

President proposes to replace post of Union Minister for Border Affairs with Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, to assign Gen Myat Hein to Union Minister for Communications & Information Technology

JICA to grant 66 billion Yen ODA to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb— President U Thein Sein sent a message to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw today asking to assign Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay to his previous military post and to replace his post with Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and to assign General Myat Hein to the post of Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein reported on ODA Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA.

According to his report, JICA will grant aid package worth about 66 billion Yen (US\$ 704.28 million).

The aid package include 17 billion Yen for infrastructure projects which will help alleviate poverty in states and regions, 20 billion Yen for the first step of the development

of infrastructure for the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, 29 billion Yen for infrastructures for power supply in Yangon and for upgrading Kyangin Cement Plant.

Regarding the report, findings and remarks of the Joint Bill Committee were discussed and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved it.

The report also suggested Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve the ODA loan as it should be used in the development of the country.

U Win Than of Thabaung constituency urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to reconsider the forming of investigation commission for "Above the Law" article written by Dr Seik Hpwa, criticizing Hluttaw.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency seconded the forming of the investigation commission, urging to take actions against the writer who



Guests seen at 7th day Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.—MNA

criticized the Hluttaw which is constituted with the representatives of the people.

In his clarification, he also urged the media to use

polite usage and to have positive attitude when they criticized the Hluttaw.

He also urged the media to understand the two roles: Hluttaw and representatives

when they pointed out wrong and mistakes and when they expressed the diverse opinions in the democratic system.

The investigation

commission is constituted with 17 members.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will hold its 8th day meeting on 13 February.

MNA

National Kandawgyi Garden, significant botanical garden in Myanmar

**Byline: Min Khant Soe (Kyemon);
Photo: Aung Kyaw Win (Kyemon)**



The National Kandawgyi Garden is located at an altitude of 3605 feet on 0.68 square mile of land in Pyin Oo Lwin Township of Mandalay Region.

The garden is 220 miles distance from Nay Pyi Taw, 470 miles from Yangon and 42 miles from Mandalay. Maymyo Botanical Garden was established in 1915 and then it was renamed as the National Kandawgyi Garden on 1 December 2000.

The garden is home to 514 species of trees comprising 74 from abroad and 75 species of bamboo. A total of 178 species of 300 orchid have been collected since 1942. In addition, a total of 25 species of rose and six of lilies can be found in the garden. Herbal plants can be seen in the facility. In addition, endangered species of animals such as

deer and star tortoises are being bred there.

The Butterfly, Ingyin and fossil museum was opened on 1 December 2009. The butterfly museum stores 30,280 bodies of butterflies from Indonesia, Thailand, China, Malaysia and Africa.

About 50 items of Ingyin fossils in different sizes obtained from Natogyi, Pakokku and Kanbalu regions are put on display at the museum.

Moreover, the fossil museum displays various parts of 15 animals including parts of ivories. Indeed, the National Kandawgyi Garden is a pleasant venue for picnickers and holiday makers at home and abroad.

Kyemon: 4-2-2013

Trs: TTA

Good news for mangrove forests

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb— Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has planned to set up a mangrove forest department to speed up efforts for the mangrove forest conservation, said Deputy Minister U Aye Myint Maung.

The ministry and Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA held a meeting for completion of the project for re-establishing and managing mangrove forest in the Ayeyawady Delta at the ministry here today.

In his key-note address,

the deputy minister also called for cooperation of the local people to achieve success in conserving the ecology system in the delta region as the mangrove forests play an important role in socio-economy of the local people.

The ministry has also planned to enact mangrove policy and rules and regulations for mangrove conservation so that the mangrove forests and services for the mangrove ecological system can benefit the local people, he added.

M a n g r o v e r e -

establishment and management project was carried out in the Ayeyawady Delta from April 2007 to March, 2013, in Myaungmya and Pyapon districts in Ayeyawady Region by JICA in cooperation with Forest Department, Fisheries Department, Agriculture Department and Settlement and Land Records Department.

During the meeting, experts from Myanmar and Japan read papers focusing on sustainable development of mangrove forests.

MNA



Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 8 Feb—A ceremony to hoist the umbrella atop Aungzeyer Pagoda was held in the precinct of Aung Mingala Taaung-Palaung Monastery in Htonpo area of Ward 8 in Kyaukme of Shan State (North) on 26 January.

Present on the occasion

Illegal two-digit lottery seller arrested in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 8 Feb—In accord with the instruction of the commander of Meiktila District Police Force, IP Myint Than of Meiktila Police Station No 2 and party together with local authorities searched the shop of Aung Ko Ko at the market in Thiri Mingala Ward of Meiktila on 25 January.

The authorities seized voucher in use of selling illegal two-digit lottery and K 41,000.

Meiktila Police Station No 2 opened a file of lawsuit against Aung Ko Ko.

Myanma Alinn

were the chairman Sayadaw of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and member Sayadaws, departmental personnel members of religious associations, social organizations and local people.

At the auspicious time, Presiding Abbot of Aung Mingala Monastery Bhaddanta Nanalankara and members of the Sangha hoisted the umbrella atop the pagoda.

Myanma Alinn

Yaksawk ward administrators get proficiency training

YAKSAWK, 8 Feb—The work proficiency course for ward/village-tract administrators was opened at the hall of Yaksawk Township General Administration Department of Shan State (South) on 28 January morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Khun Soe Lwin made a speech and explained the purpose of training course. The course lasts from 28 January to 22 February.

Myanma Alinn

Licences for businesses auctioned in Nyaunglebin



NYAUNGLEBIN, 8 Feb—The licences auction for 2013-2014 fiscal year was held at

Township Development Affairs Committee on Azani Road on 4 February morning.



2013 66th Anniversary Union Day

Cash assistance for sunken vessels

YANGON, 8 Feb— Myanmar Coastal Liners Association gave cash assistance to its member vessels that sank in accidents, said the head office of the

association.

In mid-January, the association provided cash assistance for the vehicle that sank near Bayintnaung Jetty.

In 2012, the association

presented cash assistance for three vehicles. Moreover, the association disseminates information about weather forecast to its member vessels.—Kyemon

Strong winds, heavy rains destroy villages in Hpa-an Township



HPA-AN, 8 Feb—Strong winds and heavy rains hit Nangkyan Village-tract of Hpa-an Township in Kayin State from 8 am to 8.20 am on 31 January. In the incident 31 houses collapsed and roofs of nine were blown off.

Two persons were

injured.

Moreover, about 150 acres of farmlands were destroyed in Kawyin and Naungkyan villages and 150 more acres in Khamaindo East and Thagyahinoh fields.

In addition, the strong winds and heavy rains destroyed rubber plants, roofs of monastery and some school buildings in Kawthee Village. Deputy Commission-er of the district

U Ye Naing, local authorities, local battalions, members of Township Fire Brigade and Myanmar Police Force, Thanlwin West Maga Social Association members and local people participated in the rescue and relief works.

The deputy commissioner provided 100 pieces of roofing and a half basket each of rice to the victim households.

Kyemon

Essay contest hails Union Day

YWANGAN, 8 Feb— Jointly organized by Ywangan Township Information and Public Relations Department, Township Women's Affairs Organization and Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the essay contest to mark the 66th

Anniversary Union Day was held at the library of the township IPRD on 27 January morning.

Students from Ywangan Basic Education High School participated in the contest.

Officials will award the winners on the Union Day.

Myanma Alinn

NLM

WORLD

EP President warns against deficit amid EU budget talks

BRUSSELS, 8 Feb—European Parliament President Martin Schulz on Thursday warned against an EU with a deficit as the Union's top leaders are locked in sensitive negotiations over the 27-member bloc's 2014-2020 budget scheme.

The seven-year budget could be set at roughly 960 billion euros (1.3 billion US dollars), while actual payments would fall short by around 50 billion euros to accommodate the Britain's scream for spending cuts, Schulz said in a Press conference here on Thursday night.

The difference between commitments and payments would lead to a deficit for the EU, the European Parliament President complained, adding that the EU's current budget already had a 16-billion-euro



European Parliament President Martin Schulz speaks during a Press conference at the EU Headquarters in Brussels, on 7 Feb, 2013, on the first day of a two-day European Union summit. EU leaders head into a fresh clash over the EU's budget with the only certainty being that proposals for several years will be cut back.

XINHUA

deficit. "If we carry on this methodology and set the commitments far higher than the payments, we are going to end up as an EU with a deficit," he said.

Schulz also called

on EU leaders to take the budget summit as the start of the process instead of an ending point, stressing that the European Parliament would carefully follow the case. This week's summit

is the second time for EU leaders to focus on budget bargaining, since the first budget summit last November achieved little largely due to sharp conflicts of national interests.

Germany and the Britain are clearly in favor of spending cuts, in sharp contrast to outcries mainly from France and Italy. The final deal also has to obtain the consent of the European Parliament according to the EU law. "If the Parliament is brought on board early, it is more likely for the Parliament to agree," Schulz said. If no deal is to be reached by the end of 2013, the 2013 budget ceiling will be rolled over into 2014 with two-percent inflation adjustment, which may bring much uncertainty for long-term projects.

Xinhua

House Democrats unveil gun control package; mirrors Obama's

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—Top Democrats in the House of Representatives unveiled a broad proposal on Thursday to curb gun violence that mirrors the one offered last month by President Barack Obama, including a ban on semi-automatic assault weapons.

But it remained unclear if the proposals will be put to a vote. The House Republican leadership has said it doesn't intend to bring legislation to the floor until the Senate has acted, and there are doubts the Senate will pass gun control legislation.

"We know it's going to be tough, but we also know this is important," said Mike Thompson, chairman

of the 12-member House Democratic Gun Violence Prevention Task that drafted the proposals.

Opponents led by influential and well-financed pro-gun groups charge that new restrictions on firearms would violate the right to bear arms.

Backers disagree. They argue that while Americans have the right to own guns, the government has the responsibility to impose restrictions for the public good.

There has been unprecedented public support for tougher gun laws in wake of the Connecticut school massacre in December that killed 20 children and six adults.—Reuters

US urges Iran to engage in "substantive" talks with world powers

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—The United States on Thursday urged Iran to engage in "substantive" talks with the world powers later this month in return for eased sanctions. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland was responding to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's rebuff to Washington's offer of direct bilateral talks.

Referring to US Vice

President Joe Biden's suggestion last week of direct talks with Teheran over its controversial nuclear program, Khamenei told a group of Iranian military officials earlier in the day that the Obama administration has shown "ill-will" by imposing "paralyzing sanctions to paralyze the Iranian nation."

Iran has agreed to start fresh talks with the so-

called P5+1 group of Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany on 26 February in Kazakhstan.

In its latest effort to add more pressure on Iran, the Obama administration on Wednesday tightened up economic sanctions against the Islamic republic and adding more names to its blacklist. "What's most important is that they come

prepared to really engage on the substance," Nuland said. "The burden of these sanctions could be eased if they made a decision to engage with us substantively."

"We've always said that action on the Iranian side would be matched by action on our side, so it's really up to Iran to engage if it wants to see sanctions eased," she added.

Xinhua



A display of 7-round handguns are seen at Coliseum Gun Traders Ltd in Uniondale, New York on 16 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS



Afghan police officers inspect the site of the blast in Baghlan Province in north Afghanistan on 7 Feb, 2013. Bomb blast shocked Pul-e-Khumri city, the capital of Baghlan Province, on Thursday, wounding two people, police said.

XINHUA

Two blasts rock two Afghan northern towns, wounding two

KABUL, 8 Feb—Two blasts rocked two cities, both provincial capitals in northern region of Afghanistan on Thursday, wounding two people, both civilians, according to officials.

In the latest shocking incident which occurred in Pul-e-Khumri city, the capital of Baghlan Province 150 km north of Afghan capital Kabul, two civilians sustained injuries, police asserted.

"A bomb attack organized by militants and targeted police vehicle in Pul-e-Khumri city at 11:50

am local time today left two people injured, both civilians," deputy to provincial police chief Mohammad Sadiq told Xinhua.

There were no casualties on police, he contended. However, he confirmed that a police vehicle and a civilian car were damaged in the blast which caused panic among citizens.

Meantime, a doctor in Pul-e-Khumri hospital, Anwar Wardak confirmed that two injured men had been taken to hospital for medical treatment; one of them is in critical condition.

Earlier, a similar blast in the neighbouring Kunduz Province 250 km north of Afghan capital Kabul also targeted police van, damaging the vehicle but caused no loss of life, police confirmed. "The blast took place in front of the house of provincial governor at 10:40 am local time damaging a police van but fortunately hurt no one," police spokesman Sayed Sarwar Hussaini said to Xinhua. He also stated that investigation has been initiated into the horrified incident.—Xinhua

Mortar shells kill six people in Damascus

DAMASCUS, 8 Feb—At least six people were killed on Thursday when armed groups fired two mortar rounds that slammed a bus station in a troublesome district of the Syrian capital Damascus, local media said.

The shells, allegedly fired by rebels from nearby areas, struck the bus station in al-Qaboun area, reports said, adding that three kids were among those killed.

Meanwhile, opposition activists reported heavy clashes and shelling in

al-Qaboun, giving no details on the bus station's incident. Activists also reported heavy security presence in some district of the capital after the armed rebels tried to wage attacks on Damascus a day earlier.

Xinhua

Iran airs video obtained from captured US RQ-170 drone

TEHRAN, 8 Feb—Iran's Press TV aired on Thursday "decoded video recordings" which it said were obtained from a US RQ-170 stealth aircraft downed and captured by the Islamic republic in December 2011.

The recordings had been made by the drone's underbelly camera and included views from the area surrounding the Kandahar base in Afghanistan as the drone was about to land, said the Press TV report.

In December 2011,

Iranian media reported that the Iranian military downed the US RQ-170 in the eastern part of Iran after finding it transgressing the eastern border. The country's state TV later showed the footage of the drone.—Xinhua

Train collision injures 29 in South Africa

CAPE TOWN, 8 Feb—At least 29 people including 27 passengers were injured Thursday in a collision between two trains in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province, the second of the kind in the country in one week. The accident occurred at 1:45 pm local time at the

East London railway station, where a train moved onto the wrong track to collide with another occupying that platform, according to Metrorail. This was a "light collision" in its "own yard," Metrorail's regional manager Richard Walker said.

The collision left 29

people injured, two of them staff members, he said.

The victims suffered slight injuries and were sent to local hospitals for treatment, Walker said, adding that an investigation has been launched to determine the cause of the accident.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Sweater-clad Canadian grannies spring into action for climate change



Mark Shuttleworth, the founder and CEO of Canonical, said that app developers will get access to the OS later this month.—PTI

Ubuntu OS smartphones coming in October, will take on Google's Android

NEW DELHI, 8 Feb — In an attempt to get a foothold in the smartphone market which is already dominated by Google's Android, Canonical Ltd is soon going to release its Ubuntu OS for smartphones. According to a *Wall Street Journal* report, smartphones running Ubuntu OS are on their way and will be available to customers in October this year.

Mark Shuttleworth, the founder and CEO of Canonical, said that app developers will get access to the OS later this month. Though the company has not made it clear that which all smartphones will be seen running the Ubuntu OS, but it has been made clear that application developers will

get to play with the operating system on Samsung's Galaxy Nexus.

Ubuntu is a Linux-based operating system for computing. CNET reports, the Ubuntu OS, which is being ready for small screens, will use the same drivers as Android smartphones; it will also be able to run on entry-level smartphones.

"Ubuntu for phones will use native apps, which means that developers can create a single app for both the desktop and the PC. This will let users easily move between devices. The OS also favors swiping gestures to reveal navigation strips and overview pages," reports CNET.

PTI

TORONTO, 8 Feb — Dozens of sweater-clad grannies sprung into action in the Canadian city of Toronto this week ahead of the third annual National Sweater Day which falls on Thursday to remind people the importance of energy conservation.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Canada is mobilizing over 30 grannies to deliver one simple message. And that's for people to put on a sweater and turn down their thermostat by two de-

grees Celsius.

WWF Canada's director of climate and energy Josh Laughren believed that grannies are the appropriate spokespeople who can deliver an effective message on behalf of WWF.

"How we use energy is really at the heart of climate change," he said. "We thought, how could we engage people into thinking about ways to conserve it? Who knows more about conserving energy than the previous generations who

lived through scarcity, and who do we listen to more than our grandparents ... and who knits sweaters?"

According to WWF, if all Canadians turned down their heat by two degrees this winter, they could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to four megawatts. That's equivalent to shutting down a 600 megawatt coal-fired plant.

Loblaws, a supermarket chain that's sponsoring the event, will be going a step further by turning down

their heat by three degrees in over 600 stores across Canada. But Laughren stressed the importance of individual action.

"It is symbolic. We are not expecting climate change to be solved by that one day, but I think it is no less important for being symbolic," he said. "We know that if we are going to tackle climate change, we need governments and businesses to lead the way and we also need to change some of our behavior."—Xinhua

New, improved versions of Ouya to be released every year

LOS ANGELES, 8 Feb — Ouya founder and CEO Julie Uhrman has announced that her company's \$99 Android-based gaming console will be refreshed every year to keep up with the developments in the fast-paced mobile hardware industry.

Ouya started life as a Kickstarter project and will be sold at Amazon, Best Buy, Target, and GameStop from June onwards. However, Uhrman told *The Verge* in an interview that her company is thinking much farther ahead than June. Uhrman said that her team is planning on releasing a new version of the

Ouya each and every year.

Uhrman said, "Our plan is to have a yearly refresh of Ouya where we leverage the best-performing chips and take advantage of falling component prices to create the best experience we can at the \$99 price point. If we could do it for less than \$99, we would."

The report states, "The Ouya's Nvidia Tegra 3 chipset is no slouch, (but) there's already a Tegra 4 inbound, and at least one developer is already questioning the Ouya's hardware limitations. But now there's no telling there won't be a Tegra 4-based Ouya next



The Ouya console with its colour-blind-friendly controller.—PTI

year."

Even so, Uhrman told the website that her console will be slightly more powerful than a comparable Tegra 3 tablet since it sips power directly from the outlet and doesn't need to conserve

battery. Secondly, it is not as limited specs-wise as some would like to believe, since its internal memory can be supplemented with an external hard drive using the USB port.

PTI

Champion Computers launches 7-inch Wtab 705 Talk for Rs 6,300

CHENNAI (India), 8 Feb — Champion Computers Pvt Ltd has launched its newest tablet, the Wtab 705 Talk. The tablet runs on Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich and comes with a 7-inch capacitive touch-screen that has a resolution of 480 x 800 pixels. It weighs 320gm, which the company claims makes the tablet one of the lightest in its class.

The Wtab 705 Talk is powered by a Cortex A8 processor clocked at 1.5GHz and has 512 MB of RAM. It offers 4GB of storage space for apps and media, and supports expandable memory up to 32GB via microSD cards. The tablet has two cameras: one on the front and one on the back.

The Wtab 705 Talk has a SIM card slot and will let you make voice calls; it has built-in support for 2G networks, but if you want to use your 3G connection, you'll have to connect a 3G USB dongle. The Wtab 705 Talk tablet is priced at Rs 6,300.



The Wtab 705 Talk is available for Rs 6,300.—PTI

Tablets are growing to be an important segment in the PC market and MAIT estimates the tablet market to grow to 7.3 million units by 2015 to 2016. Kapil Wadhwa, MD, Champion Computers, said, "Tablets are coming into their own at a remarkable pace and are emerging as the preferred device for entertainment and content consumption. With smaller screens and lower prices becoming market realities, tablets are finding newer customers by the day. Many educational institutes too are planning to introduce tablets in their curriculum. This means that not all may want to opt for the expensive options."

"Our strategy is not only to offer competitively-priced products but also to

keep bringing upgraded products that help users technologically as well. Our current product is one such example. At Rs 6,300, you will not get a better tablet," he added.

Champion Computers also has the Wtab 7.2 and Wtab 7.3 (Wi-Fi only Models), Wtab 7.4 (3G Model) and Wtab 971 in the 9.7-inch size segment. The Wtab 705 Talk is available at retail stores across the country and also on online retail websites.—PTI

Dell Inspiron 15z ultrabook launched for Rs 41,990

NEW DELHI, 8 Feb — Dell has announced a new addition to the line of Inspiron series — the Inspiron 15z ultrabook. It includes a built-in optical drive, Intel Rapid Start Technology and Intel Smart Response Technology along with 3rd Gen Intel Core CPUs. It is available at a starting price of Rs 41,990.

The ultrabook measure 21 mm thick; it weighs

Samsung may be gearing up to launch Galaxy S4 on 15 March

SEOUL, 8 Feb — Samsung is changing lanes and speeding up production to aim for a 15 March launch for the Galaxy S IV, according to SamMobile, who claim to have gotten their info from a trusted insider. The report also states that the phone will have the model number GT-I9500 and will be seen in black and white colours.

Samsung is expected to announce the Galaxy S IV at the Unpacked event in March and not at MWC,

just like last year when it launched the Galaxy S III. But the source believes Samsung is waiting for the



A leaked image shows a design similar to that of the SIII.—PTI

Barcelona event to conclude before sending out invites. Sammobile states that the smartphone will be out in Europe first, before it is launched pan-Asian by the end of April. The handset will make it to the shores of North America, Australia and Africa by the end of Q2. This is in line with what we heard earlier this year from Samsung's Lebanon office, who said that the Galaxy S IV would be out by May, which is towards the end of Q2.

A March launch also makes sense considering that the company will put its 4.99-inch 1080p Super AMOLED display (expected to grace the front of the S IV) into mass production at the Samsung Display plants near the end of February. The displays should be with Samsung Electronics in early March, just in time for the launch of the Samsung Galaxy S III's successor.

PTI



It has an edge-to-edge Corning Gorilla glass touch display, and Nvidia's GeForce GT630M 2GB DDR3 graphics.—PTI

BUSINESS & HEALTH

NY Times posts higher revenue on digital growth

NEW YORK, 8 Feb—The New York Times Co (NYT.N) on Thursday reported higher quarterly revenue as more people paid for its digital newspapers.

Circulation revenue jumped 16.1 percent, mainly because of growth in digital subscriptions.

Paid digital subscribers to the Times and The International Herald Tribune totaled 640,000 at the end of the fourth quarter, an increase of 13 percent from the third period.

Benchmark Co analyst

Edward Atorino called the circulation revenue “phenomenal.”

“It looks better than I thought,” he said about the overall results.

Shares rose 9.2 percent to \$9 in early trading.

The company, which also publishes The Boston Globe, is reaping the benefits of charging readers to pay for its digital newspapers, a programme it introduced almost two years ago.

Still, there were some troubling signs in the fourth

quarter, which included an extra week. Advertising revenue was down 3 percent. Stripping out the additional week, ad revenue tumbled 8.3 percent on a declines in both print and digital.

This quarter is the first under new Chief Executive Mark Thompson, who took the helm in November. He was director general of the BBC, which was rocked by a scandal involving allegations of sex abuse by Jimmy Savile, a popular TV host. Thompson has insisted he was unaware of the accusations.

“For the first time in our history, annual circulation revenues surpassed those from advertising,” Thompson said in a statement.

“By contrast, the advertising environment remained challenging in the fourth quarter.” Fourth-quarter revenue totaled \$575.8 million, a 5.2 percent rise from the same quarter a year ago. Analysts were expecting \$570.42 million, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Reuters



The headquarters of the New York Times is pictured on 8th Avenue in New York in this 30 April, 2008, file photo. The New York Times Co on 7 Feb, 2013, reported higher quarterly revenue as more people paid for its digital newspapers.—REUTERS

Wall Street flat after claims data, retailers' sales

NEW YORK, 8 Feb—Stocks were little changed on Thursday after data showed modest improvement in the labour market and retailers posted mixed monthly sales.

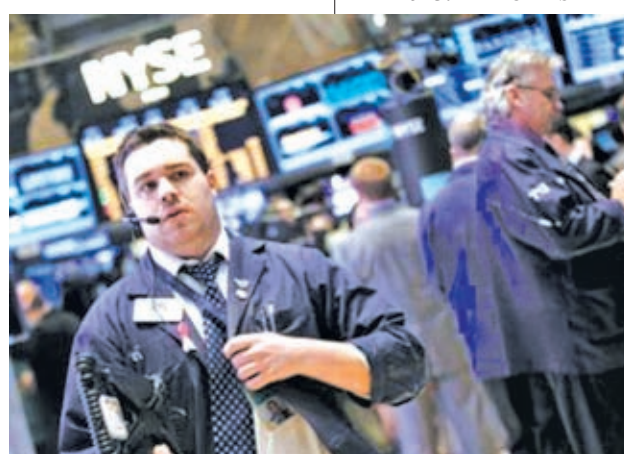
Weekly initial jobless claims dipped last week, with the four-week moving average falling to its lowest level since March 2008, signaling the economy continues to recover slowly.

A separate report said fourth-quarter productivity registered its biggest drop in nearly two years, while unit labour costs jumped 4.5 percent, more than economists expected.

“Claims didn’t look too exciting. They are pretty much in line. The bigger surprise was the jump in unit labour costs that was pretty substantial,” said Peter Jankovskis, co-chief investment officer at OakBrook Investments LLC in Lisle, Illinois.

“Overall the market took the whole thing in stride.”

Recent data has pointed to a slow improvement in the economy, but one without enough strength to cause the Federal Reserve to abandon its easy monetary policy, which has helped the benchmark S&P index



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 1 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

to climb 6 percent this year.

“We are probably in a pretty stable policy regime from the Fed standpoint, certainly until midyear, then as we get later in the

year if we are seeing the economy picking up, then maybe they start taking their foot off the accelerator a little bit,” said Jankovskis.

Reuters

able to lose that weight after pregnancy and it puts those women on a trajectory to becoming obese,” she said.

“Excessive weight gain during pregnancy will not only exacerbate existing obesity, but will contribute to later obesity in women who start pregnancy with a normal body mass index but have excessive weight gain in pregnancy,” she said.

Xinhua

the chance of complications for the mother,” said McCowan in a statement.

quadrupling the chance of having an excessively large child at birth and increasing the number of cesarean deliveries in labour.

“Big babies become big children and big adults later on,” said Professor Lesley McCowan, of the University of Auckland, who led the study.

“Babies born large are at risk of traumatic birth, and cesarean delivery increases

WELLINGTON, 8 Feb—Women who “eat for two” when they are pregnant are increasing the chances of problems giving birth and lifelong health issues for their children, according to a New Zealand-led international study.

The study found that 74 percent of women pregnant for the first time, gained excessive amounts of weight during pregnancy,

Jobless claims point to healing in labour market

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—The number of Americans filing new claims for jobless benefits fell last week and a trend reading hit a near five-year low, a sign the grinding recovery in the labour market remains on track.

Other data on Thursday showed a sharp drop in productivity in the fourth quarter due to weak economic output.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped by 5,000 to a seasonally adjusted 366,000, the Labour Department said.

That was a higher level than analysts had expected, although the downward trend in layoffs still suggests the economy is strong enough that employers will need to add to their staffs.

“The labour market is improving, but certainly not at a robust rate by any means,” said Russell Price, an economist at Ameriprise Financial in Troy, Michigan.

Claims have trended lower in recent weeks and are around their lowest levels since the early days of



A job seeker (R) meets with a prospective employer at a career fair in New York City, on 24 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

the 2007-09 recession.

The four-week moving average for new claims, a gauge of the trend in layoffs, dropped 2,250 to 350,500. That was the lowest level since March 2008, suggesting a steady improvement in labour market conditions.

However, while employers have pulled back on layoffs, they have only added jobs at a lackluster pace since the end of the recession.

The claims report showed the number of people still receiving benefits under regular state programmes after an initial

week of aid increased 8,000 to 3.22 million in the week ended 26 January.

“It still shows that the US job market is on a lethargic pace to recovery,” said Joe Manimbo, a market analyst at Western Union Business Solutions in Washington.

Claims were volatile in January due to the timing of holidays and the dates on which weeks ended, but a Labour Department analyst said some of that volatility appeared to be receding. The analyst said there was nothing unusual in the data, and no states estimated their readings.—Reuters

Greenlight’s Einhorn sues Apple, says has “cash problem”

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Feb—Fund manager David Einhorn’s Greenlight Capital sued Apple Inc, saying the company needs to do more to unlock value for shareholders.

Einhorn, a well-known short seller, is long Apple shares and said in a television interview on Thursday that while he admires the company, it has a “cash problem” that it needs to fix.

Greenlight filed suit in federal court in New York to force Apple to modify a proposal in its proxy, which Greenlight believes does not conform to regulatory rules.

Greenlight said it is opposed to the proposal, No 2 on Apple’s proxy, which the firm said would remove Apple’s ability to issue preferred stock from its charter.

In a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, Greenlight said it was “dissatisfied with

Apple’s capital allocation strategy.”

Apple could not be immediately reached for comment. In a CNBC interview, Einhorn said shareholders would be happy to received preferred stock with a 4 percent yield.

Calling Apple shares “utterly misvalued” at current levels, Einhorn said the company no longer needs to grow at the near-triple digit rates of the past. In a statement, Greenlight said it spent part of 2012 in discussions with Apple on the idea of perpetual preferred stock, but that the company rejected it last September.

“We understand that many of our fellow shareholders share our frustration with Apple’s capital allocation policies.”

Reuters



The Apple logo is pictured at the company’s flagship retail store in San Francisco, California on 23 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Women should avoid eating for two during pregnancy

WELLINGTON, 8 Feb—Women who “eat for two” when they are pregnant are increasing the chances of problems giving birth and lifelong health issues for their children, according to a New Zealand-led international study.

The study found that 74 percent of women pregnant for the first time, gained excessive amounts of weight during pregnancy,

quadrupling the chance of having an excessively large child at birth and increasing the number of cesarean deliveries in labour.

“Big babies become big children and big adults later on,” said Professor Lesley McCowan, of the University of Auckland, who led the study.

“Babies born large are at risk of traumatic birth, and cesarean delivery increases

the chance of complications for the mother,” said McCowan in a statement.

“These adverse outcomes can be modified by achieving optimal weight gain in pregnancy. This should be an important focus of ante-natal care.”

Weight gain during pregnancy was also an important cause of obesity in women. “Most women who gain too much weight are not

WORLD

Fire breaks out in Turkish prison, seven hospitalized

ISTANBUL, 8 Feb—A fire broke out in a prison in Turkey's southeastern province of Adana on Thursday and seven inmates were hospitalized due to smoke inhalation.

Local media quoted Ceyhan District Governor Gurbuz Karakus as saying that the fire broke out around 5 pm (GMT 1500) on Thursday in a part of the prison where convicted drug dealers were jailed.

He said seven inmates were suffocated by smoke inhalation and had been sent to hospital, and that firefighters had brought the blaze under control.

The district governor added the district prosecutor has launched an investigation into the cause of the fire.—Xinhua

Gunmen attack police centre in southern Yemen, three injured

ADEN, (Yemen), 8 Feb — Unknown gunmen on motorbikes attacked a police station in Yemen's southern province of Lahj on Thursday, injuring three policemen, a military official told Xinhua. The masked attackers fired at the main gate of a police station in Houta city, the provincial capital of Lahj, injuring at least three policemen, the local military official said on condition of anonymity.

"Unidentified gunmen attempted to invade the area with a heavy shooting in different directions while using explosives on the police



South Korean and US marines attend a winter military drill in Pyeongchang, about 180 km (112 miles) east of Seoul on 7 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA

Ukraine refuses to pay Russian gas bill

KIEV, 8 Feb—Ukraine would not pay a 7 billion US dollar bill for Russian gas it was obliged to buy last year but never took, Energy and Coal Industry Minister Eduard Stavytsky said here on Thursday.

"We do not consider it appropriate to pay the 7 billion dollar bill, because we have no reasons for that. We complied with required terms of the contract,"

Stavytsky told journalists.

To reduce its dependence on Russian gas, Ukraine was exploring additional options of reverse gas supply from Europe, Stavytsky said.

Under the contract between Ukrainian state-run Naftogaz and Russia's Gazprom in 2009, Kiev agreed to buy 52 billion cubic meters of gas per year or pay for a minimum of

US state Oklahoma reports six more flu deaths

HOUSTON, 8 Feb — Six more flu deaths had been reported in the US state of Oklahoma in the last week, bringing the total flu-related deaths in the state for this season to 23, authorities said on Thursday.

A total of 798 people have been hospitalized with the flu in Oklahoma since the season began in September 2012, the Oklahoma State Department of Health said.

Tulsa County leads the

state with 236 flu-related hospitalizations, and six flu-related deaths. Oklahoma County is second with 106 hospitalizations and three deaths. Health officials continued emphasizing the importance of flu shots because people who already have the flu but show no symptoms can still spread it to others.

The US is experiencing one of its worst flu seasons. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) said in a report last week that 42 states are now reporting widespread flu activity, down from 47 states from the agency's previous report. The CDC's report shows that the number of flu-related deaths in the country has fallen during the week of 20 to 26 January. However, eight more children died from flu during the week, raising the total to 45 for the 2012-2013 influenza season, according to the CDC.—Xinhua



Firefighters try to extinguish the fire at Duri Selatan, Tambora, west Jakarta, Indonesia, on 7 Feb, 2013. About 70 tenements were burnt in the fire, affecting 2,284 residents, according to Isnawa Adji, Head of the Subdistrict of Tambora.—XINHUA

Israel's Netanyahu, Lapid conclude second round of coalition talks

JERUSALEM, 8 Feb — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid on Thursday, seeking to iron out sharp divisions and reach compromise that may facilitate the latter's incorporation in the government.

Both men first met on 24 January, two days after the centrist Yesh Atid stunned the political establishment and the Israeli public by winning 19 seats in parliamentary elections, making Lapid, formerly a popular newsman, the leader of the second-largest party in the Knesset.

Local media outlets cited both Netanyahu and Lapid reporting "a very good atmosphere" at Thursday's two-hour meeting at the prime minister's official residence in Jerusalem, "but made no real progress" on the matter of the latter joining the next Israeli coalition.

Details of the meeting were not made available, but the two agreed to meet again in the near future.

With three weeks remaining to form a government, Netanyahu is seeking as broad a coalition as possible to ensure stability in his third term as premier. Likud-Beiteinu officials said Netanyahu envisages a coalition that includes Yesh Atid (There is a Future) and the

ultra-Orthodox parties, as well as the far-right Jewish Home and smaller center-left parties.

But Lapid, who unequivocally promised Israeli voters to end the sweeping exemptions from military service given to the country's ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, is awaiting Netanyahu's intentions regarding this issue that for decades has divided Israelis.

The Times of Israel on Thursday quoted sources in Yesh Atid as saying that, Lapid, who decisively announced in the immediate aftermath of the elections that he would not be part of an anti-Netanyahu bloc in the Knesset, was now "genuinely prepared" to remain out of the coalition "if it became clear to him that Netanyahu was not intent on passing legislation" to draft the ultra-Orthodox into either military or national service.

The sources underscored that the religious draft highlighted Yesh Atid's election campaign and remains a key component of the party's platform. Lapid's proposal calls for a gradual inscription of the ultra-Orthodox over a five-year period, during which men would also be integrated into the work force.

Xinhua

Chilean probe uncovers naval negligence, coverup in 2010 tsunami

SANTIAGO, 8 Feb — Officials investigating the handling of the February 2010 tsunami that killed more than a hundred Chileans has uncovered negligence and a coverup on the part of the navy, media reports said on Thursday. A report by the Investigative Police (PDI) says records kept by the Chilean Navy's Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (Shoa) on the earthquake and ensuing tsunami were later altered.

The report, submitted Tuesday to the General Attorney's office, says the logbook's original entry was erased and rewritten.

Investigators said the entry "tsunami emergency warning" is logged at 3:40 am, when at that hour the agency had dismissed any danger of a tsunami in a report sent to then President Michelle Bachelet.

The original entry, according to the investigators, said "03.55 Zafarrancho," naval jargon indicating

trouble and meaning roughly "all hands on deck."

Around that same time, several towns along Chile's south-central coastline were already being battered by monstrous waves.

In the early hours of 27 February, 2010, a magnitude 8.8 earthquake, the sixth-strongest quake ever recorded, hit Chile, sparking a tsunami that took coastal residents by surprise, because the navy's Shoa emergency service had failed to warn them of the imminent danger. The PDI report additionally claims mistakes and negligence on the part of Chilean Navy officials along the affected region, especially a lack of concern for the victims' welfare.

Navy personnel "at no time showed a willingness to go out and carry out an evacuation of the coastal sector ... or any attempt to rescue the people trapped on the islands" off the coast, the report alleges.—Xinhua



Two Taliban militants who were arrested by Afghan border police are presented to the media in Nangarhar Province, east Afghanistan, on 7 Feb, 2013. Afghan border police detained two Taliban militants in Nangarhar Province on Thursday, police officials said.—XINHUA

WORLD

Yemen demands Iran halt support for insurgents



Yemen's President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi attends Arab summit in Riyadh on 21 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

SANAA, 8 Feb—Yemen's president has asked his Iranian counterpart to stop backing armed groups on its soil after coastguards seized a consignment of missiles and rockets believed sent by the Islamic Republic, a government official said on Thursday.

Iran has denied any connection to the weapons, found aboard a vessel off the coast on 23 January in an operation coordinated with the US Navy.

But government official Abdel-Rashid Abdel Hafez said President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi had contacted Iran's President

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to demand Teheran stop smuggling in weapons. Hafez gave no further details of the message.

"This is the most dangerous arms shipment being smuggled to Yemen," Yemeni Deputy Interior Minister Abdel-Rahman Hanash told Reuters. "It contained anti-aircraft missiles, C4 high explosives materials which only a few countries in the Middle East possess." Yemen, a majority Sunni Muslim country, said last week the vessel had been loaded in Iran.

Yemen has complained to the UN Security Council

and asked for the weapons shipment to be investigated by the council's group of experts that monitors compliance with the Iran sanctions regime. It includes a ban on arms exports, UN special envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar, said on Thursday.

The council has imposed four rounds of sanctions on Iran for refusing to halt its nuclear enrichment programme, which the United States, European Union and their allies suspect is at the heart of a weapons programme. Iran rejects the allegation and refuses to halt what it says is a peaceful energy programme.

"The shipment contains weapons and some of the weapons are sophisticated weapons, surface to air missiles, for example. The government made a request to the sanctions committee for a full investigation," Benomar told reporters. "They (the sanctions committee) will establish the facts on what happened, where the shipment came from, who were the recipients, et cetera," he said.—Reuters

Syrian jets bomb Damascus ring road to halt rebel push

AMMAN, 8 Feb—Syrian government jets bombarded the Damascus ring road on Thursday in a bid to halt a rebel advance which threatens President Bashar al-Assad's hold on the capital, insurgent commanders and opposition activists said.

Warplanes fired rockets at southern parts of the route where rebels have spent the past 36 hours overrunning army positions and road blocks encircling the heart of the city, the site of key state security and intelligence installations.

Assad, battling to crush a 22-month-old revolt in which 60,000 people have died, has lost control of large parts of the country but his forces, backed by air power, have so far kept rebels away from the centre of Damascus.

World powers fear the conflict — the longest and deadliest of the uprisings that started spreading through the Arab world two years ago — could envelop Syria's neighbours, further destabilising an already explosive region.

"The regime really wants its positions on the ring road back. It is a ma-

ajor defence line for the capital," Aby Ghazi, a rebel commander based in the eastern suburb of Irbreen told Reuters.

Ghazi said the rebels have reached the edges of the city's main Abbaside Square where the Syrian military had turned a football stadium into barracks.

Authorities have banned most independent media from the country, making it difficult to verify events on the ground.

Units of Assad's elite Republican Guard based on the imposing Qasioun Mountain overlooking the capital fired artillery rounds and rockets at Jobar, an

eastern neighbourhood bordering the square, and at the ring road, rebel and activist sources said.

Damascus residents, long accustomed to the sounds of war, said Thursday's shelling was some of the heaviest they had heard.

"They've gone insane. All of them. They're insane," one central Damascus resident said by telephone.

US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the Assad government had responded to the rebel offensive by "indiscriminately shelling unarmed civilians".

Reuters



A Free Syrian Army fighter walks in the Haresta neighbourhood of Damascus on 7 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

CIA nominee pressed on US drone policy, waterboarding

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—John Brennan, President Barack Obama's nominee for CIA director, said on Thursday he did not try to stop waterboarding, an interrogation technique that some consider torture, as he faced tough congressional questioning on that issue, security leaks and the use of drones to kill US terrorism suspects.

Lawmakers pressed Brennan on controversial counterterrorism tactics employed while he was a CIA official under former President George W Bush, and others whose use he helps oversee in his current role as chief counterterrorism adviser to Obama.

The issue of the now-banned harsh interrogation techniques derailed Brennan's consideration for CIA director four years ago, and he met it head-on at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee. "I did not take steps to stop the CIA's use of those techniques. I was not in the chain of command

of that programme," Brennan said. "I had expressed my personal objections and views to some agency colleagues" about waterboarding, a form of simulated drowning, nudity and other techniques, he said.

"But I did not try to stop it, because it was something that was being done in a different part of the agency under the authority of others, and it was something that was directed by the administration at the time," he said.

In a bid to smooth congressional concerns about counterterrorism activities under his watch, Obama on Wednesday ordered the Justice Department to give House and Senate intelligence committees access to a classified legal opinion on killing US terrorism suspects with drone strikes.

Brennan, 57, has been central in overseeing US-government policy on the use of the armed, unmanned aircraft in counterterrorism operations in the Obama administration.—Reuters

Iran's Khamenei rebuffs US offer of direct talks



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei attends a meeting with Iranian nuclear scientists and managers in Teheran on 22 Feb, 2012.

REUTERS

DUBAI, 8 Feb—Iran's highest authority, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Thursday slapped down an offer of direct talks made by US-Vice President Joe Biden last week, saying they would not solve the problem between them. "Some naive people like the idea of negotiat-

ing with America, however, negotiations will not solve the problem," Khamenei said in a speech to officials and members of Iran's air force carried on his official website. "If some people want American rule to be established again in Iran, the nation will rise up to face

them," he said.

"American policy in the Middle East has been destroyed and Americans now need to play a new card. That card is dragging Iran into negotiations."

Khamenei made his comments just days after Biden said the United States was prepared to meet bilaterally with the Iranian leadership. "That offer stands but it must be real and tangible," Biden said in Munich on Saturday. With traditional fiery rhetoric, Khamenei lambasted Biden's offer, saying that since the 1979 revolution the United States had gravely insulted Iran and continued to do so with its threat of military action.

"You take up arms against the nation of Iran and say: 'negotiate or we fire'. But you should know that

pressure and negotiations are not compatible and our nation will not be intimidated by these actions," he added.

Relations between Iran and the United States were severed after the overthrow of Iran's pro-Western monarchy in 1979 and diplomatic meetings between officials have since been very rare. Currently US-Iran contact is limited to talks between Teheran and a so-called P5+1 group of powers on Iran's disputed nuclear programme which are to resume on 26 February in Kazakhstan.

In Washington, US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland brushed off Khamenei's remarks and urged Iran to show up in Almaty "prepared to discuss real substance" either in a group setting or in bilateral talks.—Reuters

Colombian police arrest 15 gang members

BOGOTA, 8 Feb—Colombian police have arrested 15 members of a drug-trafficking gang, including three police officers, the National Police said on Thursday.

The 15 men, all members of the Los Urabenosare ring, were arrested for their suspected role in the deaths

of two police officers in the northern state of Antioquia.

Police confirmed that the three police officers detained have been members of the gang for several years.

The operations were carried out in the northern cities of Valledupar, Santa Marta, Fundacion and Mai-

cao, police said, without giving a specific date.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Wednesday highlighted the capture of a drug kingpin named Peru Jacinto Nicolas Fuentes, alias Don Leo.

According to Colombian authorities, Fuentes is

a former member of right-wing paramilitary groups and worked for various leaders of the United Self-Defences of Colombia (AUC), which was disbanded in 2008, when its leaders were extradited to the United States and its 30,000 paramilitary fighters were demobilized.—Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 9 February, 2013

Protect wildlife

Myanmar's thick forests used to serve as a safe haven for wildlife with tigers prowling and elephants trumpeting. However, predators like big cats in these days have turned prey to human greed and are subject to poaching and illegal trading. Hunting remains a serious threat to Myanmar's ecosystems.

Seizure of ivory often makes headlines in international media outlets but until the recent poaching of elephants in Ngapudaw Township and Kyaukdaga Township, less is known about the commercial hunting of elephants in Myanmar. The high demand for ivory products in Asian markets has become a cause of concern for survival of elephants.

Likewise, tigers and turtles are at great risk as illegal trade is booming for these animals whose parts are thought to be good for health and used as amulets. Today, a number of wildlife has been classed as endangered species across the world, facing the threat of extinction. Tigers are no more powerful and magical creatures but pitiful beasts at the mercy of humans.

Though elephants do cause deforestation, it is not as much as illegal logging and mining, both human actions. Not only on land but also in water over-fishing has resulted in depletion of fish stocks. In case of illegal gecko trading between late 2011 and the first half of 2012 in Myanmar, gecko families had experienced the complete chaos while some got to a neighbouring country without visa.

Myanmar at present has established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserves across the nation for wildlife conservation. Although Myanmar with the help of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is conducting biological surveys, monitoring populations of key wildlife species, it would be required certain education programmes to boost public awareness of the importance of biodiversity. In addition, if the national parks could be turned into tourist destination of eco-tourism, it would be much beneficial to both environmental conservation and economic growth.

Sooner the better to invest in dairy farm

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Chairman of Breeding of milk Cows and dairy products development Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye, the Holland-based Royal Friesland Compina Finance Director and party and region/state level officers of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department had discussion about dairy produce and breeding sector in Myanmar at his office, here, yesterday.

The director said, Royal Friesland Compina has invested in 30 countries.

The Company would also like to invest in Myanmar and sign MoU with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

The Deputy Minister said in his comment that Myanmar welcomed the Co's investment. The Director-General of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and entrepreneurs from Livestock Breeding Federation would sign MoU.

Sooner the better to implement MoU in conformity with rules and regulations, the deputy minister said.—MNA

NATIONAL
Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives French Ambassador and party

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Jacques VALADE, Ambassadors from EU countries and officials at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion together with the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs Committees and responsible persons of Hluttaw Office.

They had a cordial

discussion on Myanmar's political reforms, dissemination of knowledge on democracy system, poverty alleviation, power sharing to region/state governments, peace-making process of Hluttaw Committees and EU's assistance to Myanmar reform processes.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint cordially greets French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Jacques VALADE.

MNA



Rehabilitation of Rakhine State discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi held talks with Asia and Pacific Regional Director Mr Kasidis Rochanakon of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and SEA Director

Mr James Lynch, Resident Representative Mr Johannes G ten Feld at the ministry, here, this afternoon.

Their discussions focused on undertakings of immigration tasks after outbreaks of conflicts two times in Rakhine State, matters related to the

Myanmar Citizens Law 1982 and assistance of UNHCR for development of rehabilitation in Rakhine State.—MNA

Books donated for raising reading habit

INDAW, 8 Feb—The book donation ceremony was held at Basic Education Primary School in Thila Village of Indaw Township in Katha District on 27 January afternoon.

Staff Officer U Chi Maung of Katha District Information and Public Relations Department, San Oo (Katha) of Katha, U Tin Shwe (Zwe Myint Naing-Indaw) of Indaw and Daw Nan Nyunt Khin (Ma Sabei-Katha) gave lectures on environmental conservation and raising reading habit.

Later, they donated books for the village.

Myanma Alinn



Union Minister U Khin Yi receives Asia and Pacific Regional Director Mr Kasidis Rochanakon of the Office of UNHCR and party.—MNA

Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander donates cash to promote religious affairs

YANGON, 8 Feb—Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Tanasak Patimapragorn and wife donated cash to the fund for spending it on religious affairs through Presiding Sayadaw of Naga Cave Monastery on 7 February.

General Tanasak Patimapragorn and wife presented robes and

1,468,340 baht to Naga Cave Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa of the monastery.

The donation will be spent on promoting religious affairs, on reconstruction of temples and edifices that were destroyed by natural disasters and on promotion of Pariyatti Sasana at the monastery.

NLM

Two thermal power plants donated by Thailand to arrive Yangon in Feb, March

YANGON, 8 Feb—The first 120 MW Thermal Power Plant donated by Electricity Generation Authority of Thailand will arrive here in the third week of February and the second one in mid March.

The two thermal plants will be equipped at Ywama Power Plant, upon completion of the installation, the

power station will be able to produce sufficient power for Yangon.

As the two thermal plants are heavy, it will take time to transport them to Ywama power Plant.

Yangon Region Government and Ministries are working together to complete the work in time.

NLM

NATIONAL

Hailing 66th Anniversary Union Day 2013:

In harmony and unison

From Rakhine, Kayah
Chin and Kachin
To Myanmar, Mon, Shan
All are sincere people

As well
Kayin are our brethren
In this democracy transition
Everything is new
And for prosperity
Peace is our cause

In one way or another
Working all in harmony
For common interest
Amity is our soul
Union in tranquility

Showing no reluctance
All in weal or woe
Happiness for every one
Under our new system
We enter golden age
The beauty of country
Preserve we all

Unwavering is the spirit
That flourishes forever
Each has own rights
As people of Myanmar
In harmony and unison
Serving the country
So charming we all are

Po Laylon Thaug Ko Ko (Trs)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives ambassadors from EU member countries

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation comprising ambassadors and minister-counsellors from Yangon- and Bangkok-based EU member countries led by French Ambassador Mr. Jacques VALADE at the Pyithu Hluttaw hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

Also present together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker UNanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo and U Thurein Zaw, Secretary U Maung Toe, Legal Affairs and Special Appeal Cases Assessment Commission members U Mya Thein, U Khin Maung Soe and U



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Ambassadors from EU member countries.—MNA

Khin Soe and officials from the Hluttaw office. At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on political and economic reforms, and further cooperation between Myanmar and EU member countries.

MNA

Union Commerce Minister receives Indonesian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint met a delegation led by Deputy Minister of International Economic Cooperation of

Indonesia Dr Rizal Affandi Lukman and Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono at his office yesterday.

Both sides discussed

promoting cooperation in trade promotion, Myanmar's political and economic reforms, investment opportunities, drafting of new trade policy,

Indonesia's assistances for hosting ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 and sharing of Indonesia's experience.

MNA

Road/ bridge, urban housing development between Myanmar-Indonesia discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin received a delegation led by Deputy Minister of International Economic Cooperation of Indonesia

Dr Rizal Affandi Lukman and Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono at his office, here, this morning.

They discussed the road/ bridge and urban housing

development between Myanmar and Indonesia, progress of road networks linking neighbouring countries, development of urban area and economic growth.—MNA



Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin presents picture to Deputy Minister of International Economic Cooperation of Indonesia Dr Rizal Affandi Lukman.—MNA

Workshop on renovating, upgrading YGH held

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Yangon General Hospital Renovation and Upgrading Committee conducted a workshop on renovating and upgrading the hospital at Ministry of Health here today.

It was attended by Chairperson of the committee Pyithu Hluttaw

Representative Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives Dr Maung Maung Wint, Dr Khin Maung Swe, Dr Nay Lin and responsible personnel from the ministry.

The workshop was opened with an address by Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Prof Dr

Kyaw Myint. The participants of the workshop discussed renovation and upgrading of the hospital, medical services, teaching and learning on medicine at the hospital and plans for raising funds for the renovation and upgrading the hospital.

MNA

Investment opportunities for development of milk and dairy products discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint met a 8-member delegation of Friesland Compina Vietnam, Friesland Compina Thailand and TZK Co

Ltd (Myanmar) led by Finance Director from Netherland-based Royal Friesland Compina Pte Ltd at his office on 6 February evening.

During the meeting, they discussed investment

opportunities for development of milk and dairy products in Myanmar. The delegation comprising the managing directors then observed Myaseinyang milk processing factory and milch cow farm in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

School milk programme goes on

MOHNYIN, 8 Feb—As basic education school milk programme has been going on beginning 6 February, milk is fed to schoolchildren at Lonejakaung Basic Education Primary School and No. 4 Aungthabyay BEPS. Officials concerned from Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department were present on the

occasions.

The department is making sure to get fresh and clean milk from milch cow farms and donors are also making contributing for milk programme. Milk will be fed to a total of 1446 students from 15 BEPSs from 6 to 15 February in Mohnyin.

NLM 001

Journalism students in field works

YANGON, 8 Feb—Students from Journalist Course No 3 of National Management Course in Botahtaung Township started their practical works at the training hall of News and Periodicals Enterprise on Theinbyu Road, here, on 4 February.—Myanma Alim

Food supplies for local people in Putao airlifted

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—The Government provided local people in Putao region in Kachin State with rice, oil, and salt yesterday.

The 240 bags of rice, 30 barrels of oil, and twelve bags of salt worth K

2,540,000 were airlifted from Yangon to Putao yesterday afternoon. Arrangements have been made to continue airlifting medicine and medical equipment to Putao.

Altogether 1,500 tons of rice, 195 tons of salt,

195 tons of onion, 39 tons of garlic are being sent to Myitkyina by train at the request of the Kachin State government for rainy season starting from 30 January, according to the Ministry of Commerce.—MNA

US regulator raises prospect of longer delay for Boeing 787

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK, 8 Feb — Regulators need to rethink how they approved the batteries on the Boeing Co 787, a top US safety official said on Thursday, adding a new and potentially time-consuming wrinkle to the plane's grounding.

National Transportation Safety Board head Deborah Hersman said regulators must review the "special conditions" used in approving lithium-ion battery technology on the 787 Dreamliners, after two battery related safety incidents in a matter of days.

The 50 Dreamliners in service were grounded worldwide on 16 January,

after a series of battery incidents, including a fire on a parked 787 in Boston and an in-flight problem on another plane in Japan. The groundings have cost airlines tens of millions of dollars, with no end in sight.

"There have now been two battery events resulting in smoke, less than two weeks apart, on two different aircraft," Hersman said. "The assumptions used to certify the battery must be reconsidered," she added.

Boeing investors took the news in stride, pushing shares higher on the day. Analysts said the market was focusing on the wrong issue: the short-term ques-

tion of fixing the battery versus the longer-term prospect the whole battery system might need to be approved again.

If the battery needs to be re-certified, "you're talking about changes to the 50 they've delivered, significant amount of engineering commitment on the 787-9. I see this as still having a significant amount of question marks," said Ken Herbert, an analyst at Imperial Capital in San Francisco.

Boeing shares are 3 percent higher since the 787 was grounded on 16 January, despite the headaches it has caused the planemaker and the demands for com-



A girl rests in the Little Guy Five Wide during the 49th annual Houston RV Show at the Reliant Centre in Houston, the United States, on 6 Feb, 2013. The five-day show is expected to draw 30,000 to 35,000 visitors with some 500 recreational vehicles on display. XINHUA

Germany delegation visits Philippines to boost bilateral relations

MANILA, 8 Feb — Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III welcomed Thursday visiting German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle and the members of his delegation in Malacanang, the presidential palace.

Prior to Mr Westerwelle's courtesy call on President Aquino, he held a bilateral meeting with Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario

where they discussed how to further strengthen the relations of the two countries.

Among the issues discussed by Del Rosario and Westerwelle were the political consultation process between the Philippines and Germany, the framework agreement for Mindanao peace, economic relations, including the issue about the German airport operator Fraport AG, and defense cooperation, South China

Sea issue, Filipino seafarers welfare, official development assistance (ODA), and the ongoing activities of German foundations in the Philippines, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

Despite the contentious Fraport issue which remains a challenge for both countries, Del Rosario said "this single case should not prevent German companies from working with their

First Israeli underground hospital underway in northern city

JERUSALEM, 8 Feb — The construction of a first of its kind underground hospital is underway and set to be completed in May in Israel's northern city of Haifa, the *Ma'ariv* daily reported on Thursday.

According to the report, the hospital's underground facility will protect the patients and staffers from any attacks of missiles, whether biological or chemical, against Israel.

The new hospital facility's construction comes amid growing tensions between Israel and its northern neighbours, Syria and Lebanon.

Last week, Syria announced a research center was hit by an Israeli air strike, whereas diplomats and security sources said Israeli jets hit a weapons convoy on its way to transfer weapons to Lebanon, to the militant group Hezbollah.

Syrian and Iranian officials talked of a possible retaliation against Israel, therefore, Israel is preparing for such possible attacks. The Israeli army had also reportedly deployed three anti-missile Iron Dome batteries in northern Israel, one in the Haifa area.

The facility, located three-story underground,

is set to be the largest of its kind in the world and should be able to accommodate 2,000 hospital beds. The report suggests that half a billion US dollars were invested in the project.

The project came into being following the 2006 war with Lebanon, in which Hezbollah fired dozens of long-range missiles to northern Israel, targeting Haifa as well, the third largest city in Israel.

"The fact that we can make this thing in such a short time is a success," Prof. Rafi Biar, the hospital's manager, told the daily. —XINHUA



National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chairman Deborah Hersman speaks next to John DeLisi, director of the NTSB Office of Aviation Safety, during a news conference on an investigation into the 7 January fire that occurred on a Japan Airlines Boeing 787 at Logan International Airport in Boston, in Washington on 7 Feb, 2013. —REUTERS

pensation.

Since finished 787s are piling up undelivered, and Boeing customers are already agitating for com-

pletion, that could complicate Boeing's assumption the grounding would not significantly affect it financially this year. —Reuters

Albania, Turkey strategic partners: Albanian president

TIRANA, 8 Feb — Albanian President Bujar Nishani on Thursday stated that Albania and Turkey were strategic partners during a visit by Turkish Defence Minister Ismet Yilmaz.

Yilmaz is on an official visit to Tirana at the invitation of his Albanian counterpart Arben Imami.

President Nishani and

Minister Yilmaz said cooperation between their countries in all fields, especially defence, could serve as a model for NATO member states.

Yilmaz praised Albania's overall progress on the path of reforms. He also praised Albania's role as factor of peace and stability in the region. —Xinhua

British Library to reveal rare literary archives in exhibition

LONDON, 8 Feb —The British Library announced on Thursday that it will hold exhibitions of 20th century state propaganda, newly-acquired archives of Sir Alex Guinness, and publish the last work of Virginia Woolf this year.

The exhibition Propaganda: Power and Persuasion will run from 17 May to 17 September this year, in a bid to explore how different states have used propaganda during the 20th and the 21st centuries, in peace and in war.

Among the exhibits are a selection of propaganda leaflets dropped on occupied territories by the Allied powers during WWII. Acquired from the Foreign

Israel releases Palestinian prisoner after hunger strike

GAZA, 8 Feb — Israel on Thursday released a Palestinian prisoner four months before his nine-year term completes because he renewed his hunger strike.

The prisoner, Akram Rikhawi, has crossed into the Gaza Strip through Erez crossing point. He was greeted by dozens of relatives and people from Islamic Hamas movement, which controls the coastal enclave. In July, Rikhawi stopped a fasting of 104 days based on an agreement with Israeli Prison Service. The agreement allows Rikhawi, a resident of the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, to be released on 25 January. However, Rikhawi was not freed on the stipulated date, so he entered a new hunger strike.

Rikhawi has become the seventh prisoner freed by Israel after hunger strike.

There are still four Palestinian prisoners who have been fasting for months in Israeli jails. Israel holds about 4,700 Palestinian prisoners. —Xinhua

A man works at a refugee camp under construction in Zarqa, which is to be opened as Jordan's second camp to cope with the rising inflow of Syrian refugees and reduce over-crowding in Za'atari, Jordan, on 7 Feb, 2013. Jordan announced on Tuesday that the number of Syrian refugees in the country is expected to exceed 700,000 in 2013. —XINHUA



REGIONAL



A passenger plane waits for the take-off order on the apron of the Jiangbei International Airport in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, on 7 Feb, 2013. Flights were delayed due to rain and fog at Chongqing's Jiangbei International Airport on Thursday.
XINHUA

One killed, seven injured as blast hits Pakistan's Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 8 Feb—At least one policeman was killed and seven others were injured when a bomb blast hit a police mobile in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Thursday night, reported local TV channel Geo.

Local TV Geo said that the incident happened at about 9:30 pm (local time) when a police mobile carrying three policemen was targeted in Orangi Town area of Karachi, the capital city of the country's southern Sindh Province.

The bomb was triggered off by a remote control and explosives were hidden in a garbage heap on the ground.

The injured people including two policemen and five civilians were shifted to a nearby hospital.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

Xinhua

Mongolian officials to continue talks with Rio Tinto

ULAN BATOR, 8 Feb—Mongolian officials ended their first shareholders' meeting with Rio Tinto officials on Thursday without reaching agreements and criticizing the mining giant's unpreparedness.

The meeting began on Wednesday afternoon to discuss Oyu Tolgoi LLC, a Mongolia-Tinto joint venture developing a large gold-copper mine in the south Gobi region of Mongolia.

The two sides agreed to meet later this month.

Mining Minister Gankhuyag Davaajav said at a Press conference after the meeting that the Rio

S Korean president-elect nominates first prime minister

SEOUL, 8 Feb—South Korean President-elect Park Geun-hye on Friday nominated former prosecutor Chung Hong-won as the first prime minister of her incoming administration.

Chung is the second choice of Park as her transition team head Kim Yong-joon gave up his nomination due to allegations of speculative land investment. The 69-year-

old served as the ruling party's election nomination head during last year's parliamentary election.

"I'll assist (Park) in a right and exact way," Chung told reporters after the nomination. "I'm an ordinary man with no brilliant career. What she meant was to value ordinary people highly."

Chung will face a parliamentary confirmation hearing in the coming

weeks. The new government takes office later this month.

Park also named former Defence Minister Kim Jang-soo as the national security office chief at the presidential office, and former Army Chief of Staff Park Heung-ryul to head the presidential security service chief. The two positions are equal to a ministerial level.

Xinhua



Firefighters try to put out a mountain fire in Huangjia Village of Dali City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 7 Feb, 2013. Nearly 1,500 firefighters and service men have been mobilized to fight a mountain fire which broke out at 4:30 pm on Wednesday. But strong wind and dry weather hindered firefighters' efforts and the fire remained unextinguished by 5:20 pm on Thursday.—XINHUA

Singapore, Japan conducted half-day bilateral coast guard exercise

SINGAPORE, 8 Feb—A half-day training exercise conducted by Singapore Police Force and Japan Coast Guard was held on Thursday at the city-state's Raffles Reserved Anchorage, a report by *Straits Times* online breaking news said.

It is said that the training exchange was as "part

of the Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting, a forum of 18 major coast guard agencies from all over Asia."

The Commander of Singapore Police Coast Guard, assistant commissioner of police Hsu Sin Yun, said the exercise reaffirmed the "excellent ties"

enjoyed by the various agencies, the report added.

The meeting is said to be a platform to exchange ideas and enhance cooperations in "issues such as law enforcement, maritime security, disaster prevention and relief, and capacity building."

Xinhua



People select goods at a supermarket in Sanhe City, north China's Hebei Province, on 7 Feb, 2013, to prepare for the coming Spring Festival, which falls on 10 February this year.
XINHUA

New Zealand gov't opens Asia-Pacific FTA talks to public submissions

WELLINGTON, 8 Feb—The New Zealand government on Friday invited public submissions on its negotiations on a proposed new free trade agreement covering 16 major trading nations of Asia and the South Pacific.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), also involving the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Australia, was launched in

November last year.

"This is a significant development for New Zealand, which will help us deepen our links with Asia. Asia is critical for New Zealand's future as a source of growth, markets, investment and talent," Trade Minister Tim Groser said in a statement.

"This allows New Zealand to be a part of a major trade initiative in the dynamic East Asian region. The countries which have committed to RCEP represent markets of more than 3 billion people, almost 20 tril-

lion US dollars in combined GDP and around 27 percent of world trade."

The RCEP would cover trade in goods and services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property, competition, dispute settlement and other issues.

The submissions would inform New Zealand negotiators on the views and interests of New Zealand investors, exporters and importers of goods and services, non-government organizations and individuals, he said.—Xinhua

Making traditional cakes features Lunar New Year in Vietnam

HANOI, 8 Feb—Most of the nations around the world often have their own traditional dishes for special events, and Vietnam is no exception.

In Vietnam, making glutinous rice cakes, or traditional Chung cake as called by the Vietnamese people, is an indispensable preparation for the Lunar New Year festival. As a result, Chung cake is always present among other Vietnamese traditional dishes throughout the holiday.

According to the legend, Chung cake was first made by Prince Lang Lieu, a son of Hung King, who is said to wear the crown some

3,000 to 4,000 years ago. The prince made Chung cakes in square shape and Day cakes in round shape to symbolize the Earth and the sky respectively, and offered them to the king to express his respect and gratitude for parents, and also to thank Gods for blessing bumper harvests during the year.

The tradition has been well preserved by the Vietnamese people nationwide although the way they make the cakes is different depending on regions where they live. Northern Vietnamese make the Chung cake in square shape, while the southerners or ethnic

people in mountainous areas wrap the cakes in a round shape.

"I make Chung cakes for my family usually during Tet holidays and maybe as gifts to my close friends. They are special Tet gifts, actually," Nguyen Van Ky, a 67-year-old man, told Xinhua recently in Hanoi.

Ky said he has three children, and each will have some couples of cakes to put on the ancestor altar during the New Year.

According to Ky, making Chung cake requires simple materials and ingredients which can be found in every market in Vietnam.—Xinhua

GENERAL & ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GUNKUL 1 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on GUNKUL 1 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULANATEE
CO LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CHANG CHUAN VOY NO (185)

Consignees of cargo carried on CHANG CHUAN VOY NO (185) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENCY
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PAC ARIES VOY NO (012N)

Consignees of cargo carried on PAC ARIES VOY NO (012N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**
PPhone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATTYS VOY NO (1306)

Consignees of cargo carried on MATTYS VOY NO (1306) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

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**51 people die
in Zambia's
bus accident**

LUSAKA, 8 Feb—At least 51 people have been confirmed dead after a public bus they were traveling in collided with a truck in central Zambia's Chibombo District in the early hours of Thursday, police said.

The accident occurred when the bus, belonging to a state-firm, Postal Bus Services, was traveling from Ndola city on the Copperbelt Province to the Zambian capital Lusaka and the 51 people died on the spot, according to Zambia Police Spokesperson Elizabeth Kanjela.

The police spokesperson said the accident occurred as the truck lost control after hitting into another vehicle before colliding with the bus which overturned.

Xinhua

Ministry of Information

**Invitation to open tender for purchasing equipments
for Myanma Radio and Television**

1. Open tender documents are invited to purchase the following equipments for Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information--

(a)	Studio Lighting System	1	Lot
(b)	6.6 KV VCB Panel	1	Set

2. Open tender forms are available at Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon), from (9:30 to 16:30) hours as of 9-2-2013.

3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of Tender Board of Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon), from (9:30 to 16:30) hours on 13-2-2013. Overdue tender forms will not be accepted.

4. Tender form rules, lists of equipments and detailed information are available at the following address.

5. Price scrutiny will be made at 9:00 am on 14-2-2013 at Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw.

**Equipment procurement Committee
Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon,
Ministry of Information.
Ph: 067-79411, 067-79135**

**Turkish northern city battles hard against
air pollution**

ISTANBUL, 8 Feb—Lying along the Black Sea coast between two river deltas, Turkish northern city Samsun was once among the world's "top cities with the best air quality." However, the city, now with a population of almost 1.5 million, is battling hard against air pollution caused by rapid industrialization, unplanned urbanization, narrow roads, and high-rise buildings that prevent wind flowing freely.

"Because of these conditions, heat-borne air pollution reaches its highest levels, especially during evening hours," professor Yuksel Adali, head of the Department of Environmental Engineering in Ondokuz Mayıs University, told Xinhua. Due to changes in the direction of dominant wind in Samsun's industrial zone, the polluters sometimes move toward Tekkekoy District of the city, said Adali. This movement of wind causes a severe "industrial pollution" in Tek-

kekoy. In 2007, when industrial plants had been built in Tekkekoy, air pollution was posing serious health risks in the area. The concentration of particulate matter like sulphur dioxide, nitrogen and carbon monoxide in the air was measured at 1000 to 3000 microgram, according to data from Ondokuz Mayıs

University. The limit for particulate matter concentration in industrialized regions is set as 400 microgram. The results of the university's measures revealed the reality that in 2007 people in Tekkekoy respired the carcinogen PM100 65 times more than normal rates.

Xinhua



A child looks at swimming sharks at Vancouver Aquarium in Vancouver, Canada, on 6Feb, 2013. The Secret World of Sharks and Rays exhibition showcased different rare species of the ocean animals to boost the awareness of protecting endangered marine life.

XINHUA

American Airlines, US Airways on verge of merger

HOUSTON, 8 Feb—American Airlines could be merging with US Airways early next week, according to multiple US media reports on Thursday.

A deal for the two US carriers' merger is likely to be agreed on next week, the reports said.

The board of directors of Fort Worth-based American Airlines' parent company, AMR Corp, is expected to meet next Monday to consider the deal, and an announcement could be made the next day, according to a local TV chan-

nel KHOU.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that AMR Corp is in the final stages of talks with US Airways Group on a merger deal, and that an agreement could be reached as soon as 15 February.

CBS station KTVT-TV in Dallas said it has learned that US Airways CEO Douglas Parker would probably run the new airline, which would be named American Airlines and is likely to stay headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Fort Worth Star-

Telegram reported that a merger "could be announced as early as next week as the two companies move closer to finalizing details of a deal." The two carriers' boards of directors have to give the green light for the merger to occur.

The judge overseeing AMR's bankruptcy also has to sign off on any agreement, according to the reports. American Airlines is coming out of bankruptcy. If the merger deal goes through, it will create the largest airline in the world.—Xinhua



People enjoy themselves at a tulip field in the garden landscape park of Liuzhou City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 7 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT



Robert De Niro's prints immortalized in cement

LOS ANGELES, 8 Feb—Robert De Niro has had his hand and footprints immortalized in cement.

The Silver Linings Playbook actor became the latest film icon to have his prints enshrined outside Hollywood's historic TCL Chinese Theatre—formerly known as Grauman's Chinese Theatre—in a ceremony celebrating his career on Monday (04.02.13).

The 69-year-old star—whose impressive filmography includes Casino, Raging Bull and Taxi Driver—told the crowd: “They say everyone in the film industry has three homes: The home where they live, the home where their first wife lives, and Hollywood. I love New York and I am proud to be a citizen of Hollywood. Thank you for this honour and thank you for making me feel at home here.”

Robert, who is best known for making gangster movies, then joked to the crowd: “You know, Joe Pesci (Goodfellas co-star) always said I'd end up with my feet in cement!”

Stars including Billy Crystal and Silver Linings Playbook director David O Russell paid tribute to the veteran actor, who was accompanied by his proud wife, Grace Hightower.

The excited actor mistakenly dated his cement plaque ‘2/14/13’ (14 Febru-

ary), but representatives for the TLC Chinese Theatre have corrected the date to 4 February. Robert is currently celebrating a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award nomination for his role in the Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper-starring comedy about mental illness. It marks the actor's first Oscar nomination since 1991 for Cape Fear.

He has previously won two Oscars; a Best Supporting Actor prize for 1974's The Godfather Part II, and Best Actor for 1980's Raging Bull, a biopic on boxer Jake LaMotta.—PTI



MUMBAI, 8 Feb—What all one does to appease one's family members. Recently Kangana Ranaut was almost driven up the wall to let sister Rangoli have her way when it came to organising a birth-

Catherine Zeta Jones is more beautiful than ever: Michael Douglas

LONDON, 8 Feb—Michael Douglas thinks Catherine Zeta Jones is “more beautiful than ever”.

The 68-year-old Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps star—who has been married to the Side Effects actress for 12 years with who he shares son Dylan, 12, and daughter Carys, nine,—says he supports the 43-year-old Welsh star with everything because she is “simply the best”.

He told People.com: “Catherine and I are doing well. She is more beautiful than ever inside and out. I support her with everything

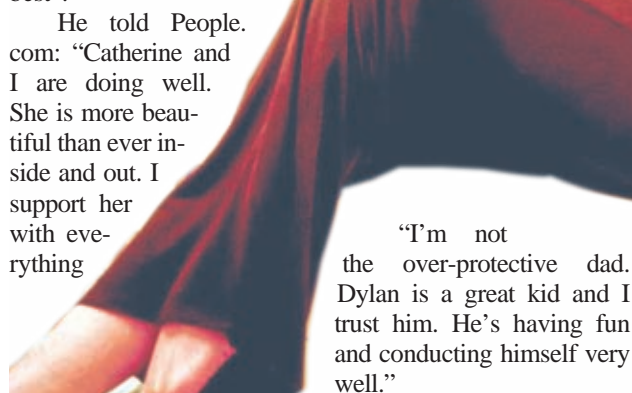
protective dad” and has already given his youngest son dating advice despite being scared to see him grow up.

He said: “I'm trying to digest it all, and I'm just trying to remember what it's like to be in a teenage romance. And what I remember scares me as a father!

mouth shut. But I like his choices so far.

“Unsolicited advice is a hostile gesture. I remembered that from a long time ago.

But I want him to know to always be polite and respectful.



“I'm not the over-protective dad. Dylan is a great kid and I trust him. He's having fun and conducting himself very well.”

The Oscar winner also insisted he doesn't try to push his son to date certain girls but is impressed by his choices.

He said: “I don't have much say in it. I keep my

Just don't try too hard. If he asks me for specific advice, I'll have a long talk with him.”

The actor's eldest son Cameron, 34, from his previous marriage to Diandra Morrell Douglas—who is serving a 10-year sentence for drug dealing—was moved to an isolated cell last after failing a drug test at



the federal prison in Loretto, Pennsylvania.

PTI

Kangana Ranaut's sister gives her a hard time over party outfit

day bash for the latter's husband Ajay Chandel.

A source says, “It was Ajay's birthday a few days ago. Rangoli had arranged for a lavish party for him. Kangana, who was supposed to attend the party, had been tied up at work all day. She decided to go casual for the event.”

However as luck would have it, Rangoli spotted Kangana walking in a pair of track pants and immediately put her foot down. The source adds, “Her sister forced her to go

home and come back dressed. And right before she left her house, she got an SMS from Rangoli reading ‘Don't forget to do your hair’.”

The SMS apparently left Kangana furious.

A friend of the actress says, “Kangna narrated the entire incident to me. She believes Rangoli did so because she wanted her husband to have a perfect birthday party.”—PTI

Satyagraha for Kareena on Valentine's Day

MUMBAI, 8 Feb—Kareena Kapoor, who tied the knot with actor Saif Ali Khan in October last year, will be busy shooting for Prakash Jha's film Satyagraha

in Bhopal on Valentine's Day (14 February).

“This year, my Valentine's Day will be with Amitji (Amitabh Bachchan), Ajay Devgn and Prakash Jha. So it's not bad,” Kareena Kapoor said.

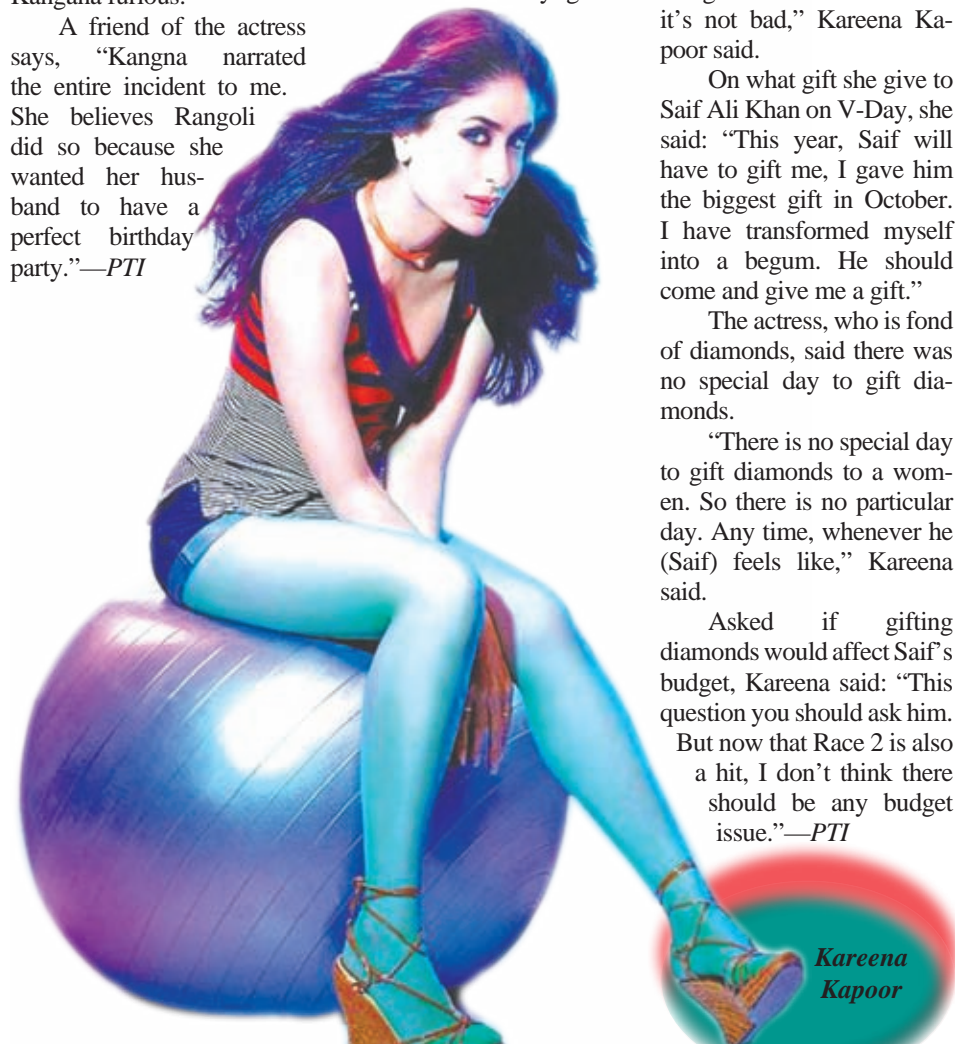
On what gift she give to Saif Ali Khan on V-Day, she said: “This year, Saif will have to gift me, I gave him the biggest gift in October. I have transformed myself into a begum. He should come and give me a gift.”

The actress, who is fond of diamonds, said there was no special day to gift diamonds.

“There is no special day to gift diamonds to a woman. So there is no particular day. Any time, whenever he (Saif) feels like,” Kareena said.

Asked if gifting diamonds would affect Saif's budget, Kareena said: “This question you should ask him.

But now that Race 2 is also a hit, I don't think there should be any budget issue.”—PTI



No issues with Aditi Rao Hydari: Sara Loren



MUMBAI, 8 Feb—Actresses Sara Loren and Aditi Rao Hydari reportedly gave each other the cold shoulder

on the sets of their new film Murder 3.

However, Sara tells us that all's well between the

two.

Sara states, “Once when the food on the sets was over, I even gave away my portion so that Aditi could eat. As you see there is no issue between us. In the film, our characters are not friends. Maybe our onscreen tension was misread by people.” Ask her why she changed her name from Mona Lizza to Sara and the starlet says, “My agency told me that my name was not suitable and wouldn't work in my favour in the industry. I decided to change it to Sara.”—PTI

SPORTS

La Dolce Vita turns sour for Raptors'

Bagnani



Toronto Raptors' Andrea Bargnani sits on the bench during the first half of their NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics in Toronto, on 6 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

TORONTO, 8 Feb—Italian forward Andrea Bargnani has seldom experienced La Dolce Vita during seven enigmatic seasons with the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Toronto Raptors. Despite being the first European taken with the number one pick in an NBA draft and a five-year \$50 million extension in 2009, the sweet life has eluded the seven-foot

Roman who is losing fan support with play that is often as bewildering as a Federico Fellini film.

Indeed, things have turned decidedly sour for the Italian, who was greeted to a chorus of boos from a frustrated home crowd when he returned to the Raptors lineup on Wednesday against Boston after missing 26 games with elbow and wrist injuries. "I'm

disappointed," Raptors head coach Dwane Casey told reporters after the Raptors fell 99-95 to Boston. "This young man has done nothing to deserve that. He's been hurt.

"Fans have a right to boo, to cheer, to boo me. But I don't think Andrea deserved it, coming back from a serious injury." With each passing season the criticism has grown louder and more frequent as Bargnani fails to develop into the franchise player expected from a number one overall selection. Even Raptors General Manager Bryan Colangelo, who used the top pick in 2006 to claim Bargnani, once labeled him as the "enigma of all enigmas," openly suggesting it might be time to finally trade the 27-year-old. —Reuters

NFL's Redskins, others should junk names, make money

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—Showing the profits of rebranding is more effective than moral arguments in prodding sports teams such as the NFL's Washington Redskins to drop names seen as offensive to Native Americans, symposium panelists said on Thursday. Arguments against stereotyping Native Americans will carry less weight than new revenue in changing names such as the Redskins, the target of political debate and a legal fight, the panelists at the National Museum of the American Indian said.

Teams could launch a new revenue stream by junking their mascots and names—such as Major League Baseball's Cleveland Indians, the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs and the Florida State University Seminoles—and



Washington Redskins running back Alfred Morris (C) runs through the Dallas Cowboys line during the first half of their NFL football game in Landover, Maryland, on 30 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

then selling new jerseys and other items to fans, they said. "From a financial point of view, there are a lot of reasons showing that it's a gain and not a loss," said Ellen Staurowsky, a sports management professor at Drexel University in Pennsylvania. Newton Jackson, a sports management professor at the

University of North Florida, said: "It's about money."

The discussion on "Racist Stereotypes and Cultural Appropriation in American Sports" carried special resonance in Washington, where activists have pressed the NFL club to change its name for decades without success. Washington Mayor

Kagawa heads back for club challenge in style

OSAKA, 8 Feb—Manchester United midfielder Shinji Kagawa returned to Europe on Thursday, a day after he helped set up two goals in Japan's 3-0 victory in a friendly over Latvia.

"The way we scored was down to our having a good shared image," Kagawa said before leaving from Kansai International Airport. "Next time, I want to score."

Before leaving Japan, Kagawa inked a three-year sponsorship deal with Audi Japan that will give the 23-year-old use of a red Audi, valued at around

20 million yen, in Britain. The contract is similar to the one Audi Japan recently

completed with golfer Ryo Ishikawa.

Kyodo News



Manchester United midfielder Shinji Kagawa is pictured with an Audi car in Izumisano, Osaka Prefecture, on 7 Feb, 2013, as he inked a three-year sponsorship deal with Audi Japan that will give him use of a red Audi, valued at around 20 million yen, in Britain.—KYODO NEWS

Liverpool defender Carragher to retire

LONDON, 8 Feb—Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher announced on Thursday that he will retire

at the end of the season, concluding a distinguished one-club career.

The 35-year-old Carragher, labeled "Mr Liverpool" by the club, has played 723 times for the first team since making his debut in 1997, which made

him the second on the all-time appearance list behind Ian Callaghan. "It has been a privilege and an honor to represent this great club for as long as I have," Carragher said on Thursday. "And I am immensely proud to have done so."—Xinhua

Williams, reinstated after bounty affair, joins Titans

NEW YORK, 8 Feb—Gregg Williams, banned for orchestrating the New Orleans Saints' bounty program, was reinstated by the NFL on Thursday and hired as a defensive coach by the Tennessee Titans, vow-

ing that the coach's contract had been approved. "The commissioner cited several reasons for the reinstatement, including Williams' forthcoming acknowledgment of and acceptance of responsibility for his role

New Orleans Saints Defensive Coordinator Gregg Williams watches his team prepare for their NFL football game against Tampa Bay Buccaneers in New Orleans, Louisiana on 2 Jan, 2011. REUTERS



ing he would find "positive ways to inspire." Williams, who was hired by the St Louis Rams before the 2012 NFL season before being suspended indefinitely by the NFL and subsequently fired from that job, was introduced as the Titans senior assistant/defence at a news conference.

"I take full responsibility and apologize for my previous actions," said Williams. "I used this year to organize my life and focus on positive energy and positive ways to inspire and coach and motivate in this profession." The Titans said National Football League (NFL) Commissioner Roger Goodell notified Williams and the Titans

in the bounty programme at the Saints, his commitment to never again be involved in a pay-for-performance or bounty system, and his pledge to teach safe play and respect for the rules at all levels of the game," the Titans said in a statement.

"The commissioner emphasized that Williams must fully conform to league rules and will be subject to periodic monitoring to confirm his compliance." Williams was banned last March after an NFL investigation determined the defensive coordinator had a leadership role in the Saints bounty scandal, a programme that gave players cash rewards for knocking opponents out of games from 2009-2011.—Reuters

India retain No 3 spot in ICC T20 rankings

DUBAI, 8 Feb—India managed to retain their third rank among T20 teams, while Virat Kohli has held on to his sixth spot in the ICC rankings for Twenty20 batsmen issued today.

India placed at third with 119 points in the ICC

Li Na to miss Qatar Open

DOHA, 8 Feb—Chinese tennis player Li Na will miss the Qatar Open next week due to the ankle injury she suffered in her Australia Open final in which she lost to Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

"Li Na has withdrawn from Qatar tennis due to

T20 Championship table is headed by Sri Lanka followed by the reigning World T20 champions West Indies.

Sri Lanka are the clear leaders with 131 ratings points, nine ratings points ahead of Darren Sammy's men.—PTI

her ankle injury from the Australian Open final," said the WTA on its Twitter account on Thursday.

Li suffered the unexpected left ankle injury in the second set at the Australia Open final in January and losing the match 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.—Xinhua



Citizens pose with the countdown clock to the 2014 Winter Olympics in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, on 7 Feb, 2013. Russia started a countdown of the 2014 Winter Olympics Thursday with festivities in major cities across the country. The 2014 Winter Olympics is to take place from 7 to 23 Feb, 2014 in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. XINHUA

GENERAL

Fire drill practised in Bhamo timber extraction region



BHAMO, 8 Feb—As part of efforts to take fire preventive measures, Bhamo Region Timber Extraction Region (Myanmar Timber Enterprise) of Kachin State and Township Fire Services Department jointly

performed fire drill at 2nd-mile heavy machinery yard of the region on 28 January afternoon.

District Manager U Htay Lwin of Timber Extraction Region, Assistant Managers U Zaw Mar and U Aung Naing Soe, staff and workers, Head of Township FSD U Maung Maung Aye and members.

They practised fire drill with the use of fire extinguishers and fire engine.

Myanmar Alinn

Singer Mika Singh arrested, released on bail at Mumbai airport

MUMBAI, 8 Feb— Singer Mika Singh was arrested at the Mumbai International Airport on Wednesday for allegedly carrying Indian and foreign currency beyond permissible limit. He was later released on bail.

He was detained by the Customs department earlier in the evening after he arrived from Bangkok by a private airline. The singer was booked for violating the Foreign Exchange Management Act or FEMA.

During checking, he was found in possession of US \$12,000 and Rs 3 lakh in cash, a senior Customs official said.

As per Customs

norms, Indian passengers coming from abroad and carrying over Rs 7,500 and US \$5,000 need to make declaration about the same upon arrival, he said.

The 35-year-old singer was unable to give satisfactory answers about the currency in his possession, the official said.—PTI



Mika was booked for violating the Foreign Exchange Management Act or FEMA.—PTI

Jennifer Aniston, Justin Theroux enroll in “marriage boot camp”

LOS ANGELES, 8 Feb— Jennifer Aniston enrolled her and fiance Justin Theroux into a “marriage boot camp”.

The former Friends star is determined to make her union with the 41-year-old actor work so before they tie the knot, she got them to have an intense three-day therapy session in Santa Monica. A source said: “Jennifer and

Justin are super excited about their big day, but she thought it would be a good idea to start married life rid of any problems. Justin seems to be as much a believer in the therapy as Jennifer is. On arrival, they had to hand over their mobile phones and undertake counselling, couple massages and screaming therapy — where

you howl your feelings out at the top of your voice.”

Jennifer, 43, also had to acknowledge the end of marriage to first husband Brad Pitt — with whom she split with in 2005 — in order to move on and make this relationship a success. The source added to Britain’s *Grazia* magazine: “It was pretty tough going and they had to address all of their deepest fears and worries.”

Jennifer — who has been dating Justin for around two years — has previously spoken about having the therapy and says she found it very rewarding. She said: “It’s true that I spent some time regularly taking part in sessions with a psychiatrist. I find it very normal to lie on a couch every once in a while and to let your head be straightened out and your heart.” —PTI



Jennifer Aniston is determined to make her marriage with fiance Justin Theroux work.—PTI

Nikkei plunges 1.80 pct on Friday

TOKYO, 8 Feb—Nikkei closed 1.80 percent lower on Friday as the depreciation of yen paused due to uncertain outlook of the eurozone economy. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average plunged 203.91 points, or 1.80 percent, from Thursday to 11,153.16.

The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange was down 11.83 points, or 1.22 percent, at 957.35. Decliners were led by the glass, paper and sea transport sectors, while airlines and nonferrous metals were the only gainers. The turnover was about 2,702.7 billion yen (about 28.93 billion US dollars).—Xinhua

11 dead in China expressway pile-ups

CHANGSHA, 8 Feb— Eleven people died and 68 others were injured

after multiple vehicles piled up each other on an expressway in central



Photo taken on 8 Feb, 2013 shows a pile-up scene on the Changde-Zhangjiajie Expressway in Changde, central China’s Hunan Province. Eleven people died and 68 others were injured after multiple vehicles piled up in the Changde section of the Changde-Zhangjiajie Expressway on Friday morning, traffic authorities said.

XINHUA

China’s Hunan Province on Friday morning, traffic authorities said.

The pile-ups occurred at around 4:05 am on the stretch in Changde City of the expressway from Changde to Zhangjiajie in Hunan, said an expressway administration official.

Twelve suffered serious injuries and two of them were in critical condition, according to the Changde City Health Bureau. All the injured are being treated in four hospitals in Changde.

Traffic control in the section were canceled at 11:10 am.

The cause of the accident is being investigated. Snow is still falling in the area at noon on Friday.—Xinhua

Dozens missing as ferry capsizes in southern Bangladesh

DHAKA, 8 Feb—A ferry packed with about 100 passengers capsized on Friday morning in a mighty river in Bangladesh’s southern Munshiganj district, some 27 km southeast of capital Dhaka, with dozens of people missing, local police said.

A police officer told *Xinhua* from Munshiganj’s Gazaria sub-district that about 50 people have been rescued but still dozens of passengers are missing after the ferry capsized being hit by a sand-laden bulkhead.

No bodies have so far been retrieved, said the police official who did not like to be named.

The official said that fire brigade personnel and locals including fishermen are searching for those missing people.

He said that many passengers were able to swim ashore after the accident at about 7:00 am local time on Friday but could not tell immediately about the exact number of the missing passengers.

He said a rescue vessel has been called in to boost local efforts to salvage the ferry.

Ferry and boat disasters are common in Bangladesh, which is crisscrossed by about 250 rivers. Ferry is still a key means of transport in the country. Most of them are often overcrowded.

MNA/Xinhua



A giant spitting cobra, measuring nearly nine feet and carrying enough venom to kill at least 15 people, has been discovered in Kenya, a conservation group said recently.—XINHUA

Former Guangdong official stripped of Party membership

BEIJING, 8 Feb—The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said on Friday it has investigated Zhou Zhenhong, a former official in Guangdong Province for “serious discipline and law violations”.

Zhou was stripped of his Party membership

and removed from his official posts, according to a decision of the CPC’s CCDI.

Zhou was former member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee and head of the United Front Work Department of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee.—Xinhua

Management Committee for observing 66th Anniversary Union Day meets



Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt delivers a speech at work coordination meeting of Management Committee for Observing 66th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb— Management Committee for observing 66th Anniversary Union Day held its third work coordination meeting at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this morning, with an address by Chairman of the management committee Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Union Minister

at the President Office U Thein Nyunt. The Union Minister said work plans for observing 66th Anniversary Union Day have been drawn up in detail. He invited recommendations of the attendees and called on them to report operational difficulties.

Responsible persons of

subcommittees presented progress in preparations and the Union Minister attended to the needs.—MNA

Grant contract for construction of bridge in Myitkyina signed

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb— The government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots human security projects scheme decided to extend humanitarian assistance of US\$ 120,952 for construction of community bridge in Kyar Yar Patty village-tract in Myitkyina Township of Kachin State. Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mikio Numata and Chairman of Bridge Construction Committee signed the grant contract yesterday. It is known that emergency patients from that village-tract are rushed to Myitkyina Hospital since there is no hospital there.

School children

who have finished their primary school have to attend middle school in Myitkyina since the village-tract has primary schools only. Moreover, local agricultural products are brought to the markets in Myitkyina by the villagers to earn their families. Four-mile long earth road to Myitkyina, will be upgraded into gravel one. However Kyar Yar Patty bridge needs repairing and it will be rebuilt as RC Type one.

This assistance will further strengthen the existing friendly- relations between Myanmar and Japan.—MNA

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day

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

Asian Tour Champions to light up Zaykabar Myanmar Open

YANGON, 8 Feb— Zaykabar Myanmar Open will be held late this month, attracting Asian Tour Champions.

Hiratsuka, who is a three-time tour winner, is tipped to reclaim the Myanmar Open trophy which he won in 2010.

A star-studded cast who will also assemble at the US\$300,000 Asian Tour

event also includes Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand and Rikard Karlberg of Sweden.

Mardan Mamat of Singapore, highly rated Arnond Vongvanij of Thailand and Himmat Rai of India will also be in the elite field at the Royal Mingalardon Golf and Country Club from February 21 to 24.

NLM

Weather Forecast for Second Dekad of February 2013 Issued on 8-2-2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

A low pressure area may form in the South Bay of Bengal. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Rainy Condition

Rainy days expected about (2) to (3) days in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayin States, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region and Kayah and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

Night Temperature

Night temperature will be slightly above February average temperature in Mandalay, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, and Mon State and about February average temperature in the remaining Regions and States.

Fog Condition

Fog days are expected in the morning about (5) to (7) days in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States and (4) days in the remaining Regions and States.

NLM

Join hands for increasing dolphin population

Ayeyawady dolphins, unique to the historic Ayeyawady River, are the friends of fishermen. The traditional fishing, the perfect cooperation between fishermen and dolphins is the frequent scene on Ayeyawady waters. In this fishing technique, dolphins voluntarily herd fish into nets of fishermen and take the fish that fall out of the nets.

Fishermen in protected area of Ayeyawady dolphins were given talk on conservation

of this endangered species recently. The talks was jointly organized by the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fishery and Conservation Group which are formulating approaches for Ayeyawady dolphin conservation management plan.

Ayeyawady dolphins like humans are mammals. Ayeyawady River has been home to them for over thousand years.

The cooperative fishing of human and dolphin has been also conserved for

many decades and this tradition has attracted many observers from abroad.

Annually, over 70 dolphins can be seen in Ayeyawady River between Bhamo and Mandalay.

A group of 19 dolphins has been making their home between Mandalay, againg and Mingun for over a month and dolphin viewers are visiting them every day.

As more and more globetrotters are visiting there, locals are benefitting from them. However, fish population, food for

Photo shows Ayeyawady dolphins swimming in the water.



dolphins is shrinking due to irresponsible fishing. Therefore, locals there are urged to use appropriate

Byline: Htwe Myint Naing (Sagaing)

fishing technique to ensure sustainability of fish stocks, joining efforts for conservation of dolphins

that are serving human interests.

Myanma Alinn: 8-2-2013

Trs: TKK