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Clash and conflict will not make any progress for regional development: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb— In meeting with local people at Phonkanrazi Hall in Putao of Kachin State yesterday, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann

invited locals to report the requirements of the region frankly, saying that the aim of his tour of inspection was to coordinate the matters to be able to ensure peace and prosperity of the region, witnessing the needs and listening to the voices of local people.

Next, Union Ministers U Kyaw Lwin and U Nyan Tun Aung handed over foodstuffs and medicines donated by President U Thein Sein to townsleders.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann wearing Kachin traditional head-dress, sword and shoulder bag.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann presents gifts to local people at Phonkanrazi Hall in Putao.—MNA

The Speaker and Hluttaw committee chairmen Thura U Aye Myint and U Thein Zaw, Lt-Gen Myint Soe of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the Commander and Defence Services personnel representatives of Hluttaw, Deputy Minister Maj-

Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister U Phone Swe and responsible persons presented cash and kind donated by the Hluttaws, families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air), the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Union Solidarity and Development

Party, Htoo Foundation and a company and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to townsleders.

Then locals presented township-wise reports on regional requirements to be fulfilled by the government. The Union ministers,

the deputy ministers and officials concerned coordinated the matters and clarified ongoing works and work progress. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker expressed thanks for comprehensive discussions of local people and officials concerned.

(See page 8)

Theinbyu Hockey Pitch to host SEA Games

Just over 300 days are away from SEA Games. Myanmar, the host has been making preparations and building stadiums and gyms on schedule, some complete and some

under construction.

Of the stadiums and gyms in Yangon under repairing and construction, Theinbyu Hockey Pitch has been completed by over 80 per cent in Mingala

Taungnyunt Township.

Theinbyu Hockey Pitch has been repaired and extended since the conclusion of XXVI Indonesian SEA Games and extension of stand would be

the final work.

Theinbyu Hockey Pitch is 100 yards in length and 60 yards in width, covering in area of 5.22 acres. The new stand will have seating capacity for nearly 700

spectators and about 2000 spectators can stand round the pitch to view the match.

Donated by Bangladesh, Germany-made turf has been put

in place in the hockey field. The training pitch stands beside the main pitch measuring 60 yards in length and 25 yards in width. The pitch also composes dressing rooms and press room. The construction is the combined work of Myanmar engineers and German experts.

Theinbyu Hockey Pitch recently hosted Myanmar National Sports Chairman Trophy Hockey Tournament and Myanmar Hockey Federation President Trophy Hockey Tournament.

Myanma Alinn: 10-2-2013

Trs: TKK



Photo shows Theinbyu artificial turf Hockey Pitch.

Inter-Township Volleyball Tournament wraps up in Myitkyina

MYITKYINA, 10 Feb—Kachin State Volleyball Subcommittee organized the Inter-Township Invitational Volleyball Tournament at the gymnasium in Myitkyina on 30 January morning.

Central Lisu Literature and Committee Youth Team representing Myitkyina Township beat Waingmaw B Team 3-0. Chairman of Kachin State Volleyball Subcommittee Director of Kachin State Internal

Revenue Department U Aung Win presented championship shield and second prize to the respective teams and officials best player awards in respective places, medals and cash awards to the winners.—Myanma Alinn

Course on protection minors against recruitment conducted

TACHILEK, 10 Feb—Jointly organized by Tachilek Anti-Human Trafficking Squad of Shan State, Social Welfare Department and World Vision Myanmar-Tachilek, the course for protection of minors against recruitment was held at the hall of the Township General

Administration Department in Tachilek on 27 January morning.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Ye Htoo made a speech. In-charge of the Tachilek Anti-Human Trafficking Squad Police Captain Yin Yin Htoo gave lecture on tasks

of the State for protection of minors against recruitment and In-charge of the World Vision Myanmar Tachilek U Min Myat Thu and Staff Officer Daw Khin Khin Myint from Shan State SWD also shared knowledge about protection of children against recruitment.—Myanma Alinn

Upgraded school opened in Phakant Township



PHAKANT, 10 Feb—A ceremony to mark opening ceremony of the upgraded Basic Education High School was held in conjunction with the prize presentation in Tamakhan Village of Phakant

Township in Kachin State on 24 January. Townselders and officials formally unveiled the signboard of the school.

Headmistress Daw Mu Mu Aung presented prizes to the cultural dance troupes and

musicians. Next, the officials offered alms to five members of the Sangha and eight nuns. In the afternoon, officials awarded the outstanding students.

Myanma Alinn

Futsal Tournament held

YANGON, 10 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the Insein Township Administrator's Trophy Men's Futsal Tournament was held at the football ground of Basic Education High School No 1 in Insein on 2 February.

opened the tournament.

On the first day, Aung San FC beat Township Internal Revenue Department 3-0; and Shwe Nyi Ko routed Region Auxiliart Fire Brigade 6-4.

A total of eight Futsal teams participated in the tournament. Winning teams will be awarded on the lawns of Insein BEHS No 1 on 12 February.—Myanma Alinn

Repaved streets commissioned into service in Lewe

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, Indaingtha 3rd and 4th streets in Lewe were opened by member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Swe, member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee U Kyaw Myint and Deputy

Administrator of Township U Kyaw Lwin on 1 February. The member of Nay Pyi Taw Council and guests strolled along the streets.

Lewe Township spent K 36 million on renovation of the two streets for smooth transportation of the local people.—Kyemon



2013 66th Anniversary Union Day



Knowledge about traffic rules shared

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Under the plan of reclining traffic accidents supervised by the Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee, the squad led by

Police Captain Win Myint of Traffic Police Corps (Nay Pyi Taw Branch) of Myanmar Police Force and party gave lectures on traffic rules for vehicle and motorcycle drivers

and road users and traffic accidents.

The police officers also disseminated knowledge about dos and don'ts for traffic rules.—Myanma Alinn

Fund handed over to Township DAC

KAWKAREIK, 10 Feb—A ceremony to hand over five per cent of tax from tax payers to the fund of Township Development Affairs Committee was held at the office of District General Administration Department

in Kawkareik on 25 January. Deputy Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon of District GAD made a speech. Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Aung Myo Oo handed K 395,471 to Executive Officer U Kyaw

Kyaw Oo of Township Development Affairs Committee.

The ceremony was also attended by district and township level officials and ward administrators.

Myanma Alinn

Administrative bodies meet political parties

KHINU, 10 Feb—A coordination meeting among local administrative bodies, departmental personnel, local authorities and clerks, and those from political parties was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in KhinU on

31 January.

On behalf of the Township Administrator the Secretary of Township Election Subcommission, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Tin Htoo and Chairman of Township Election Subcommission

U Tin Maung Shwe made speeches. Responsible persons of political parties explained aims, Our Three Main National Causes, participation in regional development, stand and activities and regional development.

Myanma Alinn

Diabetes patients under free medical treatment in Pathein



PATHEIN, 10 Feb—Taing Ayeya Free Clinic is kept open on Merchant Street in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region from 9 am to 12 noon and from 2 pm to 5 pm to provide health care services to the patients with diabetes.

The clinic supervisory committee and Medi

Myanmar Group Co established the clinic as of 30 January. Any patient may receive medical treatment as of 2 pm every Wednesday. Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the clinic may dial 09-8551762 of U Zaw Win and 09-49706455 of U Aung Htay.—Myanma Alinn

Shwetaung Myitta Social Association established

MONYWA, 10 Feb—Shwetaung Myitta Social Association was set up at Pylon Chantha Monastery in Monywa South Ward in Monywa of Sagaing Region on 24 January.

services to the local people and oxygen cylinder and ambulance for needy person," said executive of the association U Kyaw Myo Min.

Those wishing to seek help may dial 09-2132364, 09-4927080 and 09-400407044.—Kyemon

"The association will open part time clinic for providing health care

WORLD

70 EU military instructors arrive in Mali

BAMAKO, 10 Feb — The first European Union (EU) contingent, comprised of 70 military instructors, arrived in Mali on Friday under the auspices of the European Training Mission (EUTM), said the head of the contingent. The head of the first European contingent Colonel Bruno Heluin told the media in Bamako that the mission will help in “reforming Mali’s army so that it can be able to safeguard the country’s national territory and respond rapidly when called upon.”

The training which will be conducted by 200 trainers from 15 European countries, will last for 15 months and aim at training 4 battalions.

The colonel said that a section of the contingent will remain in Bamako to be in contact with the chain of command and the other will be deployed to Koulikoro, which is situated about 60 km from Bamako, for training.

The EU decided to dispatch hundreds of trainers to reinforce the capacity of the Malian army, following a request for support by the country’s senior military officials, who wanted their soldiers to be well trained and equipped to fight against rebel groups in northern Mali.—Xinhua



Afghan border police sit on their military vehicles during their training in border police headquarters in Herat Province in western Afghanistan on 9 Feb, 2013. The Afghan government and NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan (NTM-A) have stepped up efforts to train and equip Afghan police and army after NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) handed over the security responsibilities to Afghan security forces, part of a process which will run through 2014 when Afghanistan takes over the full leadership of its own security duties.—XINHUA

Strong quake hits Colombia: six hurt, but no major damage

BOGOTA, 10 Feb — A powerful earthquake rocked southwestern Colombia on Saturday, damaging more than 100 homes and causing minor injuries to six people, but sparing serious damage to roads and bridges, authorities said. The US Geological Survey measured the quake at 6.9 magnitude. Its epicentre was 6 miles (10 km) southwest of Pasto, near the Ecuador border, and was 80 miles (130 km) deep.

The quake was felt hundreds of miles south in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, where buildings shook for at least two minutes. Some

residents in the Colombian capital, Bogota, were evacuated briefly.

A few people suffered minor injuries and some buildings, mainly private homes, were damaged.

“For the time being, the assessment shows that 124 homes, a health clinic and three schools have been damaged, and a church was destroyed, but no one was killed or disappeared. There are five adults and a child with (minor) injuries,” said Carlos Ivan Marquez, the head of the national emergency services office.

Reuters

Belgian airport reopens after plane crash kills family

BRUSSELS, 10 Feb — A small passenger plane crashed at Belgium’s Charleroi Airport on Saturday, killing five people and closing the international hub used by Ryanair for six hours just as thousands of people were due to go away on holiday.

The aircraft, a Cessna, had problems on takeoff and tried to return to Charleroi to make an emergency landing but crashed on the side of the runway, airport officials said.

“There was a problem on takeoff and they tried to

come back, but unfortunately the plane crashed,” said Melissa Milioto, an airport spokeswoman. “Five people were killed.”

Firefighters sprayed water on the plane that was reduced to a wreck of twisted metal, with only the tail still visible, TV images showed.

The airport was closed immediately after the crash, which happened just before 10 am (0900 GMT), and reopened at 4 pm after an investigation on the runway was completed.

Ryanair, which is

the heaviest user of the airport, said it cancelled four departures and diverted inbound flights due to the accident that happened at the start of the Belgian school half-term holiday, when many families go abroad to ski. Charleroi Airport, also known as Brussels South Charleroi, serves as the country’s second

Explosive device blast kills two people in Damascus’ suburb

DAMASCUS, 10 Feb — At least two people were killed on Saturday when an explosive device went off in a suburb of Syria’s capital Damascus, local media reported.

The explosive device went off at al-Suyouf Square in the eastern suburb of Jaramana, the pro-government Sham FM radio reported. It said four other people were also injured.

Further details surrounding the blast are

Blizzard hammers US Northeast, five dead, 700,000 lose power

BOSTON/NEW YORK, 10 Feb — A record-breaking blizzard packing hurricane-force winds hammered the northeastern United States on Saturday, cutting power to 700,000 homes and businesses, shutting down travel and leaving at least five people dead.

The mammoth storm that stretched from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic dumped more than 3 feet (90 cm) of snow across the Northeast, the National Weather Service said.

Coastal blizzard and flood warnings were in effect, but Massachusetts and Connecticut lifted vehicle travel bans as the storm slowly moved eastward on Saturday afternoon. Stratford, Connecticut, Mayor John Harkins said he had never seen such a heavy snowfall, with rates reaching 6 inches (15 cm) an hour.

“Even the ploughs are getting stuck,” Harkins told local WTNH television.

The storm centred its fury on Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, with the highest snowfall total, 38 inches (97 cm), in Milford, Connecticut.

About 2,200 flights were cancelled on Saturday, according to FlightAware, which tracks airline delays. Boston’s Logan International Airport

and Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, were shut down.

The storm dumped 29.3 inches (74 cm) of snow on Portland, Maine, breaking a 1979 record, the weather service said. Winds gusted to 83 miles per hour (134 km per hour) at Cuttyhunk, New York, and brought down trees across the region.

The storm contributed to three deaths in Connecticut, Governor Dannel Malloy told a news conference.

An 80-year-old woman was killed by a hit-and-run driver while clearing her driveway, and a 40-year-old man collapsed while shovelling snow. One man, 73, slipped outside his home and was found dead on Saturday, Malloy said.



A man uses a snowblower to clear his driveway during a blizzard in Medford, Massachusetts on 9 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Top US officer says sufficient troops to remain in Afghanistan

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, (Germany), 10 Feb — The top US military officer said on Saturday he was confident enough US troops will remain in Afghanistan after 2014 to accomplish the three-part mission agreed to by allies at last year’s NATO summit in Chicago.

Army General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he did not know whether President Barack Obama would announce the size of the post-2014 US force for Afghanistan during his upcoming State of the Union address.

But he said an announcement on the management of forces in 2013 “has to come fairly soon, simply because we’re two months in(to)” the year. Officials have said a decision on the size

of the post-2014 US force would be made before any announcement of the speed of the 2013 drawdown.

Afghan forces are expected to take over the lead role for security in Afghanistan this spring. The international force plans to hand over full responsibility for security to the Afghans by the end of 2014, with most international combat forces being withdrawn.

Dempsey spoke to reporters while en route to Afghanistan for a change of command ceremony for the International Security Assistance Force. Marine Corps General John Allen will hand over command of the international coalition to Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford, expected to be the force’s last commander.

Reuters



A police photographer inspects the scene of a tourist plane crash at Charleroi airport on 9 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Asteroid may have killed dinosaurs quicker than scientists thought

CAPE CANAVERAL, 10 Feb — Dinosaurs died off about 33,000 years after an asteroid hit the Earth, much sooner than scientists had believed, and the asteroid may not have been the sole cause of extinction, according to a study released on Thursday.

Earth's climate may have been at a tipping point when a massive asteroid smashed into what is now Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and triggered cooling temperatures that wiped out the dinosaurs, researchers said.

The time between the

asteroid's arrival, marked by a 110-mile-(180-km-) wide crater near Chicxulub, Mexico, and the dinosaurs' demise was believed to be as long as 300,000 years. The study, based on high-precision radiometric dating techniques, said the events occurred within 33,000 years of each other.

Other scientists had questioned whether dinosaurs died before the asteroid impact. "Our work basically puts a nail in that coffin," geologist Paul Renne of the University of California Berkeley said. The theory that the dinosaurs' extinction about 66 million years ago was linked to an asteroid impact was first proposed in 1980. The biggest piece of evidence was the so-called Chicxulub (pronounced "cheek'-she-loob") crater off

the Yucatan coast in Mexico.

It is believed to have been formed by a six-mile-(9.6-km) wide object that melted rock as it slammed into the ground, filling the atmosphere with debris that eventually rained down on the planet. Glassy spheres known as tektites, shocked quartz and a layer of iridium-rich dust are still found around the world today.

Renne and colleagues reanalyzed both the dinosaur extinction date and the crater formation event and found they occurred within a much tighter window in time than previously known. The study looked at tektites from Haiti, tied to the asteroid impact site, and volcanic ash from the Hell Creek Formation in Montana, a source of many dinosaur fossils.—Reuters



Image courtesy of NASA shows an artist's concept of a broken-up asteroid. Scientists think that a giant asteroid, which broke up long ago in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, eventually made its way to Earth and led to the extinction of the dinosaurs.—REUTERS

US professor finds longest prime number with 17,425,170 digits

KANSAS CITY, 10 Feb — After running 1,000 computers non-stop for 39 days to uncover the world's largest prime number yet, a Missouri college professor said this week he is starting all over to top his own record. "It's a never-ending job," said Curtis Cooper, a computer science professor at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. The computers are still running, although finding a higher prime number is estimated to take five to seven more years. Thousands of other computers in the United States are making the same search.

"This is my first love," Cooper, 60, said in an interview with Reuters. "It's pure mathematics. It's kind of an art form." Cooper said he has received calls and emails from around the world after Wednesday's announcement that he had identified the prime number - which is a number that can only be divided by itself and 1. For example, 4 is not a prime number because it can be divided by itself, 1 and 2. Prime numbers include 2, 3, 5, 7 and on up to the giant figure Cooper and his computers discovered, which has 17,425,170 digits.

The new number is 2 multiplied by itself 57,885,161 times, minus 1. A single campus computer, labeled #22, found the number on 25 January, but it had to be verified by the prime number locator project known as GIMPS -

the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search. The term "Mersenne" refers to the rarest prime numbers, only 48 in all, that have ever been discovered. GIMPS has discovered the last 14 of them.

Working with the GIMPS system, Cooper and Central Missouri chemistry professor Steven Boone discovered two earlier record prime numbers, in 2005 and 2006. Their newest prime number is the largest discovered since 2008, at the University of California—Los Angeles. It beat the UCLA number by some 5 million digits. Having the record prime number discovered three times at Central Missouri, a state college with about 11,000 students, is a source of great pride, said Mike Greife, the school's news bureau director. "It's kind of mind-boggling," Greife said of the search process.

Cooper said his earlier successes finding the highest prime number motivated him to keep trying. He said he spent at least two hours



a day "baby-sitting" the college computers to make sure everything was operating properly. The search software runs in the background while the computers carry out other functions. Cooper said prime numbers are mostly of interest to mathematicians, but the search has some practical uses. For one thing, it shows how computers can be used together on such a project, he said. Prime numbers also have been used in Web applications to encrypt messages because they are so rare. Those numbers, though, have a mere 100 to 200 digits, Cooper said.

Reuters

Sri Lanka probes falling of meteorite particles

COLOMBO, 10 Feb — Sri Lanka has launched an investigation over particles of a meteorite which fell on a house near the Sri Lankan parliament in the early hours of Friday, officials said.

The particles fell in the garden of the house and scientists who initially inspected it believe that it was

part of a meteorite.

An official from Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre (DMC) also confirmed to Xinhua of reports of meteorite particles falling near the house.

Senior lecturer in Physics at the University of Colombo and Consultant of Astronomy and Space Applications at the

Arthur C Clarke Centre in Colombo, Dr Chandana Jayaratne said that more tests need to be carried out on the particles and a report on the findings will be compiled soon.

Findings of meteorite particles in Sri Lanka have become common in the recent past with many locals from several parts of the



Tata Group Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata

Ratan Tata elected to N'tl Academy of Engineering

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb — Tata Group Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata along with eight Indian Americans has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering, which is the highest professional distinction accorded to an engineer in the US.

The National Academy of Engineering in a statement said that Ratan Tata has been elected as one of the 11 new foreign members of the academy for his outstanding contributions to industrial development in India and the world.

PTI

Airbus studies dropping lithium-ion battery for A350

PARIS/NEW YORK, 10 Feb — Europe's Airbus is considering whether to drop lithium-ion batteries and switch back to traditional ones on its A350 passenger jet as investigators probe Boeing 787 safety incidents, several people familiar with the matter said. The move comes amid a wider rethink in the aerospace industry on whether the powerful but delicate backup energy systems are technically "mature", or predictable, they said.

Industry executives, insurers and safety officials told Reuters the technology's

predictability was being questioned at senior levels as investigators struggle to find the cause of incidents that led to the grounding of Boeing's 787 Dreamliner. "There is an increasing doubt over the technology," said a person familiar with industry-wide discussions on the issue. "It may well be the future but for now it is a question of maturity. The information on the two incidents is not reassuring."

The US National Transportation Safety Board, which is examining a fire on a 787 at Boston

airport a month ago, said on Thursday it had identified where the fire broke out but not the cause. A similar investigation is under way in Japan. A spokesman for EADS unit Airbus said it would study the outcome of the US probe: "Let's not get ahead of ourselves. There are no conclusions by the NTSB yet and the investigation is still ongoing." All options are open, he added.

France's Saft, which makes both the new and old batteries for Airbus, did not respond to requests for comment. Last month it insisted lithium-ion was safe. The A350 would be the second large passenger jet to fly on lithium-ion batteries for backup electrical power after the Dreamliner, which pioneered their use in passenger transport to support an increasing array of electrical systems. Airbus said last week it had a plan B for its battery and time to respond to any rule changes.

However, industry sources said that following the NTSB's latest comments, the odds are shortening that Airbus will switch to nickel-cadmium technology used on jets like the A380. "It is a classic risk-management problem. If you don't know the cause of something you can't quantify the risk that it will happen again," an international safety official told Reuters. "In that case, you have little choice but to take a temporary step back and rely on something better understood."—Reuters



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

BUSINESS & HEALTH

NYSE and BIDS to end block trading joint venture

NEW YORK, 10 Feb — NYSE Euronext plans to shut down the New York Block Exchange, a joint venture with dark pool operator BIDS Trading for executing large “block” trades because of a lack of market interest. The Big Board parent, which is being bought for about \$8.6 billion by IntercontinentalExchange, has been focused on cost cuts amid a marketwide slump in trading volumes, said in a regulatory filing it will close the NYBX electronic trading venue at the end of February.

NYBX was launched in 2009 with the aim of allowing members of the BIDS ATS (Alternative

Trading System) dark pool to anonymously access displayed, reserve and undisplayed liquidity on the New York Stock Exchange for block trades.

A block trade is technically an order of at least 10,000 shares, or an amount of stock that has a value of at least \$200,000, though NYBX did not set a minimum amount of shares per order. Large trades are often done in dark pools because the orders are undisplayed, or “dark,” minimizing chances for the market to move against them, as they might in a “lit” market.

Traditionally, when block trades were done on physical trading floors, they



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York on 20 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

were private deals between two parties and the trades were often executed outside of the national best bid and offer price (NBBO). ATSS, like BIDS, are electronic venues that offer large buyers and sellers places to execute trades with prices referenced to the displayed NBBO in public markets.

One of the reasons NYBX formed was to enable trading outside of the NBBO, as was normally done in years past, while having access to the liquidity of the New York Stock Exchange, Tim Mahoney, chief executive of BIDS, said in an interview.

Reuters

Stocks end higher for sixth straight week, tech leads



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 18 March, 2009. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 10 Feb — The Nasdaq composite stock index closed at a 12-year high and the S&P 500 index at a five-year high, boosted by gains in technology shares and stronger overseas trade

figures. The S&P 500 also posted a sixth straight week of gains for the first time since August. The technology sector led the day's gains, with the S&P 500 technology index .SPLRCT up 1.0 percent.

Gains in professional network platform LinkedIn Corp (LNKD.N) and AOL Inc (AOL.N) after they reported quarterly results helped the sector.

Shares of LinkedIn jumped 21.3 percent to \$150.48 after the social networking site announced strong quarterly profits and gave a bullish forecast for the year. AOL Inc (AOL.N) shares rose 7.4 percent to \$33.72 after the online company reported higher quarterly profit, boosted by a 13 percent rise in advertising sales. Data showed Chinese exports grew more than expected, a positive sign for the global economy. The US trade deficit narrowed in December, suggesting the US economy likely grew

in the fourth quarter instead of contracting slightly as originally reported by the US government.

“That may have sent a ray of optimism,” said Fred Dickson, chief market strategist at DA Davidson & Co in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Trading volume on Friday was below average for the week as a blizzard swept into the northeastern United States.

The US stock market has posted strong gains since the start of the year, with the S&P 500 up 6.4 percent since December 31. The advance has slowed in recent days, with fourth-quarter earnings winding down and few incentives to continue the rally on the horizon.

Reuters

Google's Schmidt to sell roughly 42 percent of stake

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 Feb — Google Inc Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt is selling roughly 42 percent of his stake in the Internet search company, a move that could potentially net a \$2.51 billion windfall. Schmidt, 57, will sell 3.2 million shares of Class A common stock through a stock trading plan, Google said in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Friday.

The plan, which Google said would give Schmidt

company by Schmidt.

“I'd be more worried if the current CEO or CFO sold a lot of their stake,” said Dix. Schmidt, who served as Google's chief executive until 2011, currently owns roughly 7.6 million shares of Class A and Class B common stock. The shares represent 2.3 percent of Google's outstanding stock and roughly 8.2 percent of the voting power of Google's stock.

The fact that Schmidt will still own a significant amount of shares after the sales means he'll have a good deal of “skin in the Google game,” said Needham & Co analyst Kerry Rice. But he said it could hint at Schmidt playing a less central role within the company going forward.

“My speculation is that Eric's relationship with Google is evolving,” said Rice. “I would assume that as he decides he wants to diversify away from Google — both his career and financially — he's got ideas of what he would like to do with some of his funds.” Schmidt, who helped turn Google into the world's No1 search engine during his decade as CEO, handed the reins to Google co-founder Larry Page in April 2011. As executive chairman, Schmidt has been particularly involved in government relations, taking a leading role in the company's discussions with antitrust regulators in the United States and the European Union.

Reuters



Google Chairman Eric Schmidt.

“individual asset diversification and liquidity,” allows Schmidt to spread trades out over a period of one year to reduce the market impact. Shares of Google were down \$4.11 at \$781.26 in after-hours trading on Friday. A Google spokeswoman would not comment on why Schmidt is selling the shares at this time. Wedbush Securities analyst James Dix said Schmidt's stock sales did not worry him or signal a loss of confidence in the

Doctors seek help on cancer treatment from IBM supercomputer

NEW YORK, 10 Feb — IBM's Watson supercomputer has beaten expert “Jeopardy” quiz show contestants, and its predecessor defeated a world chess champion. Now, doctors hope it can help them outsmart cancer.

Oncologists at two medical groups have started to test IBM's Watson's supercomputer system in an effort to improve speed and efficacy of treatments, the company said on Friday.

The Maine Centre for Cancer Medicine and Westmed Medical Group will begin testing an application based on Watson's cognitive computing to help diagnose lung cancer and

recommend treatment, IBM said.

“Access to comprehensive care can be difficult in rural areas such as southern Maine,” said Tracey Weisberg, medical oncology president at Maine Centre for Cancer Medicine and Blood Disorders.

“This allows the most comprehensive evidence based on treatment we could have only dreamed of in the past,” she added.

Watson is an artificial intelligence super computer system named after legendary International Business Machines President Thomas Watson. Thanks to its computing power Watson can sift through 1.5 million

patient records and histories to provide treatment options in a matter of seconds based on previous treatment outcomes and patient histories. It has been fed with more than 600,000 pieces of medical evidence, 2 million pages of text from 42 medical journals and clinical trials in the area of oncology research, IBM said. In addition, IBM partnered with clinicians and technology experts from health insurer WellPoint and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre who spent thousands of hours to teach Watson how to process, analyze and interpret the meaning of complex clinical information, IBM said.—Reuters

Are plant-based diets environmentally friendly?

NEW YORK, 10 Feb — A nutritious diet that includes lots of fruits and vegetables might not be the greenest in its environmental impact, according to a new study from France.

After analyzing the eating habits of about 2,000 French adults, and the greenhouse gas emissions generated by producing the plants, fish, meat, fowl and other ingredients, researchers concluded that widely embraced goals for the health of people and for the health of the planet are not necessarily perfectly compatible.

Growing fruit and vegetables doesn't produce as much greenhouse gas as



A woman looks at fruits and vegetables at a market stall in Madrid on 29 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

raising cattle or livestock, the study confirms, but people who eat a primarily plant-based diet make up for that by eating more of those foods. “When you eat healthy, you have to eat a lot of food that has

a low content of energy. You have to eat a lot of fruits and vegetables,” said Nicole Darmon, the study's senior author from the National Research Institute of Agronomy in Marseille, France.—Reuters

WORLD

Obama to lay out economic growth plan in State of Union speech



US President Barack Obama speaks from the briefing room of the White House in Washington on 5 Feb 2013.

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb—President Barack Obama will describe his plan for spurring the economy in his State of the Union address on Tuesday, offering proposals for investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, clean energy and education, a senior administration official said on Saturday.

In the annual presidential address to Congress, Obama plans to show he has not lost sight of the economic woes of middle-class Americans — issues that dominated the 2012 election campaign but have been overshadowed recently by efforts to cut the defi-

cit, overhaul immigration laws and curb gun violence.

“The potential success of his second term is hugely dependent on the rate at which the economy grows,” said Ruy Teixeira, a political scientist with the liberal-leaning Centre for American Progress.

“There’s no problem the Democrats have that can’t be solved with faster growth. Conversely, there’s not much they’ll be able to do if growth stays slow.”

Obama previewed his economic growth plan in a speech to House of Representatives Democrats this week, telling them he

would stress the importance of education, development of clean energy, and infrastructure. There were no details on the new initiatives for infrastructure, manufacturing, clean energy and education, elements first reported by the *New York Times*. But any new spending will face tough opposition from Republicans in Congress who are focused on cutting spending and reducing the deficit. Obama has urged Congress to take steps to postpone harsh government spending cuts slated to take effect on 1 March, and the White House took pains on Friday to describe how the cuts would affect ordinary Americans’ lives.

Obama has said he is willing to cut a “big deal” with Republicans to trim spending on the Medicare and Social Security programmes for the elderly, but has insisted in ending long-standing tax breaks for oil companies, private equity firms and corporate jet owners to create more revenue for government.

Reuters

Flood in Peru kills at least six

LIMA, 10 Feb—Flood in Peru’s second largest City of Arequipa killed at least 6 people, local media reported on Saturday.

The flood, caused by heavy rain, also inundated hundreds of homes in the city.

The report said about

12.3 centimeters of rain poured down in the city in hours which began on Friday afternoon.

Xinhua

Three dead in massive snowstorm sweeping Canada’s Ontario

TORONTO, 10 Feb—A massive snowstorm walloping the southern parts of Ontario, Canada’s most populated province, has left three people dead and shut down numerous schools and businesses on Friday.

The storm, a combination of fast-moving winter storm from the Rocky Mountains, called the “Alberta Clipper,” mixed with a Texas low pressure system, intensified overnight Thursday and brought more than 30 cm of snow in the region by late Friday afternoon, according to Environment Canada.

In Toronto, Canada’s largest city, 600 snowplows were dispatched to clear the roads, as the sidewalks became too difficult to walk on due to the hefty layers of snow. Meanwhile, hundreds of flights in Toronto’s Pearson International Airport had to be canceled as the poor weather conditions

worsened throughout the day.

Many flights to US Northeast were grounded as well, since the snowy weather could potentially bring a historic one-meter of snow along the stretch of New York and Boston area.

The snowfall is expected to ease up by late Friday

night, as the storm passes through eastern Ontario and into the Atlantic provinces.

By Friday morning, the treacherous winter conditions has resulted in three deaths in Ontario alone, with the earliest reported being an 80-year-old woman, who collapsed in front of her house while shovel-



A worker drives a snowplow to clear snow in the Greater Toronto Area, Canada, on 8 Feb, 2013. A major snowstorm dropped about 40 centimetres of snow on the Greater Toronto Area on Friday, causing hundreds of flight delays and cancellations.

XINHUA

Car explosion injures two in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, 10 Feb—A car exploded on Saturday evening in south Tel Aviv, wounding two brothers aboard, in what appears to be a criminal infighting, police sources told *Xinhua*.

The victims, one injured seriously, were known to the police and had criminal records, the sources said.

The two were sent to the Ichilov hospital in central Tel Aviv and the police’s explosive specialists arrived and examined the scene.

“We have sealed the area and we are currently performing preliminary investigation procedures to look into the circumstances of this incident,” police spokesperson Mickey Rosenfeld told *Xinhua*.

He added that the bomb which exploded was attached to the vehicle the two wounded were driving in. “I heard a loud explosion,” Manny Gershovitz, a paramedic living nearby the scene told the Ynet news website.

“When I saw the car

it was still on fire, the car doors flew far due to the volume of the explosion,” he added.

“I gave initial treatment until the paramedics arrived at the scene,” he concluded. In December seven people were lightly wounded in an attempt on the life of Nissim Alperon, the patron of one of Israel’s biggest crime families, in central Tel Aviv. He has survived eight previous attempts on his life, according to local media reports.

Xinhua



Authorities and family members take part in the ceremony to honour the victims of the explosion at the building of the headquarters of Mexico’s state-owned oil firm Pemex that killed 37 people, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 8 Feb, 2013.

XINHUA

One injured, one missing after explosion at US gas plant

HOUSTON, 10 Feb—One person was injured and another went missing after an explosion at an Air Liquide gas plant Saturday in La Porte, Texas, the company said.

The explosion happened around 7:38 am local time at a lab at plant where gases, including oxygen, nitrogen and argon, are mixed and placed into cylinders that are then used in the processing of

such items at food, beverages and electronics, a company spokesman told reporters.

One employee was taken immediately by helicopter to an area hospital with unknown conditions, while rescue workers continued searching into Saturday night for another plant employee who remained missing, the spokesman added.

Xinhua

At least 15 people killed in bus accident in Chile

SANTIAGO, 10 Feb—At least 15 people were killed in Chile after a bus fell into a valley, local media reported on Saturday.

There are also 19 oth-

ers injured in the bus accident, among whom 7 are in critical condition, according to 24 Hours, a TV news channel.

Xinhua

WORLD



File photo taken on 20 March, 2010 shows handicrafts of tiger at a temple fair in Huaiyang County, central China's Henan Province. 2010 was the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese Zodiac. Chinese Zodiac is represented by 12 animals to record the years and reflect people's attributes, including the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

XINHUA

Nigerian president condemns killing of health workers

ABUJA, 10 Feb — Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has condemned the dastardly terrorist attacks in northwest Kano State that claimed nine lives of health workers who were dutifully engaged in vaccinations to protect and save the lives of Nigerian children.

In a statement reaching Xinhua on Saturday, President Jonathan commiserated with the families of the victims, assuring them that the loss of their loved ones

will not be in vain as the Federal Government will ensure that the mission to totally eradicate polio from Nigeria in which they were patriotically engaged is carried out to a very successful conclusion.

President Jonathan assures all Nigerians and the international community, especially international health organizations and Nigeria's development partners that the Federal Government will not be distracted from its objective of accelerating the

reduction of maternal and child mortality in all parts of Nigeria by mindless acts of terrorism.

While the government will continue to do everything possible to track down and apprehend agents of terrorism in the country, the President has directed that enhanced security measures be put in place immediately for health workers in high-risk areas.

Kano state police spokesperson Musa Majia told Xinhua that the gun-

men, who came on tricycles, shot dead three women in the Fijin Kashu area of the state and injured three others.

Another group of gunmen attacked the Hayen Hotoro health center, killing six other women working as anti-polio vaccination in the northern state. Commissioner for Health in Kano State Abubakar Labaran also confirmed the killing to Xinhua and expressed regret over the incident.—Xinhua

US drone strike kills two al-Qaeda linked commanders in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 10 Feb — Two al-Qaeda linked commanders were killed in the US drone strike that targeted a militants' safe haven in Pakistan's northwest tribal area last night, local media reported on Saturday. Quoting unidentified military sources, local TV channel Dawn reported on Saturday that the

US drones that pounded a house at the border area of North and South Waziristan agency killed seven people including two al-Qaeda linked commanders.

The killed leaders were Abu Majid-al-Iraqi and a Yemen national Sheikh Abu Waqas, said the report.

Sheikh Abu Waqas

was a bomb and explosives expert, and he was having a very distinguished position in the group. Last night, the US drones targeted a house in the Babar Ghar village that lies at the border of North Waziristan and South Waziristan, Pakistan's two volatile tribal regions bordering Afghanistan.—Xinhua

Over 6,300 Somali refugees returned home from Kenya in January

NAIROBI, 10 Feb — More than 6,300 Somali refugees cross into Somalia from neighbouring countries, the vast majority from Kenya in January, a UN humanitarian agency said on Saturday.

According to latest Humanitarian Bulletin published by the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the spike in the number of refugees returning to Somalia from Kenya in early January followed reports of increased violence around Dadaab refugee camps and the Kenyan government's announcement on 18 December, 2012 that Somali refugees and asylum seekers report to the camps.

"In January, it recorded 6,300 cross-border movements between Somalia and

its neighbours, the vast majority from Kenya. This was a jump from the average of roughly 1,200 movements per month recorded in the previous three months," OCHA said citing statistics from the UNHCR.

"However, the numbers do not indicate intentions and many refugees cross back and forth, sometimes to check on property or find seasonal work," it said.

According to the UN humanitarian agency, there has been a gradual increase in the number of international aid workers operating in southern Somalia, following the withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from key towns.

It said the capture of Jawhar in early December 2012 is expected to im-

prove the security of the civilian population in Hiiran and the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions.

OCHA said commercial activities across the country have improved as evidenced by the launch-

ing of commercial flights between Mogadishu and Beledweyne, the regional capital of Hiiran and between Mogadishu and the southern port City of Kisimayo in December 2012.

XINHUA



People enjoy themselves inside the Central Park of New York City, on 9 Feb, 2013. A massive blizzard dumped as much as three feet (one metre) of snow in parts of the Northeastern United States, leaving some 650,000 households and businesses without power and two dead by Saturday.—XINHUA

Spanish PM publishes tax returns amid corruption scandal

MADRID, 10 Feb — Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Saturday took the unusual step of publishing details of his earnings and tax returns on the official government website to tackle a corruption scandal.

The Spanish leader declared gross earnings of almost 2 million euros (2.7 million US dollars) for the period 2003-2012. These earnings consist of what he was paid by his Popular Party (PP) and his earnings

for sitting in the Spanish Congress.

Rajoy also declared his property, shares and savings, which increased fourfold to over 230,000 euros between 2003 and 2007.

Rajoy used the website of the Prime Minister's residence in Madrid to quell reports that he and other members of his Popular Party had received illegal cash payments hidden from tax authorities.

The scandal came to

light after the former PP Treasurer Luis Barcenas was discovered to hold a Swiss bank account containing 22 million euros, which is thought to have been related to another corruption case, the "Caso Gurtel."

Rajoy denied the accusations at a bizarre Press conference a week ago, saying they were "false" and promising to publish his tax returns. But his words did little to dispel doubts.

XINHUA



A stage for Santa Cruz carnival is stopped construction in Santa Cruz, Spain, on 8 Feb, 2013. The float parade and relevant events of Santa Cruz carnival is called off after a reveller was seriously burnt on 6 February.—XINHUA

Renault to recall over 60,000 cars in China

BEIJING, 10 Feb — French automaker Renault has started to recall more than 60,000 cars exported to the Chinese mainland over problems with their fuel level sensors, China's consumer quality watchdog said.

Renault's Chinese sub-

sidiary on Thursday began recalling 61,508 Koleos sport utility vehicles produced between 16 December, 2008 and 10 July, 2012, according to a statement from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

Fuel level sensors on the cars cannot deliver correct readings after long peri-

ods of use and are unsafe to use, the administration said.

Renault will change the defective sensors for free, according to the statement.

Another 5,097 imported Koleos vehicles on the Chinese mainland will be recalled over welding problems in the vehicles' lower front swing arm, the administration said last month.

XINHUA

Russian orphans should be adopted in homeland

MOSCOW, 10 Feb — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that Russian orphans should be adopted in their homeland.

"We must do all we can so that orphaned children find their foster families in their home country, in Russia," Putin said at a Congress of Parents of Russia, where the Parents' All-Russian Resistance organization was established.

Russia's legislature passed a law last year that banned adoption of Russian children by Americans, starting 1 January this year.

Putin promised support for the new body. "Here, we are ready for most close

partnership and cooperation," the Interfax news agency quoted him as saying.

Putin noted that the number of Russian citizens wishing to adopt orphans, including sick ones, was growing. "Therefore, it would be important to simplify the adoption procedures, and grant tax breaks to adopters."

He also proposed an increase of the allowances paid to people adopting a child. "All these should serve as real support to our citizens willing to take a child from an orphanage to their family," Putin said.

XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 11 February, 2013

Development partners

Myanmar government in devising and delivering international aid management policies and systems for the use of international aid effectively and efficiently is on the move for enhanced cooperation with development partners all around the world.

Development partners and international organizations on their part have unanimously endorsed Myanmar's efforts for peace-building, political settlement in ceasefire regions and the President's commitment to reach peace agreement in conflict areas. They also congratulate Myanmar for her broader peace initiatives, and implementation of three-stage reforms for quick promotion of democracy, especially importance of continuous efforts for development of democracy culture, the rule of law and national integration based on human rights.

Myanmar always focuses on deepening her cooperation with development partners in political and economic reforms for people-centered development. The country is well on her way towards kicking off more reforms as per the Framework on Economic and Social Reform-FESR, while designating prioritized areas for greater international cooperation. So, prospects are brighter than ever for close and comprehensive collaboration among government, private organizations, civil societies and international development partners through transparency.

Main concerns for State-building embarked in the FESR, National Comprehensive Development Plan and other projects are placed on poverty alleviation through agricultural development. Development partners approved major development strategies and priorities of the country including good governance and clean government, private-sector-led development and establishment of inclusive systems. They are also supportive of specific prioritized sectors including achievable programmes that can be implemented quickly as stated in FESR.

With the support and encouragement of development partners Myanmar set goals on measures for generating more incomes at home and international aid for country progress and on financial allotments for development to be able stand on its feet at certain period.

Schools upgraded in Taze Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—The handing-over of Seinyadana new school building of Thasaygon Village Basic Education Middle School (branch) was held in Taze Township in Sagaing Region yesterday, attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Ba Shwe elaborated on future programmes of the ministry. The Union minister and the region chief minister presented K 500,000 million, a Sky Net receiver, a television, sports gear,

periodicals and note books for the school. The Union minister and party also attended the opening of upgraded Thittawpauk (South) Village BEMS and furnished the school with K 1 million, a television, periodicals and note books.

The Union minister and party then attended the opening of upgraded Inkokka Village BEMS (branch) and provided a Sky Net receiver, sports gear, periodicals and note books for the school. Then, he also attended upgrading ceremony of Inkokka Village BEMS (Branch).

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets locals in Myitkyina of Kachin State.—MNA

Clash and conflict...

(from page 1)

Hluttaw, composed of people's representatives is enacting laws to help people with their difficulties and to fulfill their requirements and aspirations through parliamentary debate and policy-making.

The country, being a developing one, has many regional requirements. Therefore, national unity and national reconciliation is prerequisite for development of the nation. Any clash or conflict would not make any progress for regional development. The Hluttaw as well as the bodies concerned have strived for establishing lasting internal peace and thus the two sides need to negotiate openly to reach the goal.

He called for cooperation with professionals of departments concerned for regional food security and greening of Putao Plain and cooperation of the people

both from highland and mainland in peace process with honesty and mutual respect.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party then met internally displaced persons at relief camp in Myitkyina. He with empathy called on the sufferers to take part in establishing peace and actively join hand in rehabilitation works.

Myanmar Red Cross Society provided tarpaulin sheets, Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin and family kit sets and blankets, Union Solidarity and Development Party cash contribution to victims.

Hluttaw Representative U Khet Htein Nam introduced families at the relief camp to the Union ministers, deputy ministers, Hluttaw committee chairs and national race Hluttaw representatives.

The Speaker and party met Kachin State government, State Hluttaw Speaker and representatives, district level departmental

personnel, senior citizens and locals at Myitkyina Town Hall.

The Speaker invited open reports from local people on difficulties and requirements of the region.

Afterwards, Thura U Aye Myint and U Thein Zaw, chairmen of Hluttaw committees, handed over cash donated by the Union Solidarity and Development Party, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win rice bags donated by Ministry of Border Affairs and the chairman and vice-chairman of the Unity and Democracy Party (Kachin State) cash donated by the party to responsible personnel of Kachin State.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw put on the Kachin traditional dress presented as a gift by the chief minister of Kachin State. Afterwards, local townsenders expressed their views over challenges for socio-economy, education, agriculture and transportation sectors and matters on peace making efforts in Kachin State.

Union ministers and deputy ministers reported on measures taken and future works for fulfilling the needs in the state.

During the meeting, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann called for the both sides to seek ways for gaining peace, without blaming each other as the government, Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, the people and the world are longing for peace in the state.

Today is the time for holding peace negotiation while understanding each other, he added. To gain peace, not only Hluttaw and responsible bodies but also the entire people have responsibility, he said.

He also called for ceasefire and not to use harsh words that can harm the peace while the country has seen the dawn of peace in Kachin State. He also stressed the importance of tolerance, understanding, diligence and courage in ensuring peace and called on the people to participate in the peace making process.

MNA

Indian parliamentary delegation to visit Myanmar



Honourable Smt Meira Kumar, Speaker of LOK SABHA of India.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—At the invitation of Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, an Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of LOK SABHA, Honourable Smt Meira Kumar, will pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar in the near future.

Honourable Smt Meira Kumar has served as the Speaker of the Parliament (Congress) 15th Lok Sabha since May, 2009. She was born in Patna, Bihar State, India, in March, 1945. She got

B.A., LLB, M.A. (English) from Delhi University and advanced diploma in Spanish in Madrid. She joined the Indian External Affairs Ministry in 1973 and served in Spain and Britain. She resigned from the Indian Foreign Service and competed and won the seat at the 8th LOK SABHA. Since 1985, she had served as Member of Parliament (Congress). She served as General Secretary of All India Congress Committee. She served as Member

of Parliament (Congress), 11th, 12th, 14th and 15th LOK SABHA. She served as Union Cabinet Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment and Union Cabinet Minister for Water Resources from 2004 to 2009. She is interested in writing poems in Hindi, Indian classical music and dance, rifle shooting and equestrian. She is married to Mr Manjul Kumar, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, with one son and two daughters.

MNA

ARTICLE

Hailing 66th Anniversary Union Day:

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar with an area of 261228 square miles is more than two times larger than the Great Britain that colonized Myanmar in the past, about 1300 miles stretching from north to south and about 700 miles from east to west. It is home to 135 national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan who have been living on hilly and plain regions through thick and thin, developing internationally-recognized cultures very harmoniously together and sharing their common joys and griefs.

Myanmar is a country that has created a great history in terms of its favorable topography, honesty and righteousness and the way of living on the self-reliant basis of its people. The agro-based developing country is rich in natural resources.

The people of

Myanmar have been living together in the country with fine traditions since yore. They stood tall embracing Theravada Buddhism and developing own cultures and literatures under the leadership of their own monarchs peacefully.

Throughout history, Myanmar used to stand tall among neighboring countries in the times of Kings Anawrahta, Bayintnaung and Alaungpaya. After the nation was descending into terrible fate in 1824, 1852 and 1885, the country was annexed and colonized, with the result that the country failed to keep its socio-economic, culture and religion high.

As soon as the nation was annexed by the colonialists, Myanmar people with patriotic spirit took the armed struggle line, fighting back them with whatever weapons they could lay their hands on.

Shortly after the nation lost her independence, all national races had been

National races joining hands together with the sense of unity

inspired by nationalistic fervor. Although the colonialists placed the country under the divide and rule policy, the revolutionary idea of Myanmar people had never been ceased and uprisings occurred in various forms. National politic associations like YMBA and GCBA emerged in the early period of the 20th Century staged the above-ground revolution. Peasants' revolt, first student uprising

Tin Maung Oo (Ahlon)

and 1300 ME oilfield uprising were prominent in Myanmar's independence struggles.

With the outbreak of Second World War in 1939, Myanmar's independence struggle changed its course. The youths led by General Aung San secretly went to Japan. They named themselves as Thirty

Comrades and learnt military strategies there.

The Thirty Comrades met in Bangkok in 1942 and vowed to fight for the national freedom as blood brothers. They formed Burma Independence Army-BIA and drove out the British with Japanese assistance. When the Japanese failed to honour their agreement and committed atrocities the Myanmar Tatmadaw launched the Fascist resistance and drove out the fascists entirely from Myanmar soil. After the resistance, General Aung San reconstituted the Myanmar Tatmadaw with the new goal of regaining independence.

General Aung San founded the AFPFL, and organized the entire nation including workers, farmers, and nationalities to regain independence within a year. At that time, Attlee-led British government invited Myanmar delegation led by General Aung San to their

country. The delegation visited Britain in January 1947. When the Myanmar delegation was holding talks with the British Prime Minister, a certain group of hill regions sent a telegram saying that the delegation led by General Aung San was not its representative. Hence, General Aung San rushed back to Myanmar and went to Shan State for reconsolidating national unity. He met with leaders of national races including Shan leaders, Chin leaders and Kachin leaders urging them to regain independence for the whole Union, including the plains and the hill regions. As all agreed to do so, General Aung San and national races leaders signed the Panglong Agreement at the town called Panglong in Loilem District, southern Shan State, on 12 February 1947. With the unity restored by the agreement, Myanmar leaders marched towards the goal of independence.

Thus, the nation regained independence on 4 January 1948.

Panglong Agreement laid firm foundation for independence and national unity. So, the day on which the agreement was reached has become a milestone in Myanmar history. As it is an unforgettable day it has been celebrated as the Union Day in the whole country.

Myanmar lived long in the past for many consecutive years with the united strength of all the national races. Thanks to national unity restored in Panglong, Myanmar still lives today with unity. The national races are firmly joining hands together with the spirit of living forever in harmony. All the national people of Myanmar are striving for the Union to stand tall among the international community.

Kyemon: 10-2-2013

Trs: YM

Mr Quintana arrives Yangon



YANGON, 10 Feb— Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana arrived here by air this evening.

The special rapporteur was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Resident Representative of UN agencies Mr Ashok Nigam and officials.

MNA

Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana being welcomed by officials.—MNA

School building handed over in Wuntho

WUNTHO, 10 Feb — A ceremony to hand over a new school building to the Education Ministry was held at Basic Education Primary School in Kyungon Village of Wuntho Township on 2 February.

Officials explained construction of the new building.

Myanma Alinn

Yepyukan-Gwaykon-Chon-inn gravel road put into service in Nyaunglebin Township

NYAUNGLEBIN, 10 Feb— Hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the opening of new Yepyukan-Gwaykon-Chon-inn laterite road was held at the archway of the new road in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region on 8 February. The road was built by Nyaunglebin Township Development Affairs Committee.

The Bago Region Hluttaw representative and officials formally opened the new road which is 3040 feet



long and 10 feet wide and built by Nyaunglebin Township

DAC with the contribution of K 21.2 million.— NLM

Hailing 66th Anniversary Union Day:

Let's build the Union

- * Union of Myanmar
Her citizens the brethren
Hands they join together
Always and ever
Driving away enemies
United force as weapon
And left behind a legacy
Glorious history of nation
- * In plains and on hills
Oneness in hearts
Embracing traditions alike
Honesty their policy
Willingness in minds
Way to help one another
Brethren of Union
Having fine traditions
- * In their vision
The future of Union
In its transition age
Really an opportune time
For the silence of the guns
And prosperity also
With all means available
Let's all bring progress
To the entire Union

Maung Sein Naung-Lewe (Trs)

Shan State Day marked in Muse

Muse, 10 Feb—A ceremony to mark 66th Anniversary Shan State Day was held at Shwethamin Monastery in Muse on 7 February morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Moe Hein of Muse District

read the message sent by Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat.

Next, the secretary of organizing committee explained emergence of Shan State Day.

Myanma Alinn

US Air, AMR near \$11 billion merger, deal seen within week

NEW YORK, 10 Feb—US Airways Group Inc and AMR Corp are nearing an \$11 billion merger that would create the world's largest airline and could announce a deal within a week, after resolving key differences on valuation and management structure, people familiar with the matter said.

Under terms of a deal that are still being finalized,

US Airways Chief Executive Doug Parker would become CEO, while AMR's Tom Horton would serve as non-executive chairman of the board until spring of 2014, when the combined company holds its first annual meeting, the sources said. The deal would come more than 14 months after the parent of American Airlines filed for bankruptcy in November 2011, and would

mark the last combination of legacy US carriers, following the Delta-Northwest and United-Continental mergers. The all-stock merger is expected to value the combined carrier at between \$10.5 billion and \$11 billion, and would give AMR creditors 72 percent of the ownership in the new company and US Airways shareholders the rest, they said.—Reuters



A US airways plane takes off behind an American Airlines jet at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington on 23 April, 2012.—REUTERS



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents treat a wounded colleague after a massive shootout between police and members of the Branch Davidian cult near Waco, Texas in this file photo taken on 28 Feb, 1993.

REUTERS

Ex-ATF agents recall storm of gunfire in deadly 1993 Waco raid

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb—A splintering storm of gunfire through walls and the floor was one former ATF agent's searing memory of the deadly raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, 20 years ago this month.

Bill Buford, who helped plan the raid that turned into the biggest gunfight with federal officers in US history, said late on Thursday he and other Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents had expected a normal day in law enforcement, not a 12,000-round firefight with a heavily armed apocalyptic cult.

"We were going to go in there, we were going to kick a little bootie, then we were going to ease out and be home before noon. It didn't work out that way," Buford, joined by other retired ATF agents involved in the Waco raid, told a gathering hosted by the National Law Enforcement Museum and Target Corp.

The fighting erupted on 28 February, 1993, when ATF agents attempted to execute a search warrant on the Branch Davidian com-

pound and its leader David Koresh.

Four ATF agents were killed and 16 were wounded, and five Davidians died.

An ensuing 51-day siege by the Federal Bureau of Investigation ended when the FBI fired tear gas into the compound. A few hours later, the building burst into flames and most of those inside died. The FBI says Koresh and other cult members set the fires rather than surrender.

Buford, joined by retired agents Jerry Petrilli and Pete Mastin, said the ATF raid began with agents immediately coming under fire from M-60 machine guns, AK-47 assault rifles and .50-caliber weapons fired by the tipped-off Davidians.

"I was quite concerned, you might say," said Buford, who was the resident agent in charge of the Little Rock, Arkansas, ATF office. He and agents Keith Constantino and Glen Jordan climbed onto a roof to get into the compound's armory on the second story.

Along with Jordan, he broke the gun room window.—Reuters

Bus company banned from US roads after California crash

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb—The federal government has prohibited a bus company from operating in the United States after one of its coaches crashed last weekend on a California mountain road, killing eight people, a federal agency said on Friday.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, a unit of the US Department of Transportation, called the company, Scapadas Magicas LLC, an imminent hazard. The driver of the bus told investigators his brakes had failed.

Scapadas Magicas, which has offices in Tijuana, Mexico, and across

the border in National City, California, has been cited multiple times for brake problems, according to the formal order against the tour bus company.

On Sunday, one of the tour company's buses was returning to Mexico from a ski outing at California's Big Bear Lake resort.

It struck a car from behind on a mountain road and careened out of control, rolling over and slamming into a pickup truck and throwing several passengers from the bus, California Highway Patrol Sergeant Billy Rangel said after the crash.

Seven bus passen-

gers were killed, and an eighth person, the driver of the pickup truck, died on Wednesday in a hospital. More than 40 others were injured.

A representative for Scapadas Magicas could not be reached for comment late on Friday.

After the crash, federal officials stopped the company's other two buses that operated on US roads from making those trips, FMCSA Administrator Anne Ferro said in a statement. "Today, we've officially blocked the company from conducting future operations in the United States," she said.

Reuters



Cargo ships and fish boats stop at an anchorage in Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province, on 9 Feb, 2013. Fishermen and ship crew all went ashore and rushed back home to spend the Spring Festival with family members.—XINHUA

Yemen accuses Iran of sending 40-ton illegal arms shipment

SANAA, 10 Feb—The Yemeni government on Saturday said Iran was behind a "40-ton illegal arms shipment" bound for the northern part of the Arab country, calling for an international investigation into the case, the state TV reported.

"The Yemeni government officially accuses the Iranian government of being behind this shipment that aims to harm the Yem-

eni national security," said an official statement aired by the state TV. "The seized Jihan II ship was coming from Iran carrying 40 tons of weapons, which cannot be exported by individuals or a group," it said, adding "Yemen has the right to defend its sovereignty and will seek an international investigation into the Iranian-linked arms shipment."

It also said that eight-member Yemeni crew were

still under interrogation.

On 29 January, the Yemeni authorities announced the seizure of the Iranian-linked ship in a joint operation by the Yemeni coast guards and the US Navy forces in the Arab Sea. The weapons include anti-aircraft missiles, C-4 Explosives, 122MM mortar launchers, rocket-propelled grenades (RPG), land mines and anti-vehicle magnetic bombs.—Xinhua

Snowstorm shuts down

Massachusetts nuclear plant

NEW YORK, 10 Feb—A nuclear power plant in Massachusetts lost power and automatically shut down late on Friday during a massive blizzard across the northeastern United States, the nuclear regulator said.

The reactor at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth closed down with no problems and there was no threat to public safety, an official at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said. "There was no impact on plant workers or the public," he said. The snowstorm, which continued on Saturday, disrupted thousands of flights and left more than 200,000 people without power in Massachusetts alone.—Reuters

Alitalia to suspend flights to Libya's Tripoli on 15-17 Feb due to security reason

TRIPOLI, 10 Feb—Alitalia airlines company announced on Saturday to suspend flights between Libya's capital Tripoli and Rome on 15-17 February, as a precautionary measure ahead of the second anniversary of the outbreak of the Libyan turmoil. Rome has announced last month that it had closed its consulate in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi temporarily due security reasons, after the shooting incident against the car of Consul Guido De Sanctis.

Lufthansa and the Austrian airlines have suspended their flights last week due to the security situation in Libya.—Xinhua

REGIONAL

Bangladesh ferry sinking kills 14, five still missing

DHAKA, 10 Feb — At least 14 people died and five were still missing after a ferry carrying 50 people collided with a sand barge and sank on Bangladesh's giant Meghna River on Friday, officials said on Saturday.

"Rescuers found 12 dead bodies inside the salvaged ferry, while two bodies were recovered yesterday," said Mohammad Saiful Hassan Badal, administrator of Munshiganj District, where the accident happened.

Six of the dead were children, aged between two and 10.

"We called off the rescue operations with five people missing," he said, adding that about half the passengers managed to swim ashore and some were rescued by local villagers.

The Meghna River is one of three rivers that forms the Ganges Delta.

Unregulated and overcrowded ferries often run into trouble on low-lying Bangladesh's extensive network of rivers. Hundreds of people are killed in accidents every year despite government vows to crack down on unlicensed operators.—Reuters



A rescue ferry is seen on the river Meghna after a ferry sank in Munshiganj on 8 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Indonesia declares national anti-drug abuse drive

JAKARTA, 10 Feb — Indonesian Sports and Youth Minister Roy Suryo signed on Saturday an memorandum of understanding with Chairman Anang Iskandar of the national narcotics agency BNN on the establishment of a special task force to prevent widespread drug abuse among youths across the country.

The task force is joined by public organizations,

students and celebrities.

"This is the manifestation of a synergy between government and the BNN in addressing drug abuse problem among the youths," the minister said after signing the document.

According to the minister, drug abuse is a national problem that needs to be jointly resolved by government and stakeholders in society, including the youths

themselves. "The mechanism to quell the widespread drug abuse can be conducted by popularizing the danger of drug abuse, prevention, eradication, medication and recovery," he said, quoted by the Antara news agency.

According to data released by drug abuse watchdog Kelima Foundation, Indonesia recorded 5 million drug abusers in 2012.—Xinhua

Crowded Beijing relieved by holiday exodus

BEIJING, 10 Feb — China's overcrowded capital saw its streets empty on Saturday, as mass numbers of people are leaving the metropolis to visit their relatives on the eve of the Spring Festival holiday. The city, which has 20 million permanent residents together with millions of floating people, saw more than 9 million leave via railway stations, airports and long-distant coach terminals ahead of the weeklong holiday, according to the Beijing Municipal Commission of Transport.

Native Beijingers have subsequently been enjoying smooth traffic on the streets and relaxed journeys on buses and subways.

The commission said

on Friday that 5.5 million people had taken trains to leave the city since the Spring Festival travel rush started on 26 January. Another 2.7 million outbound passengers had been recorded by the city's airports during the period. Long-distance bus stations tallied another 700,000 departures.

The amount of road travel may also be considerable, as passenger vehicles with seven seats or fewer are exempt from highway tolls for the first time ever during the Spring Festival holiday. In addition to vacation travelers, most of the people leaving Beijing during festival are permanent Beijing residents who originally come from other areas

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (C) visits local people at Huaqiao Village of Changba Town in Kangxian County, northwest China's Gansu Province, on 8 Feb, 2013. Premier Wen made an inspection tour in Gansu and Shaanxi Province, also in northwest China, on 8-9 February.

XINHUA



Taleban are not serious in talks

ISLAMABAD, 10 Feb — Pakistani Interior Minister, Rehman Malik, on Saturday said that Taleban are neither serious nor sincere in peace talks with the government, local media quoted the minister as reporting.

The remarks came days after the Taleban offered conditional talks with the government, which the Taleban had sought guarantee of three senior Pakistani religious and political leaders.

The Taleban spokesman, Ehsanullah Ehsan, had also called for the release of their two former spokesmen Maulvi Said Umer and Muslim Khan. Ehsan said they will lead the Taleban

negotiation team.

However, a minister in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday ruled out the release of Taleban prisoners before the talks and asked the Taleban to nominate some other names for the talks.

Interior Minister, Rehman Malik, viewed with suspicious the Taleban dialogue offer and said the Taleban spokesperson Ehsanullah Ehsan has no credibility and that Taleban cannot be fool the Pakistani nation by such jokes.

Malik told reporters in Islamabad the Taleban have nominated Adnan Rashid, who is a proclaimed offender, and fled last year when

armed Taleban stormed the prison in the country's northwestern District of Bannu. Rashid was involved in masterminding attack on former President Pervez Musharraf. He appeared in the video when the Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman offered talks in the video message. The Interior Minister urged the Taleban to nominate their real representative, if they are serious in holding peace talks with the government. However, the minister appreciated the offer of talks with Taleban before the general elections and termed it as a good omen.

Xinhua

India develops Agni-VI nuclear-capable ballistic missile

NEW DELHI, 10 Feb — After Agni-V missile's strategic success, India is currently developing another long-range nuclear-capable Agni-VI ballistic missile capable of carrying multiple warheads, local media reported on Saturday.

"Agni-V is major strategic defence weapon. Now we want to make Agni-VI which would be a force multiplier," India's state-owned Defence Research and Development Organisation chief VK Saraswat was quoted by 'The Times of India' newspaper as saying in the southern City of Bangalore on Friday.

The missile will allow one weapon system to take out several targets at a time, the report said.

"It will have force multiplier capability... which would enable us to deliver many payloads at the same time using only one missile. Work is on in this area and designs have been completed.—Xinhua



Irish performers attend the rehearsal for a parade to celebrate the upcoming Chinese Spring Festival in Hong Kong, south China, on 9 Feb, 2013. The Chinese Lunar New Year, or the Spring Festival, begins on 10 February this year and marks the start of the Year of the Snake, according to the Chinese zodiac.—XINHUA

Roadside bomb kills six civilians in Afghanistan

KABUL, 10 Feb — The ongoing militancy and violent incidents in Afghanistan have claimed the lives of six civilians while Afghan and NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have captured seven insurgents including two local Taleban leaders since on Friday, officials confirmed on Saturday.

Six civilians lost their

lives as a roadside bomb struck their car in Taleban former stronghold Helmand Province 555 km south of Kabul on Friday, spokesman for provincial administration Ahmad Zirak said on Saturday.

"The tragic and bloody incident took place in Nad Ali district on Friday evening. As a result six innocent civilians including two women and four men were

killed," Zirak told Xinhua.

He also blamed Taleban militants for organizing the deadly attack. However, the outfit which is largely relying on suicide and roadside bombings has yet to comment.

Meantime, Afghan and the NATO-led multinational peacekeeping force (ISAF) in operations against anti-government militants have captured seven insurgents including two local Taleban leaders since over the past two days.

In the latest operations against militants, the Afghan and NATO-led ISAF captured a local leader of Haqqani network, the military wing of Taleban outfit, in Khost Province 150 km southeast of Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday, the alliance said in a statement released here.—Xinhua



Dancers wearing colourful bird-themed costumes perform during the 6th Ibon-Ebon (Bird-Egg) Festival in Pampanga, the Philippines, on 9 Feb, 2013. The Ibon-Ebon Festival is dedicated to the province's Candaba swamp that serves as a sanctuary to more than 14,000 migratory birds of approximately 40 species.—XINHUA

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email: travel.evisa@gmail.com



A recall notice for frozen meals which had tested positive for horse meat is seen at an Aldi supermarket in northwest London on 9 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

France, Britain promise punishment in horsemeat scandal

PARIS, 10 Feb—The French and British governments promised on Saturday to punish those found responsible for selling horsemeat in beef products at the heart of a growing scandal that started in Britain but is quickly spreading to France.

French Consumer Affairs Minister Benoît Hamon said an investigation had found that the horsemeat had originated in Romania, although there were links with French, Dutch and Cypriot firms and a factory in Luxembourg.

British environment minister Owen Paterson said more cases of contaminated food could emerge as British retailers conducted tests for horsemeat on processed beef products. The scandal threatens to affect

consumer confidence in Europe's giant food industry, with pressure rising for greater checks.

The British unit of frozen foods group Findus began a recall this week of its beef lasagne from retailers on advice from its French supplier, Comigel, over concerns that some packs contained high levels of horsemeat.

Findus France said it too had recalled lasagne and two other products after discovering that they included horsemeat from Romania rather than beef from France as it had thought.

Hamon said an EU-wide alert had been sent out and that it was not yet clear whether there had been an intentional fraud or the meat had been sold as beef by accident.—Reuters

New fighting in borderland between Sudan and South Sudan

JUBA, 10 Feb—At least 24 people have been killed in fresh fighting in the volatile borderland between Sudan and South Sudan, the southern army and rebels said on Saturday.

South Sudan's army spokesman Philip Aguer said his troops killed seven fighters from a militia supported by Khartoum which had crossed the poorly-defined border.

The South's army captured a Sudanese army truck used by the fighters during the skirmish in Obed in Upper Nile state in the northeast of the country, Aguer said.

Sudan's army spokes-

man Al-Sawarmi Khalid could not be reached on his mobile phone.

In separate violence on Sudan's side of the border, rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) accused a militia from South Sudan, supported by Khartoum, of having attacked a village and killed 17 people.

The militia also wounded 35 civilians during their attack in the area of Abujibeha in oil-producing South Kordofan state, SPLM-North spokesman Arnu Lodi said. Sudan and South Sudan came close to war in April, their worst

fighting since southern secession in 2011 under a peace deal which ended decades of civil war.

Both countries agreed in September to end hostilities by withdrawing their armies from the disputed border and to resume cross-border oil exports. But neither side has implemented the agreement and the two countries accuse each other of backing rebels in their respective territories.

The African Union is next week hosting another round of talks between the neighbours aiming to set up a buffer zone, a precondition for Sudan to restart oil exports.—Reuters

Ministry of Information

Invitation to open tender for purchasing machines for Myanma Radio and Television

1. Open tender documents are invited to purchase the following machines 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.

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



Performers participate in the samba parade in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 8 Feb, 2013. XINHUA

Lebanon may need camps for flood of Syrian refugees

BEIRUT, 10 Feb—Lebanon should consider setting up transit centres to absorb the waves of refugees fleeing neighbouring Syria and may have to establish formal refugee camps if the influx continues, a United Nations refugee official said.

The tiny and fragile Mediterranean state already hosts 260,000 refugees — equivalent to 6.5 percent of

its population — and has sought to absorb them in homes and communities, fearing large camps of Sunni Muslim Syrians could inflame sectarian tensions still smouldering from its own 1975-1990 civil war.

But the accelerating exodus from Syria's bloodshed means that the number of Syrians seeking help in Lebanon is growing by 3,000 a day, leaving

authorities and the UNHCR refugee agency struggling to provide for them.

"We have this very tiny country ... a quarter of the size of Switzerland, with a population of 4 million people, taking in 260,000 refugees," UNHCR representative in Lebanon Ninette Kelley told Reuters late on Friday.

"I think what we need to start doing is to prepare

for an eventuality whereby we may not be able to find enough shelter and accommodation given the current level of demand."

"We have advised the government that it may be a time to start having at least two transit sites," she said, where refugees could be offered temporary food and shelter before other accommodation is found.

Reuters

A photographer takes photos of a reveler who participates in the annual "Bloco da Lama" parade in Paraty, Brazil, on 9 Feb, 2013. XINHUA



Abducted Filipino-Canadian boy released in S Philippines

MANILA, 10 Feb—A Filipino-Canadian boy and his nanny, who were abducted by unidentified gunmen earlier this week, were recovered on Friday in southern Philippine city of Ozamiz, local police said on Saturday.

Chief Inspector Ariel

Huesca, spokesman chief for the Police Office of Zamboanga Peninsula Region, said the victims, one-year old Timothy Mata Sokolov and his 17-year old nanny Caroline Remetre, were recovered at the back of a shopping mall in Ozamiz City at around 3:00

pm Friday.

He said that debriefing was being conducted to Remetre, who remained in the state of shock, after she and Sokolov were kidnapped while strolling in their subdivision on Thursday morning.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Britney Spears considers long-term Las Vegas deal



Britney Spears

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb — Pop star and former “X Factor” judge Britney Spears is in talks to sign a long-term contract to headline a show at a Las Vegas resort, Caesars Entertainment Corp said on Friday. “We can now confirm the company is actively engaged in discussions with Britney Spears’ representatives regarding a potential headlining residency at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino,” the company said in a statement.

Representatives for Spears were not immediately available for comment on Friday. Caesars Entertainment, which owns casinos and resorts

including Planet Hollywood, has hired some of the world’s top-selling artists for residencies at various Las Vegas sites. Canadian singer Celine Dion has a three-year deal with Caesars Palace that is said to be worth \$100 million. British singer Elton John also has a long-term commitment to perform at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace.

Singers Cher and Bette Midler had similar long-term deals at The Colosseum in recent years. Spears, 31, shot to fame in the late 1990s with hits such as “... Baby One More Time” and has gone on to become one of the biggest pop figures of the 2000s.—Reuters

Olivia Newton-John ready to stop touring at 64



LONDON, 10 Feb — “Grease” star Olivia Newton-John says her current world tour might be her last as she wants to take time out and focus on her cancer wellness centre.

After travelling around the world on her current string of dates, the 64-year-old actress and singer said she may well pitch her wagon in Las Vegas, reported Express online.

PTI

‘Grease’ star Olivia Newton-John

NEW DELHI, 10 Feb — Filmmaker Abbas-Mustan’s action thriller Race 2 has become the first film of the year to enter Rs 100 crore club by grossing Rs.100.45 crore.

Made at a budget of Rs 60 crore, the film came out 25 Jan and earned Rs 100.45 crore in two weeks of its release. “We are glad that Race 2 is continuing its great run at the box office and holding its position throughout,” Gaurav

Verma, director — India theatrical distribution, Studios, Disney UTV, said in a statement.

“We had complete faith in the film and are extremely happy that audiences have liked the film and have made it possible for the film to reach this position,” he added.

Co-produced by UTV Motion Pictures and Tips Music Films, the film features an ensemble cast of John Abraham, Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, Jacqueline Fernandez, Anil Kapoor and Ameesha Patel.

PTI



Race 2 features an ensemble cast of John Abraham, Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, Jacqueline Fernandez, Anil Kapoor and Ameesha Patel.

PTI

Dame Shirley Bassey to appear at the Academy Awards

NEW YORK, 10 Feb — Dame Shirley Bassey, who recorded the theme songs for the James Bond films “Goldfinger,” “Diamonds Are Forever” and “Moonraker,” will make her first appearance at the Academy Awards this month, the show’s producers said on Friday.

Bassey, whose career has spanned more than six decades, will perform at the awards show on 24 February in Los Angeles, along with others including Adele, Norah Jones and Barbra Streisand.

“Her association with film music is world renowned and we are proud that she will be making her first Oscar appearance on



Dame Shirley Bassey

our telecast,” Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, the producers of the show, said in a statement.

The 76-year-old British singer has recorded more than 44 albums, has sold more than 135 million records and has performed

in concert halls across the world. Last June, she sang at Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee concert in London. The Academy Awards will be broadcast live on ABC television and in more than 225 countries worldwide.—Reuters

My priority is my children and not marriage: Zeenat Aman

MUMBAI, 10 Feb — Zeenat Aman says her priority right now is her sons and she will consider marriage only “five to eight years” later when they are settled and if she feels “lonely” at that time. “Whatever has been said is incorrect. I am single, I am not married and I am living in my house with my children,” said Zeenat, who was married to Mazhar Khan who passed away in 1998. She has two sons Azaan and Zahaan.

Her recent confession about seeing someone in an interview led to a lot of speculation and even linked her to Sarfaraz Ahsan Ahmed, a Shiv Sena member and real-estate dealer.

PTI



Zeenat Aman was recently rumoured to be dating and contemplating marrying a real-estate dealer.

PTI

Nicole Kidman kept me from giving up acting dreams: Naomi Watts

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb — Naomi Watts has credited fellow Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman with encouraging her to pursue her acting dreams. The 44-year-old actress, who is nominated for Oscars this year for The Impossible, had a tough time getting established in Hollywood when she first moved state-side in the early 90s.

But Naomi Watts said some words of encouragement from already A-list pal and fellow Australian ex-pat Nicole Kidman helped her stay motivated, reported Us magazine. “She kept saying, ‘It’s just going to take

one thing, one thing, Nay, and you know, if you’re in a hit film... then everything changes,’” Naomi said of Nicole’s reassurance during an interview with CBS’ Sunday Morning, set to air on 10 February. Naomi Watts and Nicole Kidman,

45, co-starred in the film Flirting back in 1991, and have remained close ever since. Naomi explained that she first moved to Hollywood with a five-year plan, but the exhausting process of audition soon turned it into a 10-year plan.—PTI



The Australian actresses have been friends ever since they met on the sets of Flirting in 1991.

PTI

Ronaldo hat-trick as Madrid blast past Sevilla

MADRID, 10 Feb—Real Madrid warmed up for Wednesday's Champions League match at home to Manchester United with a comfortable win at home to a conformist Sevilla.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a hat-trick after Karim Benzema had opened the scoring for Madrid after the ball fell kindly to him following a Ronaldo cross



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (R) is congratulated by team mate Fabio Coentrao after scoring a goal against Sevilla during their Spanish first division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 9 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

from the left. Ronaldo's first goal was a magnificent left foot shot from outside of the Sevilla area, his second was the result of some poor defending from Madrid's rivals.

The former Manchester United striker's third goal came with 20 minutes remaining, while Manu Del Moral netted a late consolation for Sevilla. Both sides ended up with a player less after Gonzalo

Higuain was sent off for Madrid and Hedwings Maduro also saw red for Sevilla. This Saturday saw five games in the BBVA Primera Liga, which kicked off with Gregorio Manzano seeing his side scrape a last minute point in their home game against Osasuna.

Manzano returned for his third spell as Mallorca coach following Joaquin Caparros' sacking in the week, but a dull game saw his side fall behind to a Lolo header with 13 minutes remaining. Mallorca took a point when defender Pedro Geromel looped a header home after a defensive mix-up from the Osasuna defence in the 92nd minute. Struggling Celta Vigo worked hard in the first half of their game at home to an improving Valencia, but ran out of steam and Nelson Valdez's fifth goal of the season in the last minute of injury time gave Valencia a 1-0 win to lift Ernesto Val-

verde's side into a place that would qualify them for the Champions League.

Malaga's excellent season continued with a 2-1 win away to Levante who had taken the lead with a 27th minute Jose Barquero penalty before Ozco, who made his Spain debut against Uruguay in midweek turned the game around with a 36th minute penalty and a winning goal two minutes after halftime. Finally Deportivo la Coruna look doomed to relegation after suffering a 3-0 home defeat to fellow strugglers, Granada.

All of the goals came in the second half with a Carlos Marchena own goal a minute after the break putting Granada ahead a minute after the break. Jude Ighalo made it 2-0 just after the hour after Manuel Pablo had been sent off to leave Deportivo with a player less and Siquiera netted a late penalty to seal the win.—Xinhua

Flamengo in bid for Italy legend Del Piero

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 Feb—Flamengo is reportedly preparing an offer to lure former Juventus star Alessandro Del Piero to the Rio de Janeiro club. Brazilian legend Zico, now a Flamengo board member, is in talks with Del Piero and his current club Sydney FC about a two-year deal for the 38-year-old, *Lancenet* reported on Saturday.

Del Piero is said to be disillusioned with the Australian outfit, which he joined in September last year for a reported two million US dollars a season. Despite the striker's 10 goals from 16 appearances this season, Sydney is currently 8th out of 10 teams in the A league standings.

"This is new for me, different," said the Italian 2006 World Cup winner. "I'm involved with a team which has a big challenge ahead. Our start hasn't been good due to injuries and the



Former Juventus star Alessandro Del Piero

loss of players. "It is frustrating but we have to fix what is wrong and focus on improving our situation." Del Piero is Juventus' all-time highest scorer with 290 goals in 705 matches from 1993 to 2012.

Xinhua

Wales restore pride against wounded French

PARIS, 10 Feb—Wales restored their dented pride and inflicted a second straight defeat on France as the reigning champions ended an eight-match losing streak with a 16-6 win over the World Cup runners-up in the Six Nations on Saturday. Wales, who had not won a game since last year's victory against France in the Six Nations, defended fiercely throughout and wrapped it up thanks to a late moment of inspiration from Dan Biggar and try scorer George North.

For France it is the first time since 1982 that they have started the championship with two defeats having lost to Italy last weekend. "How do I explain this black hole? You have to accept that the Welsh came here to win after losing eight games in a row," France manager Philippe Saint-Andre told a news conference. "You have to

score when you're on top, and in the first half we had two great chances but couldn't take them...

"Things are tough for us, we have to accept that," Saint-Andre added, looking ahead to their match in England on 23 February. "We have to lift our heads up and prepare like commandos to go and play at Twickenham. We can't win

the Six Nations now but we can win respect." Wales interim coach Rob Howley was delighted that this time the defending champions were "on the right side of the scoreboard".

"It's been a long time since we've won a game. It is pretty special for the Welsh team to be honest," he said.

Reuters



Wales' Mike Phillips (front) evades the tackle from France's Dimitri Szarzewski (L) and Louis Picamoles (R) during their Six Nations rugby match at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis near Paris, on 9 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Players end rebellion, but discussions to continue with AITA

NEW DELHI, 10 Feb—The five-week long crisis that rocked Indian tennis ended today as all the 11 players ended their rebellion and made themselves available for the tie against Indonesia, a day after AITA gave all the assurances with regard to



Davis Cup playing conditions in writing.

Now India can choose from among its top players for the Asia/Oceania Group I 1st round play-off tie against Indonesia, scheduled for 5-7 April in Bangalore.

PTI

Snedeker ties Hahn for lead at Pebble Beach

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb—FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker maintained his sizzling form this season by moving into a two-way tie for the lead with fellow American James Hahn after the third round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Saturday. Snedeker, helped by a run of five birdies in six holes around the turn, fired a four-under-par 68 at the hosting Pebble Beach Golf Links on a glorious sun-splashed winter's day.

That left him at 12-under 202 and level with PGA Tour rookie Hahn who carded a six-under 66 at Spyglass Hill, the most difficult of the three venues being used this week. American Chris Kirk was a further stroke back after a six-under 64 at Monterey

Peninsula but it was not a good day for defending champion Phil Mickelson who triple-bogeyed the last at Pebble Beach for a 73 to finish right on the cutline.



US golfer Brandt Snedeker

Snedeker was delighted to remain on track for his first victory of the year, despite losing momentum over the closing stretch where he failed to take advantage of a few good birdie opportunities. "I played great, pretty much from start to finish," he told CBS. "A couple of hiccups here

and there but I'm in great shape going into tomorrow. "I let probably three or four (birdie chances) slide on the back nine which I needed to make. I just need to start making some putts," added Snedeker, who has recorded three top-three finishes in his first four events on the 2013 PGA Tour.—Reuters

Figure skating: Canada's Reynolds stuns Hanyu to win Four Cont's

OSAKA, 10 Feb—Canada's Kevin Reynolds pulled off a major upset to beat Japanese national champion Yuzuru Hanyu, overcoming the odds to win the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships on Saturday.

Reynolds stirred the crowd to its feet with a technically sound and robust free skate, rebounding out of sixth place to collect 250.55 points for the gold medal.

"This is completely beyond anything I could have

expected," said Reynolds, who won the Four Continents bronze in 2010. "I was in sixth place but I knew I



was in range for medal. I had some under-rotated jumps in the short program, so I came back and worked on them this morning in practice.

Kyodo News

Two-time world champion Mao Asada performs to "I Got Rhythm" by George Gershwin in the women's short programme at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships at Osaka Municipal Central Gymnasium in Osaka on 9 Feb, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

GENERAL

Gokteik Viaduct

Gokteik Viaduct have the tallest bridge piers in the world at the time of its completion at 97.5 meters. The current record is now held by France's Millau Viaduct. Prior to Millau's record breaking bridge piers of 245 meters, the history of these towering structures has been almost entirely in Europe outside of two US spans. Before Millau the 178 meter piers of Germany's Kochertalbrücke held the record for 25 years. Before Kocher the tallest were the 147 meter pier of Italy's Rago Viaduct. Austria held the record before Rago with the famous 145 meter tall piers of Europabrücke. Before that California's Pit River Bridge had the tallest at 109 meters.



Before California's Pit River crossing, the tallest purely concrete and stone pier was on France's Fades Viaduct at 92.3 meters along with Switzerland's 99 meter tall Sitter Viaduct (depending on where you measure

the top). Prior to Fades and Sitter was Gokteik at 97.5 meters. Before Gokteik the tallest steel bridge pier was the central tower of the Kinzua Viaduct at 87 meters. Before Kinzua the 1862 Grandfrey Viaduct of Switzerland held the record with steel and stone piers 79.5 meters high. In 1857 the Crumlin Viaduct was the tallest with purely steel piers 64 meters tall while the 1856 Sitter Viaduct had stone and iron piers of approximately 56 meters in height. The 1852 Portage Viaduct had masonry and

timber piers of 67 meters. Prior to Portage there were few true "piers" of great height, only stone aqueducts such as the Pont Roquefavour in France and the Ponte Delle Torri in Spoleto, Italy with structural heights of 82 meters. Spain's Puente Nuevo or New Ronda Bridge also has a structural height in the 100 meter height range though the masonry walls hug the sides of the gorge cliff more like a giant foundation than a true stand-alone pier or aqueduct.—NLM

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (11-2-13 09:30 am ~ 12-2-13 09:30 am) MST
- * News
 - * Unique Type of Merit
 - * Byardate Solo Art Exhibition
 - * Provide Space for Parking
 - * News
 - * Music
 - * Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-3)
 - * Promoting Tourism Through Sports
 - * "Insight Myanmar" Prisons Department (Part-2)
 - * EU's Czech Republic's First Debut "Business Forum"
 - * Beautiful Choreographic of Maid of Honour Dance and Female Spirit Dance
 - * News
 - * "Youth and Language" YUFL (Part-1)
 - * News
 - * Kambawzathardi Golden Palace
 - * New Diagnosis an Special Clinic
 - * Myanmar Movies "Guilt Over Love"

MYANMAR TV

(11-2-2013, Monday)

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 4:45 pm | 13. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:25 am | 2. Health Programme | 4:50 pm | 14. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe) |
| 7:30 am | 3. Morning News | 5:00 pm | 15. Myanmar Language |
| 7:50 am | 4. Nice & Sweet Song | 5:35 pm | 16. Documentary |
| 8:00 am | 5. Song Of National Races | 6:00 pm | 17. Evening News |
| 8:10 am | 6. Cute Little Dancers | 6:15 pm | 18. Weather Report |
| 8:20 am | 7. Teleplay (Agri) | 6:20 pm | 19. Teleplay (SEA games) |
| 8:30 am | 8. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme | 6:50 pm | 20. TV Drama Series |
| 8:40 am | 9. Documentary | 7:00 pm | 21. News |
| 4:00 pm | 10. Opening Song | 7:10 pm | 22. TV Drama Series |
| 4:10 pm | 11. Dance Variety | 8:00 pm | 23. Cartoon Series |
| 4:30 pm | 12. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Fourth Year (Law) | 10:00 pm | 24. Songs Programme |
| | | | 25. News |
| | | | 26. India Drama Series |

Lakers fans ponder what next in season of "Alice"

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb — Friday's come-from-behind victory over the lowly Charlotte Bobcats was the latest chapter in an 'Alice in Wonderland'-style season for the Los Angeles Lakers where very little has turned out to be what it seems. Ace closer Kobe Bryant, held scoreless by Charlotte in the first half, finished with 20 points on six-of-15 shooting and eight assists as the Lakers overcame a 20-point deficit in the third quarter to win 100-93.

Once again, though, Lakers fans were left to wonder what would happen next in a bitterly

disappointing campaign which began with lofty expectations after the off-season acquisitions of Dwight Howard and Steve Nash. With that duo linking up with fellow All-Stars Bryant and Pau Gasol, many pundits instantly installed the Los Angeles franchise as the main threat this season to the NBA champion Miami Heat, and Lakers fans licked their lips in anticipation.

However, Bryant and company have since limped their way to a bitterly disappointing 24-27 record to sit 10th in the 15-team Western Conference,

outside the top eight playoff spots. They have not been helped by an ageing line-up, along with a spate of injuries and three different head coaches this season, and Bryant expressed his frustration after Friday's desperate win against the (11-38) Bobcats, the NBA's worst team.

"We have to play the right way," Bryant told reporters after saying he had been "irritated" by the team's all-round display in Charlotte.—Reuters



Charlotte Bobcats shooting guard Gerald Henderson (9) is fouled by Los Angeles Lakers power forward Antawn Jamison (4) during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Charlotte, North Carolina on 8 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

SCHLADMING, (Austria), 10 Feb—Aksel Lund Svindal joined an illustrious group on Saturday when he became world downhill champion for the second time after finishing third in Wednesday's super-G. The Norwegian clocked two minutes 01.32 seconds on the Planai piste to emulate Toni Sailer, Jean-Claude Killy and Bernhard Russi with a second victory in an event no skier has won three times.

"It's a huge achievement for me to clinch another gold medal today in such a difficult

Bolt beaten in season opener

KINGSTON, 10 Feb—Jamaican Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt was beaten in his first race of the 2013 season on Saturday, finishing third in a low-key 400 metre event in his hometown of Kingston. The triple gold medallist from both the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympics easily won his heat in 46.71 seconds at the Camperdown Classic.

But he had to settle for third place overall after his training partners Warren Weir and Yohan Blake both posted faster times in their heats. "I'm happy, I've never been so nervous running a 400m but overall I'm happy.

Physically I felt good, not as good as I normally would, but overall I feel good," Bolt.

"I didn't matter about the time, I just wanted to complete this race, I know I may have one more for the season, maybe two depending on what the coach wants." Weir, who finished third behind Bolt and Blake in the 200m final at London last year, won in a personal best time of 46.21 seconds Blake, racing in the same heat as Weir, stopped the clock at 46.64 after fading in the final straight following a blistering start. "I feel strong, I tested myself in the first part of the race, that is what got the better of me in



Jamaican Olympic sprinter Usain Bolt

the home straight, but I'm feeling pretty good," said Blake, who won the 100m world championship in 2011 when Bolt was disqualified for a false start.

"Training is going really... you know, I'm confident, I have the world championships to defend my title and coach (Glen) Mills is just working on the different parts of my race and I'm feeling good."—Reuters

Svindal joins ski greats with second downhill win

race. I was so tired in my mind and body crossing the finish line after fighting so hard all the way down,"



Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway skis during the men's Downhill race at the World Alpine Skiing Championships in Schladming on 9 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Svindal told reporters. "The course was very hard and even icy in some parts and the visibility was very poor

too." "I'm really proud to have been able to produce such an effort at the given moment. I was convinced I had given my best and achieved a pretty strong run."

It was the fifth world title for Svindal, who won the downhill in Are six years ago.

The 30-year-old Olympic super-G Olympic champion has now collected gold medals in the last four editions of the world championships, clinching the combined titles in 2009 and in 2011.

Reuters

Sports, education, health care services promoted in Myaungmya



Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan puts on a pair of glasses to a patient.—MNA

YANGON, 10 Feb — A new school building for No. 3 Basic Education High School in Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region, was inaugurated yesterday by Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye and Union

Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan donated K 7 million to the school.

Ayeyawady Region Government contributed K 1 million to paving a road with asphalt and parents and

students K 1.1 million to the school and K 1 million to the funds for welfare of teachers of the school.

The Union ministers and the chief minister visited the Education College, No 2 Basic Education High School and Yedwin Yekan Village and contributed K 5 million to construction works there.

They visited the People's Hospital in Myaungmya and viewed patients receiving free eye surgery there.

They also inspected renovation of Ground, Weightlifting and Body-Building Gymnasium and Tennis Court in Myaungmya and presented sports gear worth 2.17 million to the township weightlifting and Body-Building Subcommittee.

They also visited Kwelwe Village where a medical team was giving free medical care to local people.—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

Regional development tasks in Gangaw, Minbu inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe inspected construction of infrastructures for Myittha Dam Project in Gangaw Township on 7 February.

In meeting with local authorities, departmental personnel and local people at the briefing hall, the chief minister heard reports on work progress. The dam project is being implemented with the contributions of 876 heavy machinery and more than 2000 workforce. The project has been completed by 55 per cent and it is set to complete in

March 2015. Upon completion, the dam built across the Myittha river can generate the electricity of 170 million kwh annually and irrigate 12000-acre farmlands.

Next, the chief minister oversaw progress of a 60-foot reinforced concrete bridge on Pakokku-Pauk-Gangaw road and Kyi Creek bridge on Pakokku-Pauk-Htilin-Gangaw road and progress in Hsinbyugyun bridge on Minbu-Salin-Hsinbyugyun-Tanyaung-Seikpyu road in Minbu District.

MNA

66th Anniversary Union Day live on TV

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — The State flag-saluting ceremony of the 66th Anniversary Union Day will be held in Nay Pyi Taw at 7 am on 12 February and it will be broadcast live through Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar Radio, MRTV-4, Skynet (up-to-date) and Myawady channels beginning 6.40 am.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (10-2-2013)

Haka	6°C
Putao	7°C

Tarred streets opened in Hpa-an

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — The opening ceremony of a newly-repaved Loktha Street to hail the 66th Anniversary Union Day was held in Ward 9, Hpa-an Township of Kayin State yesterday.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min and state-level departmental officials attended the ceremony. Kayin State Development Affairs Minister U Than

Daing and officials cut the ribbon to open the new tarred street.

The Chief Minister and party then attended the opening of Barcat-Yathaypyan-Kotgon inter-village new tarred street. The State Development Affairs Minister and officials formally opened the new tarred Street.

MNA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) to emerge soon

Construction then started constructing the bridge.

Constructed at 2900 feet wide defile, the bridge will secure better water course. Its approach road on Michaungye bank meets

Pyay-Aunglan-Magway motor road at mile post No. 301. Its approach bridge on Malun bank is just five miles from Malun, through which there is a link to Patheinyon motor road and

to Yangon-Pyay-Magway-Mandalay road on eastern Ayeyawady Bank.

As the bridge is constructed where the current is strong, it will contribute to speed of

vessels. It will also become a bridge on commodity transportation route to foreign countries through deep sea ports.

Myanma Alinn: 9-2-2013
Trs: TKK

Last year, I happened to attend a series of bridge inaugurations across Ayeyawady River — Nyaungdon Bridge in Ayeyawady Region, Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), the longest bridge in Myanmar linking Mandalay Region and Magway Region, Ayeyawady (Sinkhan) in Bhamo Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State. In second week of December last year, I visited construction of site of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun).

The bridge is at the fourth defile of Ayeyawady River near Ywathit Village and Koebin Village in Magway Township, Magway District, Magway

Region. The main part of the rail-cum facility will be 3215 feet long and will have two-lane motor road. Its approach road will be 624 feet long in total and the railroad 3939 feet in length. The foundation of the bridge is of RC Type and the upper structure is made of steel truss. Its clearance will be 320 feet wide and 75 feet high. It can withstand 60 tons per vehicle.

Special Projects Implementation Committee agreed for construction of the bridge at its coordination meeting on 26 February, 2010 and Special Project Group (4) under Ministry of

By **Kayan Soe Myint**

