

## Energy Ministry holds meeting on profit sharing contracts



NAYPYITAW, 30 Jan—A meeting on principles of profit sharing contracts between the Energy Ministry and foreign companies was held at the ministry here this morning.

Patron of National Energy Management Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Chairman of the Committee Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U

Win Shein, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, deputy ministers and departmental heads attended the meeting.

Union Minister U Than Htay explained terms

and conditions in PSCs. Vice-President U Nyan Tun called for giving high priority to environmental conservation and creating favourable investment environment.

MNA

*Vice-President U Nyan Tun making a speech at the meeting on profit sharing contracts between the Energy Ministry and foreign companies.—MNA*

### Myanmar clears debt owed to Japan

1. Myanmar has taken out development loans to be used in State-building from Japan under the agreement of the two governments since 1970. The government with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has been negotiating with Japanese government to settle the due debt of 502.457 billion Yen.
2. Japan in support of democratization and national reconciliation efforts and social and economic reform process of Myanmar government will write off a debt of 303.576 billion Yen within one year period and set the remaining debt of 198.881 billion Yen as the new debt whose interest rate is 0.01 % per year, grace period of 10 years and repayment period of 30 years, totaling 40 years.
3. Under the bilateral agreement, Myanmar repaid the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) taking out a total bridge loan of 198.881 billion Yen from Japanese banks—Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd (BTMU), Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBO) and Mizuho Corporate Bank (Mizuho) clearing the remaining debts.
4. The Japanese government, as debts have been settled, is taking steps to offer very-low-interest-rate development loans and assistance to Myanmar. The government will use prepared development loans and aids from Japan in people-centered development undertakings including education, health, social and administrative fields in coordination with Japanese government.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue  
Nay Pyi Taw  
30 January, 2013

### Yangon-Pathein railway link nearing completion

As the government is seeking means to improve the country's transportation facilities for convenience of the people, it is expanding its motor road and railroad networks.

Yangon-Pathein railway link has been completed by 50 percent and is expected to be completed in coming year, according to engineers of the project.

"The railroad has the length of 40.34 miles. The project started since 2009-2010 fiscal year. The section I have been implementing (will be finished in May this year," project engineer U Zaw Min Oo of Yangon (Hlinethaya)-Ayeyawady (Nyaungdon) road section) said.

"The workforce of 450 is working day and night."

"There will be six railway stations and 105 bridges along the railroad."

U Zaw Ye Myint, project engineer of Yangon-Pathein railroad

section explained, "Pathein-Einme railroad section was finished in 2011, leaving Einme-Sakkawt section to implement. The railroad section has the length of 54.75 miles. There are 127 railway stations along the railroad section. There are six railway stations, namely Singaung, Daunggyi, Einme, Kyondaigy, Mayan and Pantanaw (Sakkawt) railway

stations. The section will be completed in open season of 2013-2014 fiscal year."

Upon completion, the railroad will guarantee better transportation to the people on the western bank of Ayeyawady River plus the direct link with Yangon, the commercial city. Ayeyawady Region will enjoy swift commodity flow.

"When the road comes

*Article & Photos:  
Sein Lwin Aung  
(Myanma Alinn)*

into operation, we will enjoy better transportation," U Myint Soe of Kwinkalay village in Nyaungdon Township said.

Myanma Alinn:  
30-1-2013  
Trs: HKA



*Yangon (Hline-thaya)-Pathein railroad section being upgraded.*



### Literary talks given in Bago

BAGO, 30 Jan—The second literary talks was held at Myanma Alinn library on 13<sup>th</sup> Nyaungwaing Street in South Nyaungwaing Ward in Bago on 26 and 27 January

evening. On 26 January evening, writers Maung Tha Cho and Nyo Min Nyo gave talks on literary affairs. On 27 January evening,

writers Maung Sein Win (Padigon), Than Myint Aung and Nu Nu Yi (Inwa) talked about literary matters at the same venue. *Myanma Alinn*

### MTU students donate blood for ninth time

MANDALAY, 30 Jan—The social organization and Red Cross Society of Mandalay Technological University under Technical and Vocational Education Department of the Ministry of Science and Technology organized the ninth blood donation ceremony at the three-storey building of the

university on 24 January. In-charge of the National Blood Bank Dr Khin Sein Win explained the dos and don'ts for blood donations. Rector of the university Dr Aye Myint explained the purpose of blood donation. Next, students donated blood. The rector, the in-charge of the blood bank and

officials viewed round them. At the ceremony, the students donated 370 bags of blood. Those who need blood emergency may contact social organization and Red Cross Society of Mandalay Technological University, dialling 09-2010205 and 09-444031325.—*Myanma Alinn*

### Power-tillers, seeds handed over to local farmers in Haka



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—As part of efforts to develop rural regions and alleviate poverty in Chin State, a ceremony to donate four power-tillers and high yield strain seeds was held at

the Chin State Agriculture Department in Haka on 25 January with an address by Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai. He handed over four power-tillers to Haka

Township Administrator U Swe Khant Thang for local farmers. Chin State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Van Thong presented quality strain



### 2013 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day

### Rainy season loans paid back to MADB

seeds of paddy and maize to officials. Next, the Chief Minister and party viewed four power-tillers and quality seeds displayed at the hall.

At the ceremony, 300 baskets of Shweyinaye paddy seeds, 750 kilos of maize and 105 kilos of Paethwe hybrid paddy to local farmers.

Next, the basic education middle school level tax educative essay and cartoon contest was held at Bo Taik Chun Hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Haka in the morning.

State Minister for Finance and Revenue U Nan Zamon made a speech. Deputy Director of Chin State Internal Revenue Department U Soe Nyunt explained taxation and others.

Later, officials presented prizes to the winners in the contest.—*MNA*

KYAUKPADAUNG, 30 Jan—Myanma Agricultural Development Bank of Kyaukpadaung Township in Mandalay Region disbursed K 1698.2 million as agricultural loans to 17982 farmers from 229 villages of the township in 2012 rainy season.

As of the first week of January, the bank collects its loans from the farmers

who paid back the bank dutifully. Up to 22 January, the farmers have paid back K 1572 million to the bank, accounting for over 92 per cent.

This year, the bank will disburse K 100,000 per acre each to farmers so as to contribute much to cultivation of farmers.

*Myanma Alinn*

### Fire preventive measures inspected at Pyinmana Myoma Market

PYINMANA, 30 Jan—The inspection tour of fire preventive measures was made by Director U Than Kyaw Kyaw of Fire Services Department and Assistant Director U Win Myint at No. 1 Myoma Market of Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Staff Officer Ye Thurein Ko Ko Soe of Fire Services Department, In-charge of the market U Kyaw Hsan Win

and officials reported on fire prevention tasks.

Deputy Director U Okkar of Pyinmana Township General Administration Department reported on installation of mobile fire engine at the market.

The director and party inspected water tank, hoses and other fire extinguishers and gave instructions on taking fire preventive measures.—*Myanma Alinn*



### Talks on trafficking in persons given in Kamayut Township

YANGON, 30 Jan—About 300,000 women and children annually fall into victims of human trafficker in six countries of Mekong Basin; and yearly, 1.2 million

of people are enslaved in the prostitution and sex industry, production, fishery and agricultural sectors, said Daw Saw Myint Htoo, Chairperson of

Township Women's Affairs Organization at the talks on prevention against human trafficking and violence against girls at Shwe Nyilar Hall of Basic Education High School No. 3 in Kamayut Township on 25 January morning.

Township Law Officer Daw Thu Thu Soe gave talks on legal affairs, In-charge of Yangon Region

Monastery in Myoma Ward of Yekyi, heading from Kyangin to Yangon along Laymyethna-Aingthabyu-Ngathainggyoung Road at 5.30 pm on 19 January.

The authorities seized 222 illegal teak doors in small and large sizes weighing over five tons.

Yekyi Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against them under the law. *Myanma Alinn*

Anti-Human Trafficking Squad Police Major Aye Aye Myint background history of trafficking in persons, three types of crimes in human trafficking, human trafficking cases in Myanmar and root cause of human trafficking with the use of power point.

The talks was attended by students, township level personnel and members of social organizations.

*Myanma Alinn*

### Illegal timber seized in Sagaing Region

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—Staff of Mingin, Kalay, Yinmabin and Monywa Township Forest Department of Sagaing Region discharged duty of seizing illegal timber on 17 and 18 January.

They seized 32 logs of In weighing 28.61 tons from five places along bank of Chindwin River in Hningyi

and Myaungzin villages in Makataw area of Mingin Township and in Myaungzin Creek, 12 logs of ironwood weighing 12.402 tons in Phone Creek in Phone forest reserve in Kalay Township, and six logs of teak weighing 1.094 tons, one mile north of Pwintgyi Camp in Kapaing area of Yinmabin Township

ownerless.

Likewise, the team seized 225 logs of In weighing 1.65 tons from a truck at eastern part of Chindwin Bridge in Ahlon area of Monywa Township and arrested driver Yan Naing Tun of Ward 3 in Kani and Tun Win of Ward 2 in Kani.—*MNA*

### Illegal teak furniture seized in Yekyi



PATHEIN, 30 Jan—Acting on tip-off, a combined team led by Head of Township Forest Department U Soe Yi searched a Dyna driven by Zaw Zaw Naing,

35 of Shwebontha Street in Hlinethaya Township together with Hla Min, 25 of Shwelinban Ward in Hlinethaya Township, in front of Thayettaw



## WORLD

## US Senate approves John Kerry as next secretary of state



Democratic Senator John Kerry.

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan—US Senate on Tuesday approved Democratic Senator John Kerry as the next secretary of state, who is set to replace Hillary Clinton.

The Senate confirmed Kerry's nomination in a 94-3 vote, hours after the chamber's Foreign Relations Committee approved his nomination. Kerry has chaired the committee himself for the past four years.

“Senator Kerry will

need no introduction to the world's political and military leaders and will begin Day One fully conversant not only with the intricacies of US foreign policy, but able to act on a multitude of international stages,” said Democratic Senator Bob Menendez at the Senate, who serves as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Bob Corker, the top Republican on the same

committee, praised Kerry's testimony on Thursday and called him “a realist” in dealing with world affairs. At the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee earlier the day, Kerry appreciated the praises from his colleagues. “I'm honoured beyond words,” he said. “What a privilege to work with you and now to work with you in a different way. I thank you very, very much.”

Kerry is expected to be sworn in this week, as Clinton will leave her job on Friday. A senator from the state of Massachusetts, Kerry was nominated by US President Barack Obama on 21 December as the next chief diplomat of the United States.

Kerry offered support to Obama's re-elections, and acted in preparation for his debate with Mitt Romney, the president's Republican rival.—Xinhua

## US Transportation Secretary LaHood to step down

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan—US Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood said on Tuesday that he planned to step down, marking the sixth department head to leave office as President Barack Obama begins his second term.

“I have let President Obama know that I will not serve a second term as Secretary of the US Department of Transporta-

tion,” Ray LaHood said in a statement, adding “I plan to stay on until my successor is confirmed to ensure a smooth transition for the Department and all the important work we still have to do.”

In a statement, Obama thanked LaHood for what he's done over the last four years, saying “As Secretary of Transportation, he has fought to create jobs and

grow our economy by rebuilding our roads, bridges and transit systems. Under his leadership, we have made significant investments in our passenger rail system and laid the high-speed rail network of the future.”

During his tenure, LaHood has put safety front and centre with the Distracted Driving Initiative and a rule to combat pilot

fatigue that was decades in the making. He has also strengthened consumer protections with new regulations on buses, trucks and airlines.

Before becoming secretary in 2009, LaHood served 14 years in Congress representing an Illinois district. He's the only Republican still in Obama's Cabinet.

Xinhua

## Dutch parliament supports Croatia's EU accession

THE HAGUE, 30 Jan—A majority of the Dutch parliament on Tuesday approved the accession of Croatia to the European Union (EU) later this year.

Croatia finished accession negotiations in June 2011 and on 9 December, 2011 signed the Treaty of Accession. After that the Croats voted in favor of EU membership in a referendum.

Before 1 July, all EU member states should have ratified the treaty, followed

by accession of Croatia as the 28th EU member.

The Dutch parliament agreed with Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans, who stated that the EU has learned from the mistakes that were made when Romania and Bulgaria joined in 2007. After their accession, it became clear that these countries were not meeting the conditions and therefore should not have been admitted.

According to Timmermans, the Croats have made

sufficient progress to join the Union.

Labour (PvdA), the Liberals (VVD), the Christian Democrats (CDA), the Democrats of D66 and GroenLinks (Green Left) supported the accession of Croatia, although government parties PvdA and VVD still find the situation in Croatia is not yet ideal.

Only the anti-Europe Party of Freedom PVV and the Socialist Party SP are against the Croatian accession.—Xinhua

## Plane crash kills 21 in Kazakhstan

KYZYAL TU, 30 Jan—A passenger plane has crashed in Kazakhstan, killing all 21 people on board.

The plane was flying from the northern city of Kokshetau to Almaty in the southeast on Tuesday.



Emergencies Ministry vehicles and ambulances are parked near the site of the plane crash outside Almaty.

REUTERS

The *Bombardier CRJ200* was operated by a Kazakh airline, SCAT. The Kazakh government says the plane was carrying 16 passengers and 5 crewmembers.

Local media report that the plane was making a

second approach to an airport after the first attempt failed due to heavy fog.

Government officials plan to retrieve the plane's flight recorder to determine the cause of the crash.

NHK

## Fear, threats and bad food: life aboard a sanctions-hit Iranian ship

CHENNAI, 30 Jan—The eight Indian crew members on board the *MV Amina* had no inkling they were trapped on the frontline of the West's economic war against Iran.

All experienced seamen, they joined the Iranian-flagged cargo ship last year. Within months, they were caught up in a fight to prevent the ship fleeing to international waters to escape port arrest in Sri Lanka. Having disobeyed the captain's orders to weigh anchor, their courage turned to fear.

“The captain taunted us that if you fall in the water I will give a report that says that you tried to commit suicide,” said 42-year-old Jesuraj, a foreman of the ship, speaking to Reuters after he and the others eventually made their way home.

“We had a lifeboat on

standby and were ready to escape if required. We slept with our life jackets with the hope that if the ship did leave for Iran we would jump off and try to get the attention of some fishing boat.”

For a few miserable weeks, this was life on the sharp edge of a sanctions regime that has battered the Iranian economy and squeezed the shipping fleet it relies on for commerce, cutting off funds that the West says could

be ploughed into expensive nuclear arms programmes.

The Indians left the ship after authorities intervened, returned their confiscated passports and took them ashore in Sri Lanka.

Subsequently, the *Amina* was fired on by Sri Lanka's navy when it tried to make another getaway. A few days later, the Iranian captain took advantage of rough seas to flee, bringing the ship into Iran's Bandar Abbas port last week.

Reuters



*MV Amina*, an Iranian-flagged cargo ship, is seen in this undated photograph off Sri Lanka coast. REUTERS



At least 65 people were found shot dead with their hands bound in Syria's Aleppo, on 29 Jan, 2013. XINHUA

## Violence engulfs key Syrian cities, activists say 50,000 killed in crisis

DAMASCUS, 30 Jan—Three explosive devices went off on Tuesday in Syria's capital of Damascus, leaving injuries and property loss, as a broad-based opposition watchdog placed the overall death toll of Syria's 22-month-old crisis at 50,000.

An explosive device affixed under a car went off on Tuesday near Jisr al-Zahira area in Damascus, leaving material damages only, the pro-government Sham FM

said, adding that another roadside bomb tore through the car of a Syrian parliamentarian, who was injured in the blast. The state-run SANA news agency, meanwhile, said a roadside bomb went off in the old quarter of Damascus late on Tuesday, injuring a storekeeper. Also in the old quarter of Damascus, a fire broke out in the Swaiqa market late Tuesday, setting ablaze a number of shops and killing three people, a local online news

website said, adding that the reason behind the fire has been unknown. Meanwhile, a military source was quoted by local media as confirming that the town of Aqraba, located near the road to the international airport of Damascus, has become under control of the Syrian army after long-standing battles with the rebels. The state-media also said the army eliminated many gunmen during clashes in hotbeds around Damascus.—Xinhua



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

YouTube preparing to offer paid subscriptions this year: report

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Jan—YouTube, the video website owned by Google Inc, plans to offer paid subscriptions to some of the content on its site later this year, according to a media report.

YouTube has reached out to several video producers, asking them to submit applications to create for-pay “channels,” according to a report in AdAge on Tuesday that cited anonymous sources.

The first such channels could be available to consumers by the second quarter for between \$1 a month and \$5 a month, AdAge reported.

YouTube, the world’s No 1 video website, has been moving to add professional-grade video programs to the vast archive of amateur, home-shot videos that made the site popular. The current crop of such channels is available to

consumers for free and supported by advertising that appears alongside the videos.

YouTube has hinted in the past that it was considering offering subscription-based paid content. YouTube boss Salar Kamangar told Reuters in June that there was strong demand among certain YouTube video producers, such as video game networks, to offer fee-based programs.

“They have such a big audiences that they can start to segment their audiences into those that are willing to pay a higher amount” for things like new gaming tricks, Kamangar said at the time. He also said that cable channels with small audiences could potentially be offered to consumers through YouTube on an “a la carte” basis. YouTube was not immediately available for comment.

Reuters



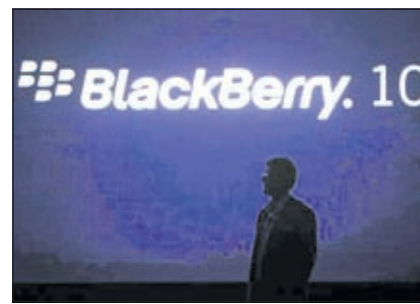
Visitors walk past a YouTube stand during the International Record Music Publishing and Video Music Market (MIDEEM) in Cannes on 27 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

RIM faces its day of reckoning with BlackBerry 10 launch

NEW YORK, 30 Jan—The innovative line of BlackBerry smartphones that Research In Motion Ltd will formally unveil on Wednesday has already succeeded on one crucial count—getting RIM back in the conversation.

The new BlackBerry 10 has created a buzz among technology watchers and financial analysts, thanks to nifty features that may set it apart in an overcrowded smartphone market. RIM stock has almost tripled over the past four months on hopes the devices can restore RIM to sustained prosperity.

Reviewers like the browser speed and the intuitive keyboard on RIM’s new touchscreen. A feature called BlackBerry Balance, which keeps corporate and personal data separate, could help RIM rebuild its traditional base of big business customers.



Research In Motion Chief Executive Officer Thorsten Heins is silhouetted during the BlackBerry World event in Orlando on 1 May, 2012.

REUTERS

It’s a welcome start for RIM, the smartphone pioneer that has teetered on the brink of irrelevance. But success will come only if consumer and business customers embrace the new technology in the weeks and months after CEO Thorsten Heins takes the wraps off the phone at a glitzy New York launch. RIM is gambling its survival on the much-delayed BlackBerry 10, hoping to claw its way back into an industry now dominated by Apple Inc’s iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd’s Galaxy.

The timing may be just right. The new phone

hits the market just as the iPhone’s remarkable run is showing some signs of slowing. “I really do believe that the consumer market as a whole is ready for something new,” said Kevin Burden, head of mobility at Strategy Analytics, an industry consulting firm. “I have to believe that there is some level of user fatigue that plays into the longevity of some of these platforms,” he added, referring to Google Inc’s Android and Apple’s iOS, which are both more than five years old. “RIM is probably timing it right.”

Reuters

Apple announces iPad with double storage capacity

NEW YORK, 30 Jan—Apple Inc said on Tuesday that it will sell a version of its iPad tablet computer with 128 gigabytes of storage, which is twice the capacity of its existing models.

Apple, which has sold more than 120 mil-

lion iPads so far, said that the new iPad will go on sale 5 February, in black or white, for a suggested retail price of \$799 for the iPad with just Wi-Fi model, and \$929 for the version that also has a cellular wireless connection.

Reuters Customers visit the Apple store on 5th Avenue in New York, on 19 Sept, 2012. REUTERS



NASA to launch ocean wind monitor to space station

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan—The US space agency NASA announced on Tuesday that it will launch the ISS-RapidScat instrument to the International Space Station in 2014 to measure ocean-surface wind speed and direction.

The ISS-RapidScat instrument will help improve weather forecasts, including hurricane monitoring, and understanding of how ocean-atmosphere interactions influence Earth’s climate.

It will help fill the data gap created when QuikScat, which was designed to last two years but oper-



NASA to launch ocean wind monitor to space station.

XINHUA

ated for 10, stopped collecting ocean wind data in late 2009.

NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have studied next-generation

replacements for QuikScat, but a successor will not be available soon. To meet this challenge cost-effectively, NASA proposed adapting leftover QuikScat hardware in combination with new

hardware for use on the space station.

ISS-RapidScat will have measurement accuracy similar to QuikScat’s and will survey all regions of Earth accessible from the space station’s orbit. The instrument will be launched to the space station aboard a SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft.

It will be installed on the end of the station’s Columbus laboratory as an autonomous payload requiring no interaction by station crew members. It is expected to operate aboard the station for two years.

Xinhua

Russia takes deeper roots in Antarctica for scientific purposes

MOSCOW, 30 Jan—Russia entrenched itself deeper in Antarctica for continuing scientific researches there, a government Press service said on Tuesday.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has signed a plan of work of the Russian Antarctic expedition for 2013-2017 and beyond, according to the Press service.

The plan includes conducting annual expeditions in Antarctica for land and marine studies, observing global climate changes and supporting space exploration.

tions.

“Overall, the plan focuses on expansion of Russia’s presence in Antarctica and implementation of some key projects,” it said. Russia maintains five permanent polar stations in Antarctica and plans to allocate another 60 billion rubles (about 2 billion US dollars) to implement a wide range of new projects, state-run RIA news agency said.

The plan also envisaged further research of the subglacial Lake Vostok where Russia’s Vostok Sta-



tion is deployed. Russia joined the Antarctic Treaty and its Environmental Protocol in 1959. The current

Russian plan of Antarctic explorations expired in 2012.

Xinhua

Apple updates software to iOS 6.1

BEIJING, 30 Jan—Apple issued updated software iOS 6.1 on Monday which could fix bugs and accelerate downloads speed.

LTE support on iOS 6.1 covers more markets, therefore users in more areas of the world can enjoy faster website browsing, downloads, as well as FaceTime video calls. Based on iOS 6.1, US users can download favorite songs to their mobiles from iCloud, and buy movie tickets through the devices.

Users of the updated iOS



6.1 should leave at least 1GB of storage so as to install. iOS 6 has been launched in September, which is the world’s most advanced cell phone operating system with nearly 300 million users on the devices, according to CNN.

Xinhua



BUSINESS & HEALTH

Could an earlier lunchtime help you lose weight?

NEW YORK, 30 Jan—Dieters who ate early lunches tended to lose more weight than those who had their midday meal on the later side, in a new Spanish study. The finding doesn't prove bumping up your lunch hour will help you shed those extra pounds. But it's possible eating times play a role in how the body regulates its weight, researchers said. "We should now seriously start to consider the timing of food—not just what we eat, but also when we eat," said study co-author Frank Scheer, from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

His team's research included 420 people attending nutrition clinics in southeast Spain. Along with going to regular group therapy sessions with nutrition and exercise

counseling, dieters measured, weighed and recorded their food and reported on their daily physical activity. Study participants were on a Mediterranean diet, in which about 40 percent of each day's calories are consumed at lunch. About half of people said they ate lunch before 3:00 pm and half after. Over 20 weeks of counseling, early and late lunchers ate a similar amount of food, based on their food journals, and burned a similar amount of calories through daily activities.

However, early eaters lost an average of 22 pounds—just over 11 percent of their starting weight—and late eaters dropped 17 pounds, or nine percent of their initial weight. What time dieters ate breakfast or dinner wasn't linked to their ultimate weight loss, according to findings



published on Tuesday in the *International Journal of Obesity*. One limitation of the study is that the researchers didn't assign people randomly to eat early or late - so it's possible there were other underlying differences between dieters with different mealtimes. Certain gene variants that have been linked to obesity were more common in late lunchers, for example.

Dr Yunsheng Ma, a nutrition researcher from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, said people who eat later may

have extra food in their stomach when they go to sleep—which could mean more of it isn't burned and ends up being stored as fat. "One of the other aspects to this is, what we know is glucose tolerance for example—how well you can deal with sugar in your food—your body is better able to cope with that in the morning than in the evening," Scheer told *Reuters Health*.

Reuters

Fashion-minded businesses eyeing middle-aged women

TOKYO, 30 Jan—Apparel makers, department stores and other fashion-sensitive businesses are striving to attract women in their 40s and 50s as they remain active consumers regardless of economic conditions.

"When we were university students, we had part-time jobs and spent our money on brand-name dresses and bags," says a 47-year-old planning manager at a company in Tokyo's Ginza shopping and entertainment district. "Those in our generation have a feeling we're always the main characters in society."

After returning to Japan from an overseas assignment, she got married and now has two children

who are in the second and sixth grades in elementary school. Although busy with both parenting and working, she still pays attention to fashion trends and cosmetics.

Kyodo News



Supplied photo shows women in their 40s trying beauty products during events in September 2012 in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward held by Takarajimasha Inc. for readers of its GLOW fashion magazine targeting women in the age bracket.

KYODO NEWS

More adults need vaccines, and not just for flu: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention



ATLANTA, 30 Jan—The flu isn't the only illness adults should be immunized against, US health officials said on Tuesday, as a new study found current adult vaccination rates in the country "unacceptably low." The report by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concluded that a "substantial increase" in adult vaccinations is

needed to prevent diseases including pneumonia, tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis, shingles and whooping cough.

"Far too few adults are getting vaccinated against these important diseases, and we need to do more," said Dr Howard Koh, an assistant secretary for the US Department of Health and Human Services. In 2011, there were 37,000 cases of

invasive pneumonia in the United States, and most of the 4,000 people who died from the illness were over the age of 50, Koh said. The CDC, a federal agency, recommends that older patients at risk for pneumonia receive vaccinations for the disease, he said.

Adults who don't get vaccinated can put others, including children, at risk, Koh said. In 2012, 9,300 adults were diagnosed with whooping cough out of a total of 42,000 cases. "When the source is identified, four out of five babies who got whooping cough caught it from someone in the home, a parent, sister, brother, grandparent or babysitter," he said. "These are just examples of why adult vaccines are critical to the public health of our country."

Reuters

Ford set to offset losses in Europe with profits in North America

CHICAGO, 30 Jan—Ford Motor Co said on Tuesday that its profit in North America would be enough to offset its deepening losses in Europe in 2013.

With sales outlook deteriorating in Europe, Ford expects to lose two billion dollars there in 2013, worse than the 1.75-billion-dollar

loss in 2012. However, the No 2 US automaker expects to earn more in North America in 2013.

Ford reported a pretax operating profit of nearly 1.7 billion dollars, or 31 cents per share in the fourth quarter 2012, better than the average analysts' estimate of 25 cents per share. This

was also higher than the 1.1 billion dollars or 20 cents per share it earned a year earlier. Ford's fourth-quarter revenue totaled 36.5 billion dollars. Ford earned nearly 1.9 billion dollars in North America in the quarter, almost one billion dollars better than the fourth quarter of 2011.—Reuters

JAL, Japan Post to start home delivery of Japanese fresh foods in Asia

TOKYO, 30 Jan—Japan Airlines Co and Japan Post Co said on Tuesday they will jointly start a door-to-door express delivery service for fresh food, including fruit and fishery products from Japan, to Singapore and Taiwan using special cool boxes.

The move comes as demand for Japanese food is growing in Asia in line with the rise in the number of visitors to the country, backed by economic expansion in the region. It will also facilitate



Japan Airlines Co President Yoshiharu Ueki (L) and Japan Post Co President Shinichi Nabeshima shake hands in Tokyo on 29 Jan, 2013.

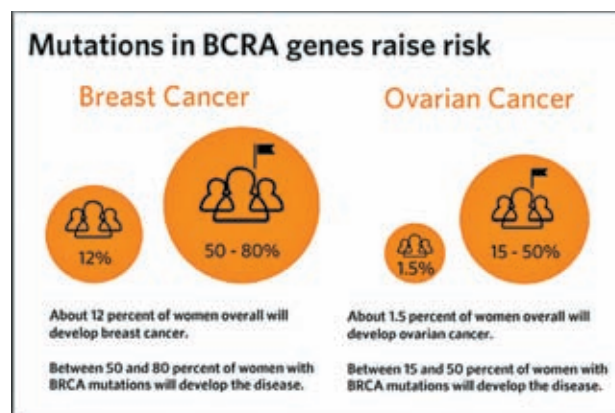
KYODO NEWS

Japan's farming and fishery industries in supplying their products to individual homes, the two companies said.

They will operate the service from April to March next year on a trial basis, with two post offices in Hokkaido and Kanagawa prefectures collecting shipments. The companies aim to expand the service to other parts of Asia including Hong Kong, Shanghai and South Korea, they said.

Kyodo News

Cancer gene mutation linked to earlier menopause



NEW YORK, 30 Jan—Women carrying BRCA mutations tied to breast and ovarian cancer may hit menopause a few years earlier than other women, according to a new study. Doctors already discuss with those women whether they want immediate surgery to remove their ovaries and breasts, or if they want to start a family first and hold off on ovary

removal. "Now they have an additional issue to deal with," said Dr Mitchell Rosen, who worked on the new study at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Centre. An estimated one in 600 US women carries the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutation. Those mutations greatly increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

According to the National Cancer Institute, a woman's chance of getting breast cancer at some point in her life increases from 12 to 60 percent with a BRCA mutation, and ovarian cancer from 1.4 percent to between 15 and 40 percent.

What has been less well studied is whether those mutations also affect a woman's egg stores and her chance of getting pregnant. For the new study, the researchers surveyed 382 California women who carried the BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation and another 765 women who weren't known carriers. The study team focused specifically on women who went through menopause naturally—and not those who had their ovaries removed before menopause.—Reuters



## WORLD

## British Prime Minister to visit Algeria



British Prime Minister David Cameron

LONDON, 30 Jan — British Prime Minister David Cameron will visit Algeria as the first head of state from a country whose

citizens died in the siege on a gas plant by Islamist militants earlier this month.

The Prime Minister's Office says Cameron

will travel to Algeria on Wednesday to meet with his Algerian counterpart, Abdelmalek Sellal.

Cameron is expected to ask about the progress of the government's investigation into the siege, which took place at a gas plant jointly operated by British oil giant BP. Four Britons were among victims in the siege, which resulted in the deaths of many foreigners, including 10 Japanese.

The two leaders are expected to discuss ways to increase cooperation in anti-terrorism efforts.

Cameron has said North Africa is becoming a "magnet for jihadists," and that Britain will work with other countries to combat terrorism in the region.

NHK

## Fendi to fund restoration of Rome's Trevi Fountain

ROME, 30 Jan—Rome's famous Trevi Fountain is being restored courtesy of the Italian designer brand Fendi, a well-known fashion house.

City officials announced on Monday that Fendi will shoulder the cost of 2.18 million euros, or about 2.9 million dollars, for the 20-month long project. The fountain was originally completed in 1762 and is known for tourists throwing coins into the water to ensure a prompt return to the historical city.

The work will proceed in a way that will allow visitors to see the fountain and toss in coins. In return for the funding Fendi will be able to put up a small

sign near the fountain for 4 years. This marks another case where the cultural assets of the country, which is continuing austerity measures, are being restored by private sector firms. The restoration of Rome's ancient Colosseum is proceeding with funds from another designer brand. Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno expressed hope for more donations of the same kind, saying that they will not be able to save the cultural history of the country without similar initiatives.—NHK



Roman architect Nicola Salvi's masterpiece, the Trevi Fountain, built between 1732 and 1762.

## Xi stresses loyalty, stability of armed police

BEIJING, 30 Jan— Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Tuesday stressed the stability of the armed police and its absolute loyalty to the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and also chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission (CMC), made the remarks during an inspection tour of the armed police in Beijing. He urged them to build a strong force with a fine work style.

"The armed police forces should be united, secure and stable," Xi said.

The armed police should follow the absolute leadership of the CPC, and loyalty to the Party is always the foremost politi-

cal requirement for them, he said. Xi reiterated that the armed police should be aware of its role in maintaining stability and improve its fighting capacity in order to achieve multiple tasks, including routine duties as well as handling emergencies. He also told the country's armed police forces to keep on high alert in maintaining the country's stability, as the current situation is "complicated."

"Forces should always maintain their readiness and capabilities for combat to ensure victory," Xi said. "The forces' fighting capability is the center for armed police construction."

Also, such construction should be carried out in a scientific and comprehen-



Xi Jinping (C, front), General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and also chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, talks with members of the 13th detachment of the Beijing contingent of Chinese People's Armed Police Force in Beijing, capital of China, on 29 Jan, 2013. Xi made an inspection tour in the armed police forces in Beijing on Tuesday to convey festival greetings to the nation's armed policemen on behalf of the CPC Central Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commission.—XINHUA

sive manner, he said.

During his inspection, Xi greeted armed police at grassroots level and encouraged them to make a greater

contribution to local development. Vice chairmen of the CMC Fan Changlong and Xu Qiliang also attended the inspection.—Xinhua

## Argentina rebuffs Israeli anger over 1994 bombing probe

BUENOS AIRES, 30 Jan— Argentina said on Tuesday that it "vehemently rejected" Israel's demand for explanations on a joint commission set up by Argentina and Iran to probe the 1994 bombing of a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires.

"The attack suffered by our people on 18 July, 1994 did not involve any Israeli citizen. The victims were mostly Argentine citizens and include six Bolivians, two Poles and a Chilean," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Earlier in the day, Argentina's Ambassador Carlos Garcia to Israel was summoned to the foreign ministry for a clarification talk on the Memorandum of Understanding signed on Sunday between Argentina and Iran. Argentina's Foreign Ministry said it con-

sidered the "summons to demand explanations about sovereign decisions made by the Republic of Argentina to be an inappropriate act that we vehemently reject and that goes against the traditional ties of friendship existing between both countries."

On Sunday, Argentine President Cristina Fernandez announced the "historic" agreement with Iran and said the five-member commission will be composed of "internationally renowned legal experts," none of whom is from either of the two countries to ensure objectivity. On 18 July, 1994, a bomb leveled a seven-story building housing the Israeli-Argentinean Mutual Aid Association (AMIA), killing 85 people and injuring more than 700 others.—Xinhua

## China's parliamentary session to avoid extravagance

BEIJING, 30 Jan— The upcoming annual parliamentary session will be frugal, as well as feature shorter speeches and fewer traffic controls, according to a statement from the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee on Wednesday.

Li Jianguo, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, has urged efforts to improve work style and curb banquets during the first session of the 12th NPC, the statement said.

Li made the remarks following Chinese leader Xi Jinping's written comment calling for promotion of the fine tradition of "being diligent and thrifty" and the idea

of "honour to frugality and shame to extravagance."

The NPC Standing Committee statement said expenditures will be tightened for the first session of 12th NPC. The intensity and duration of traffic controls during the session should be properly limited and road closures should be kept to a minimum. There will be no flowers in NPC deputies' hotel rooms and no welcoming ceremonies at the airport or railway stations, according to the statement.

All deputies will eat at buffets without expensive food or alcohol, while extravagant galas, gifts and performances will not be arranged.

NPC deputies will be encouraged to focus on key issues and avoid empty talk, while the media will be encouraged to report more on deputies from grassroots areas. The number of session staffers will also be strictly controlled, the statement added.

The measures are part of a sweeping campaign to reduce extravagance and improving the working style of Communist Party of China (CPC) and government officials. The first annual session of the 12th NPC will convene on 5 March, 2013, during which top state leaders, including the country's president, will be elected.

Xinhua

## Armenian president looks set to be re-elected

YEREVAN, 30 Jan— Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan looks set to be re-elected in the forthcoming presidential poll scheduled for 18 February, a survey has found. Sargsyan is a runaway favourite with the support of 66 percent of voters, according to a Gallup poll whose results were released on Tuesday.

Former Foreign Minister Raffi Hovhannisyán is in a distant second place with 10 percent of support, followed by former Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan with 4 percent.—Xinhua



Pakistani paramilitary soldiers stand guard on road due to security high alert in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on Jan. 29, 2013. At least one policeman was killed and two others injured on Tuesday evening in an attack at a police station in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, local media reported.—XINHUA



## WORLD

## One soldier injured in clashes with armed group in central Tunisia

TUNIS, 30 Jan—Overnight clashes between a group of three armed men and anti-terrorist units left one soldier injured in Tunisia's central town of Kasserine, near the border with Algeria, Mosaique FM reported on Tuesday.

The officer, who was injured in the leg following a heavy gunfire exchange between the security units

and the assailants, was sent to a military hospital in the Tunisian capital of Tunis, according to the report.

The armed men who were carrying machine guns managed to escape into the nearby mountain of Salloum, where anti-terrorist units are combing with the help of helicopters.

A number of automatic weapons were seized, the

report said.

Similar incidents involving groups of armed assailants were reported last month in the same area, near the Chaambi mountain. One member of the national guard was killed in clashes between his unit and the terrorists, the official TAP Press agency said.

Xinhua



Chilean President Sebastian Pinera (L) and Finnish Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen (R) review the honour guard prior to participate in a signing ceremony of bilateral agreements at the La Moneda Palace, in the city of Santiago, capital of Chile, on 29 Jan, 2013. Katainen is on an official visit to Chile.—XINHUA



Myoho Asari (R), her father Koichi (2nd from R) and her second son Ryotoku (L) prepare steamed rice for putting koji mold into it recently, at their store Kojiya Honten in Saiki, Oita Prefecture.

KYODO NEWS

## Uruguay, Mexico to boost cooperation in education, trade

MONTEVIDEO, 30 Jan—Mexico and Uruguay have agreed to boost cooperation in education programmes and strengthen economic ties. The agreement was reached at a meeting here between Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and his Uruguayan counterpart Jose Mujica on late Monday.

During the meeting, Pena Nieto showed interest in Uruguay's "Plan Ceibal," an education programme aimed at providing each Uruguayan student with a laptop computer, and promised to initiate a similar programme in Mexico.

Mujica pledged to "transfer all our experience" to support the programme in Mexico.

Mujica also asked for establishing Uruguay's first technological university with cooperation from Mexico, which he said "has more than 60 technological universities."

In economic cooperation, Pena Nieto said he

wants to expand bilateral trade with Uruguay under Mexico's free trade agreement with the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), which consists of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

He advocated for a joint commitment "to establishing several mechanisms to revise the current free trade framework and expand our exchange."

Before the visit, Pena Nieto reaffirmed Mexico's interest in closer ties with the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Pena Nieto and Mujica flew to Uruguay together from Santiago, Chile following the first summit between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union, which concluded on Monday.

Since Uruguay and Mexico signed a free trade agreement in 2004, bilateral trade has increased by 15 percent annually.—Xinhua

## Zambia's mining firm stuck with 60,000 tons of copper concentrates

LUSAKA, 29 Jan—A mining firm in Zambia is stuck with 60,000 tons of copper concentrates because all the country's smelters are heavily congested with the mineral, the *Times of Zambia* reported on Tuesday.

Kansanshi Mine Plc, owned by Canada's First Quantum Minerals Limited situated in northwestern Zambia's Solwezi district, says it has failed to turn the copper concentrates into cathodes because all the

smelters were crammed up and the company is appealing for a duty waiver so that it could export the concentrates.

The company, which does not own a smelter of its own but transports the copper concentrates to other mining firms that have smelters, has appealed for a waiver on the concentrates which currently stands at 10 percent so that the pile-up of the concentrates could be reduced. "We are sitting on as much as 60,000 tons

of copper concentrates. The smelters on the Copperbelt province are choker blocker and we cannot export this concentrate because it will attract a 10 percent duty and that makes it more expensive," Matt Pascall, the company's director of operations, was quoted as saying by the paper.

He said the government will gain more money if the company is allowed to take the concentrates to neighboring countries for processing.—Xinhua



A mobile land-based missile regiment under the South China Sea Fleet of the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted an actual-troop and live-ammunition drill to project military strength by ways of railway, highway and seaway.—XINHUA

## NY Senate motion condemns wartime Japan's "comfort women" system

NEW YORK, 30 Jan—The New York Senate on Tuesday passed a resolution honouring a "comfort women" monument erected in the state, saying it is a reminder that the coercion of Asian women into sexual servitude by the wartime Japanese military was a "crime against humanity," a staff member of a lawmaker said.

The resolution says approximately 200,000 young women were forced into military prostitution during the Japanese colonial and wartime occupation of parts of Asia and some Pacific Islands.

It nevertheless toned down the condemnation of Japan expressed in an earlier draft. The draft resolution sought an apology from the Japanese government and

encouraged it to "accept historical responsibility and educate future generations about these crimes."

The resolution honors a monument established in 2012 in New York that it says "symbolizes suffering endured by comfort women and serves as a reminder of the crime against humanity committed through the comfort women system."

In October, a South Korean civic group put an ad in *New York's Times Square* urging the Japanese government to apologize for victimized women.

In response, conservative Japanese lawmakers including Shinzo Abe, who became Prime Minister in late December, published an ad in a local newspaper in the neighbouring state of New Jersey saying that no

historical documents have been found that show women "were forced against their will" into prostitution by the Imperial Japanese Army.—Kyodo News

## Russia to launch more satellites

MOSCOW, 30 Jan—Russia plans to expand its orbital satellite group from 75 satellites at present to 113 in 2020, head of the Federal Space Agency, Roscosmos, said on Tuesday.

"We expect by 2015 the orbital group will consist of 95 and by 2020 of 113 satellites," Vladimir Popovkin told students of Bauman Technical University in Moscow. Popovkin said the space agency would spend one third of its budget developing new spacecraft and engines, including a nuclear-powered booster. "We plan to construct its prototype in 2018 so we could start its testing."

Popovkin envisaged that the new Russian module of the International Space Station could become a separate orbital station. "We build this module the way it could function autonomously as a small orbital station for scientific purposes," he said. The official also mentioned Russia might cut the number of carrier rocket launches from Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan after 2016, given Astana's complaints about environmental damage launches have inflicted.

Xinhua



Mali's interim President Dioncounda Traore (front) attends a high-level donors conference on Mali at the headquarters of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA



## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 31 January, 2013

**Political tolerance**

More than two years ago, Myanmar, in general context, was quite a stranger to democracy while the word 'politics' was a taboo. But the society — even some, if not many, politicians — still could not swallow some basic democratic practices even about two years after the first-ever general election in decades.

Many have accepted that democracy is the principle of majority rule with respect for the rights of individuals or groups in the minority. Since the first-ever parliamentary session, the lower house speaker warned against 'the tyranny of the majority'. The first two years of Myanmar democracy have tested 'political tolerance' of Myanmar politicians and society. We need to reassess how much we could safeguard freedom of expression and divergent opinions.

We could not force any society into unity. It could only be established voluntarily. To ensure unity, we must guarantee that every individual of the society has the fundamental and equal rights to hold divergent opinions but follows the majority rule.

Neither gun nor suppression will resolve any problems. We need to find solutions through political dialogues as we now have a legitimate parliament. It is not the time to see each other as enemy, define black and white, and play blame game. Every stakeholder of Myanmar's political circle needs to tolerate different views and accept realities. If we give no room for divergent opinions, we will never reach our common goal of democracy.

## Second SEAGF Council Meeting approves 33 sports in Myanmar SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan— President of South East Asian Games Federation Council and Myanmar National Olympic Committee and Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan addressed second SEAGF Council Meeting at Thingaha Hotel here yesterday morning.

The Union Minister said, "Sports are the most effective diplomatic means to tighten cross-cultural ties and unity among nations."

He stressed the need of "fair play and sportsmanship". He said he is confident that XXVII SEA Games would be "another milestone to our common search for regional peace and tranquility through friendly competitions".

Minutes of the previous SEAGF Council Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 July, 2012, were approved and issues arising from the minutes discussed at the

meeting.

Myanmar Olympic Committee made presentation on sports, disciplines, events and venues in XXVII SEA



*The Second South East Asian Games Federation Council Meeting in progress.—MNA*

Games to be hosted by Myanmar in December, 2013, and sought approval for them.

Singapore National Olympic Council elaborated on preparation for XXVIII SEA Games to be hosted by

Pilgrims and tourists visiting the many famous pagodas in tourist frequented towns like Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Taunggyi, Inlay, etcetera, will surely notice a curious object among many articles and artifacts of interest around its premise. It is indeed a stone taking the oval or egg shape. The stone is smooth maybe due to the natural process of friction in the riverbed of the flowing rivers, streams or creeks for thousands of years till they are taken from the river bed and placed in the prayer hall of the pagodas or places of worship. It has a diameter of 20 to 25 cm. It is commonly known as 'The Wishing Stone'. It is found at the foot of a raised throne where the relic image of Lord Buddha reposed in the open prayer hall facing the entrance. Sometimes it is placed at the foot of the Bo Bo Gyi or guardian spirits standing guard at the pagodas.

What is the purpose of this mystical stone in such revered place of worship, one may tend to inquire. In fact it is a medium through which a person consults to know about what lies in store for his future. It is indeed a form of self-invocation, which he needs to exercise in all seriousness to have his prayers come true and his wishes fulfilled.

It is indeed human nature in its innate desire to want to know his future. Such desire has spurred man to study ways of probing the unknown and delve into its innermost secrets. Mystical

sciences such as astrology, astronomy, occultism, palmistry, consulting philosopher's stone charting of horoscope (man's life chart) had developed more than four thousand years ago in the ancient kingdoms of Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, Sumeria, Greece and Rome in the Middle East; in India and China in the Far East. Fortune-telling, palm reading, extrasensory perception, predictions through mediums, sooth-sayings et cetera have prevailed through these centuries to satisfy the human urge to pry into the unknown and the tomorrow yet unborn.

This mystery has also excited the imaginations of people who by in-depth study and practice become endowed with supreme insight. Their contributions through their writings to the realms of mysticism, kept people guessing whether their far reaching prophecies bore elements of authenticity. Myanmar Buddhists are generally familiar with the sixteen episodes of King Kosala's dream when Lord Buddha, the Supreme self-Enlightened one was alive more than 2500 years ago. Nostradamus (1530-1566) a French physician and astrologer became famous for prophesizing events which he believed would take place centuries ahead of time. The predictions became instantly popular which kept people guessing up to this day. Another western seer Jean Dickenson foresaw with apprehension

President John F. Kennedy's impending tragedy in 1963. Fortunately not all such predictions came true, leaving our world a better place.

Along with the Oriental Asians of the East Asian Continent, our countrymen believe in such predictions. Although devout Buddhists professing the sacred tenets of Buddhist they do not fully discard these mundane practices prevalent since the days of King Anawrathaa thousand years ago with the Ari Rahans. And there are professionals who are specifically skilled to do just that: fulfilling their curiosity. Myanmar abounds with astrologers, palmists, seers, mediums, *Bodaws*, (with their philosopher's stones), *Natgadaws et cetera*, who work on the weakness of men and the majority of women to satisfy their desire to foresee beyond the present. These Sayas are usually found in places where pilgrims, tourists frequent, namely famous pagodas, temples, and monasteries where relic images reposed. They set up their consultancy along the front facing him for the client to sit. They also occupy pedestrian walks at the crossroads of busy streets in downtowns. For a small fee charged towards casual consultation they make people happy when the stars are good, and pacify them by corrective prayers (*yadaya*) to offset their ill-effects when the stars are not to their liking.

Consulting a Wishing Stone is however a form

of self-invocation where no interpreter is needed. One only needs to exercise this consultation with all seriousness and unwavering faith. It must not be played lightly as a joke. In the premise where the wishing stone is situated such as the pagodas, and holy statues, guardian spirits abound to ward off the evil ghosts and protect the devout pilgrims. Such vibrations can be felt by the holy monks and lay saints devoted to higher contemplation.

Certain rituals and formalities need to be performed by those who need the revelation. The preliminary prayer must be recited. Then he will need to diffuse universal loving-kindness (*metta*). In this process he must keep his mind open and focused. And then he/she may invoke the vow by saying as follows: 'If what I have vowed were to come true, may this stone which I hold become light as feather. If not may it turn heavy.' After recitation he may lift the Stone from the floor and note the prediction, which only he may be the judge. Then he may recite again in reverse order and note the prediction.

This is the story of the Wishing Stone commonly found in the premises of pagodas, but passed unnoticed by many visitors and pilgrims. The author attempts to bring this episode to your awareness and maybe try your quest. Whatever the case may present, desire to know one's future will keep on haunting man come what may.

## ARTICLE

## THE WISHING STONE

BY BA THAN

## Taking nationwide census needs international assistance: Union I&P Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan— "Forming Central Census Commission and its related committees, the Ministry of Immigration and Population is striving for successful collecting of nationwide census in 2014 through the adopted four steps. To meet standard in taking census, the ministry is working in collaboration with UNFPA. The ministry is still in need of international assistance though it is hiring experts and using cutting-edge technology," said Chairman of Central Census Commission Union Minister for Immigration and

Population U Khin Yi at the meeting with Ambassadors to Myanmar from foreign missions and charge d'affaires, at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 28 January.

UNDP resident representative Mr. Ashok Nigam, UNFPA resident representative Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Ahad and officials concerned presented reports on assistance of UN and global countries in taking nationwide census in 2014.

The Union Minister and officials concerned answered the queries raised by those present.

NLM

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NATIONAL

“Blood” movie brings Japan-Myanmar friendship to mind



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and party enjoy movie “Blood” at Thabin Hall.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—

The special show of “Blood” movie was presented in order to perpetuate Myanmar-Japan bilateral ties at Thabin Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here this evening.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

U Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Speakers U Nanda Kyaw Swa and U Mya Nyein, Union Ministers, representatives of Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, deputy ministers, the deputy attorney-general, responsible persons from Hluttaw Office, Chairman of Myanmar-Janpan Friend-

ship Association Dr Khin Shwe, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Koji Chino, officials and the Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and film stars watched the movie.

The “blood” novel is the work of Journal Kyaw Ma Ma

Lay and the movie’s script was written by Japanese Director Mr Koji Chino and Myanmar-Japan artistes starred in the movie.

After the show, the Hluttaw Speakers enjoyed dinner hosted by Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr Abdelilah El Housni as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Abdelilah El Housni was born in Rabat on 5 September 1958. He got Bachelor Degree from the Administrative National School, Rabat in 1981 and Master Degree of Public Administration from the University of Maine, United States of America in 1991.

Mr Abdelilah El Housni joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco in 1981. He had served as Counsellor in 1991, Minister Plenipotentiary in 1997, and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco to Japan in 1998. He also worked as Chief of Regulations and Planning Division in 2004 and Human Resources Director in 2009. He is married with two children.

Mr Abdelilah El Housni will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand.

Myanmar invites investment for deep seaports

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan— Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Chairman of the Standing Committee on Religion, Arts and Culture House of Representatives of Thailand Mr. Santsak Jaroon Ngampiches and party at his office, here, this noon.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that neighbouring countries Myanmar and Thailand have maintained commercial and economic ties. At present,

the two countries have high potential for making investments and trading. Myanmar is inviting foreign investments for Dawei deep sea port, Thilawa seaport,

Kyaukpyu deep sea port projects. Besides, joint-venture can be set up in agricultural sector as well. Plans are underway to open border trade camps.

Next, the Union Minister answered queries raised by the delegation members. It was attended by the deputy ministers for commerce and departmental heads.—MNA

Myanmar Power Summit launched

YANGON, 30 Jan—The Myanmar Power Summit organized by Ministry of Electric Power and Center For Management Technology (CMT) of Singapore was held at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning, with an address by CMT Managing Director G. Seelan.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe said that only when international assistance and foreign investments flow into the electric sector, a core for economic growth, will it develop.

The summit introduces officials concerned of the ministry to electrical experts home and abroad. Those present could decide to make investments in the sector after knowing current

situations of the Myanmar electric sector through the presentations by engineers of the ministry.

Besides, it spreads knowledge and ideas on sustainable development of the sector shared by World Bank, IFC, KEPCO and other organizations.

The Union Minister accepted USD 3000 donated by CMT for constructions of two projectors to be used in the ministry and relief and rehabilitation tasks being

undertaken in Rakhine State.

The resource persons answered the queries raised by media.

Country Manager (Myanmar) of World Bank Mr. Kanthan Shankar presented reports on possibilities for emerging of infrastructures for sustainable development of Myanmar electric sector and encouragement of World Bank. The summit will last till 31 January.

MNA

US institution discusses cooperation and education reform

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—Deputy Minister for Education Dr Ba Shwe held

talks with a delegation led by Senior Program Officer Ms Linda S Bishai of USIP (United States Institute of Peace) at his office, here, yesterday.

They had a cordial discussion on education reform, cooperation with international organizations and putting peace building process in human society in school curriculum.

MNA

Union NPED Minister receives Thai MPs

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw shakes hands with Chairman of Thailand’s House of Representatives Standing Committee on Religion, Arts and Culture Mr Santsak Jaroon Ngampiches.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan— Chairman of Thailand’s House of Representatives Standing Committee on Religion, Arts and Culture Mr Santsak Jaroon Ngampiches and MPs paid a call on Union Minister

for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw at the latter’s office here this morning.

The Union minister briefed the ongoing political, economic and administrative reforms

and replied to queries of Thai guests on business opportunities under new investment law of Myanmar, potential of special economic zones and measures for agricultural development.—MNA

KIA kills two civilians, injuries three others

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—A military column and KIA group exchanged fire near Mayan Village in Mogaung Township, Kachin State, at about 7.20 pm yesterday.

The clash started as 25

KIA troops opened fire on the military column discharging security duties.

The heavy weapon attack killed two civilians and three others were injured

MNA



## Japanese husbands shout their love for wives in public

TOKYO, 30 Jan—Love was in the air in a Tokyo park as normally staid Japanese husbands gathered to scream out their feelings for their wives, promising gratitude and extra tight hugs.

With modesty and reticence traditionally valued over outspokenness, expressing deeper feelings like love has long been hard in Japan.

That's why dozens of Japanese men gather once

a year ahead of 31 January, which in Japanese is a play on the words for "Beloved Wife," to let their feelings fly.

Declarations at the Tuesday night event ranged from a simple "I'll love you forever" to expressions of gratitude for homemade boxed lunches.

"I'm sorry that I've gained weight over the last seven years," a suit-clad man yelled. "But that's be-

cause the meals you cook are so delicious."

The event, now in its fifth year, was thought up by Kiyotaka Yamana with the support of a local flower shop to urged Japanese men to show their affection in more explicit ways.

"The economy is getting better in Japan and I see a lot of Japanese married couples getting more active in deepening their relationships," Yamana said.

Wives in the audience laughed and clapped, especially when one man got down on his knees to offer his wife a bouquet.

"He's very fabulous and manly today," said Yuko Todo, 33, after her husband Takeshi's performance. "It just reminded me how macho he used to be—I'd forgotten that in the eight years we've been married. My heart pounded."—Reuters

## Man arrested for allegedly abandoning bodies of Japan financier, woman

TOKYO, 30 Jan—Police on Tuesday arrested a man on suspicion of abandoning the bodies of a Swiss-based Japanese financier and a woman believed to be the financier's wife, which were found buried in Saitama Prefecture.

Takaaki Kuwahara, 41, unemployed and of no fixed abode, was held earlier Tuesday on an island in Okinawa, southern Japan, in connection with the disappearance of Makoto Shimomi, the 51-year-old financier, and his wife since early December while on a trip home from Switzerland.

The police have also obtained arrest warrants for several other people, in-

cluding a 43-year-old company executive acquainted with Shimomi.

The bodies found on Monday in a vacant lot, showed signs of strangulation. The police have identified one body as that of Shimomi and are confirming through DNA analysis whether the other is that of his 48-year-old wife Mie.

The couple disappeared after leaving their condo in Tokyo's Ginza commercial district on 7 December, the police said.

A vehicle in which they are believed to have traveled was found near the bodies found buried in Kuki, Saitama Prefecture, north of Tokyo.

Kyodo News



A 29 Jan, 2013, photo from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a vacant lot in Kuki, Saitama Prefecture, where the body of a Swiss-based Japanese financier and another body believed to be that of his wife have been found. The wealthy couple went missing in early December 2012 after traveling back from Switzerland.

KYODO NEWS

## Fast Retailing to open world's largest Uniqlo store in Shanghai



A 29 Jan, 2013, photo shows a building in Shanghai, China, where Japanese casual-wear retailer Fast Retailing Co plans to open the world's largest Uniqlo fashion store.—KYODO NEWS

SHANGHAI, 30 Jan—Japan's casual-wear retailer Fast Retailing Co plans to open the world's largest Uniqlo fashion store in Shanghai, sources familiar

with the plan said on Tuesday.

The store, which will handle multiple fashion brands owned by Fast Retailing, will likely open for

business before the end of the year.

Fast Retailing currently operates nine so-called "global flagship stores" in the world, including one in Shanghai. In contrast to the existing flagship stores, which handle only Uniqlo brand products, Fast Retailing hopes to widen its customer base by selling various fashion brands in the new Shanghai store.

The new Shanghai store, to be housed inside a commercial building in the busy Huaihailu District, is expected to be substantially larger than the Uniqlo Ginza store, currently the company's largest outlet with 5,000 square metres of shopping space. First Retailing currently operates 182 Uniqlo stores in China, one of the company's key markets in the world. The company has said it plans to open 100 Uniqlo shops in China a year.

Kyodo News

## Nudists lose bid to block San Francisco ban on baring all

NEW YORK, 30 Jan—Nudists in famously tolerant San Francisco lost a bid on Tuesday to block a city ban on nakedness in public places, when a federal judge threw out a legal challenge that argued public nudity was akin to political expression.

San Francisco city leaders last month approved the ban on baring it all in streets, public plazas and the transit system to curtail public nudity, which some residents and business owners complained had gotten out of control.

The efforts to clamp down have caused a flap in

the city, where men in particular are known to parade naked through the streets of the predominantly gay Castro District. Some residents say nudists, and specifically a group known as the Naked Guys, have gone too far with their constant presence at a square in the Castro District. But nudists claim they have a right go naked in public and say politicians in San Francisco, which has often celebrated the bizarre and unconventional, should leave them alone.

Four nudist activists sued in November, even before the measure barring

public nudity was passed by a slim majority of the Board of Supervisors, saying it would violate their constitutional right to free expression.

However, US District Judge Edward Chen concluded that "nudity in and of itself is not inherently expressive," and denied the nudists' request for an injunction blocking the measure, which is due to go into effect on Friday.

Violators face fines of up to \$100 for a first offense and \$200 for a second. A third violation can bring a year in jail and a \$500 penalty.—Reuters



Visitors view the "Diversity Destroyed, Berlin 1933, 1938, 1945" outdoor exhibition in Berlin, Germany, on 29 Jan, 2013. The exhibition features portraits of prominent figures in the field of science, artistic and cultural sphere, who were prosecuted by and suffered from the Nazi regime's cruelty dated back to 1933 until 1945. Berlin Municipality kicks off a series of exhibitions, to remind of the 80th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's usurpation of German power on 30 Jan, 1933.

XINHUA

## New Mexico woman held for locking girl in a cage: police

SANTA FE, 30 Jan—Police in New Mexico found an 8-year-old girl locked in a cage in a darkened mobile home, authorities said on Tuesday, adding that they charged the girl's adoptive mother, who had gone to the movies, with child abuse.

Cindy Patriarchias, 33, and her boyfriend were arrested after police found the caged girl on Friday evening, Las Cruces Police Department spokesman Dan Trujillo said.

He said police, acting on a tip from the woman's estranged husband, found the girl in the corner of a bedroom locked inside the

cage, about four feet high, slightly more than two feet wide and about five feet long.

The homemade wooden structure had two latches and a baby crib mattress on the floor, Trujillo said.

He said Patriarchias had been charged with one count of negligent child abuse while her boyfriend was charged with one count of negligently permitting child abuse. Patriarchias was released on bond on Tuesday but her boyfriend is still being held, authorities said. The girl was seen by medical personnel but showed no visible signs of physical abuse.—Reuters



Annual Up Helly Aa fire festival is celebrated in the Shetland Islands, Scotland, on 29 Jan, 2013. Up Helly Aa is an event that celebrates Shetland's Viking heritage and culminates with the dramatic burning of a replica Viking galley.

XINHUA



## REGIONAL

## Australian PM fixes federal election date on 14 September

CANBERRA, 30 Jan—Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard made a surprise announcement on Wednesday that the federal election will be held on 14 September.

Gillard made clear of the election date during an address to the National Press Club in Canberra. The prime minister had been talking about the government's economic and education plans before announcing the election date.

Sky News commented that it's unprecedented to

announce the election date so early, leaving major parties with eight months to prepare for the poll.

Gillard, leader of the Australian Labour Party (ALP), said she wanted to avoid the "carry on" that usually arises from constant speculation of the likely date of the poll during an election year.

"I can act so Australia's parliament and government serves their full three-year term, so it is clear and certain when the election will be held," Gillard said.

"So today I announce that I will advise the Governor-General to dissolve the House of Representatives and issue the writs on Monday, 12 August for an election for the House and half the Senate to be held on Saturday, the 14th of September." "I do so not to start the nation's longest election campaign, quite the opposite," Gillard said. "It should be clear to all which are the days of governing, and which are the days of campaigning."

"It gives shape and or-



Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard speaks during a news conference at the 5th Bali Democracy Forum in Nusa Dua, Bali on 8 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

der to the year, and enables it to be one not of fevered campaigning, but of cool and reasoned deliberation," she said.—Reuters

## Japan parties signal cooperation to choose next BOJ chief

TOKYO, 30 Jan—The ruling and biggest opposition parties agreed Wednesday to eliminate a rule that has prevented the government from picking people for such jobs as Bank of Japan governor if their name has been reported by news media in advance.

The move signals further cooperation in parliament between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition camp in choosing the next central bank chief, who will play a key role in boosting the country's struggling economy and fighting deflation after the incumbent steps down in April.

The agreement to end the rule set in 2007 came at a meeting between the Diet affairs chiefs of the LDP and the Democratic Party of Japan, which lost power in December's general election.

Kyodo News

## Mega solar plant construction begins in Oita

OITA, 30 Jan—Full-scale construction has begun on what will be one of Japan's largest solar power plants.



Full-scale construction has begun on what will be one of Japan's largest solar power plants.—NHK

## ASDF to deploy F-35 jets in Aomori Prefecture

TOKYO, 30 Jan—Japan's Defence Ministry has decided to deploy F-35 stealth fighter jets at Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan, as early as fiscal 2017.

The Air Self-Defence Force has ordered 42 of the jets, which are being jointly developed by 9 countries



## Over 1,000 Malaysian workers strike at Chiyoda's construction site

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Jan—Major plant engineering company Chiyoda Corp said on Tuesday that workers entered into a strike Monday at a construction site undertaken by its local subsidiary in Sarawak, Malaysia.

More than 1,000 people took part in the

including the United States.

Delivery of the jets to Japan is scheduled to begin by March 2017. The Defence Ministry intends to deploy the first fleet of jets to Misawa within a year.

The Defence Ministry has earmarked more than 88,000 dollars from the fiscal 2013 budget to start de-

veloping a new training facility at Misawa.

The jets will cost about 165 million dollars each, up more than 50 million dollars per jet from when the deal was signed last June. This is because the aircraft will be partially assembled in Japan.

The purchase has raised questions as to whether fighter jets made with Japanese parts would violate Japan's ban on weapons exports, if they are used overseas.

Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera says he will study the matter.

NHK

forcing 327 Chiyoda employees and associates including 143 Japanese to stay at their living quarter. As of 6 pm on Tuesday, some strikers remained blocking the road linking the living quarter and the nearest city, it said.

Kyodo News

## Park's nominee for Prime Minister withdraws nomination

SEOUL, 30 Jan—President-elect Park Geun Hye's nominee for prime minister withdrew under pressure Tuesday following allegations of a series of past ethical lapses, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Kim Yong Joon, 74, who served as Constitutional Court chief and currently heads Park's transition committee, offered to withdraw after a meeting with the president-elect earlier in

spokesman said, according to the report. Since being nominated last week, he has since been dogged by suspicions surrounding the military service exemptions of his two sons and land deals signed under the sons' names when they were little, according to Yonhap. He is also suspected of being directly involved in eight counts of speculative real estate purchases in the 1970s and 1980s.—Kyodo News



South Korean President-elect Park Geun Hye (R) in Seoul on 24 Jan, 2013, nominates Kim Yong Joon (L), a former Supreme Court justice and Constitutional Court chief who now heads her transition team, to be prime minister of her incoming government.—KYODO NEWS

## Official cars ordered off roads during hazardous pollution

BEIJING, 30 Jan—Thirty percent of official cars in Beijing should not be used when there is "extremely bad" pollution, traffic authorities confirmed on Tuesday.

The order was implemented on Monday evening to help combat the fourth round of heavy smog to hit the capital city in four weeks, Beijing Traffic Management Bureau said.

Traffic authorities will monitor, take pictures and trace official cars that vio-

late the government order. Whatever department the vehicles belong to will be punished.

Beijing has a list of official cars that should not be used when there is heavy pollution.

The capital categorizes air pollution days as "bad," "seriously bad" and "extremely bad" depending on indexes that include measurements of both fine and coarse air particles and ozone levels.

Xinhua

## Indonesia, Japan agrees to strengthen military cooperation: defence chief

JAKARTA, 30 Jan—Indonesia and Japan have agreed to strengthen the cooperation between Indonesian Army and Japan Self-Defence Forces, Indonesian Defence Minister Purnomo Yudiantoro said here on Tuesday.

Indonesian Defence Minister Purnomo made the remarks after meeting with Eji Kamizuka, Japan Grounds Self-Defence Force Chief of Staff here on Tuesday. "Indonesia and Japan have already engaged much economic cooperation, and now the Japanese government has pushed to establish collaboration with

Indonesia in military field," said Purnomo.

Purnomo said Japan has become more open to build its armada and starts to develop its self-defence forces as the situation in East Asia is unfavorable.

Purnomo said during the meeting Indonesia has also invited Japan to participate the joint anti-terrorism drill which will be held in Indonesia's West Java Province in September this year.

"Japan has agreed to take part in the counter-terrorism exercise involving 18 countries," the Minister said.—Xinhua





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(For: Domnarn Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated 31 January, 2013.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (491)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (491) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2013 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.

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Justin Bieber strips down voice, heartache on 'Believe Acoustic'



Justin Bieber performs at the Jingle Ball 2012 in Atlanta, Georgia on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan —Justin Bieber is stripping down. Musically, that is. The Canadian pop phenomenon showcases his vocal and song-writing talents with a new acoustic album, out on Tuesday, that also features three new tracks

including a heartbreak ballad thought to be about his former girlfriend Selena Gomez.

"Believe Acoustic" sees Bieber, 18, change up the arrangements of songs from his fourth chart-topping album "Believe," released last June, singing with only a guitar or piano-driven melody.

The album went straight to the top of the iTunes US album charts on Tuesday, and won generally warm reviews. Up-tempo songs such as "Boyfriend," and "Beauty and the Beat," which roped in electronic

Justin Timberlake's new album '20/20' is due out in March

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan — Singer-turned-actor Justin Timberlake has set a March date for his comeback album —his first in more than six years. RCA Records said on Tuesday "The 20/20 Experience," the former N'Sync boy band member's follow-up to 2006's "FutureSex/LoveSounds" and only his third album ever, would be released on 19 March.

In recent years, Timberlake, 31, has focused more on films and business ventures ranging from restaurants to a clothing line, and reviving social net-

working site Myspace, of which he is part owner. He remarked in a recent video that creating music involved "physical torture" for him. "Suit & Tie," the first single off his forthcoming album, fell short of sales expectations for its first week. The song, featuring rapper Jay-Z, sold 314,000 downloads last week. Industry experts had expected about 350,000 downloads.

Top menswear designer Tom Ford collaborated with Timberlake, designing suits worn in the "Suit & Tie" video as well as styling the production and the release's artwork. Timberlake will perform his first concert in five years during a private Super Bowl-weekend event in New Orleans on 2 February at an invitation-only concert.



Entertainer Justin Timberlake walks the third fairway during the celebrity challenge of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in Pebble Beach, California on 11 Feb, 2009.—REUTERS

Timberlake posted on Twitter about the forthcoming game, saying among other things: "This is gonna be a GREAT Super Bowl!" and "Oh wait ... I don't have tickets. Dammit! Anybody know anybody?? LOL!"

Reuters

Kennedy Center plans expansion, with floating stage on Potomac

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — The John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is planning a \$100 million addition, including an outdoor floating stage on the Potomac River, in its first major expansion since it opened in 1971. Three connected pavilions to house classrooms, rehearsal rooms, lecture space and other facilities were also included in initial plans for the US capital's premier performance space, which were laid out on Tuesday.

The expansion, designed by architect Steven Holl, will take place south of the Center and includes an outdoor video wall. One pavilion will float on the Potomac as an outdoor stage, and public gardens will link the Center with the

water. "Steven's wonderful concept will create a strong visual presence that bolsters the Center's prominence as the national cultural center, while maintaining its unique presence among Washington's iconic landmarks," Kennedy Center Chairman David Rubenstein said in a statement.

The expansion will be paid for from private funds. Rubenstein, a founder of the Carlyle Group private equity firm, is contributing \$50 million towards the roughly \$100 million cost. The Center is seeking to raise another \$25 million for programming. Exteriors for the project will include use of Carrara marble, the same Italian marble which clads the site now.

Reuters



Handout image of architect Steven Holl's rendition of the proposed Kennedy Center Expansion Project in Washington. The John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is planning a \$100 million addition, including an outdoor floating stage on the Potomac River, in its first major expansion since it opened in 1971. Three connected pavilions to house classrooms, rehearsal rooms, lecture space and other facilities were also included in initial plans for the US capital's premier performance space, which were laid out on Tuesday.—REUTERS

Actress Ashley Judd and race car driver Dario Franchitti split

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan —American actress Ashley Judd and her Scottish race car driver husband Dario Franchitti are ending their marriage after 11 years. The movie star, 44, and the Indianapolis 500 race car driver, 39, married in 2001 and have no children.

"We have mutually decided to end our marriage. We'll always be family and continue to cherish our relationship based on the special love, integrity and respect we have always enjoyed," a representative for the couple told *People* magazine in a statement on Tuesday.

No reason was given for the split. Judd, the daughter of country music star Naomi Judd, starred in movies like "Double Jeopardy" and "High Crimes."

In recent years she has turned her attention in recent years to humanitarian work with AIDS sufferers

Ashley Judd and Scott Dario Franchitti 64th Prime-E Emmy Awards Los Angeles on 23 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS



and young people. Judd has been mentioned as a possible Democratic candidate for the US Senate in 2014, although she has made no formal announcement.

Media reports have said Judd, who represented Tennessee at the 2012 Democratic National Convention, might run for one of Kentucky's seats in the Senate.

Franchitti is a three-time Indianapolis 500 champion, who has also competed in NASCAR and the American Le Mans series. He and Judd married in Scotland in December 2001 after a two-year engagement.

Reuters



## SPORTS

## Lazio beat Juventus to reach Coppa Italia final



ROME, 30 Jan — Thanks to an injury-time winner from Sergio Floccari, Lazio advanced to the Coppa Italia final at the expense of Juventus on Tuesday. Floccari headed in the goal from a corner deep into injury-time to give his side a 2-1 win on the night, and a 3-2 aggregate triumph. The goal came mere moments after Juventus midfielder Arturo Vidal

midfielder Alvaro Gonzalez broke the deadlock in the 53rd minute with a fine diving header. Lazio head coach Vladimir Petkovic praised Lazio and goalkeeper Federico Marchetti for their dramatic win over Juventus. "We are satisfied with the result and that was a crazy game at the end, but

looked to have sent the tie into extra-time after stepping inside his marker to rifle into the net from close range.

we had the right determination to take home the result," he said.

Things could have been different if Marchetti had not saved from blank-point range when Juventus striker Sebastian Giovinco was clear on goal at the 95th minute. "Marchetti is having a fantastic season, not just in the individual saves, but the way he does his work and is a reference point in the locker room." Juventus head coach Antonio Conte felt his side did enough against Lazio and rued that last-gasp miss.

"We did more over the 180 minutes than Lazio, but whoever wins is always right, so we accept the result. That



late miss from Marchisio weighed very heavily on us, as it would've been the goal to qualify us," he said. Lazio will meet either fierce rivals Roma or Inter Milan at the Stadio Olimpico in the final. Roma must wait until 17 April to try and consolidate their 2-1 first-leg lead.

Xinhua

## Tottenham in late Damiao bid

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 Jan — Tottenham Hotspur is reportedly willing to pay up to 20 million pounds to sign Brazil international striker Leandro Damiao.

The London outfit is also prepared to include their Brazilian goalkeeper Gomes in negotiations with Damiao's Brazilian club Internacional, *Lancenet* reported on Tuesday.

Damiao has long been on the radar of Tottenham and the Premier League club is understood to have had at least two offers rejected in the past two years.

The 23-year-old has won 14 international caps for Brazil and was the team's leading goalscorer at last year's London Olympics with six goals.

The England transfer window closes on Thursday and Tottenham will reportedly turn its attention to Sevilla striker Alvaro Negredo should it fail in its pursuit of the Brazilian.

Xinhua



Brazil international striker Leandro Damiao

## Ravens QB Flacco grows into leadership role

NEW ORLEANS, 30 Jan — He is the "Cool Joe" that makes the Baltimore Ravens go, and in Sunday's Super Bowl quarterback Joe Flacco could take a giant step toward assuming the team's leadership role from retiring linebacker Ray Lewis.

The strong-armed quarterback, quiet but brim-

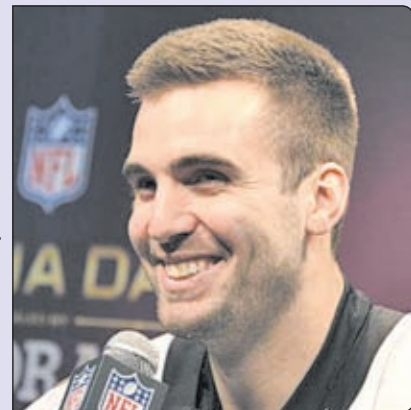
ming with confidence, lifted his game in the postseason, throwing eight touchdowns without an interception and earning consideration as one of the game's top quarterbacks. The only National Football League quarterbacks to notch more touchdowns without an interception in a postseason were

former San Francisco 49ers Hall of Famers Steve Young (nine TDs in 1994) and Joe Montana (11 TDs in 1989).

"He's been doing what he's been doing all year long for us," fullback Vonta Leach told Reuters at Tuesday's Media Day at the Superdome. "A lot of people are making a big deal now

just because it's the playoffs, but Joe has been leading for our team all year long. He's just been Flacco." None other than Lewis himself recently anointed Flacco as the team's next 'General', but the linebacker said he hoped the Ravens quarterback would work on becoming a more vocal leader.—Reuters

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco answers questions from journalists during Media Day for the NFL's Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans, Louisiana on 29 Jan, 2013. REUTERS



David Silva (L) of Manchester City breaks through the defence from Armond Traore (C) and Esteban Granero of Queens Park Rangers during the Barclays Premier League match at Loftus Road on 29 Jan, 2013. The match ended with a 0-0 draw.—XINHUA

## Deco out of Fluminense' Copa Libertadores match

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 Jan — Fluminense coach Abel Braga says injured midfielder Deco is unlikely to be ready for the club's 2013 Copa Libertadores debut against Caracas on 13 February. The former Porto, Barcelona and Chelsea star completed 20 minutes of light running on Tuesday in his first training appearance since injuring his right thigh two weeks ago.

"The Copa Libertadores is something different. You need to have meticulous planning and preparation and we can't go making rash decisions," Braga

said. Fluminense, which won last year's Brazilian Serie A championship, is among the favorites for this year's Copa Libertadores title.

The Rio de Janeiro outfit is yet to win South America's most prestigious club competition. It's best result was in 2008 when it lost the final to Ecuador's Liga de Quito in a dramatic penalty shootout at Rio's Maracana Stadium. Fluminense and Caracas have been drawn in Group Eight of the tournament along with Chile's Huachipato and the winner of the Gremio-Liga



de Quito qualifier, which will be decided in Porto Alegre on Wednesday.

Xinhua

## Cuban baseball defector returns home under new law

HAVANA, 30 Jan — A decade after he defected to the United States to play Major League Baseball, Cuban pitcher Jose Contreras has returned to his homeland in the first test of the island's liberalized travel laws.

He was welcomed on Tuesday at Havana's Hot Corner, a mecca for baseball fans, by about 200 people who crowded around to get photos and autographs from the lanky right-hander.

Contreras, 41, signed baseball caps, dollar bills, Cuban money and a woman's dress as he mixed happily with his fellow countrymen in an emotional return home.

"After 10 years, I've had the opportunity to come back to Cuba, to my land, my country, and it's like a dream come true to be here with my family, with my fans," Contreras told Reuters in an occasionally tearful interview.

Before 14 January, when new travel regula-

tions went into effect, high-profile defectors such as Contreras were effectively barred from returning to Cuba, but now they can return if they have been away for at least eight years. Much to the chagrin of Cuban officials, many Cuban athletes have left the country over the years to cash in on their sporting prowess.

Contreras was in Mexico playing for the Cuban national team when he defected in 2002 and signed

a four-year, \$32 million contract with the New York Yankees. He went on to pitch for the Chicago White Sox, Colorado Rockies and Philadelphia Phillies. Contreras was the first big-name athlete known to have tested the new law, returning to Cuba from the United States a few days ago, driven not only by a desire to see his homeland, but to be with his 77-year-old mother Modesta Camejo, who is ill.

Reuters



Cuban pitcher Jose Contreras (R) meets fans in Havana on 29 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS



GENERAL

Writers unveil signboard in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 30 Jan—A ceremony to unveil signboard of Meiktila Township Writers Association was held at the combined office in Meiktila on 15 January morning.

It was attended by the deputy commissioner of the district and departmental officials, the staff officer of District Information and Public Relations Department, chairs from social organiza-



tions, members of Township Writers Association and reporters. *Myanma Alinn*

Karzai seeks direct dialogue with Taleban

KABUL, 30 Jan — Afghan President Hamid Karzai has called on the Taleban insurgent group to respond to his government's call for direct dialogue.

In a speech in the capital Kabul on Tuesday, Karzai stressed that reconciliation with the Taleban through peace negotiations is important for bringing

peace to Afghanistan.

Karzai said some foreign powers are plotting peace talks with the Taleban, but all negotiations with the Taleban should take place under his government.

He said he wants to call on the Taleban and the country's politicians not to let the foreigners cheat them.

The Taleban has called on the United States to hold talks for achieving peace in Afghanistan.

They have set up a liaison office in Qatar and want to negotiate with the US.

The group has rejected dialogue with the Karzai administration, calling it a puppet government of the United States.—NHK

White House urges lasting solution to Egyptian unrest

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan—The White House on Tuesday called for a lasting solution to the unfolding unrest in Egypt.

"We call on all Egyptian leaders across the political spectrum to make clear that violence and looting is not acceptable and to actively work to prevent further violence," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Nevada state.

"Egyptians need to en-

gage in a peaceful process in order to reach a lasting solution to the current unrest," he said.

Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi imposed a curfew and a state of emergency on Sunday in response to the bloody clashes in the coastal cities of Port Said, Suez and Ismailia. However, thousands of protesters took to the streets on Monday evening till late hours in defiance of the curfew and army deployment.

Days of clashes between the protesters and the security forces have left over 50 people dead and about 2,000 others injured, renewing concern about Egypt's ongoing transition process.

"This democratic process must adhere to the rights of all Egyptians, and we look to the government of Egypt to ensure that the people's right to due process is protected," Carney said.

*Xinhua*

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(31-1-13 09:30 am ~ 1-2-13 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum (Day - 2)
- \* News
- \* Irrawaddy Literary Festival
- \* Lucrative Crop for Farmers CP Hybrid Maize
- \* News
- \* Music Programme
- \* Myanmar-Japan ICT Workshop
- \* News
- \* Youth's Vista on Sport
- \* News
- \* Byalah (Mythical Antelope)
- \* Myanmar Manufacturing Technology Exhibition
- \* News
- \* Culture Stage
- \* News
- \* Shan Traditional "Yaing" Dance
- \* Copies that will never lose (Sand Painting)
- \* News
- \* Ever Green Taunggyi
- \* Myanmar Movies "Tears of Silence"

MYANMAR TV

(31-1-2013, Thursday)

- |                |  |                 |   |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| <b>7:00 am</b> | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw -Uppatasanti Paritta | <b>5:00 pm</b>  | 12. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| <b>7:30 am</b> | 2. Morning News  | <b>5:05 pm</b>  | 13. Documentary                         |
| <b>7:40 am</b> | 3. Dhamma Puja Song  | <b>5:15 pm</b>  | 14. Science and Enyoriment              |
| <b>7:50 am</b> | 4. Nice & Sweet Programme  | <b>5:30 pm</b>  | 15. India Drama Series                  |
| <b>8:00 am</b> | 5. Health Programme  | <b>6:00 pm</b>  | 16. Evening News                        |
| <b>8:05 am</b> | 6. Songs of National Races   | <b>6:15 pm</b>  | 17. Weather Report                      |
| <b>8:10 am</b> | 7. Cultural Dances   | <b>6:20 pm</b>  | 18. Approaching Science Discovery World |
| <b>8:30 am</b> | 8. Documentary   | <b>8:00 pm</b>  | 19. News                                |
| <b>4:00 pm</b> | 9. Martial Song  | <b>8:00 pm</b>  | 20. International News                  |
| <b>4:10 pm</b> | 10. Musical Programme  | <b>8:00 pm</b>  | 21. Weather Report                      |
| <b>4:20 pm</b> | 11. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Economic)                | <b>8:00 pm</b>  | 23. Monthly Weather Report              |
|                |  | <b>10:00 pm</b> | 24. TV Drama Series                     |
|                |  |                 | 25. News                                |
|                |  |                 | 26. Nostalgia to Myanma Cultural Arts   |



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (C) attends a Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) executive committee meeting in the West Bank city of Ramallah on 29 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

US to build drone base in Africa to combat terrorists: report

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan—The US military is planning to set up a drone base in northwestern Africa in order to combat the local affiliate of al-Qaeda and other Islamist extremist groups which pose a growing menace to the region, local media said on Tuesday.

This is an indication that Africa has become a priority for the US counter-terrorism efforts, the *New York Times* reported in a front-page news report.

The drone base is most likely to be established in Niger which sits east to

Mali, where French troops are assisting government forces in fighting al-Qaeda-backed extremist groups controlling the north, the report said. But the US Africa Command is also discussing options for locating the base in other countries of the region, such as Burkina Faso, it added.

Pentagon officials were quoted as saying that they envision flying only unarmed surveillance drones from the base, though they did not rule out conducting missile strikes at some point if the threat worsens.

Currently, the US military has a limited presence in Africa, with only one permanent base in Djibouti. A new drone base in north-west Africa would join a constellation of small airstrips in recent years on the continent, including one in Ethiopia, for surveillance missions flown by drones or turboprop planes.

If the drone base is set up, the US military will provide immediate surveillance assistance to the French troops fighting in Mali, the report said.

*Xinhua*

More mainland cities to issue travel permits to Taiwan residents

BEIJING, 30 Jan—The Chinese mainland has decided to authorize another two cities to issue travel permits to Taiwan residents, a mainland spokesman said on Wednesday.

The cities of Yancheng in Jiangsu Province and Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province will be able to issue travel permits to Taiwanese starting from 5 February, Yang Yi, spokesman for the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office, said at a Press conference.—Xinhua



Venezuela's Chancellor Elias Jaua (R) meets with the President of the Russian Oil Company "Rosneft" Igor Sechin, in the city of Caracas, Venezuela, on 29 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA



## Mandalay Medicines University's dismissal decision will not be overturned: Deputy Health Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan— Students whose affiliation with Mandalay University of Medicines was terminated will not be re-admitted to the university, Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint confirmed the university's decision in his answer to the question raised by U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency at today's Pyithu Hluttaw regular session.

He said the dismissal conformed to the existing rules and regulations



**U Soe Yel of Bill Committee.**

MNA

approved by sixth medicines seminar in 2013.

The number of dismissed students rose as 2400 students were admitted in 2012 with the maximum gap of marks of 30 and there were problems in teaching medicines, he explained.

There are now only 1200 students who were admitted, the deputy minister said.

According to the rules and regulations, a student who failed MBBS (B) exam thrice and who did not complete the one-year term



**Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint.**

MNA

as house surgeon will face dismissal.

MP U Thein Tun Oo said, "We know the rules. But I raised the question because I felt sympathy towards students and parents." He see some students had faced unfair dismissal by the stringent rules.

Member of Bill Committee U Soe Yel submitted Central Bank of Myanmar Bill.

The 12<sup>th</sup> session will be held on 1 February.

MNA



**U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura constituency.—MNA**

## IPRDs lack resources to serve as public information center: Deputy Information Minister



**Amyotha Hluttaw session in progress.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan— As regards the proposal of Dr Myat Nyana Soe from Yangon Region Constituency No (4) urging the Union government to build information and public relations departments in respective townships to public information centers so that people can inquire the functions of government agencies, Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe replied that current workforce of township IPRDs could not take the

responsibility of public information centers and there was no such legislation giving power to IPRDs to collect information and data from other departments.

He suggested forming public information committee by administrative organs in townships and assigning staff officers of IPRD as member or secretary of the proposed committee. Currently, the deputy minister said, the township IPRDs can only publicize the gazettes and

orders and instructions of the government and are not in a position to assume the responsibility of publicizing information for public.

U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6) said there is sufficient equipment and technology at region/

state level and the State is organizing capacity building programmes with international assistance. Thus, the proposal can be realized at region/state level. But still it is difficult to collect information at township level. If and when inter-department network

### Australia agrees cooperation in Myanmar development

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan— An MoU on cooperation in development between Myanmar and Australia governments was signed at Thingaha Hotel, here, yesterday with the attendance of Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi, Ambassadors from UK and Australia and embassy staff, officials and media

men.

Director-General Daw Than Than Lin of Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Director-General Mr Peter Baxter of Australian Agency for International Development of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia exchanged the notes of

is built along with full computerization, such public information centers can be introduced. He said he prefer to documentation of proposal saying it is a nice one but difficult to be implemented at present.

The proposal was put to vote and rejected as "No" vote outnumbered "Yes" ones.

As regards the question of U Nu of Yangon Region Constituency No (10) about whether there is any plan to give the whole amount of pension to the retired civil servants, Dr Lin Aung, Deputy Finance and Revenue Minister, said when one is allowed to have pension, gratuity is also granted as reward for his service. Monthly pension is then given for his living costs and is of internationally practised pension scheme.

Considering the long-term interests of the retirees, pension will be continued to be given in form of monthly allowance and

there is no such plan to give the whole amount of pension, concluded the deputy minister.

U San Pyae of Kachin Constituency No (7) said "I was sympathetic towards the elderly retirees who have to take out pension amidst difficulties. I think it would be much better if the whole amount of pension can be given. Nonetheless, the government should take into account the potential rise of commodity prices even if it has enough finances to grant so. In my view, if the government could give pension for certain limited period, retirees can get capital."

The Hluttaw session came to an end in the afternoon.—MNA

### Thai gas-fired generators for Ywama plant

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan— One gas-fired generator for Myanmar was shipped on 26 January by EGAT of Thailand and is expected to arrive at Asia World jetty on 22 February.

Energy Ministry of Thailand agreed on 29 October to supply two 120-Megawatt natural gas-fired generators.

Another generator is expected to arrive at Yangon port on 14 March.

The generators will be installed by Thai STFE Company in cooperation with Myanma Electric Power Enterprise in Ywama power plant yard.

MNA

### Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (30-1-2013)

Pinlaung	2.52 inches
Kyaikkhami	0.91 inch
Chaungzon	0.91 inch
Kawkareik	0.55 inch
Kengtung	0.51 inch

MNA