

Political stability and end of armed conflicts is prime importance for flourishing of democracy in the country

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—*The following is the translation of the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein to the 66th Anniversary Union Day 2013.*

Esteemed national brethren,

Today is the Union Day, the auspicious red letter day engraved in the hearts of national brethren born in the Union. On this auspicious occasion, I wish all the national brethren a peace of mind and auspiciousness.

It is the Republic of the Union of Myanmar that was built by all national brethren joining hands each other with unity. We all have made endeavours for the perpetuation of the sovereignty.

In the history of Myanmar, successive Myanmar kings had made efforts for perpetuation of the Union, sovereignty and national solidarity and gave guidance on development of the country. Therefore, it is known to all our brethren that how our country enjoyed development in the past.

All national brethren are obliged to pursue and protect the national policy which calls for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty.

The divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists had caused misunderstanding among national brethren, shattering the national unity when the country regained the independence.

Esteemed national brethren,

The imperialists established the colonial education system in attempts to prolong the colonial rule, exploited the national brethren and national resources, and all national brethren

faced bitter experiences for many years.

It was our national brethren who have great patriotic spirit and they, joining hands each other, fought back the colonialists. The imperialists also adopted the divide-and-rule policy, ruling the highlands and the mainland separately to sow discord among the national brethren.

A group of patriotic and educated youths led by General Aung San formed the Myanmar Tatmadaw with the help of fascists and fought and drove the imperialists out of Myanmar's soil. However, due to barbaric acts of the fascists, all national brethren fought them back.

As the imperialists came in the country again and tried to give the independence only to the mainland, neglecting the highlands, all national brethren led by General Aung San held the Panglong Conference on 12 February, 1947, and signed the Panglong Agreement, claiming the independence unanimously. The day the Panglong Agreement was signed was designated as the Union Day and it turns 66 years today.

On this auspicious occasion, it needs to constantly keep Union spirit and patriotism in the hearts of all national races by placing special emphasis on the unity among national brethren and perpetuation of our motherland and the sovereignty.

Esteemed national brethren,

After our country regained independence, there had not been cohesiveness among national brethren due to personal cults, factionalism and racism. Lack of peace and stability in the country had caused the country to lag behind development. It needs to

take special notice of the fact that all national brethren should join hands in marching towards a peaceful, modern, developed country. It also needs to prevent the dangers of destructive elements from home and abroad with Union spirit.

Taking the examples of bitter experience of colonialists' divide-and-rule, oppression and lack of internal peace and stability, all national brethren are to make collaborative efforts for ensuring eternal peace and development.

The government is laying good foundations for political, economic and social sectors across the country. At present, political stability and the end of armed conflicts is prime importance for flourishing of democracy in the country. Thus, constant efforts are being made for all inclusiveness in the political process. Priorities are being given to peace and stability, the rule of law and socio-economic development for flourishing of democratic system. In doing so, all national brethren are urged to have a hand in it.

Esteemed national brethren,

The new government has assumed that the country needs to have greater political, economic and defence strength for its perpetuation. Only then, could a modern, developed democratic country be built.

All know that already-achieved sound foundations are being improved in regions and states. On this auspicious occasion, all are urged to build a modern, developed country democratically with the sense of unity.



Creek crossing bridge for five villages in Mawlamyinegyun Township

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 11 Feb —Hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the opening of new creek crossing reinforced concrete bridge was held at Nyaungywawa Village of Aung Hlaing village-tract in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 7 February.

It will benefit local people from five villages in the township to be able to have access to transportation.

The 85 feet long Nyaungywawa Village creek crossing bridge was built with the contribution of K 4.4 million by

wellwishers.

Thanks to the new bridge, local people from AungHlaing,Lapwatkwetechaung, Nonekyun, Nyaung-ywaphyar and Nyaung-ywawa villages will be able to travel from one place to another at any time.— Kyemon

Cyclist hurt in collision between motorbike, bicycle

MAHLAING, 11 Feb — A motorbike collided with a bicycle at Laydinesinjunction in Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region on 6 February morning. The

motorbike driven by Aung Soe Moe, 26, of Kyaukdan Village knocked down Ma Nwe Nwe Soe, 18, on her bicycle of Thekan Village at the junction. The cyclist

was injured in the collision and admitted to Mahlaing Hospital. Mahlaing police station filed a lawsuit against Aung Soe Moe.

Kyemon

Aung San Printing Plant gets a library

YANGON, 11 Feb — The ceremony to open a library for Aung San Press House of Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information was held at the library in the press house in Insein Township on 1 February.

Deputy plant manager U Hla Kyi gave an account of opening the library and Daw Khin Hnin Kyi, head of Insein Township Information and Public Relations Department, spoke on the occasion.

Next, the plant manager

and officials observed the publications on display at

the library.

Kyemon



Inter-village bridge emerges in Kyaikto Township

KYAIKTO, 11 Feb — A self-reliant concrete bridge that links Kyaungywa Village of Kyaungywa Village-tract and Winkalaw Village in Kyaikto Township was inaugurated by Kyaikto Township Administrator U Myo Aung, village administrator U San Kyaw and townselder U Tin Aye at the village on 6 February.

The township

administrator called on bridge users to maintain the newly-built bridge for its durability. The townselder explained the purpose of building the bridge, saying that the new bridge would be of benefit to respective villages in the areas of social, economic and health by having access to smooth and easy transport, thereby contributing towards

promotion of unity among the villages.

The concrete bridge across Saw Naing Gyi creek between Kyaungywa village and Winkalaw village is 174 feet long, 10 feet wide and 10 feet high. It was built at the cost of K 10.4 million. The old wooden bridge was replaced with the new one.

Kyemon

Car crashes into lamp post in Taunggyi

TAUNGGYI, 11 Feb — A road accident occurred near Shan Literature and Culture Association on Bogyoke Aung San street in Taunggyi on 8 February morning.

A saloon driven by Naw Khin Oo, 29, hit the pavement first and crashed into the lamp post at breakneck speed while swerving sharply to avoid a motorbike on the opposite lane. The driver and her companion suffered minor injuries and the lamp

post was broken into two in the crash. Traffic police corps filed a lawsuit against the driver for her reckless driving. As the damaged lamp post that carries 11 KVA power line caused a blackout in Thittaw ward, the state electrical engineer and staff carried out substitution of a new lamp post and reinstallation of power line at once. The electricity supply resumed at about 5 pm on that day. — Kyemon



2013 66th Anniversary Union Day



Restaurant fire in Thayet

THAYET, 11 Feb — A fire broke out at a restaurant on Mindon street in Zawgyi ward of Koebin village-tract in Thayet Township of Magway Region at about 7 pm on 8 February.

The fire started from the overheated voltage regulator at the restaurant, destroying barrels of beer, furniture and kitchen utensil at the two-storey RC building worth K 1.89 million.

Fire crews and members of auxiliary fire brigade led by Head of Thayet District Fire Service Department U Myint Naing Tun

accompanied by four fire engines and four water bowsters managed to bring the fire under control in cooperation with local

people at about 7.45 pm. Thayet police station opened a case about the fire outbreak.

Kyemon



Seizures of illegal hardwood in Kyaukpyu, Bago, Yaksawk Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — A team comprising staff of Kyaukpyu District/Township Forest Department seized an ownerless engine, a disc of chainsaw and wood cutting equipment in the forest on Asainggyi island of Zinkon village-tract in Kyaukpyu Township on 2 February. Investigation into the case is ongoing to

expose the sawmill owner.

Likewise, a combined force comprising forest staff of Bago Township and police members arrested U Win Thein of Mingyi Nyo ward in Toungoo together with a light truck carrying 0.7872 ton of illegal sawn wood at mile post No (46) on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw expressway in Bago Township on 4 February.

Similarly, forest staff of Yaksawk Township in Shan State arrested U Aung Aung, driver, U Pyu Chaw, vehicle owner, and U Tun Hmi, conductor, and seized 3.5958 tons of illegal hardwood while conducting a search of the vehicle in Namtaum-Namtsan protect-ed area in the township on 7 February.

MNA

Overtaken Pajero ablaze on expressway in Mahlaing Township

MAHLAING, 11 Feb — A fatal road accident happened to a vehicle on the expressway in the area of Thigon expressway police station in Mahlaing Township of Magway Region on 21 January.

A Pajero driven by Ngwe Soe Aung overturned at the mile post No (311-3/4)

after veering onto the wrong side of the road and the car was ablaze.

Driver Ngwe Soe Aung and his companion, Nyan Tun, were pronounced dead in the accident.

Thigon police station opened a case over the car accident.

Kyemon

WORLD



Policemen lift a damaged police van from a blast site in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar on 10 Feb, 2013. At least five policemen were injured in the bomb attack targeting the police van patrolling on road in Peshawar on Sunday night, local media said.—XINHUA

Four wounded, one critically in New Orleans Mardi Gras shooting

NEW ORLEANS, 11 Feb — New Orleans police on Sunday investigating a shooting that wounded four people on the city's famed Bourbon Street as crowds gathered for the city's annual Mardi Gras celebrations.

One man was in guarded condition after being shot in the abdomen, upper thigh and pelvic area on Saturday night, police said in a statement on Sunday.

Another man was hit in the buttocks, one woman was shot in the toe and a second woman was struck in the chin and foot, police said.

Police said they were looking for three men, who they did not identify by name.

The shooting was caught on camera by a bystander, and police on Sunday released footage that they said showed two people arguing with one of the victims.

The two people left, and one of them returned with another person, approached the victim and began firing, wounding three other people, police said.

The footage shows a tightly packed crowd, with some people wearing Mardi Gras beads and holding drinks.

Crowds gather each year in the city's French Quarter during the celebrations that build to a climax on Fat Tuesday, which falls on 12 February this year.—Reuters

Gunbattle rocks Gao after rebels surprise French, Malians

GAO, 11 Feb — Islamist insurgents launched a surprise raid in the heart of the Malian town of Gao on Sunday, battling French and local troops in a blow to efforts to secure Mali's recaptured north.

Local residents hid in their homes or crouched behind walls as the crackle of gunfire from running street battles resounded through the sandy streets and mud-brick houses of the ancient Niger River town, retaken from Islamist rebels last month by a French-led offensive.

French helicopters clattered overhead and fired on al-Qaeda-allied rebels armed with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades who had infiltrated the central market area and holed up in a police station, Malian and French officers said.



French soldiers speak to a Nigerian soldier on patrol in the northern city of Gao, Mali on 9 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

The fighting inside Gao was certain to raise fears that pockets of determined Islamists who have escaped the lightning four-week-old French intervention in Mali will strike back with guerrilla attacks and suicide bombings.

After driving the bulk of the insurgents from major northern towns such as Timbuktu and Gao, French forces are trying to

US Northeast digs out from blizzard, tornado strikes in South

CAMBRIDGE, 11 Feb — The US Northeast was digging out on Sunday after a blizzard dumped up to 40 inches (one meter) of snow with hurricane force winds, killing at least nine people and leaving hundreds of thousands without power.

As the Northeast cleared roads and shovelled out, another storm bore down on the Northern Plains and tornadoes threatened the Southeast in a weekend of extreme weather across the United States. A tornado which appeared to be a mile wide touched down in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, causing significant damage, said Anna Weber of the National Weather Service. The twister also hit the nearby town of Petal where it destroyed a brick building.

In New York City trucks ploughed through residential streets, piling snow even higher at the edges and leaving thousands of motorists to dig out their buried vehicles.

Another round of

severe weather on Monday could bring more misery, with freezing rain and more snow predicted that would make the evening commute even more difficult. In Boston, Mayor Tom Menino cancelled school on Monday after touring neighbourhoods throughout the city, where two feet (60 cm) of snow fell.

Utility companies reported that some 350,000 customers were still without electricity across nine states after the wet, heavy snow brought down tree branches and power lines.

Air traffic began to return to normal after some 5,800 flights were cancelled on Friday and Saturday, according to Flightaware, a flight-tracking service.

Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and New York state's Long Island MacArthur Airport reopened on Sunday morning. Boston's Logan International Airport reopened late on Saturday, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Rare travel bans in Connecticut and Massachusetts were lifted but roads throughout the region remained treacherous, according to state transportation departments.

In Cambridge, Massachusetts, residents were digging out their cars and driveways under clear blue skies on Sunday afternoon.

As the region recovered, another large winter storm building across the Northern Plains

was expected to leave a foot (30 cm) of snow and bring high winds from Colorado to central Minnesota into Monday, the National Weather Service said. South Dakota was expected to be hardest hit, with winds seen reaching 50 miles per hour (80 kph), which would create white-out conditions. The storm was expected to reach parts of Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming and Wisconsin.

Reuters



Julie MacDonald starts to dig her car out from snow in Somerville, Massachusetts on 10 Feb, 2013 following a winter blizzard which dumped up to 40 inches of snow with hurricane force winds, killing at least nine people and leaving hundreds of thousands without power.—REUTERS

US military in Afghanistan starts equipment withdrawal via Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 11 Feb — The United States has started the withdrawal of military equipment from Afghanistan as at least 25 containers crossed the Torkham border point heading to the Pakistani port city of Karachi for shipment, local media reported on Sunday.

Geo television quoted Pakistani Custom officials

as saying that the first convoy of containers, carrying US military equipment from a key NATO base in Afghanistan, was cleared and was allowed to proceed to Karachi.

An official for a private company, responsible for shipment of the US cargo from Afghanistan, has also confirmed the US

equipment withdrawal.

Fawad Khan, spokesman for the "Bilal Associates" said that his company cleared the US defence equipment at the Torkham border point on the Pakistani side of the border in strict security.

"The convoy left for Karachi after Custom clearance," he was quoted by the Geo TV as saying.

Khan said the second fleet of containers of military equipment will also reach Torkham in the country's northwest from Bagram very soon. The US plans to withdraw several thousands troops from the war-torn Afghanistan this year and the NATO has set 2014 for a complete withdrawal.

Xinhua

Worsening violence may push Iraqi back to civil war

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb — Waves of violence sweeping Iraq killed and wounded hundreds of people across the country in a few weeks, raising fears that the escalating sectarian and ethnic tensions may bring the country back to civil war.

The recent attacks not only targeted prisons, security forces, anti-Qaeda Sunni paramilitary group members but also used silenced weapons, roadside and sticky bombs to assault civilians and government employees.

The deadly attacks, particularly suicide ones, killed and wounded hundreds of Iraqis. Some of the attacks' responsibilities were claimed by al-Qaeda members in Mesopotamia militant group, which showed signs of renewed

strength and proved that it can still recruit suicide bombers in large numbers.

There is also rocket and mortar barrage targeting Camp Hurriya (or Liberty), which is a former US military base houses the Iranian exiled fighters. The facility is located near the Baghdad Airport in southwest of the Iraqi capital.

"Logically, such attacks are carried out by the extremist Sunni and Shiite militant groups, despite they have so far not claimed any responsibility," Sabah al-Sheikh, a professor of politics at Baghdad University told Xinhua.

"Those groups are exploiting the deterioration of the political atmosphere as well as the sectarian division in Iraq and in the region as well," Sheik said.

Since more than a month ago, the Shiite-led government has been at odds with the Sunni communities north and west of Baghdad. The Sunnis complain about injustice, marginalization and claim that the Shiite-dominated security forces indiscriminately arrest their sons and torture them.

The protests started in December in Anbar Province, the heartland of Sunni Arabs, and quickly spread to the Sunni Provinces of Nineveh, Kirkuk, Salahudin and Diyala, as well as in Baghdad's Sunni districts.

Seeking to defuse the crisis, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki offered to release hundreds of Sunni detainees and halted arrests based on information from secret informers.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA's robotic rover Curiosity drills into Martian rock



At the centre of this image released to Reuters on 9 Feb, 2013 from NASA's Curiosity rover is the hole in a rock called "John Klein" where the rover conducted its first sample drilling on Mars on 8 Feb, 2013, or Sol 182, Curiosity's 182nd Martian day of operations. The image was obtained by Curiosity's Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) on Sol 182. The sample-collection hole is 0.63 inch (1.6 centimetres) in diameter and 2.5 inches (6.4 centimeters) deep. The "mini drill" test hole near it is the same diameter, with a depth of 0.8 inch (2 centimeters).—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb—For the first time, NASA's rover Curiosity used its on-board drill to collect a sample of Martian bedrock that might offer evidence of a long-gone wet environment, the US space agency reported on Saturday. Drilling down 2.5 inches into a

patch of sedimentary bedrock, Curiosity collected the rock powder left by the drill and will analyze it using its own laboratory instruments, NASA said in a statement. This is the first time a robot has drilled to collect a Martian sample.

Images of the hole,

along with a shallower test hole nearby, can be seen here. "The most advanced planetary robot ever designed is now a fully operating analytical laboratory on Mars," said John Grunsfeld, NASA associate administrator for the agency's Science Mission Directorate. Curiosity drilled into a rock called "John Klein," named for a Mars Science Laboratory deputy project manager who died in 2011.

In the next few days, ground controllers will command the rover's arm to process the sample by delivering bits of it to the instruments inside Curiosity. Before the rock powder is analyzed, some will be used to scour traces of material that may have been deposited onto the hardware while the rover was still on Earth, despite thorough cleaning before launch, NASA said. The drilling and analysis is part of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory Project, which is using the Curiosity rover to figure out whether an area in Mars' Gale Crater ever offered a hospitable environment for life.

Reuters

Air pollution linked to low birth weight in babies

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb—Pregnant women who live in areas with high air pollution are significantly more likely to bear children of low birth weight, according to the largest international study of its kind. Mothers who are exposed to particulate air pollution of the type emitted by vehicles, urban heating and coal power plants risk having babies of low birth weight, according to the study.

The study analysed data collected from more than three million births in nine nations at 14 sites in North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. The study was led by co-principal investigator Tracey J Woodruff, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and reproductive sciences at UC San Francisco along with Jennifer

Parker, of the National Centre for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The researchers found that at sites worldwide, the higher the pollution rate, the greater the rate of low birth

weight. Low birth weight, a weight below 2500 grams, is associated with serious health consequences, including increased risk of postnatal morbidity and mortality and chronic health problems in later life, noted lead author Payam Dadvand, of the Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) in Barcelona, Spain.

In the study, published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*, the team assessed data collected from research centres in the International Collaboration on Air Pollution and Pregnancy Outcomes, an international research collaborative established in 2007 to study the effects of pollution on pregnancy outcomes.

Most of the data assessed was collected during the mid-1990s to the late 2000s, and in some cases, earlier. "What's significant is that these are air pollution levels to which practically everyone in the world is commonly exposed. These microscopic particles, which are smaller than the width of a human hair, are in the air that we all breathe," said Woodruff in a statement.—PTI



Apple and Samsung, frenemies for life

SAN FRANCISCO/SEOUL, 11 Feb—It was the late Steve Jobs' worst nightmare. A powerful Asian manufacturer, Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, uses Google Inc's Android software to create smartphones and tablets that closely resemble the iPhone and the iPad. Samsung starts gaining market share, hurting Apple Inc's margins and stock price and threatening its reign as the king of cool in consumer electronics.

Jobs, of course, had an answer to all this: a "thermonuclear" legal war that would keep clones off the market. Yet nearly two years after Apple first filed a patent-infringement lawsuit against Samsung, and six months after it won a huge legal victory over its South Korean rival, Apple's chances of blocking the sale of Samsung products are growing dimmer by the day.

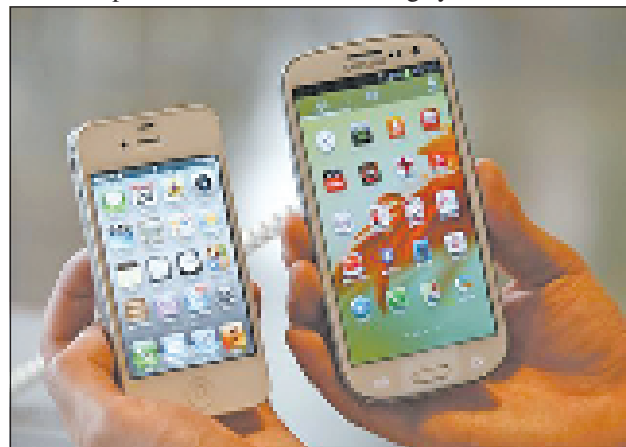
Indeed, a series of recent court rulings suggests that the smartphone patent wars are now grinding toward a stalemate, with Apple unable to show that its sales have been seriously damaged when rivals, notably Samsung, imitated its products. That, in turn, may usher in a new phase in the complex relationship between the two dominant companies in the growing mobile computing business.

Tim Cook, Jobs' successor as Apple chief executive, was opposed to suing Samsung in the first place, according to people with knowledge of the matter, largely because of that

company's critical role as a supplier of components for the iPhone and the iPad. Apple bought some \$8 billion worth of parts from Samsung last year, analysts estimate.

Samsung, meanwhile, has benefited immensely from the market insight it gained from the Apple relationship, and from producing smartphones and tablets that closely resemble Apple's. While the two companies compete fiercely in the high-end smartphone business — where together they control half the sales and virtually all of the profits — their strengths and weaknesses are in many ways complementary. Apple's operations chief, Jeff Williams, told Reuters last month that Samsung was an important partner and they had a strong relationship on the supply side, but declined to elaborate.

Reuters



An employee holds Apple's iPhone 4s (L) and Samsung's Galaxy S III at a store in Seoul in this file photo from 24 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

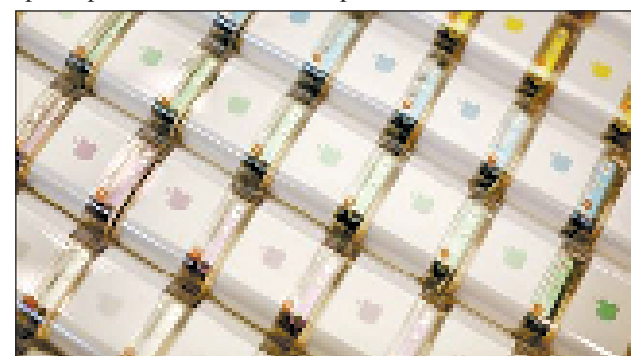
Apple experiments with devices similar to watches

NEW YORK, 11 Feb—Apple Inc is experimenting with the design of a device similar to a wristwatch that would operate on the same platform as the iPhone and would be made with curved glass, the *New York Times* reported on Sunday. The article cited unnamed sources "familiar with the company's explorations".

The watch-like product that could be used to make mobile payments is currently in the experimental stage and would operate on Apple's iOS platform, which is the foundation of its iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch consumer devices, the *Times* said. An Apple spokesperson did not immediately return a call for comment.

The *Wall Street Journal* separately reported that one person briefed on the effort said Apple discussed such a device with its major manufacturing partner Hon Hai Precision Industry Co, also known as Foxconn, which has been working on some technologies that could be used in wearable devices.

The Taipei-based company has been working toward making more power-efficient displays and its technologies are aimed at multiple Foxconn customers, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, citing the same person.—Reuters



A table of the iPod nano is seen at the Apple Store during Black Friday in San Francisco, California, on 23 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

Metro's electronics retailer to boost online business

BERLIN, 11 Feb—German group Metro's Media-Saturn consumer electronics retailer aims to step up its online business to compete with the likes of Amazon.com Inc, newspaper *Frankfurter*

Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung said.

Media-Saturn, operator of Europe's largest chain of consumer electronics stores, wants to more than double the share of total sales gener-

ated by the online business to 10 percent next year and double it again in the years to come, unit chief Horst Norberg said in an interview with the newspaper published on Sunday.

"We're stronger than

Amazon," the newspaper quoted Norberg as saying. The company also aims to add between 40 and 50 stores per year to its current global tally of 942, according to Norberg.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Chrysler says Alfa Romeo will eventually outsell Fiat in US



The Alfa Romeo logo is seen on an Alfa Romeo Spider during an Alfa Romeo classic car meeting in Fiuggi, south of Rome, on 9 June, 2012. —REUTERS

ORLANDO, 11 Feb — Fiat SpA's (FIA.MI) Alfa Romeo will outsell stablemate Fiat in the United States once the sporty brand gets a foothold in its new market and expands to sell larger models, an executive with Fiat-owned Chrysler Group said on Saturday. The first Alfa Romeo to be sold in the United States in nearly two decades, the 4C sports car, is expected to arrive late this year. Alfa Romeo will be sold at Fiat dealerships in the United States.

After the Alfa lineup in the United States is filled out,

the brand is forecast to outsell Fiat models, said Peter Grady, head of network development for the Chrysler Group. "We think that Alfa Romeo will have a little bit larger volume than Fiat will have," Grady said in an interview on the sidelines of the National Automobile Dealers Association's annual convention. Alfa Romeo models were sold in the United States until the mid-1990s, before Fiat SpA bought the company. Dustin Hoffman's character in the 1967 film "The Graduate" drove an Alfa Romeo Spider.

Psychiatric drugs tied to falls in the elderly

NEW YORK, 11 Feb — Seniors taking psychiatric drugs may be at extra high risk for falling, new Dutch research suggests. Of about 400 elderly people in the study, those who took medications including antidepressants and antipsychotics were twice as likely to report having fallen three or more times in the previous year, researchers found. The new study can't prove that falls were due to the effects of the drugs, themselves, and not to seniors' underlying medical conditions, for example.

But a number of side effects of psychiatric drugs — from changes in thinking and attention to drops in blood pressure — could put elderly people at greater risk for falls, according to Dr Allen Huang, head of geriatrics at The Ottawa Hospital and the University of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada. "In my clinical observation, it's usually the first two weeks when people start something new that bad things happen," said Huang, who has studied psychiatric drugs in older adults but wasn't involved in the new research. Seniors are especially vulnerable to

falls, which at their worst can cause hip fractures, head injuries or death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 20,000 US seniors died in 2009 as a result of injuries from falls.

"If possible (psychiatric drugs) should be avoided for elderly patients with other risk factors for falling," Astrid van Strien, of University Medical Center, Utrecht, and colleagues wrote in the journal *Maturitas*. Their study included 404 people visiting a geriatric clinic in the Netherlands for a range of reasons, from mental impairment to incontinence. —Reuters

Fiat's namesake brand sold in the US market until the mid-1980s and returned with the subcompact Fiat 500 in 2011. Outside of Chrysler's home of North America, Alfa Romeo will build its distribution network by leveraging the "global footprint and premium position" of Chrysler's Jeep brand, Fiat said in a presentation to analysts in New York on Friday. Sergio Marchionne, chief executive of both Fiat and Chrysler, has said on several occasions that Jeep and Alfa Romeo are the only true global brands in the two companies' portfolios. —Reuters

China's bankcard consumer confidence rises in January

BEIJING, 11 Feb — Chinese consumers using bank cards spent their money more confidently in January than a month earlier, according to the Bankcard Consumer Confidence Index (BCCI) released on Friday.

The BCCI, compiled by the Xinhua News Agency and China UnionPay, a national bank card association, rose 0.42 points to 87.10 in January from December.

A higher reading in the index signals improvement in residents' confidence to consume.

On a year-on-year

basis, the index was up 0.32 points, according to the BCCI report.

Consumers are more willing to spend before the Spring Festival, which will fall on 10 February this year, the BCCI report said.

The value of transactions recorded at supermarkets dropped 2.22 percentage points from December, although spending on catering, cigarettes, alcohol and airline tickets increased, according to the report.

Inflation in China slowed to 2 percent in January, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

said on Friday, down from a seven-month peak of 2.5 percent in December.

The purchasing price index (PPI), which measures inflation at the wholesale level, fell 1.6 percent year on year in January, the NBS said on Friday. The drop marked the 11th straight month of declines after the PPI fell in March 2012 for the first time since December 2009.

The BCCI index, first released in April 2009, is based on bank card transaction data and analysis of structural changes in urban consumption.

Xinhua

Ford to offer \$750,000 match for dealer investment



The logo of Ford Motor Co is seen at the company's assembly plant after an emergency meeting with the plant management in Genk on 24 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

ORLANDO, 11 Feb — Ford Motor Co (F.N) will offer dollar-for-dollar matching funds to its 3,100 US dealers to upgrade their shops, from new construction to improved digital programmes, Ford executives said on Sunday.

Jim Farley, Ford's

global chief for sales, service and marketing, said he hopes all of Ford's US dealers will participate.

Farley declined to say how much they expect Ford to spend on the programme. If all 3,100 dealers enroll and sign letters of intent in 2013 to make the upgrades,

it could cost Ford as much as \$2.33 billion in matching funds.

The offer is good for any upgrades planned during 2013, which must be approved by Ford, said Ken Czubay, head of US sales, service and marketing for the Detroit-area automaker. Ford will meet individually with dealers who have recently undertaken expensive upgrades, Czubay said.

The upgrade programme is not tied to sales or performance of the dealers. Farley emphasized that a "very significant portion" of the money Ford will spend will be to enhance customer digital experiences.

Much of it will be spent to help customers use tablet computers to liaise with

dealerships. Most automakers have added an array of improvements over the past few decades to make customers more comfortable, such as plush waiting rooms with free food and beverages.

The Ford programme is clearly not all about new construction, Czubay and Farley told reporters after a meeting of its dealers at the National Automobile Dealers Association annual convention.

This is about making sure the customers (who) get in the store, get in the service department have a great experience," Farley said. "It's not about beautiful brand signs and what the dealership looks like on the outside."

Reuters

No sign that omega-3s benefit babies' brains

NEW YORK, 11 Feb — A review of the existing evidence finds it to be inconclusive about whether omega-3 fatty acids taken by mothers during pregnancy boost their kids' brain development early in life.

"There are so many trials where pregnant women

are supplemented with omega-3 fatty acids and they've all got different results," said lead study author Jacqueline Gould, a researcher at the Women's and Children's Health Research Institute in Adelaide, Australia. "We found that there was neither a posi-

tive nor a negative effect on visual or neurological outcomes."

The Australian team, who published their findings in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, analyzed data from 11 clinical trials with a total of 5,272 participants who

were randomly assigned to take omega-3 supplements or placebos during the last half of their pregnancies. Across the trials, the amount of omega-3 taken by the mothers ranged from 240 to 3,300 milligrams per day.

Reuters

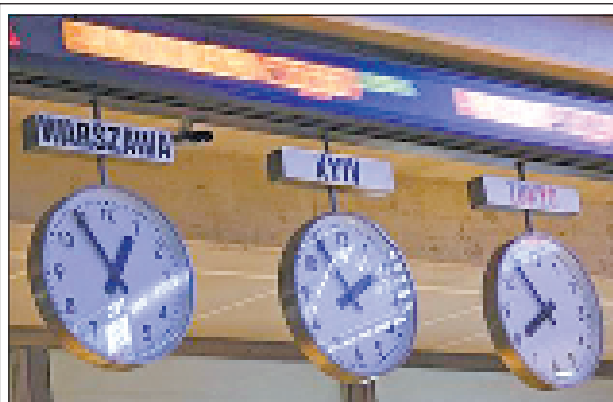
Euro dips, oil steady in holiday-thinned trade

SINGAPORE, 11 Feb — Oil and equities dawdled on Monday near multi-month highs scaled after robust Chinese trade data last week, while the euro slipped to a two-week low as uncertainty surrounded a political scandal in Spain and a looming election in Italy. With the Lunar New Year holiday shutting most Asian financial centres, including those in Japan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and

South Korea, trading was light and potentially volatile on those exchanges that remained open. Australian shares .AXJO were flat after closing at a 34-month high on Friday following positive data from China, the most important consumer of Australia's commodity exports. S&P 500 index futures inched up 0.1 percent after the Wall Street benchmark reached a five-year high on Friday. Brent crude oil,

which touched its highest in nine months on Friday, was unchanged just below \$119 a barrel.

Foreign exchange trading was choppy in thin volumes, with what traders interpreted as slightly dovish comments from the European Central Bank last week also weighing on the euro, which has shed around 2.5 percent since reaching a 15-month high above \$1.37 on 1 February. —Reuters



The WIG20 index is seen reflected in clocks showing the time of the different cities in the world at the Warsaw Stock Exchange on 3 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

WORLD

Opposition “would talk to Assad in northern Syria”

AMMAN, 11 Feb — Syrian National Coalition leader Moaz Alkhatib said on Sunday he was willing to hold talks with President Bashar al-Assad’s representatives in rebel-held areas of northern Syria to try to end a conflict that has killed about 60,000 people.

The aim of the talks would be to find a way for Assad to leave power with the “minimum of bloodshed and destruction”, Alkhatib said in a statement published on his Facebook page.

Sources in the coalition, an umbrella group of opposition political forces, said that Alkhatib, a moderate cleric from Damascus,

met international Syria envoy Lakhdar Brahimi in Cairo on Sunday.

Brahimi played a main role in organizing meetings between Alkhatib and the foreign ministers of Russia and Iran, Assad’s main supporters, in Munich last week. The sources said that in their talks on Sunday the two men addressed the question of whether the coalition would formally endorse Alkhatib’s peace initiative.

The Syrian authorities have not responded directly to Alkhatib’s initiative — formulated in broad terms last month. But Information Minister Amran al-Zubi on Friday repeated the govern-

ment’s line that the opposition was welcome to come to Damascus to discuss Syria’s future in line with Assad’s proposals for a national dialogue.

Alkhatib has headed the Syrian National Coalition since it was founded last December in Qatar with Western and Gulf backing. He has quietly built a student following and links with civic and religious figures across Syria.

His latest offer of talks coincided with opposition reports of fighting moving closer to central Damascus, after a rebel push into the east of the capital last week.

The Local Coordination Committees, a network of grassroots activists, said clashes broke out on Sunday in the al-Afif neighbourhood of Damascus, which is adjacent to a presidential complex.—Reuters

Members of the Free Syrian Army stand on a checkpoint beside the Al-Moshat school wall in Aleppo, on 10 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS



15 injured, 2,000 homes damaged in Colombia quake

BOGOTA, 11 Feb—At least 15 people were injured and about 2,000 homes destroyed or damaged by a 6.9-magnitude earthquake which shook southwest Colombia on Saturday, national relief agencies said on Sunday.

None of the people were seriously injured, said the relief agency. However, 100 homes were completely destroyed while some

1,900 homes sustained damages. Most of the injuries and house damage occurred in the provinces of Narino and Cauca, Carlos Ivan Marquez, director of the National Disaster Management Office, told RCN Radio.

“The injured are recovering,” said Marquez, adding “the Provinces of Narino, Cauca, Risaralda and Quindio have priority as

recovery efforts advance.”

Marquez said a health-care centre and 10 schools were among those damaged, and the authorities are continuing to monitor the situation. “I would like to confirm that there have been no deaths or missing persons, and there are no reports of serious damage,” he said. According to the United States Geologic Service (USGS), the quake hit at 9:16 am lo-

cal time (14:16 GMT) on Saturday, registering 6.9 on the Richter scale.

The quake occurred at a depth of more than 129 kilometres, and its epicenter was located in a rural region of southwest Narino called Ospina. Tremors were felt in 11 different provinces including capital Bogota, as well as parts of neighboring Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela.—Xinhua

Five crew killed in Canaries cruise ship safety drill

MADRID, 11 Feb—Five crew members died in an emergency drill on a cruise ship in the Canary Islands on Sunday, police and the cruise ship operator said.

Cables snapped on a lifeboat and it plunged 20 metres (65 feet) to the ocean and fell upside down, killing the five and injuring three others aboard, during the mock rescue exercise on the Thomson Majesty, operated by British travel group TUI Travel plc. The boat was docked in the port of the capital of the island of La Palma, Santa Cruz.

Safety tests on lifeboats are a significant source of accidents, according to a report by Britain’s Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

There were 1,498

passengers on board the 20-year-old ship at the time, a Thomson Cruises spokesman said. None of them was involved in the accident. The ship is registered in Malta and owned by Cyprus-based cruise line Louis Cruises.

“We are working closely with the ship owners and managers, Louis Cruises, to determine exactly what has happened and provide assistance to those affected by the incident,” Thomson Cruises, owned by TUI Travel plc, said in a statement.

Three of the dead were Indonesians. The other dead were a Filipino and a Ghanaian. Three more crew members were injured. One person has been discharged from hospital and the other

two people were expected to be released from hospital imminently, the company statement said. In Britain, the general secretary of the RMT shipping union, called for better safety standards.

Union leader Bob Crow said in a statement: “The thoughts of all seafarers will be with the friends and families of those who

have lost their lives in this tragic incident.”

“Once again the spotlight is on the issue of safety in the UK shipping and cruise industry and RMT awaits the outcome of the investigation and recommendations that can prevent any repetition of today’s shocking events.”

Reuters



A plunging lifeboat kills five crew members of a cruise ship during an emergency drill in the Canary Island.

REUTERS

Britain to Scotland: lose global clout if you exit UK



Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron speaks during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos on 24 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 11 Feb—The British government on Monday intensified its campaign to stop Scotland leaving the United Kingdom, publishing a legal opinion suggesting it would forfeit its membership of international bodies such as the European Union if it chose independence.

The pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) that runs Scotland’s devolved government plans to hold a referendum on the politically sensitive and emotionally charged

subject next year, and has played down the impact of a “Yes” vote on Scotland’s international status.

But the 57-page legal opinion—drafted for the British government by two leading independent experts on international law—said the implications could be far-reaching.

The overwhelming weight of international precedent suggested Scotland would be legally deemed a “new state”, it said—a scenario that would force it to re-apply to join international bodies such as the EU, the United Nations and NATO.

“If Scotland became independent, only the ‘remainder of the UK would automatically continue to exercise the same rights, obligations and powers under international law

as the UK currently does, and would not have to re-negotiate existing treaties or re-apply for membership of international organizations,” the government said.

Its unusual decision to publish such an opinion reflects its concern that Scots may vote for independence, triggering the break-up of a the United Kingdom comprising England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Prime Minister David Cameron intervened in the debate on Sunday, conceding that Scotland had what it takes to be an independent nation, but arguing it enjoyed “the best of both worlds” as part of the UK.

“Put simply: Britain works. Britain works well. Why break it?” he wrote in an article published in Scottish newspapers.

Cameron’s political future and historic legacy are on the line. He has pledged to contest the next British general election in 2015 and his own Conservative party would never forgive him if he presided over the break-up of the UK.

London’s main parties are campaigning jointly against independence, knowing that Alex Salmond’s SNP is an astute and highly motivated political machine that will spare no effort to win a vote on its flagship policy.—Reuters

Helicopter crash kills three in Southern California

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb—Three people were killed in a helicopter crash while taping a reality television show in Southern California on Sunday morning, local media outlets reported.

Three occupants of the ill-fated *Bell 206B Jet Ranger* helicopter were thrown out of the aircraft and pronounced dead at the scene, according to a report filed by Deadline.com.

The accident occurred at 3:40 am local time on the Polsa Rosa Movie Ranch, 5726 Soledad Canyon Road near Acton, a residential community about 76 km north of downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Fire dispatcher Robert Diaz said.

They were filming a yet unnamed military series for Discovery Channel which involves JD Roth and Todd Nelson’s Eyeworks USA

(formerly 3 Ball Prods.), according to the reports.

The filming was started on Saturday. The crash took place some 56 km east of the movie location where actor Vic Morrow and two small children were killed in a 1982 accident.

The Los Angeles County Coroner’s office withheld the release of identities of the victims pending notification of next of kin.

The ranch is a movie, TV show and commercial location offered for rent to production companies. It has two airstrips, railroad tracks and “miles of roads,” according to its website.

The National Transportation Safety Board is leading an investigation into the cause of the deadly crash. The Federal Aviation Administration also participates in the probe.—Xinhua

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw Council to promote ethnic socio-economy in eastern hilly areas



Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt converses ethnic people.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—Nay Pyi Taw Council will promote the socio-economy of the ethnic people from the eastern hilly areas in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

At the meeting with the ethnic people here today, Union Minister at the President Office Chairman

of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt said that the Nay Pyi Taw Council has pledged to provide assistance to the hilly areas as part of efforts for promoting the education, health and transportation sectors of the ethnic people.

During the meeting,

the 40-member delegation of ethnic people from seven village-tracts reported on needs to be fulfilled for the development of the hilly areas. The visiting ethnic people will attend the 66th Anniversary Union Day Celebration tomorrow.

MNA

Workshop on Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System kicks off

YANGON, 11 Feb — The opening of the Workshop on Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System was held at Tawwin Hall of Myanmar Timber Enterprise (Head Office), here, this morning with an address by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun. The workshop was meant to facilitate the process

of transporting Myanmar's timber and value-added wood products to EU market where only legal timber from Myanmar will be accepted starting from 3 March 2013.

It was also attended by members of timber certifying committee, representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the Ministry

of Health, scholars of organizations for environmental conservation and members of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association.

After the opening ceremony, resource persons read out five papers and those present took part in discussions.

MNA

Scrutinizing citizenship, issuing temporary passports and employee IDs to migrant workers discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—Chairman of Overseas Jobs Supervisory Committee Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint met officers/other ranks from eleven working groups who will discharge duties at temporary passport issuance offices in Thailand for three months to be able to scrutinize citizenship and issue temporary passports and employee IDs to migrant workers there at his office, here, this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister instructed them to discharge duties there for about three months.



Chairman of Overseas Jobs Supervisory Committee Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint meets officers/other ranks from eleven working groups.—MNA

ID cards have been issued to over 1.23 million migrant workers so far.

The responsible persons from eleven groups under the three ministries will

Far-sighted view is an essential prerequisite...

(from page 16)

their duties with goodwill and in accord with the laws.

Next, the handing over of cash and kind for development of Mohnyin Township followed. Local people reported on difficulties they are facing and requirements to be fulfilled by the government.

Then the Union ministers and deputy ministers elaborated works to be done and work progress.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker called for mass participation in carrying out the tasks for peace and stability and development of the region without heavily relying on the government. He said that far-sighted view was an essential prerequisite for perpetuation and prosperity of the Union. He called

for unity and amity among the national races, desisting from keeping narrow-minded attitude. He said that national race Hluttaw representatives were making harmonious strides for ensuring peace and prosperity of the Union.

He made a request for active participation of the entire people joining hands with the government and the Hluttaws to be able to achieve lasting peace in Kachin State.

In the afternoon, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party met with local people at Shwekyuntha Hall in Kyunhla Township of Kanbalu District in Sagaing Region. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker invited those present to report their difficulties and requirements frankly.

MNA

Ten-month countdown to Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship



Work committee holds its meeting on making preparations for ASEAN Economic Community 2015 in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—The work committee held its meeting on making

preparations for ASEAN Economic Community 2015 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development this morning.

In his address at the meeting, the Union Minister migrant workers without any documents need to temporary passports to be able to stay as legal workers. The officials concerned from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Immigration and Population discussed necessary disciplines.

The team comprising eleven working groups underwent refresher training for two days at Myanmar Passport Issuance Office (Yankin).—MNA

for National Planning and Economic Development called for making reviews and formulation of work programme, highlighting matters related to logistics and Myanmar Deliverables in 2014 while taking the chair of ASEAN in 2014.

He stressed the importance of preparations to be made in respective sectors as the countdown to Myanmar's ASEAN Chair is just ten months.

MNA

**Donate
Blood**

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 12 February, 2013

PSM reforms

Together with the national reforms programmes, the State media is now on the road towards serving the interest of the people more and more through various reforms programmes and actions that in the near future government-run dailies will appear in new form and substance totally different from the past.

Even at present dailies are changing their style of news presentation, writing and editing as they are in the process of featuring news on normal activities according to their value while transforming from personal orientation to public interest orientation. As PSM they will also stand as the genuine fourth estate constantly watching the three pillars of power. In addition they will be the media serving as the bridge between the executive pillar and the people.

Now they are presenting news reports aided with public views, analysis or interviews to make them more attractive and enjoying for the readers.

When it comes to the job of emphasizing education, health, social sector, labour, culture, ethnic traditions for public interest PSM is always there.

Moreover the reform programme involves editorial and financial independence, accountability, efficiency trainings for providing quality news and articles.

Besides, the dailies in the future will run under the administration and supervision of an independent group which is something like a governing body that is responsible for formulating and adopting policies, ethics, editorial guidelines, adopting editorial guidelines based on the prevailing situation, defining the management and financial functions, and constantly assessing the caliber of newspapers.

In a democratic society, the executive bodies and legislative bodies change at the end of their term to give way for another general election. Consequently, the continuance of State-owned media as the government's voice has become inappropriate in the long run. So, it will become PSM representing the entire people and reflecting the diversity of human society.



Ko Kaung (Cartoon)

Honouring 66th
Anniversary
Union Day:

On this fertile soil blessed with rich natural resources known as Myanmar grown up in the hug of four major rivers—Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung, Thanlwin—national races have been living together in the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood through thick and thin since time immemorial. Myanmar indeed has long been home to national people of blood relation.

A human race that emerged on this land known as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar today has evolved into over one hundred national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan and this evolution is of national pride.

The national races sharing joy and sorrow, laughter and tears have been living together as an indivisible large family. The results of these fine traditions have led to evolution of a country, Myanmar with high cultural standard and great national prestige and integrity. Myanmar people are strong and quick and respond aggressively with speed in case of trouble.

Throughout the course of Myanmar's history, national races born in this Union have been united against any external threat and thus the country could stand as a sovereign nation with her head held high as the "Republic of the Union of Myanmar."

Looking back the long history of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it is evident that national unity, Union spirit, anti-colonial

spirit and unwavering spirit are elements of national strength that has always secured the Union to be able to stand tall on international stage.

Impressive and powerful were such city states as Vushnu, Srikestra, Hanlin, Thuwunna Bhum, Mongmao, Tagaung, Bagan, Pindaya, Inwa, Vesali, Danyawady, and Konbaung in Myanmar's history. Unifying the city states, King Anawrahta of Bagan established the First Myanmar Empire, King Bayintnaung the second Myanmar Empire and King Alaungpaya U Aung Zeya third Myanmar Empire.

Though Myanmar had stood in pride with own monarchs for years countable by the thousand, it fell victim to divide-and-rule conspiracy of cunning colonialists and as a result the national unity was shattered

to end up as subjugated people for over hundred years. It is an unforgettable lesson of the history.

The imperialists divided the nation into various parts, driving the wedge among national brethren, undermining their friendship. The colonial rule had intentionally widened the development gap between one region and another sowing seeds of doubt between one race and another.

From geographical point of view, Myanmar stretches long from north to south with regions like the shape of tapering fingers and thus it is somewhat weak in

solidity. Its topographical features characterize vast plains surrounded by Yoma mountain range as natural barrier. The huge socio-economic development gap between highlands with poor transportation and mainland with relatively more convenient transportation seems to be attributable to creation of nature.

The imperialists with craftiness took advantage of this apparent nature-handed weak point sow the discord between highlands and mainland, creating different administrative systems for them. Besides, the colonialists restricted the interactions between highlands and mainland through enactment of various laws.

Sowing dissension among national brethren, the colonialists equip the highlanders with weapons

and use them in suppressing the revolution of mainland people. They deceived the ethnic people into serving as living shield for them. This colonial legacy had resulted in over 60-year-long armed conflict since independence, and driven the country to the verge of collapse for three times and other miseries. The country still suffers the consequences till now.

Therefore, 12 February on which the entire nation enduring the divide-and-rule plot of colonialist in union showed the strength of national unity through Panglong Conference and Panglong Agreement emerged was designated as Union Day marking the birth of independent sovereign Union. Thus, all the national brethren should embrace the Union Day for ever as a day of significance enshrined with deep meaning of nationalism.

We have to always express our gratitude to national race leaders led by Bogyoke Aung San for their great strides made in successful holding of Panglong Conference in which the Union Day was originated.

The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which was elected by the people is striving to perpetuate the country till the world exists as a peaceful, modern and developed democratic one, taking the lessons from the past and upholding our three main national cause—on-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—as a national policy.

For peace and stability of the country, the government has placed the task of cessation of armed conflicts for ensuring the genuine lasting peace as a top priority. Ceasefire agreements had already been reached with 10 armed groups, except KIO/KIA group, and matters related to political dialogue carried out. Peace talks between Union Peace-making committee and KIO/KIA is making progress.

Now is the time when the government is striving to move forwards to the political dialogue with the current status of ceasefire in order to resolve the internal conflicts. As a result, the lasting peace could be realized soon in accord with the desires of Union brethren.

Only when political stability prevails, will the nation-building tasks be in good shape. The onus is on each and every citizen as a national duty to strive for ensuring eternal peace after cessation of national races armed conflict.

Today's nation-building tasks are facing a flood of challenges. The two frameworks—

Framework on social and economic reform and framework on poverty alleviation and economic development—were formulated and are being implemented to be able to fix the deeply-rooted inappropriate behavior in national economy and economic systems which are not suitable for characteristics of Myanmar.

(See page 9)

ARTICLE

Move forward in unity, build new nation with amity

Padaung Than Kywe

“As it is required to implement nation-building tasks and national reconciliation and peace-making processes simultaneously, community-based civil societies and the entire national races are to actively take part in their respective roles as a national duty.”

ARTICLE

Move forward in unity, build new nation with amity

(from page 8)

Moreover, Myanmar Development Co-operation Forum was held to be able to bring about economic growth and cooperation with local and foreign scholars, international organizations and agencies are in progress. The government made great strides in easing of international sanctions against Myanmar that had hindered economic development of

the country for a long time.

Reforms in health and education sectors are taking into good shape for social sector development. As it is required to implement nation-building tasks and national reconciliation and peace-making processes simultaneously, community-based civil societies and the entire national races are to actively take part in their respective roles as a

national duty.

All in all, the nation is standing tall among the world nations. It is witnessed that leaders of world nations, economic and political scholars, businessmen and investors are thronging into the country daily. Nation-building tasks are gaining momentum with the help of the UN agencies, INGOs and donor countries. Today is the best time for implementation of national development.

For ensuring the

situation in which all national races have been living in harmony, the important thing for every citizen is to cultivate the Union spirit to be able to shape the nation into disciplined-flourishing modern and developed one by cementing the already-achieved national reconciliation and taking part in the tasks for ensuring peace and stability and the rule of law in the country in accord with the law.

Trs: TKK+YM



General Aung San and national race representatives posed for documentary photo after signing Panglong Agreement in Panglong on 12 February 1947.

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

Honouring 66th Anniversary Union Day:

Our Union

- * The lower Myanmar with rivers and creeks
Green and yellow fields with lots of rain
So breathtaking is the scene everywhere
- * Upper Myanmar with plenty of sunshine
Vast plantation fields, with thorny shade trees
Adding beauty and fragrance to land
- * On mountains of Shan, Chin and Kachin
Thriving are the magnificent pine forests
Everywhere spreading over the misty landscape
- * Springs abound in Kayah and Kayin land
Evergreen trees embellish the earth with emerald
Making the land ever picturesque and marvelous
- * In the land of Mon, Taninthayi and Rakhine
Melodious songs come along the sea waves
Serenity and tranquility rule the land
- * In every place of the country
Beauty is the resemblance
And the cohesion is the Union
Firmness and durability is its essence
Love and devotion in hearts of people
Prosperity be with Union forever
So splendid and impressive our home is

Min Yu Wai (Trs)

1. The Panglong Agreement, signed on 12 February 1947, between the Government of the Union of Burma and the representatives of the Shan State, Chin State and Kachin State, is hereby reaffirmed.

2. The Government of the Union of Burma, in order to give effect to the spirit of the Agreement, has decided to take the following steps:

3. The Government of the Union of Burma, in order to give effect to the spirit of the Agreement, has decided to take the following steps:

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19. The Government of the Union of Burma, in order to give effect to the spirit of the Agreement, has decided to take the following steps:

20. The Government of the Union of Burma, in order to give effect to the spirit of the Agreement, has decided to take the following steps:

Historic Panglong Agreement

Inauguration of repaved roads, rural health centre, bridges marks 66th Anniversary Union Day

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—Hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the opening of a new tarred street in Kyauktan ward was held in Mawlamyine on 9 February morning, attended by Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint. The chief minister pressed the button to open the new tarred street.

The 1.66 furlong long

new street was constructed at the cost of K 15.9 million contributed by Mawlamyine Township Development Affairs Committee and local people.

The chief minister then attended the openings of Domar Village rural health care center and Kwunkabee and Pedo village rural health care center in Mudon

Township. The newly-established rural health centres are of RC type one-storey buildings and it was constructed with the contributions of state government and local people.

The chief minister also attended the opening of Htonman-Taungpa inter-village bridge in Mudon Township. Mudon Town-

ship In-charge State Planning and Economic Minister Dr Min Ngwe Soe, State Development Affairs Minister Dr Toe Toe Aung and Htonman Village administrator formally opened the new bridge. The newly-opened bridge is of RC type and has 18 feet long and 18 feet wide and it was constructed with K

8.5 million contributions of state government and local people.

Afterwards, the chief minister attended a ceremony to open and hand over of Nainglon Village Basic Education Primary School and looked round the new school building.

MNA

Correction

Please read H.E. Mr. Thierry MATHOU as correct name of French Ambassador in the first column of news story and in the caption on page 8 and in the first column of news story on page 9 of this newspaper issued on 9-2-2013.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Students get knowledge about traffic rules in Myinmu

MYINMU, 11 Feb—Talks on traffic rules was given at the hall of Myinmu Basic Education High School.

Headmistress Daw Myint Myint made a speech. Deputy Head of Sagaing Region Directorate of Road Administration Daw Khin Than Htay lectured facts

about traffic rules, Township Law Officer U Aung Paing, road users and Aung Kyi of Traffic Police Corps of Myanmar Police Force rules of road and vehicles.

The deputy head of Region Directorate of Road Administration presented prizes to three students in

the traffic rules quiz.

Also present at the talks were Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Zaw Min Tun and officials, IP Thaung Tin and members of Traffic Police Corps, teachers and students.

Myanma Alinn

Books displayed in Tamway Township



YANGON, 11 Feb—As a gesture of the 66th Anniversary Union Day, Tamway Township Information and Public

Relations Department and Township Women's Affairs Organization jointly organized the book show at the hall of the department

on 1 February.

Various subjects of books were put on display at the show. Head of Township IPRD Daw Hla Hla Myint made a speech.

At the show, the local people and members of Township Women's Affairs Organization viewed the books and publications.

Myanma Alinn

Sub-power station under construction in Taungpyone of Madaya Township

MANDALAY, 11 Feb—Mandalay Region Minister for Electric and Industry Dr Myint Kyu together with the regional electrical engineer inspected construction of control room and switch yard of 33/11 KV 5000 KVA sub-power station in Taungpyone Village of

Madaya Township on 27 January and gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks meeting set standard, worksite safety and emphasis to be placed on supply of electricity at full capacity.

On completion, the sub-power station will extend supply of electricity

to Taungpyone and its surrounding areas.

Myanma Alinn

First-aid demonstration in Mingala Taungnyunt Township



YANGON, 11 Feb—Jointly organized by Mingala Taungnyunt Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Township Health Department and Township Red Cross Society, the first-aid course was demonstrated at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 2 February.

Chairperson of

Township MCWA Daw Nwe Nwe Win and Chairperson of Township Red Cross Society Head of Township Health Department Dr Daw Ohnma Myint gave lectures on saving the patients through first-aid and demonstrated techniques of first-aid. Officials provided training to 50 trainees from 20 wards of the township.

Myanma Alinn

Kengtung, Tachilek entertain globetrotters



TACHILEK, 11 Feb—Tourists enjoy environmental scenic beauties, religious edifices, fine arts works and handicrafts, hospitalities of national races and various panoramic scenes across the nation.

On 3 January afternoon, two Italians, nine Dutch, French, Belgians and Germans went sightseeing at downtown Tachilek by car and then proceeded to Kengtung.

While in Kengtung, they visited Khemarak

Standing Buddha Image, Maha Muni Image, and other significant venues.

Moreover, they viewed traditional cottage works, tea and orange plantations.

They toured Taunggyi and Bagan ancient cultural region.—Myanma Alinn

Traffic rules, disciplines for road users explained

February morning.

At first, Rector of the University Dr Myint Lwin made a speech. Commander of Kyaukse District Police Force Police Lt-Col Min Min Oo gave talks on root cause of traffic accidents and safety of wearing helmets and abiding by the traffic rules.

District Law Officer U Win Myint explained penalty for the traffic accidents and Head of District Transport Planning Department U Sithu Tun traffic rules.

Head of Kyaukse District Directorate of Road Administration Daw San San Myint talked about disciplines for road users and

salient points for reclining the road accidents.

The talks was attended by faculty members and students from the university, totalling over 720. Later, the District Directorate of Road Administration officials distributed pamphlets on traffic rules to those present.

Myanma Alinn

Rules of matriculation exam explained in Myaungmya



MYAUNGMYA, 11 Feb—A ceremony to make clarification on rules for examination supervisors and examinees in the 2013 matriculation examination was held at Pyinnya Yadana Hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Myaungmya on 1 February, with an address by Deputy Commissioner U Tun Min Zaw of District General Administration Department.

Then, the Deputy Education Director gave a speech. Officials explained duty and functions of examiners and supervisors and security measures for the examination.

The ceremony was also attended by school heads and teachers totalling about 400 from basic education schools in Myaungmya, Einme, Wakema and Mawlamyine-gyun townships.

Myanma Alinn

Cash donated to education foundation in Tougoo

TOUNGOO, 11 Feb—In commemoration of the 76th birthday, U Kyaw Hla and family of Thamadi Family donated K 760,000 to Maha Myitta Education Foundation in Tougoo on 1 February.

Patrons of the foundation U Saw Htay, U Ye Win and Daw Aye Myint accepted the cash donation and presented a

certificate of honour to the wellwisher family.

The foundation was set up in November 2011.

During one year period, the foundation has provided over K 7.3 million as cash assistance to 132 needy students at different levels.

Those wishing to make donations may contact the foundation, Tel: 054-23799.

Myanma Alinn

Bee-keeping course opened in Thandaunggyi

THANDAUNGGYI, 11 Feb—Thandaunggyi Township Bee-keeping Department of Kayin State conducted the short-term

course for bee-keeping at its office on 24 January.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Thein Win made a speech.

Next, Head of Kayin State Bee-keeping Department U Thein Maung and Head of Bago Region Bee-keeping Department U Tun Oo explained the aim of the course and future plans of the department.

The ceremony was attended by departmental officials, ward/village administrators and trainees.

Myanma Alinn



REGIONAL



Tourists swarm the Yuyuan Garden in east China's Shanghai Municipality, on 10 Feb, 2013. Shanghai saw a tourist peak on Sunday, the first day of the 2013 Spring Festival holiday. The city is estimated to receive more than three million tourists during the week-long holiday. —XINHUA

Afghan gov't forces kill 11 Taleban militants

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 11 Feb — Afghan government forces during operations against Taleban militants in Marja District of Helmand Province 555 km south of Kabul eliminated nearly a dozen Taleban fighters on Sunday, a local official asserted.

"Afghan police in coordination with the units of national army launched operations against Taleban rebels in Marja District today morning and so far 11 armed rebels have been killed," Wilad Hakimi, the police chief of Marja district, told *Xinhua*.

The operation, he said, would continue for next two days to ensure law and order there in Marja District.

The Taleban militants have yet to make comment.

Xinhua

Number of railway passengers falls as festival starts

BEIJING, 11 Feb — The number of railway passengers is expected to fall sharply to 2.39 million on Sunday, the first day of the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Statistics from the Ministry of Railways indicate that the number of temporary trains in use will also fall to 109, including 30 long-distance trains and 79 regional trains.

On Saturday, railways handled 4,293 trains, including 224 temporary trains. The railway transportation system was in good order, carrying a total of 3.58 million passengers.

The ministry warned

of two cold fronts set to hit China over the next two days. The fronts are expected to drop temperatures in north China by 4 to 6 degrees Celsius and bring sustained rain to south China, possibly affecting railway transportation.

Statistics released on Sunday afternoon show that since the holiday travel rush started, railways have served 82.89 million passengers, up 2.7 percent from the same period last year. On 7 February, the number of railway passengers hit a record high of 6.46 million.

High-speed railways contributed significantly

to this year's travel. The Beijing-Guangzhou and Harbin-Dalian high-speed railways operated during the travel rush for the first time, carrying large quantities of passengers. The Beijing-Guangzhou line even operated "red-eye" trains to accommodate the increased number of travelers.

Railway departments have made efforts to efficiently use their transport capacity by organizing freight trains to ensure supplies of coal, oil and food during the festival.

Spring Festival marks the world's largest annual human migration.—*Xinhua*

Grenade attack in dance party injures 14 people in Northwestern Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 11 Feb — At least 14 Cambodian villagers were injured during a dance party in Northwestern part of Cambodia on Saturday night after an unidentified man threw a grenade into the party, a military police officer confirmed on Sunday.

The incident occurred at 9:15 pm local time in a rural Takrey village, Kamrieng District of Battam-

bang Province, about 300 kilometres Northwest of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, Gen Por Vannak, chief of the provincial military police, said.

"They were all villagers who danced to celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year when an unidentified attacker threw the grenade into the dancing place," he told *Xinhua* over telephone. "It exploded and injured 14

people. Three of them are in critical conditions."

The victims were sent to hospital after the incident. Police suspected that dispute during dancing was behind the attack.

"It was not terrorism, conflict among dancers was suspicious of the attack. We are investigating into the case in order to arrest the perpetrator for legal punishment," he said.—*Xinhua*

Afghan policeman wounded in blast in northern province

KUNDUZ, (Afghanistan), 11 Feb — One Afghan policeman was wounded on Sunday morning when a police mobile was struck by a roadside planted bomb in Kunduz, the capital city of northern Province of Kunduz.

"An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) went off when a police vehicle was running in Zakhil area wounding one policeman at around 8 am local time," a witness named Mohammad Harif told *Xinhua*.

Meantime, a provincial

police spokesman Sarwar Hossaini confirmed the blast, saying an investigation was launched into the incident.

No group claimed responsibility for the incident, but Taleban suspects routinely claim responsibility for such attacks. The Taleban, who ruled the country before they were ousted by a US-led invasion in late 2001, renewed armed insurgency, staging ambush and suicide attacks, killing combatants as well as civilians.—*Xinhua*

Death toll in stampede in northern India rises to 36

NEW DELHI, 11 Feb — At least 36 people, including an eight-year-old girl, are now confirmed dead and several others injured in a stampede which broke out at a busy railway station in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh's holy town of Allahabad Sunday night, a senior police official said on Monday.

The incident happened at the town's main railway station when millions of devotees were returning to their respective home states after taking a dip in

the sangam, the confluence of the river Ganges and Yamuna, on the occasion of the Hindu holy festival of Maha Kumbh which started last month. "The stampede broke out after a railing of an over-bridge at the station collapsed suddenly. While 22 people were killed on the spot, some 14 others succumbed to their injuries. The other injured have been admitted to local hospitals where the conditions of some are said to be serious," the official said on condition of anonymity.—*Xinhua*

World's largest crocodile dies in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, 11 Feb — A giant saltwater crocodile, the longest on earth, has died while in captivity in southern Philippines.

The 6.12-metre reptile, nicknamed "Lolong", died at its pen in Bunawan town, in Mindanao's Agusan del Sur Province shortly after 8 pm on Sunday, Edwin Elorde, the town mayor said.

"(Lolong's death) was very unfortunate," Santiago Cane, vice governor for Agusan del Sur Province told *Xinhua* in a text mes-

sage on Monday.

Elorde said in a phone interview that the reptile showed unusual sluggish activity hours before its demise, prompting local authorities to shut down an inland lagoon-turned resort at the upland village of Consuelo where Lolong was kept, from public.

The local government has been cashing in on the reptile as a tourism attraction in this sleepy town of more than 20,000 since the beast was captured in 2011.

"He has stopped eat-

ing his usual diet since last month. Actually, we've noticed unusual changes in the animal's behaviour right after last December's typhoon," Elorde said, referring to last year's storm that killed more than a thousand people in the region. "His belly had ballooned."

Lolong was captured in 2011 in the Agusan Marsh. Guinness World Records declared it last year as the world's largest saltwater crocodile in captivity in the world.

Xinhua



A ferry boat moves in the front of the Sydney Opera House, which is lit up in red to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year, in Sydney, Australia, on 10 Feb, 2013. The Chinese Spring Festival falls on 10 February this year, marking the start of the Chinese Year of the Snake. —XINHUA

16 killed in road crash in southeast Bangladesh

DHAKA, 11 Feb — Sixteen passengers were killed and 18 others wounded in a road crash in early hours on Monday in southeastern Bangladesh, police said.

Police head of Chokoria sub-district under Cox's Bazar District Rangit Barua told *Xinhua* by phone that the accident occurred at 6 am local time on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway as a bus carrying 34 passengers fell from a bridge, killing 12 people on the spot.

He said several wounded were rushed to Chittagong Medical College for treatment where four passengers were declared dead.

Barua said the bus from Chittagong was heading towards Cox's Bazar, some 391 km southeast of capital Dhaka.

The police officer feared the death toll might go up as conditions of some wounded persons were precarious.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV OSSIAN VOY NO (13003N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on OSSIAN VOY NO (13003N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-2-2013 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 T.S LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV GOLDEN FAN VOY NO (1)**

Consignees of cargo carried on GOLDEN FAN VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SEALS CO. LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DANOS Z VOY NO (VP1301)**

Consignees of cargo carried on DANOS Z VOY NO (VP1301) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 DHL PORJECT &
CHARTERING**

Phone No: 256919/256916

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (493)**

Consignees of cargo carried on KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (493) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (199)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MOROTAI VOY NO (199) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-2-2013 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 CMA CGM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BBC AMETHYST VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on BBC AMETHYST VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: BBC CHARTERING & LOGISTIC
GMBH**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (009)**

Consignees of cargo carried on BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (009) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (535)**

Consignees of cargo carried on KOTA TABAH VOY NO (535) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MINDORO VOY NO (134)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MINDORO VOY NO (134) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

1. Open Tenders are invited for supply of the following items in Euro:			
Sr.No.	Tender No	Description	Closing Date
1.	12(T)32/MR(ML/ISN)	DC Flexible Cable Wire	29.3.2013
	2013-2013	(7) Items	(12:00)Hr
2.	12(T)31/MR(ML/YUG)	Locomotive Spare Parts	5.4.2013
	2013-2013	(393) Items	(12:00)Hr
2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 13.2.2013 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Borahtung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994.			

Dubai airport's A380 concourse fully operational

DUBAI, 11 Feb—Dubai airport Chief Executive Paul Griffiths said on Sunday the world's first concourse exclusively for Airbus A380 "superjumbo" has completed its launch and is now fully operational.

Speaking at a media conference at Dubai International Airport, or DXB, Griffiths said as part of terminal 3, Concourse

A increases the airport's maximum capacities to 75 million passengers per year from last year's 60 million.

The 3.3 billion US-dollar concourse has a total surface of 528,000 square meters, 11 floors and a separate business and first class lounge. It also harbours a five-star and a four-star hotel with 202 rooms, including 37 suites. Earlier in Jan-

uary, Griffiths announced that DXB was the world's third biggest airport in 2012 as it received 56.6 million passengers, up 13 percent year on year. Like DXB's terminal 3, Concourse A is exclusively used by Dubai's state-owned carrier Emirates Airline, the world's fastest growing airline and the biggest Airbus A380 buyer.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (151)

Consignees of cargo carried on BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (151) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO. LTD.**

Phone No: 256919/256916

Casper Smart wants matching tattoo with Jennifer Lopez

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb — Casper Smart wants him and Jennifer Lopez to get matching tattoos.

The 25-year-old dancer is desperate to tie the knot with Lopez, but instead of buying her a ring, he suggested they get inkings affirming their commitment on their ring fingers, reports contactmusic.com.

"When he presented her with that idea, Jennifer could barely control her laughter. The poor guy knows he's up against four previous engagements and three marriages, so it is impossible for him to do something special that he can afford," a source told America's Star magazine. —PTI



Casper Smart is 18 years younger than Jennifer Lopez. — PTI

Springsteen says "freaky" to be honoured at pre-Grammys tribute

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb— Bruce Springsteen was honored as MusiCares Person of the Year on Friday at a star-studded pre-Grammys event where some of the biggest names in music like Sting, Alabama Shakes and Neil Young paid homage to "The Boss." The annual event, now in its 23rd year, celebrates a star's musical achievements and philanthropic work, and is hosted by Grammy organizers to kick off the weekend of the awards show. The 55th annual Grammy Awards will air this Sunday on CBS.

Past MusiCares honorees include Bono, Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin and ex-Beatle Paul McCartney. "It's kind of a freaky experience," said Springsteen, 63,

as he accepted the award, saying it was "like the Italian wedding" he never had with his wife Patti Scialfa, or a "huge Bar Mitzvah." Scialfa later accompanied Springsteen on vocals and guitar, along with other members of his band, as he performed a set of his hits, including "We Take Care of Our Own," "Born to Run" and "Glory Days."

Earlier in the night, he helped boost the value of an auctioned signed guitar. "With this guitar comes one free guitar lesson with me," he said to the audience to trigger more bids. Then he



US musician Bruce Springsteen performs with the E Street Band during a tour to promote their latest album "Working on a Dream", at Zorrilla stadium in Valladolid on 1 Aug, 2009.—REUTERS

threw in a ride in the sidecar of his Harley motorcycle, and his mom's lasagna. The guitar sold for \$250,000. All of the proceeds from the show and silent auction go to MusiCares, which provides support to struggling musi-

cians in financial, medical and personal need. Other artists including Ben Harper, Emmylou Harris, Jackson Browne, John Legend and Patti Smith performed songs to honor Springsteen.

Reuters

Katrina Kaif trains for stunts in Knight And Day remake

MUMBAI, 11 Feb — Zoya Akhtar's Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara, Katrina Kaif broke many stereotypes when she took to riding a motorbike. And in true biker style, the actress will be seen performing several stunts on a two wheeler in her next film, the official

remake of the Hollywood film Knight and Day.

A source says, "The film will be replete with action. And both Hrithik Roshan and Katrina will be performing power-packed stunts." The source adds that the actors' previous films have been taken into

account before handing out power-packed sequences to them. The informer adds, "Hrithik's stunts from Krish and Dhoom 2 are well known. And Katrina has been training in acrobatics and gymnastics for the third installment of Dhoom." Katrina is expected to per-

form a lot of stunts on the bike for which she will be trained by professionals who have travelled to India from the US. Action Director of Ek Tha Tiger and Rush Hour 3 Conrad E Palmisano will be training Katrina for her bike stunts.

PTI



Hrithik Roshan and Katrina Kaif will be performing power-packed stunts in their next film. —PTI

One year later, Grammys recall scramble over Whitney Houston death

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb — Grammy host LL Cool J called it a "death in our family" and it was he who suggested starting the Grammy Awards show last year with a prayer for Whitney Houston. Behind the scenes, Grammy Awards producers had worked all night to reshape the music industry's biggest night just 24 hours after the drowning death of the troubled superstar in a Beverly Hills hotel.

Producers and musicians tell the tale in a one-hour TV special "The Grammys Will Go On: A Death in the Family" to be

annual pre-Grammy party hosted in Beverly Hills on Saturday by her mentor, record producer Clive Davis. Earlier this week, Madame Tussauds museum unveiled four different wax figures of Houston at various stages of her 35-year career that will go on display at its attractions in New York, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Washington, DC.

Houston, 48, was found face down in a bathtub on 11 Feb, 2012, in what authorities later called an accidental drowning due to cocaine use and heart disease. "My heart started



Whitney Houston performs at the Pre-Grammy Gala & Salute to Industry Icons with Clive Davis honouring David Geffen held in Beverly Hills, California, in this 12 February, 2011, file photo. Houston died on 11 Feb, 2012 of accidental drowning due to the "effects" of heart disease and cocaine use, according to the official autopsy report.—REUTERS

broadcast on CBS on Saturday on the eve of this year's Grammy Awards ceremony. The singer, known both for her soaring ballads and well-chronicled history of drug abuse, is also expected to be remembered at the

racing. I started hyper-ventilating," recalls Grammy Awards show director Louis J Horvitz in the TV special, as news reached Grammy rehearsals last year of Houston's death.

Reuters

SPORTS

Nuggets beat Cavaliers for ninth successive win



Denver Nuggets Ty Lawson (3) is fouled by Cleveland Cavaliers Marreese Speights (15) during the third quarter of their NBA basketball game in Cleveland, on 9 Feb, 2013.
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb—The Denver Nuggets have continued their sparkling form with a 111-103 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday, extending their winning streak to nine games. Denver have averaged 114.6 points per game during the streak to move to 33-18, and fourth

overall in the Western Conference. The nine games are the longest streak for Denver since winning 10 on the trot in 2005.

Danilo Gallinari led the Nuggets with 19 points and nine rebounds while Kenneth Faried scored 17 points and added seven rebounds. Eight of Denver's

nine players scored in double figures in a great team effort. Denver have been near unstoppable at home with a 22-3 record but have been criticised for their inability to lift on the road. The win in Cleveland pushed them to 11-15 away from home. "It was a very important win for us," Faried told reporters

"A lot of people say we go in a slump once we get on the road, we're not going to have that energy, that motivation to run, that focus we have at home but tonight we proved that wrong. But we have another one tomorrow we have to worry about against a great Boston team that's playing wonderful." Kyrie Irving produced a game high 26 points and added seven assists while Alonzo Gee added 20 points for the Cavaliers, who had been seeking their fourth successive win but the loss dropped them to 16-35.

Reuters

Neymar criticizes carnival fixtures

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 Feb—Star striker Neymar has criticized Sao Paulo's football federation FPF for scheduling matches during Brazil's carnival celebrations on Sunday.

Neymar made the comments after scoring a late consolation goal in Santos' shock 3-1 defeat to Paulista in the Campe-



Neymar

onato Paulista. "It's disappointing to lose but even more so during the carnival," Neymar said on Sunday. "This is a holiday, we shouldn't have to work."

Brazil's Carnival festivities began on Friday and officially conclude at 2pm on Wednesday, when the country's public servants and most private sector companies return to work. In other matches on Sunday, Palmeiras drew 2-2 with Mogi Mirim while Penapolense drew 1-1 with Atletico Sorocaba.

Xinhua

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb—FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker finally reaped just reward for his red-hot early form on the PGA Tour this year when he eased to victory by two shots at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Sunday.

Ru - ner-up behind Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson in his two previous starts on the US circuit, the American world number six closed with a seven-un-

der-par 65 to post a 19-under total of 267 in the pro-am celebrity event.

Co-leader overnight with compatriot James Hahn,



Snedeker took control with an eagle on the second hole and never relinquished his grip on a glorious day of late winter sunshine on the picturesque Monterey Peninsula.

American Chris Kirk sank a 16-foot birdie putt at the last for a 66 to finish alone in second, with PGA Tour rookie Hahn a further three strokes back at 14 under in a three-way tie for third after carding a 70.

Reuters

US golfer Brandt Snedeker

Figure skating: Mao triumphant at Four Continents



Japan's three figure skaters, (from L) Akiko Suzuki, Mao Asada and Kanako Murakami hold up the silver, gold and bronze medals respectively on the podium at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships at Osaka Municipal Central Gymnasium in Osaka on 10 Feb, 2013. Asada won the competition with a total of 205.45 points, the world's highest score of the season.
KYODO NEWS

OASKA, 11 Feb—Two-time world champion Mao Asada lived up to her billing, leading a trio of Japanese to a sweep of the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships women's medals on Sunday.

Unlike her short programme where she landed a triple axel, Asada was unable to cleanly execute the 3-1/2 revolution jump in the free skate, but still outshined the competition to finish with a combined

total of 205.45 points.

Akiko Suzuki took the silver with 190.08, while the bronze went to Kanako Murakami with 181.03.

Kyodo News



Japan's Mao Asada performs in the women's free skate at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships at Osaka Municipal Central Gymnasium in Osaka on 10 Feb, 2013. Asada won the competition with a total of 205.45 points, the world's highest score of the season.—KYODO NEWS

Alpine skiing-Rolland is surprise downhill gold medalist

SCHLADMING, (Austria), 11 Feb—France's Marion Rolland used her knowledge of the course to snatch a surprise downhill gold medal at the world Alpine ski championships on Sunday. Rolland, remembered for a freak crash at the 2010 Vancouver Games when her knee snapped seconds into the Olympic downhill, won by 0.16 seconds from Italy's Nadia Fanchini with a time of one minute 50.00. German Maria Hoefl-Riesch took bronze.

Rolland can claim to be the first Frenchwoman to win the most prestigious world title, though her compatriot Marielle Goitschel

is widely considered as the winner of the 1966 downhill world crown after a gender test the following year showed that the champion on the day, Erika Schinegger, was actually a man. The Austrian was never officially disqualified. "I wanted a medal here at all costs," Rolland, 30, told reporters. "I gave it my all because I believed in my chances. I had good feelings on this piste, which I liked very much since last season," she said. Rolland has never won a World Cup event but earned her first two podiums last season on Schladming's Streicher piste, finishing second in



Second placed Nadia Fanchini of Italy (L), first placed Marion Rolland of France (C) and third placed Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany celebrate on the podium during the flower ceremony after the women's Downhill race at the World Alpine Skiing Championships in Schladming on 10 Feb, 2013
REUTERS

the downhill behind Lindsey Vonn. In the absence of the American Olympic champion, who was injured in the opening event of these championships, the downhill race was wide open. "To win gold is obviously incredible, I dreamt about it like every young athlete. You have to believe in your dreams and your goals and fight hard to reach them," added Rolland, whose grandfather Antonin won two stages of cycling's Tour de France in the 1950s.

Fanchini, who like Rolland has had a career hampered by serious crashes and injuries, took advan-

tage of her early start number to get on to the podium. "I tried to ski the way I did before my serious crash in St Moritz in 2010," said the Italian, whose sister Elena was also downhill silver medalist at the Bormio worlds in 2005.

The course, unusually icy for a women's race, was too hard to handle for most skiers and several spectacular crashes caused long delays. As a result, snow and visibility conditions changed in the middle section, making the course slower for the later starters and Rolland's performance, with bib number 22, all the more impressive.—Reuters

GENERAL

Old lamp posts replaced with new ones in Indaw

INDAW, 11 Feb—To upgrade the standard of lamp posts in Indaw of Katha District Sagaing Region, the old lamp post were replaced with concrete lamp posts.

The replacement of the lamp posts is aimed at preventing electric shock and accident.

Kyemon



Argentine Zeballos surprises Nadal to win Chilean Open

VINA DEL MAR, (Chile), 11 Feb—Argentine Horacio Zeballos sprung a major surprise by beating Rafa Nadal 6-7 (2) , 7-6 (6) , 6-4 to win the Chilean Open on Sunday and clinch the first title of his career. World number 73 Zeballos held his nerve in the final set, breaking Nadal when he was serving to stay in the match to seal victory after almost three hours in the

Pacific coast city of Vina del March

Nadal, whose plan to resume at the end of 2012 after a long layoff due to a knee injury was delayed due to illness, will continue playing on his favorite clay surface at two other Latin American events this month. The French Open champion heads to the Brazil Open in Sao Paulo next week and the Mexico

Open in Acapulco from 25 February.

Zeballos was competitive from the outset, but failed to exploit two break-points in the first set to allow Nadal a tiebreak, which the Spaniard comfortably wrapped up 7-2. Zeballos hit back to win the second set tiebreak 8-6 and showed great poise to level at 1-1 in the decider after being broken before proceeding to an inspiring victory.—Reuters



Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to France's Jeremy Chardy during their men's singles match at the Chilean Open tennis tournament in Vina del Mar city on 9 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL (12-2-13 09:30 am ~ 13-2-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Harmonious Democratic Union
- * Music
- * News
- * Mighty Ayeyarady & Myanmar Engineer
- * The Art of Freedom
- * News
- * Super Myanmar Traditional Stick Form (Episode-2)
- * News
- * The Consequences of Climate Change
- * Youth & Knowledge (Internet)
- * News
- * 2013 ILBC Art & Science Fair
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "Chit Pan Wai"
- * News
- * Equitable Educational Opportunities (Part-2)
- * Press Conference of Myanmar Image and Photography Workshop
- * Myanmar Movies "Life As Parents"

MYANMAR TV

(12-2-2013, Tuesday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:25 am | 4:50 pm |
| 1. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme (Live Broadcast) | 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:20 am | 4:55 pm |
| 2. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme | 12. National Races Songs |
| 7:30 am | 5:25 pm |
| 3. Morning News | 13. Memorable Union Day Songs |
| 7:40 am | 5:45 pm |
| 4. International News | 14. SEA GAMES (Go For Gold) (Tennis) |
| 7:50 am | 6:00 pm |
| 5. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme | 15. Evening News |
| 8:20 am | 6:15 pm |
| 6. Teleplay (Union) | 16. Weather Report |
| 4:00 pm | 6:20 pm |
| 7. Opening Song | 17. Sing A Song |
| 4:05 pm | 6:50 pm |
| 8. Musical Programme | 18. TV Drama Series |
| 4:15 pm | 7:00 pm |
| 9. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme | 19. News |
| 4:30 pm | 7:15 pm |
| 10. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) | 20. TV Drama Series |
| -First Year (Physics) | 8:00 pm |
| | 21. Bakery World |
| | 22. Documentary |
| | 10:00 pm |
| | 23. News |
| | 24. India Drama Series |

Barca move 12 clear as Cristiano warms up for Champions League with hat-trick

MADRID, 11 Feb—FC Barcelona enjoyed an early kick off and saw their lead at the top of Spain's BBVA Primera Liga extend to 12 points during the 23rd round

of matches in Spain this weekend. Barca took to the pitch before their midday kick off at home to Getafe on Sunday carrying a banner wishing a happy Chinese new year, but at the end of the game it was the Catalans who were celebrating as goals from Alexis Sanchez, Leo Messi (scoring in his 13th consecutive league game), David Villa, Christian Tello, Andres Iniesta and Gerard Pique gave them a convincing 6-1 win in a game broadcast live on primetime in Asia.

Barca's day got a lot better with the last match of the day as Rayo Vallecano's incredible continued with a 2-1 win at home to second place Atletico Madrid. Lass and Leo Baptista scored early goal for Rayo and that was enough to decide an exciting south Madrid derby. The win lifts Rayo to fifth in the table, while Atletico drop back to 12 points behind Barcelona with Falcao's 94th minute goal too late to be a mere anecdote. Cristiano Ronaldo warmed up for his reencounter with former club, Manchester United in the Champions League next week with a hat-trick as Real Madrid

thrashed Sevilla 4-1. Karim Benzema opened the scoring as Sevilla gave an example of how not to defend against a side that may be 16



Barcelona's David Villa celebrates a goal with his team-mates during their Spanish first division soccer match against Getafe at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, on 10 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Selectors Gautam Gambhir, bring back Harbhajan

MUMBAI, 11 Feb — Under-performing opener Gautam Gambhir was shown the door with Shikhar Dhawan being his surprise replacement in the 15-member Indian cricket squad, announced today for the first two Tests against Australia starting on 22 February in Chennai.

Senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh rode on past reputation to return to the squad to form a three-pronged spin attack also comprising R Ashwin and Pragyan Ojha.

PTI



Canucks overcome slow start to extinguish Flames

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb — The Vancouver Canucks started slowly but roared into life in the second period to claim a fifth straight victory with a thumping 5-1 home win over the Calgary Flames on Saturday. Lee Stempniak had opened the scoring for the Flames late in the first period before the Canucks (7-2-2) bagged two goals in a 27-second span midway through the second to seize control of the game.

Alexandre Burrows scored his third of the campaign before Jordan Schroeder claimed his first ever NHL goal to put the Canucks ahead, then Kevin Bieksa blasted a rocket from near the blue line late in the period to extend the lead to 3-1. Chris Higgins added an insurance goal and Schroeder doubled his tally in the third period to ensure the Flames left Vancouver with a 3-4-2 record.

"You're gripping your stick pretty tight.

It's excitement, relief, it's been eight games and it's kind of a weight lifted off the shoulders because you want that first one so bad," Schroeder, 22, told reporters of his



The puck goes past Calgary Flames goalie Leland Irving scored by Vancouver Canucks Jordan Schroeder during the third period of their NHL hockey game in Vancouver, British Columbia on 9 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

breakthrough goal."To be able to get two in one night is always good." Winger Burrows claimed Calgary's goal acted as a catalyst to wake the home side from their slumber and record a

win that keeps them top of the Northwest Division and moved them up into third in the Western Conference. "Our start wasn't the best but once they scored, we started passing a bit more

and starting getting pucks deep and it's how we created a lot of offense tonight," Burrows said."And we had four lines rolling and everyone was trying to join the party."—Reuters

Cash donated to construction of Sasana Beikman, fund for students in Yamethin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws U Khin Aung Myint attended the cash presenting ceremony for construction of Sasana Beikman at the religious building in Yamethin of Mandalay Region this morning.

The ceremony was also attended by State Ovadacariya Hsinkyon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kosalla and monks, Mandalay Region Forestry and Mining Minister U Than Soe Myint, district level departmental officials and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, Original Group Construction Company donated K 65 million and K 1.8 million

for purchase of 300 bags of cement and National Development Gold Mining Group Ltd K 30 million. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker accepted the donations and returned certificates of honour to them.

Next, the Speaker attended the ceremony to set up a fund in Yamethin to provide stipends to needy students in the township as from the 2013-2014 academic year.

On the occasion, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint said that the aim of the fund is to provide stipends to needy children.

He also called for system managing the fund for its sustainability.

During the ceremony, a member of the board of directors of the National Prosperity and Development Company contributed K 10 million to the fund through the Speaker.

A managing body of the fund will be formed and it will select the eligible school children to provide stipends to them.

The managing board will select the school children who are eligible to receive the stipend. The eligible students must be the ones who are learning at the basic education middle and high school level, who are not being provided stipends from the government and other organizations. Those who are orphans or disabled will be put on top priority



Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws U Khin Aung Myint accepts cash donation for construction of Sasana Beikman in Yamethin.—MNA

Far-sighted view is an essential prerequisite for perpetuation and prosperity of the Union: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker



Speaker Thura U Shwe Man cordially greets local people at Hsutngaingtaung relief camp in Myitkyina.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann accompanied by committee chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Aye Myint and U Thein Zaw, Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the Union ministers and deputy ministers and officials visited Wuntho Monastery in Myitkyina and offered provisions to the Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery yesterday.

Next, the Speaker spoke words of encouragement in meeting with families at Hsutngaingtaung relief camp in Sitapu ward in Myitkyina. Officials concerned provided them with cash and kind.

In meeting with local people at Seinlei Yadana Hall in Mohnyin, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker explained functions and duties of people's representatives at the Hluttaw where abolishing of impractical laws, amending of some laws and passing of new laws are in progress. He highlighted the role of service personnel who are responsible for implementing the tasks on behalf of the Union government and region/state governments in accord with the laws promulgated by the Hluttaw for the sake of the country and its people, calling on them to discharge (See page 7)

to get the stipend. Those who failed an examination are not eligible for the stipend. Those who would have to leave whose parents cannot afford to send them to a school so that every

school-age child can be sent to school if they are not provided with the stipend and those who are too poor to go to school will be provided with the stipend.

MNA

Honouring the 66th Anniversary Union Day, 2013

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

- * There reside the groups of national races
Living together like beloved brethren for ages
Through weal or woe and in unity
Keeping nest and eggs intact for solidarity.
- * Imperialists waged three aggressive wars on Myanmar
Sowing discord among national brethren for power
Violating our independence and enslaving our brethren
Torturing the entire people of the land.
- * Colonialists carved a niche on the borders
What they then called the Frontier Areas
Though they tried to sabotage our unity,
They yielded to our prowess and ability.
- * Though Myanmar fell into the aliens' hands,
Union Spirit within our brethren remained strengthened
With this Spirit, we fought back imperialists
Challenges made the Union Spirit ever dynamic.
- * Union Spirit born of the Panglong Conference
Paved the way for regaining the independence
Love for brethren was kept in mind
Panglong Agreement for entire territory was signed.
- * Our national brethren have always stayed united
When the esteemed national unity was tested
We have proved the unity in diversity
Still continued to stay united in amity.
- * Union Spirit has been born of Panglong
We've come a long way from Panglong
Panglong Spirit has always been kept alive
We must safeguard it with our might.

Maung Swe Ngae

Pope Benedict surprises world, steps down citing frailty

ROME, 11 Feb—Pope Benedict surprised the world on Monday by saying he no longer had the mental and physical strength to cope with the demands of his ministry, becoming the first pontiff to step down since the Middle Ages and leaving his aides "incredulous".

The 85-year-old German-born Pope, hailed as a hero by conservative Catholics and viewed with suspicion by liberals, said he had noticed that his strength had deteriorated over recent months. A Vatican spokesman

said the Pope had not resigned because of "difficulties in the papacy" and the decision had been a surprise, indicating that even his closest aides were unaware that he was about to quit. The Pope does not fear schism in the Church after his resignation, the spokesman said.

The Pope's leadership of 1.2 billion Catholics has been beset by a child sexual abuse crisis that tarnished the Church, one address in which he upset Muslims and a scandal over the leaking of his private papers by his



personal butler.

In recent months, the Pope has looked increasingly frail in public sometimes being helped to walk by those around him.

Elected to the papacy on April 19, 2005 when he was 78 -- 20 years older than John Paul was when he was elected

-- he ruled over a slower-paced, more cerebral and less impulsive Vatican.

The child abuse scandals hounded most of his papacy. He ordered an official inquiry into abuse in Ireland, which led to the resignation of several bishops.

MNA/Reuters