon) marks golden jubilee

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb— University of Medicine-2 (Yangon) celebrated its golden jubilee today. Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Minister (Retd) Dr Mya Oo and Rector of the university Dr Tint Swe Latt formally opened the gate and the Union minister unveiled the stone plaque marking the golden jubilee of the university.

The Ministry of Health has been extending the cooperation between international universities of medicine and universities of medicines in Myanmar, encouraging the medical research works at the universities at home, said the Union minister in his address at the ceremony to mark the golden jubilee of the university.

He also stressed the need for teaching medical ethnics and professionalism to students from their early days at the university to graduation.

Students should acquire medical knowledge and skill trainings at the university to become a medical professional who can not only give treatment but also solve health problems, he added.

The university which was opened as a medical college on 15 July, 1963, in Mingaladon Township, has turned 50 years. It was upgraded to a university in 1964.

It was moved to North Okkalapa Township on 25 September, 1996.

MNA

The stone inscription marking the golden jubilee of University of Medicine-2.—MNA

Number of tourists mounts in Bagan region

Byline: Nyi Nyi Thabyay

In the cold season when the tourists prefer to make trips, larger number of globetrotters visit Bagan region. Globetrotters are along their journeys to pagodas, stupas and roads in Bagan region with the use of pony carts, bicycles and various vehicles. The number of tourists in groups is larger than home-grown visitors at pagodas and stupas.

With regard to visits of tourists at Bagan region, a member of Bu Pagoda and Shwezigon Pagoda Board of Trustees said, "November, December and January are tourist attraction seasons in Bagan. This year, the larger number of tourists paid visits to Bagan. Now, the number of tourists reaches 1000 per day compared with 100 per day in the past. They arrive here by air daily. Thanks to their visit, tourism industry in Bagan develops and local people enjoy better trade."

The pagodas attracting the tourists are Shwezigon, Bu, Lawkananda, Ananda, Thabyinnyu and Gubyaukgyi pagodas in addition to lacquerware workshops and sales centres.

An interpreter retold the remarks of a German tourist that he had never visited Myanmar. The Bagan region had completed with really natural panoramic scenes. He enjoyed smiles of local people.

At present, about 2000 globetrotters arrive in Myanmar by international airlines through Yangon International Airport. From 1 to 23 January, a total of 36835 tourists visited Shwedagon Pagoda which is the most magnificent religious edifice in Myanmar.

Kyemon: 30-1-2013

Trs: TTA

Slight earthquake hits Myanmar sea

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb — Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced today a slight earthquake of magnitude (3.4) Richter Scale with its epicenter Myanmar Sea about (42) miles South-Southeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (13) hrs (05) min (15) sec M.S.T today.—*MNA*

Golden era of Myanmar football

Byline: Thadin Lulin

Since the end of Indonesian SEA Games, Myanmar has been warming up preparation for XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar.

Football is one of the most loved sports in Southeast Asia. Myanmar has a colourful history of football in the Games. Ko Ko Gyi of Myanmar national football team was awarded Most Valuable Player prize in first SEA Games in Bangkok of Thailand in 1959. In second SEA Games in 1961, Myanmar national team won the silver medal.

Myanmar football teams then also played a number of other regional games including Southeast Asia Peninsula and Asian Youth football tournaments. Myanmar youth team emerged champions of third Asian Youth football tournament with a brilliant unbeatable record.

In fifth Asian youth football championship in Malaysia in 1963, Myanmar youth team also won the cup, sweeping all the opponents.

Myanmar national team won silver medal in 1968 AFC Asian Cup football tournament hosted by Iran.

In 1972, Myanmar football team participated in Summer Olympics in Munich of West Germany and Asia sports competition in Thailand.

Myanmar national team dominated the football spectrum of Southeast Asian in 1960s and 1970s, crowning champions of Asia twice in 1966 and 1970.

Myanmar was beaton by Iran in AFC Asian Cup final in 1968.

Myanmar national team performed very brilliantly in earlier 1970s.

Despite unsuccessful attempt to secure victory in Summer Olympics in 1972, the team was presented Fair Play award.

Myanmar in 1973 won SEA Games gold medal for fifth time.

Many outstanding footballers wrote the brilliant history of Myanmar football. One among them is Bahadur.

The versatile player was born in Shan State and played for state team and army team. He could play both as a striker and as a fullback.

He captained Myanmar national team for 18 years in its golden era from 1952 to 1970.

Kyemon: 31-1-13

Trs:HKA

Photo shows players of Myanmar National Football Team that had won championships in Asia since 1955.