

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Serbian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolic, President of the Republic of Serbia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Serbia, which falls on 15 February 2013.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No 9/ 2013)

4th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1374 ME
14 February, 2013

Resignation of Ayeyawady Region Minister allowed

Under the Article 163 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Section 13 of the Region/State Hluttaw Law, Social Affairs Minister U Tin Soe of Ayeyawady Region government has been allowed to resign from his post as he was elected as the Speaker of Region Hluttaw.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No 10/ 2013)

4th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1374 ME
14 February, 2013

Appointment of Ayeyawady Region Minister

Under the Article 262 (e) and (f) and Article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 19 (c) and Section 82 (c) of the Union Government Law, and Section 8 (g) and Section 56 (a) of the Region/State government Law, Region Hluttaw Representative Daw Khin Saw Mu of Kangyidaunt Township Constituency (2) of Ayeyawady Region has been appointed as the Region Minister for Social Affairs.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No 8/ 2013)

4th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1374 ME
14 February, 2013

Appointment of members of the Union Civil Services Board

Under the Article 246 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Section 16, sub-section (b), (xii) of the Union Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as members of the Union Civil Services Board.

- (1) U Mahn Maung Maung Nyan
- (2) U Ngun Moug

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (14-2-2013)

Kengtung	0.98 inch
Myeik	0.20 inch

Heated debate on 2013-2014 FY National Plan Bill goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—“Laws should not be just for show,” says Daw Mi Myint Than of Ye Constituency, calling for translation of the government’s doctrine “good governance, clean government” into actions.

She stressed agricultural loans should be reached to farmers and not into the pockets of those who misuse power and suggested adding the word “the sufficient amount of” between “to provide” and “agricultural loans to farmers” in the proposed agricultural plan on 2013-2014 FY Bill.

The heated debate over 2013-2014 FY National Plan Bill went on at the ninth-day sixth regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw today as the parliamentarians put forward large numbers of recommendations.

Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency questioned the credibility of commitment made at the Parliament, criticizing

the Electric Power Ministry for failing to build a power station in Kunhing Township which was promised to establish nearly two years ago.

Daw Nan Wah Nu portrayed red-tape as a reason for illegal trade, a threat to national income. “Despite the virtual instability, timber extraction and minerals mining have never ceased in the region,” she said.

Daw Dwe Bu of Ingyanyan Constituency called for pragmatism in policy-making, stressing the need for operability on the ground.

She welcomed the Information Ministry’s plan to extend parliamentary news and ethnic communities TV channels, suggesting establishing FM stations in rural areas so that people are in touch with functions of the parliament.

U Than Myint of Taninthayi Region Constituency No (10)



Newly-appointed Union ministers take oath before the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

warned against the apparent planned economy of the State, calling for granting greater autonomy to regions and states.

MPs urged the Union government to consider pay rise for public servants.

Union Ministers for Communications and

Information Technology U Myat Hein, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Union Minister for Religious

Affairs U Hsan Hsint took oath in the presence of the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

NLM

LOCAL NEWS

Industrial wastewater pollute Mandalay and its vicinity



MANDALAY, 14 Feb — Due to the irresponsible dumping of wastewater from factories in Mandalay Industrial Zone and the surrounding areas, there has been a high risk of water pollution in Taungtaman Lake and its surroundings in Amarapura Township causing deteriorating of ecosystem. Because of south and north natural lake regions subject to water pollution, the Ayeyawady is under the threat of water pollution when the

polluted water from the lakes has reached the River via Dohtawady River. According to zoologists and scholars in chemistry, the death of fish occurred due to the impact of dumping wastewater in Taungtaman Lake.

In order to reduce levels of environmental pollution in Mandalay, an agreement between officials of Mandalay City Development Committee and industrialists was reached on 1 February to formulate a

wastewater treatment system as soon as possible and to launch punitive actions against reckless dumping of wastewater from factories.

There are 90 factories dumping wastewater in the municipal area of Mandalay. Factories are to carry out their own wastewater treatment system until MCDC operates its wastewater treatment system in the middle of the year 2013.

Kyemon

Traffic rules violators charged in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 14 Feb — Members of Mandalay Region traffic police corps are making great strides in ensuring traffic rule enforcement and free from possible dangers of road accidents.

Starting from 1 January, reckless drivers of 652 vehicles were charged with violation of traffic rules by

Digital traffic lights for better traffic flow in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 14 Feb — For ensuring proper flow of traffic in Mandalay, digital traffic lights were put into service at the junctions of Yangon-Mandalay road in Chanmyathazi Township and Sagaing feeder road and 26th street and 66th street in Chanayethazan Township in the early of February.

The 30 feet long digital traffic lights were installed on 22 feet high posts. Traffic signal system is designed for three motor lanes and LED traffic lights tell the length of time between the red, the green and the yellow lights. Installation of digital traffic signals system for two

Road/bridge works gaining momentum in Ayeyawady, Yangon Regions

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb — In his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Region, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint oversaw repair works of Kyaiklat-Pyapon road, laying of gravel from mile post No (5/0) to (5/1) and tarmacking of road, maintenance works for Pyapon bridge, Pyapon-Dedaye road and Dedaye bridge and road works along Dedaye-Kungyankon-

Kawhmu road section on 8 February.

On his arrival at Kawhmu Township in Yangon Region, the deputy minister inspected the groundwork for Kawhmu-Wah Balathauk-Thanminchan-Thayettaw road and stockpiling of gravel along the road, loading gravel onto trucks from the ship at Thayettaw Village, upgrading of Dala-Thakhut-Latkhokkone road

and maintenance of Twantay bridge.

Then he proceeded to the construction site of Hline river crossing No (2) Bayintnaung Bridge project. The deputy minister called for sooner completion of the project meeting set standard, ensuring worksite safety and fire preventive measures and systematic use of heavy machinery.

MNA

Mandalayans donate blood in commemoration of the Union Day

MANDALAY, 14 Feb — Hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, a collective blood donation ceremony was held at a prayer hall in the compound of Thiri Haymar Ashae Eindawya Pagoda on 11 February.

Responsible persons led by Dr Daw Khin Sein Win and U Tun Tun, chairman of blood donation association, spoke words of encouragement while 54 donors are donating blood.

Next, the chairman and executives of association handed over 54 blood bags



to In-charge of National Blood Bank Dr Daw Khin Sein Win who presented certificates of honour to them. Those who wish to

donate blood may contact the association at No (53/ Kha) on 87th street between 26th and 27th streets.

Kyemon

Two-digit dealers arrested in Mahaangmye Township

MANDALAY, 14 Feb — Mandalay Region Police Force is cracking down on two- and three-digit dealers as a drive for curbing gambling in Mandalay.

According to a tip-off, police members led by Police Sub-inspector Myo Min Kyu of No (9) Police Station in Mahaangmye Township arrested Ma Khine Mar Oo and Daw Pyone and seized K 6.8 million and instruments — laptop, mobile phone, calculator and papers

that carry names — used for illegal betting while searching the house of Ma Khine Mar Oo in Maharmyine ward-1 in the township.

While the house search was in progress, Daw Pyon swallowed the memory stick that stores data of illegal betting.

No (9) Police Station of Mahaangmye Township filed a lawsuit against gambling dealers Ma Khine Mar Oo and Daw Pyone.

Kyemon



Mandalay General Hospital provides emergency patients with free medical treatment

MANDALAY, 14 Feb — “Thanks to an increase in health budget, emergency patients in Mandalay General Hospital are being given free health care services starting from 21 January”, Medical Super-intendent Dr Maung Win said.

He continued that K 550 million had been allocated to the hospital for buying medicines and medical equipment for 2012-13 fiscal year. A committee

formed with consultants, surgeons and nurses that has responsibility for the procurement of medicines and medical equipment in the hospital provided necessary medicines.

Now, skilled health staffs are providing 24-hour free health care services to the poor and those who are affordable to receive medical treatment under the cost-sharing health care system.

Kyemon



WORLD

Chavez undergoing “delicate” cancer treatment



Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro (C) and National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello (R) stand next to a painting of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

REUTERS

CARACAS, 14 Feb — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is undergoing “complex” alternative treatments more than two months after having cancer surgery in Cuba, his vice president said on Wednesday.

The 58-year-old socialist leader has not been seen in public since he went to Havana for the operation on 11 December, his fourth surgery for cancer in 18 months.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro did not give details of the alternative treatments the president was receiving. Chavez has never said what type of cancer he is suffering from, and critics accuse the government of excessive secrecy over his condition.

“Today our command-

er is undergoing alternative treatments ... they are complex and difficult treatments that must, at some point, end the cycle of his illness,” Maduro said in comments on state TV.

The government, which rejects allegations it has not been transparent about Chavez’s health, says he has completed a difficult post-operative period and has started a “new phase” of his recuperation. It has not given details of this new phase.

Any new vote in South America’s top oil exporter would probably pit Maduro, Chavez’s heir apparent, against Henrique Capriles, the 40-year-old governor of Miranda state, who lost to Chavez in last October’s presidential election.

Reuters

Ecuadorian presidential candidates near end of campaigns

QUITO, 14 Feb—Ecuador’s eight presidential candidates marked the next to last day of their campaigns on Wednesday, with incumbent President Rafael Correa firmly in the lead.

The campaign season officially ends midnight Thursday, after giving the presidential hopefuls and legislative candidates 42 days to drum up support and criticize rivals.

Correa, who was granted a 30-day leave from the nation’s top office to hit the campaign trail, appeared at several events in the coastal provinces of Manabi, Los Rios and Guayas, and led a caravan in Guayaquil, capi-

tal of economically-important Guayas Province.

Correa, in power since 2007, is set to end his campaign in the capital Quito, with a massive rally at the headquarters of the ruling PAIS Alliance Party.

Correa’s immediate rival, but not a threat, is former banker and center-right candidate Guillermo Lasso.

The latest polls showed Correa enjoyed the support of 66 percent of the country’s 11.6 million eligible voters, an advantage of more than 40 points over Lasso, who trails behind with 15 percent support.

The elections will be held on Sunday.—Xinhua

Syrian troops bombard rebel posts around capital

AMMAN, 14 Feb—President Bashar al-Assad’s forces bombarded the southeast of Damascus with air strikes and artillery on Wednesday to try and dislodge rebel fighters who have gained a foothold in the Syrian capital, opposition activists said.

A Middle East diplomat following the military situation described battles in and around Damascus as a “major engagement”, with fighting going back and forth between the two sides.

“The opposition is hitting Damascus from a multiple of directions and the regime is trying to stop it,” he said.

Jets bombed Jobar, a neighbourhood adjacent to

the main Abbasid Square, and the suburb of Daraya on the highway to Jordan to the south, sources in the capital said.

The two areas are part

of interconnected Sunni Muslim districts in and around Damascus that have been at the forefront of the 22-month uprising against four decades of family rule

by Assad and his father.

Rebels entered Jobar last week after breaching the army’s defence lines at the ring road and overrunning several army and pro-Assad militia positions in the district.

The road, a supply line for elite army units dug in in the center of the city, separates the capital from the mostly rebel-held expanse of Sunni towns and suburbs known as eastern Ghouta.

“By being all over Jobar, the rebels are at striking distance in Damascus, but the big question is whether they will be able to hold it,” said an opposition activist from the Damascus Media Centre opposition monitoring group.—Reuters



A Free Syrian Army fighter aims his weapon to target a regime helicopter in the Aleppo District of Salaheddine on 12 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

John Kerry pledges to restart Mideast peace process

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb—US Secretary of State John Kerry pledged on Wednesday to explore “every possibility” of restarting the peace process between the Israelis and the Palestinians, but insisted on listening to regional leaders first.

“We are committed, as I’ve said to Minister Judeh and to others, to explore every possibility,” the top American envoy told reporters after meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh at the State Department.

“And I believe that there are possibilities,” he added. “I’m an optimist.

If I weren’t an optimist, I wouldn’t have taken this job.”

However, President Barack Obama, who started his second term barely one month ago, is not prepared to do more than to listen to the parties at the moment, Kerry noted.

The president is scheduled to visit Israel, the West Bank and Jordan next month. “It affords him an opportunity to listen,” Kerry said. The secretary himself made a number of phone calls to foreign dignitaries soon after taking office on 1 February, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Kerry said the two leaders both agreed that there are things that could be done to reopen the stalemated peace process.

“The window is closing on this possibility,” he said. “All the leaders I’ve talked to in the region have brought this topic up as a prime topic, and so it deserves our utmost consideration, and it will get that.”

“I think we start out by listening and get a sense of what the current state of possibilities are and then begin to make some choices,” he added.—Xinhua

Iran continues installation of new uranium enrichment centrifuges

TEHRAN, 14 Feb—Iran is continuing the installation of new uranium enrichment centrifuges at the central Natanz facility, said Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Fereidoon Abbasi on Wednesday, semi-official Fars news agency reported.

The remarks came after experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran started a new round of talks in Iran’s capital of Teheran on Wednesday with hopes to resolve the differences between the UN nuclear watchdog and Iran over the latter’s disputed nuclear programme.

The installation started one month ago, and according to the schedule, the Is-

lamic republic intends to double the number of centrifuges in Natanz, according to Abbasi.

Teheran Times quoted an IAEA report as saying that the number of Iran’s first-generation IR1 centrifuges at Natanz site amounted to 10,500 at the end of last year.

The Iranian nuclear chief added that new centrifuges will be used for generating enriched uranium below five percent and will not be used for producing 20 percent enriched uranium.

On 30 January, Iran informed the IAEA of the installation of its new uranium enrichment centrifuges in Natanz.

Xinhua

Pakistan asks Taliban to announce 30-day cease-fire for talks

ISLAMABAD, 14 Feb— Pakistani Interior Minister, Rehman Malik on Wednesday asked the Taliban militants to declare a 30-day cease-fire if they want dialogue with the government, local media reported.

It was the first formal government’s response to the Taliban dialogue offer. Taliban’s attacks have killed nearly 40,000 people including security forces, in the past 10 years.

“The government is ready to hold dialogue with Taliban provided they announce cease-fire and appoint some sincere religious scholars to achieve purposeful results,” Malik told reporters in Islamabad.

“If Taliban are sincere in holding talks, they should have announced a cease-fire and formed a Jirga (council of elders), comprising some serious and thoughtful people,” he said. Taliban have not yet responded to the government’s fresh proposal however they had previously rejected similar calls.

The Interior Minister said Taliban should know that people of Pakistan have seen their actual face and the nation would not forgive the crimes of killing of innocent citizens.

“The nation has rejected Talebanization. Taliban should announce cease-fire first to hold talks,” he said.—Xinhua



Young Gilles throw oranges during the Binche Carnival in Binche, Belgium, on 12 Feb, 2013. Binche Carnival was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2003.

XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Tycoons Slim, Gates open Mexico agricultural research centre

TEXCOCO, 14 Feb — Carlos Slim and Bill Gates, the two richest men on the planet, inaugurated a new agricultural research centre outside Mexico's capital, touting the millions they have donated to bolster global food security. The two tycoons participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for

new laboratories at the headquarters of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, known by its Spanish acronym CIMMYT.

The new complex will double the centre's capacity to develop better seeds and more productive farmers in the developing world, officials said. "These labora-

tories will help attract the best talent in the world to come and work here," said Gates, founder of Microsoft and co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Slim's charitable foundation donated \$25 million to build the new complex, while the Gates foundation has given more than \$90 million for ongoing CIMMYT projects, including an \$18 million grant also announced on Wednesday to help boost small-farm yields in South Asia.

"We have climate change but we also have significant volatility in raw materials, and that makes improved efficiency and farm productivity indispensable," said Slim, who controls a business empire that includes Latin America's biggest telecommunications company, America Movil. Mexico's agriculture minister, Enrique Martinez, told the assembled dignitaries that new ad-

vances in seeds developed by CIMMYT will help Mexico lessen its reliance on imported grains, especially corn.

Mexico currently imports about a third of the corn it needs each year. More than two years ago, Mexico's government began pumping resources into CIMMYT's sustainable agriculture programme known as MasAgro — \$49 million since 2011, and another \$138 million pledged over the next decade, according to data from the agriculture ministry. —Reuters



Mexican businessman Carlos Slim (R), Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates (2nd L), Governor of the State of Mexico Eruviel Avila (L) and Mexican agriculture minister Enrique Martinez (2nd R) cut the ribbon during the inauguration of a new research facility at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in Texcoco outside Mexico City on 13 Feb, 2013. —REUTERS

No "Plan B" for Microsoft's mobile ambitions

SEATTLE, 14 Feb — Microsoft Corp has not made much of a dent in Apple Inc's and Google Inc's domination of mobile computing, but a top executive hinted on Wednesday that it will not stop trying and does not have an alternative strategy. "We're very focused on continuing the success we have with PCs and taking that to tablets and phones," Microsoft's Chief Financial Officer Pe-

ter Klein said at the annual Goldman Sachs Technology and Internet Conference in San Francisco, which was webcast.

Given Microsoft's lack of success so far, he was asked if there was an alternative strategy or 'Plan B' in reserve. "It's less 'Plan B' than how you execute on the current plan," said Klein. "We aim to evolve this generation of Windows to make sure we have the right set of experiences at the right price points for all customers."

Microsoft now has two versions of its own brand Surface tablet for sale and released its newest Windows phone software last year. But the company has not made big inroads into either market.

Gartner estimates that Microsoft sold fewer than 900,000 Surface tablets in the fourth quarter, which is a fraction of the 23 million iPads sold by Apple. Microsoft has not released its own figures but has not disputed Gartner's.

Windows phones now account for 3 percent of the global smartphone market, Gartner says, which is almost double their share a year ago but way behind Google's Android with 70 percent and Apple with 21 percent.

To grab more share, Klein said Microsoft was working with hardware makers to make sure Windows software is available on devices ranging from phones to tablets to larger all-in-one PCs. —Reuters



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

REUTERS

Apple loses right to use iPhone trademark in Brazil

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — Brazil's copyright regulator on Wednesday stripped Apple Inc of the right to use its iPhone trademark in that country, the Wall Street Journal reported on its website on Wednesday.

The agency that oversees patents in Brazil said Gradiente Electronica SA, a Brazilian consumer electronics maker, already owned the rights to the iPhone name, according to the report. Apple will be able to challenge the ruling in the Brazilian courts.

Earlier this month,



A man poses with an iPhone during Earth Hour in the centre of Brasilia on 31 March, 2012.

REUTERS

sources told Reuters that the regulator, the Brazilian Institute of Intellectual Property, was likely to make the decision that Apple did not have the rights to the trademark.

Gradiente Electronica

registered the "iPhone" name in 2000, seven years before Apple launched its popular smartphone. A spokesperson for Apple in the United States was not immediately available to comment. —Reuters



A robot waiter brings dishes of food to consumers in a restaurant in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 13 Feb, 2013. The restaurant, offering service by 20 robots, started operating on Wednesday, attracting many consumers. —XINHUA

Europol breaks up multi-million euro Internet fraud gang

MADRID, 14 Feb — A network of online fraudsters who masqueraded as European crime-fighting agency Europol and collected millions of euros in fake fines has been broken up — by Europol. The group, which worked across 30 countries over the past two years, paralyzed computers with a virus

and left messages purporting to be from organizations like Europol and the police, saying users could only regain access to their machines if they paid a fine.

"It's impossible to know for sure how many citizens were affected by this, but we estimate hundreds of thousands of Eu-

ropeans were," Europol Director Rob Wainwright said at a news conference in Madrid on Wednesday. "If we take into account that the average fine was 100 euros (\$130) and 3 percent...paid it, then the estimated damage is millions of euros," he said. Wainwright added his own name had been used to trick Internet users.

The virus was known as "Ransomware" and had up to 48 different mutations to overcome anti-virus software. The leader of the fraud network, a 27-year-old Russian citizen, was arrested in December in the United Arab Emirates, Spain's secretary of state for security, Francisco Martinez, said at the news conference.

Spanish police arrested 10 members of the group last week on the country's southern Costa del Sol, a popular tourist destination, Martinez said. —Reuters



Director of Europol Rob Wainwright (R) speaks next to Spain's Security State Secretary Francisco Martinez during a news conference at the Interior Ministry in Madrid on 13 Feb, 2013. —REUTERS

Adobe reviews report of another security bug in its software

BOSTON, 14 Feb — Adobe Systems Inc is investigating a report by a cybersecurity firm that hackers exploited previously unknown bugs in its Reader and Acrobat software to launch sophisticated attacks on personal computers.

FireEye, a Silicon Valley company that helps businesses fight cyber attacks, told Reuters it obtained so-called PDF files tainted with malicious software, which can take advantage of the newly discovered bugs. It declined to identify any victims of the attacks.

A spokeswoman for Adobe said that the company is investigating the report, which surfaced late on Tuesday. She declined

to elaborate. This has been a busy year so far for Adobe's security team.

In January, the company pushed out security updates to fix vulnerabilities in Reader, Acrobat and Flash, as well as a program known as ColdFusion that is used to build websites. Last week, it rushed out a fix for Flash Player after security software maker Kaspersky Lab identified a critical bug

that enabled hackers to install "back doors" and take control of PCs running on Microsoft Corp's Windows operating system or Apple Inc's Mac OS X.

Adobe's software has long been a popular target for hackers, who attack PCs by finding bugs in widely used programmes that they can then exploit to insert viruses on computers.

Experts estimate that Reader and Acrobat programmes for accessing PDF documents and Flash Player for accessing Internet content are installed on more than 1 billion PCs. Hackers exploiting the most recently discovered vulnerability use PDF files to infect PCs, according to FireEye.

Reuters



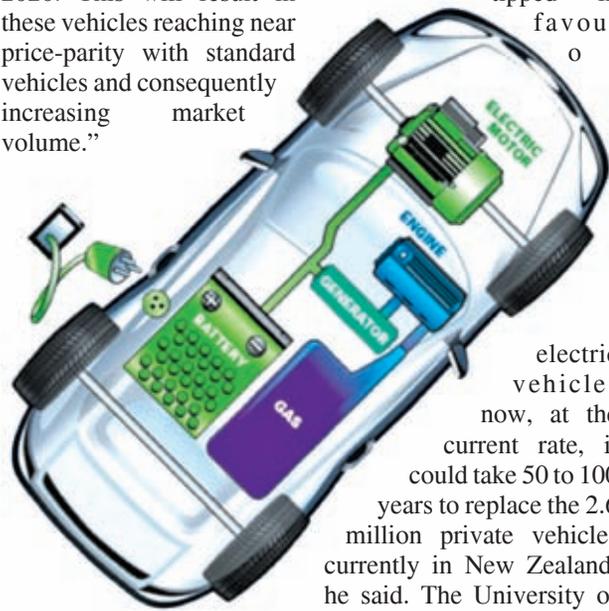
BUSINESS & HEALTH

Electric cars still prohibitively expensive for New Zealand market

WELLINGTON, 14 Feb—Energy-efficient hybrid electric vehicles will only become competitive in the New Zealand car market in about seven years, an electrical engineering expert said on Thursday. Electric vehicles were still too expensive for New Zealand, but the country could benefit substantially from them in terms of reduced greenhouse gas emissions and reduced air pollution, University of Canterbury researcher Dr Allan Miller said at the national energy conference in Wellington.

“The price of an electric vehicle is largely determined by the cost of the battery system. Until this cost is reduced by improved technology and increased manufacturing volumes, they will remain prohibitively expensive,” Miller said, according to a statement from the university. “The key tipping

point at which the battery cost per kilowatt-hour drops below an affordable level is expected to occur around 2020. This will result in these vehicles reaching near price-parity with standard vehicles and consequently increasing market volume.”



Hybrid vehicles had been on the New Zealand market for about 10 years and offered considerable fuel savings, but the 5,000

to 6,000 registered hybrids made up just 0.2 percent of the New Zealand fleet last year. Even if the balance tipped in favour

of electric vehicles now, at the current rate, it could take 50 to 100 years to replace the 2.6 million private vehicles currently in New Zealand, he said. The University of Canterbury was conducting a project that would lead to a national smart grid project, funded by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.—Xinhua

LG says OLED TV pre-orders top 100, eyes 15 percent rise in 2013 TV sales

SEOUL, 14 Feb—LG Electronics Inc said on Thursday pre-orders for its 55-inch next-generation televisions costing over \$10,000 have topped 100, and the firm will start selling the TVs on Monday in South Korea as it tries to steal a march on rivals.

Aiming to outdo competitor Samsung Electronics Co and burnish its reputation for TV technology, the world’s No 2 TV manufacturer started taking pre-orders for organic light-emitting diode (OLED) TVs some six weeks ago. Tipped as the technology most likely to replace liquid-crystal display (LCD) TVs, LG’s OLED model costs up to five times more than LCD equivalents due to flat-screen production challenges.

Samsung has yet to announce when it will start production of OLED

TVs. Given the high price, the new technology is unlikely to sharply boost profit margins, but LG hopes an early move to OLED will help it revive its sinking profitability at a time when Japanese rivals are benefiting from a weakening yen. December-quarter profits in LG’s TV division tumbled to around one tenth of year-earlier levels, as it bumped up promotional spending in the year-end holiday season.

LG said it was aiming to raise flat-panel TV shipments by 15 percent

this year. OLED technology is more energy-efficient and offers higher contrast images than LCD, and is so thin that future mobile devices will be foldable like paper.

OLED displays are already used on Samsung’s popular Galaxy S and Note smartphones, but panel makers have yet to address manufacturing challenges to lower costs to compete against LCD panels, particularly for large screens for televisions and computer monitors.

Reuters



Global mobile phone sales decline in 2012: research

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 Feb—Market research firm Gartner said in its latest research on Wednesday that worldwide mobile phone sales declined in 2012 for the first time since 2009. “Tough economic conditions, shifting consumer preferences and intense market competition weakened the worldwide mobile phone market this year,” said Anshul Gupta, principal research analyst at Gartner.

According to the research, with smartphones continuing to drive overall sales, worldwide mobile phone sales to end users totaled 1.75 billion units in 2012, a 1.7 percent decline from 2011. Demand for feature phones remained

weak in 2012 and was down by 19.3 percent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2012, said the research. It is expected to keep falling in 2013. But in the fourth quarter of 2012, smartphone sales rose by 38.3 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

Gartner predicted that overall mobile phone sales to end users would reach 1.9 billion units in 2013 with smartphone sales accounting for almost 1 billion units. Among smartphone vendors, Apple and Samsung together raised their worldwide smartphone market share to 52 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012 from 46.4 percent in the third quarter.

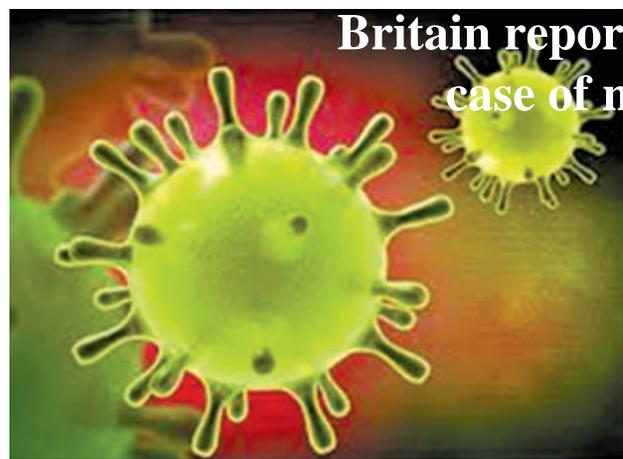
Samsung claimed the No 1 position in both worldwide smartphone sales and overall mobile phone sales in 2012.

Meanwhile, China’s Huawei reached the No 3 spot in global smartphone sales for the first time. Garner said international markets

are key for Huawei’s growth in 2013, and the company would be able to improve its product mix to a higher tier. The research predicted that 2013 would be the rise of the third ecosystem as the battle between the new Blackberry 10 and Windows Phone intensifies.—Xinhua



Britain reports to WHO another confirmed case of new coronavirus infection



GENEVA, 14 Feb—Another British resident, relative of the previous case, was confirmed to be infected with the novel coronavirus, the World

Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday. The latest confirmed case didn’t have any recent travel history outside Britain, which indicates

that infection was acquired in the country, the WHO said in a statement.

“Although this case is suggestive of person-to-person transmission, on the basis of current evidence, the risk of sustained person-to-person transmission appears to be very low,” it said. The WHO said that this patient has pre-existing medical conditions that may have increased susceptibility to respiratory infections.

Britain’s Health

Protection Agency (HPA) is following up on all close contacts, including family and healthcare workers, who may have been exposed to either of these two new confirmed cases, according to the WHO. As of Wednesday, a total of 11 confirmed cases of human infection with the new coronavirus have been notified to WHO and the death toll, which is five, has not changed since April 2012.

Xinhua

Hyper-parents can make college aged children depressed

LONDON, 14 Feb—Turbo-charged parents still running their university-aged children’s schedules, laundry and vacations could be doing more harm than good with a study on Wednesday showing these students were more likely to be depressed and dissatisfied with life. Researcher Holly Schiffrin from the University of Mary Washington in Virginia found so-called helicopter parenting negatively affected college students by undermining their need to feel autonomous and competent.

Her study found students with over-controlling parents were more likely to be depressed and less satisfied with their lives while the number of hyper-parents was increasing with economic fears fuelling concerns over youngsters’ chances of success. “You

expect parents with younger kids to be very involved but the problem is that these children are old enough to look after themselves and their parents are not backing off,” Schiffrin, an associate professor of psychology, told Reuters. “To find parents so closely involved with their college lives, contacting their tutors and running their schedules, is something new and on the increase. It does not allow independence and the chance to learn from mistakes.”

Schiffrin’s study, published in Springer’s *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, was based on an online survey of 297 US undergraduate students in which students described their mothers’ parenting behavior and their own autonomy and researchers assessed their happiness and satisfaction levels.—Reuters



Students take their seats for the diploma ceremony at the John F Kennedy School of Government during the 361st Commencement Exercises at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 24 May, 2012.—REUTERS

WORLD

Turkey adds pressure on EU to crack down on terrorist networks

ANKARA, 14 Feb—Turkey has ratcheted up pressure on the European Union (EU) member countries to crack down on long-running terrorist networks that are operating in their territory with impunity. Ankara alleges that the EU has for years turned a blind eye to the activities of terror groups that target Turkish citizens and interests using the logistical support and funds garnered in the EU soil. For the last two weeks, the outspoken Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has not let up his intense criticisms of the EU for failing to take the necessary measures to

prevent the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) and far-left Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) from operating on their territory.

Both PKK and DHKP/C were listed as terrorist organizations by Turkey, the EU, and the United States.

"The government has recently launched talks with the jailed leader of the PKK in order to pave a way for the disarmament of the group. It does not want any renegade faction in Europe to derail the process," political analyst Idris Gursoy told *Xinhua*.

"Since the PKK front organizations commands

huge financial network in Europe, the government fears that some may not be interested in laying down the arms or give up huge money business. By putting pressure on the EU, Erdogan wants action on PKK finances in Europe," he said. Erdogan's strategy may have worked well as Spanish and French authorities have arrested 23 alleged members of the PKK on charges of extortion to raise money for the terrorist organization. German authorities have filed charges this week against a PKK suspect who was the former head of financial affairs for the illicit group.—*Xinhua*



Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu addresses the inauguration of the 36th Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome, Italy, on 13 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Colombian police searching for hostages freed by rebels

BOGOTA, 14 Feb—Colombian police were searching for the five hostages allegedly freed on late Tuesday by the rebel National Liberation Army (ELN). The ELN, Colombia's second largest rebel group, announced on its website that it had freed two Peruvians and three Colombians after keeping them as hostages since January.

Police chief of Colombia's northern department of Bolivar, Jorge Octavio Vargas, said they started search overnight and would continue the operation till the five people were found.

Asked about the fate of Canadian citizen Jernoc Wobert, who was also abducted by the ELN along with the five hostages, Vargas said: "We will find him soon, because the idea is for the six of them to be able to return to their homes." The captives were seized on 18 January at a mining camp by the ELN, which has about 2,500 members operating in northeastern Colombia.—*Xinhua*



US Treasury Secretary nominee Jacob Lew testifies before the Senate Finance Committee on the Capitol Hill in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 13 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

US Treasury Secretary nominee warns of gov't spending cuts

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb—US Treasury Secretary nominee Jacob Lew on Wednesday warned of the harms to be caused by the looming government spending cuts scheduled to kick in on 1 March.

"We cannot allow the series of harmful automatic spending cuts known as the sequester to go into effect on 1 March. These cuts would impose self-inflicted wounds to the recovery and put far too many jobs and businesses at risk," according to his prepared testimony before the Senate Finance Committee.

Roughly 85 billion US dollars of spending cuts were set to hit various US governmental departments this year starting on 1 March, as agreed by Democrats and Republicans in January to resolve the so-called "fiscal cliff."

"As we move forward with deficit reduction, we need to make sure we leave sufficient room for critical investments in education, research, and infrastructure that we need for our economy to grow and compete

globally," he argued at the committee hearing on his nomination.

"Our top priority is to strengthen the recovery by fostering private sector job creation and economic growth at a time when we must make sure our economy remains resilient to headwinds from beyond our shores," he contended.

That means making it easier to sell US goods abroad and expand manufacturing in the United States. It means working with US partners around the globe and through organizations like the Group of Twenty (G20) to bolster the international financial system and promote global economic stability, he said.

"It means moving forward on the work to complete financial reform so that the system is less vulnerable to crisis, with greater protections for investors and consumers. And it means reforming the tax system so American businesses can thrive and remain competitive," Lew noted.

Xinhua

UN Security Council extends peacebuilding mandate in Burundi

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Feb—The UN Security Council on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution to extend the mandate of the UN peacebuilding office in Burundi, known as BNUB, for one year until 15 Feb, 2014.

The 15-nation council welcomed "the continued progress that Burundi has made towards peace, stability and development," said the resolution.

The resolution called for continuing efforts to support the government of Burundi, including strengthening the legal frameworks of the country, protecting human rights, as well as promoting the socio-economic development of women and youth and conflict-affected populations.

Strengthening institutions may be key to these goals, it said, as the 15-member council encouraged renewed "efforts to

pursue structural reforms aimed at improving political, economic and administrative governance and tackling corruption, with a view to setting up strong drivers for sustained and equitable social and economic growth."

The council also "calls upon the government of Burundi to foster inclusive elections in 2015 by continuing to improve dialogue between all national actors, including civil society, and to guarantee a space for all political parties," said the resolution.

The peacebuilding office in Burundi was originally established in 2006, to consolidate peace efforts in a country that has been plagued by decades of factional fighting between the Hutus and Tutsis.

Prolonged armed fighting between different factions has created severe problems of poverty, arms

proliferation and tensions that threaten regional stability.

The council therefore called on "the government of Burundi to pursue its efforts of peace consolidation and reconstruction in a regional perspective, especially through projects fostering peace" with intergovernmental bodies like the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

Xinhua

Fake zombie attack alert issued after New Mexico TV station hacked

HOUSTON, 14 Feb—A TV station in the US state of Mexico sent out an emergency alert this week warning people that dangerous zombies were attacking, after the stations' alert system got hacked, US media reported on Wednesday.

Public television station KENW in Portales, New Mexico, were among several around the country whose emergency alert systems were hacked, according to CBS-affiliated television station KRQE.

The alert read, "Local authorities in your area have reported the bodies of the dead are rising from their graves and attacking the living. Do not attempt to approach or apprehend these bodies as they are considered extremely dangerous." KRQE said it appears the TV station had not updated the passwords on its emergency alert system, making it possible for hacker attacks.

The same hoax reached

around 10 stations in Montana, Michigan, California, Utah and New Mexico, *USA Today* reported on Wednesday, quoting Greg MacDonald, the CEO of Montana Broadcasters Association. The FBI and the FCC are investigating the cases, and initial findings have officials believe the hoax originated somewhere overseas, MacDonald said.

The suspect had quarrels and physical clashes with the family of his former wife when an explosive-loaded car he drove into the village exploded suddenly, the spokesman added. The injured have been admitted to three hospitals. Zheng Runying, a neighbour of the suspect's former father-in-law and also one of the injured, said after hearing the quarrel she was about to go to the neighbour's home to check, but she lost consciousness in a big bang. Zheng's husband also suffered severe injuries.—*Xinhua*



A vendor prepares flowers ahead of Valentine's Day at Pak Klong Talad market in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13 Feb, 2012. Pak Klong Talad market in Bangkok is a very large and busy wholesale market for fresh flowers.

XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

Students study Buddhism culture



NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Under the auspices of Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Adičisvamsa of Wegyi Pariyatti Monastery in Pobbathiri Township, Buddhism cultural course is being conducted for the

students from 8 am to 11 am every Sunday in Wegyi Village.

Over 150 students are attending the course. On 3 February, U Wai Moe-Daw The The Zin and family fed the students fried chicken noodle.—Kyemon

Ephedrine powder, stimulant tablets seized in Tamu Township

TAMU, 14 Feb—A squad comprising a team led by IP Min Swe of Tamu Anti-Drug Special Squad of Sagaing Region, SIP Myint Win of the police station and Lt Aung Chan Tha of the local battalion together with witness, acting on a tip-off, searched Access 125 brand black motorcycle driven by Chit Win from Naphalon Market to Tamu on the Tamu-Zedi Road in Myoma 12/A Ward of Tamu Township at

9.40 am on 24 January.

The authorities seized three packets of ephedrine powder packaged with white plastic bag in tool box of the motorbike, weighing nine kilos.

According to the confession of Chit Win that the ephedrine powder would be kept in the house of his sister-in-law, the team led by IP Aung Moe, together with witness, searched the house of Khin Myint Mu in Myoma

Ward 9 at 10.15 am.

They seized 638 packets of orange WY brand stimulant tablets containing 200 tablets each totalling 127,600 weighing 12.76 kilos.

Tamu Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Chit Win, 61, of Zaytan Ward 2 of Tamu and Khin Myint Mu, 43, of Myoma Ward 9 under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Myanma Alinn

Basic education schools get three new buildings in Lewe Township



LEWE, 14 Feb—A ceremony to open three new school buildings was held at the basic education schools in Lewe Township on 4 February morning.

A one-storey school building constructed by Diamond Mercury Co with K 36 million contribution

was opened at No 22 Basic Education Middle School Branch in Khayangaing Village-tract of Lewe Township. Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint

Swe, Assistant Director of Township Education Department U Thein Win and townselder U Thein Toe

formally opened the new building.

A similar ceremony was held at BEHS No 3 in Thabyebin Village-tract. The building was constructed with K 43.2 million contribution of Diamond Mercury Co. One more school building constructed by Nawngton Co with K 64.8 million contribution was opened at Lewe Basic Education High School No 2.

The member of Nay Pyi Taw Council pressed the button to open the new school building.

Myanma Alinn

Outstanding policemen honoured in Bago Region

BAGO, 14 Feb—A ceremony to honoured outstanding policemen who performed brilliant efforts in exposing criminal cases was held at the hall of the commander of Bago Region

Police Force in Bago on 6 February.

Bago Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Thet Tun made a speech.

Commander of the

region police force Police Col Mya Win and Deputy Commander Police Lt-Col Zaw Khin Aung presented prizes to outstanding policemen.

Myanma Alinn

MCDC gets advisory committee

MANDALAY, 14 Feb— With the aim of contributing to implementing the various sectors of Mandalay City Development Committee so as to develop the city and satisfy the requirements of the local people, an advisory committee was constituted for the committee, said Chief Minister U Ye Myint of Mandalay Region on 31 January in meeting with members of MCDC and the advisory committee.

The advisory committee comprises townselders U Po Myint (Chanayethazan Township), U Nyunt Maung (Aungmyethazan Township), U Aung Thein (Aungmye-thazan Township), U Mya Win (Chanayethazan Township), U Hla Tun (Chanayethazan

Township), U Win Pe Myint (Mahaaungmye Township), U Kyaw Win (Mahaaungmye Township), U Hla Kywe (Chanmyathazi Township), U Myint Aung (Pyigyidagun Township) and U Than Myint (Amarapura Township).

The advisory committee will give advices not only for development affairs tasks but also for staff affairs.

Myanma Alinn

Community Shield income goes to social organizations



YANGON, 14 Feb— Myanmar Football Federation and chairmen and owners of football clubs donated entrance fees from community shield football tournament of MNL 2013 at the office of the federation, here, on 5 February.

President of MFF U Zaw Zaw and organizer U Zaw Thet Htwe made

speeches. Then, the federation, the chairmen and owners donated K 3 million to Mingala Parahita Monastery in Twantay Township, Ayeyawady Foundation K 2.5 million and five footballs, Dr Sai Hsam Tun of Yadanabon FC K 2.5 million to Pyinnya Beikman Parahita Monastery in Shwegyin

Township, Ayeyawady Foundation K 2.5 million and five footballs, Chairman of Kanbawza FC U Moe Hsan Aung K 2 million to needy children and orphanage of Dedaye Township, Ayeyawady Foundation K 2.5 million and five footballs, Yangon United FC CEO U Min Swe Oo K 2.5 million to Myitzima Lwinbyin social network of Minbu Township and Ayeyawady Foundation K 2.5 million and five footballs.

As of 2012 football season, MNL football club owners have donated cash obtained from the fee of opening cup of football tournament for MNL League to social organizations.

Myanma Alinn

Capacity-building on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species

MANDALAY, 14 Feb — Workshop on Capacity-building Training Course on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species concluded at the Central Forest Development Training Centre on 31 December.

Trainees from the Border Trade Department, Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department, Immigration and National Registration Department, Union Attorney-General Office, General Administration Department, Forest Department and non-governmental organizations participated the four-day training course.

Similarly, a total of 30 trainees learnt skills for identification of threatened species and CITES policies from 21 to 24 December at the Central Forest Development Training Centre in Hmawby.

Sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment



of the Government of Japan and Secretariat and Southeast Asia, Biodiversity Information Initiative (BSABII), the courses are meant to assist in reducing wildlife trade and

An official presents prize to an outstanding trainee.

CITES works in ASEAN region.— NLM

INTERVIEW

Mass rally gives government and peacemakers a great strength



KNU CEC member Pado Mahn Nyein Maung

The 66th Anniversary Union Day celebration-2013 was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 February on a grand scale. The responsible persons of Peace Groups attended the celebration together with national race delegates to the Union Day for the very first time. Peace-making process is taking good shape in the time of the new government. The ceasefire agreements had been reached with 10 out of 11 national race armed groups. A ray of peace is

member Pado Mahn Nyein Maung who took part in the rally at the hotel he stayed when he was in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 66th Anniversary Union Day celebration.

Q: Let me know how the ceremony was organized.

Under the leadership of Pantanaw Township Literature and Culture Committee, the ceremony was held on 11 February. The township committee chairman Mahn Thein Hla

the ceremony. While asking permission for organizing the ceremony, Union Minister U Aung Min willingly allowed us to hold the ceremony. The Ayayawady Region Government and local authorities not only gave permission for the ceremony but also provided necessary assistance.

Q: Who encouraged the people to hold the ceremony?

There was no one who encouraged the people to hold the ceremony. People

us and then we will follow it.

The mass rally gave the government and peacemakers a great strength. A flock of challenges are ahead on our way to a lasting peace. We believed that the Union government will be able to handle the challenges joining hands in hands with the national race groups. I looked with pride at Pantanaw when the township in the Ayayawady delta region participated in six-district mass rally in support of peace talks in 1963 together with Thayawady, Minhla, Insein, Pyay and Toungoo.

Q: What are the other items included in the agenda?

On behalf of the Region Chief Minister, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko addressed the ceremony. The proposal in support of the peace-making process being implemented by the Union government and Karen National Union was submitted and sought the approval of the people.

Q: What is your view on holding the ceremony?

It will be a push for peace-making process if the entire people hold the ceremonies the far and wide of the nation so did in Pantanaw.

Q: Let me know the KNU's steps in the peace-making process.

We signed a ceasefire agreement on 12 January 2012. Talks are in progress to be able to draw a lasting peace. As for me, I have met the President for two times. The first time was the meeting between the President and the KNU chairman. The second time was at the meeting between the President and peace groups today (13 February). *Myanma Alinn: 14-2-2013*

Trs: YM



going to fall on the soil of Kachin State as the meeting with KIA group at Ruili on 4 February produced better outcomes. At the time when the people long for a lasting peace, a ceremony to support the peace agreement between the Union government and Karen National Union (KNU) was organized in Pantanaw of Ayeyawady Region on 11 February. It was the first-ever mass rally in support of the peace-making process. I had a chance to conduct an interview with KNU CEC

acted as the chairman, Dr Mahn Khin Maung Soe as the vice-chairman and Saya Khin Maung Soe Win as the secretary of the ceremony. Apart from local people of Pantanaw Township,

Interviewer: Yan Gyi Aung

people from nine townships in Ayeyawady Region including Kyonpyaw, Kyaunggon, Einme, Wakema, Nyaungdon and Danubyu totaling over 10000 people participated in

conducted the ceremony on their own volition. I saw their smiles on the faces and their enthusiasms for the ceremony. As for me, I attended the ceremony as a representative of the Karen National Union and delivered an address.

Q: What did you say in your address?

We had seen a more than 60-year-old armed conflict in the country. Never in all my lift have I seen such kind of successful negotiation. Nation races have been treated with respect and as equals in the time of the new government led by the President. All national races are granted recognition. Today's negotiations were held without preconditions. We were able to open the peace door and this was a first step towards a lasting peace. We are trying to dispel suspicions that existed on both sides. I accepted that there are many people who are suspicious of our peace-making process. Only the negotiation is the best way to bring a lasting peace for the country. We chose this way as it can guarantee the country to see the minimum losses, at the very least. If there is other ways and means that are better than this way, show

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 15 February, 2013

Keep our fine tradition

Every country in the world has their own traditions and customs. Myanmar has long been in existence with her own cultures and literature since many centuries. Myanmar with a population of 60 million, which is home to 135 national races, has a rich history of religion, literature, culture and dress. Today is the age of globalization. With the rapid development of IT, cultures from other countries are penetrating into our country through media. Thanks to the media, we can know the latest events in the world immediately.

Nowadays, no country in the world is possible to close their country's doors. We must open the doors to get enough oxygen and light. Opening doors brings the good and the bad things to the country. Due to cultural imperialism, the tradition and cultures of countries in the world are disappearing. We must be well aware of it. Some people's bad behaviors could tarnish the images of Myanmar culture.

These days, it is not a strange thing to see young ladies enjoying beer together with men. It is not a Myanmar tradition. And, some young girls' dress style is a real eyesore. Other countries' dresses would not be suitable for Myanmar weather condition. We should imitate the good things only from other countries.

Due to the recent changes, the country is more likely to receive a flood of tourists soon. So, foreign visitors could have assumed that behaviors to be a Myanmar tradition and looked down on us. Thus, we must show what our tradition is and keep in our minds that we are Myanmar. We should act the word like "Think Globally, Act Locally".

Coordination meeting for holding Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2013 Golf Tournament held

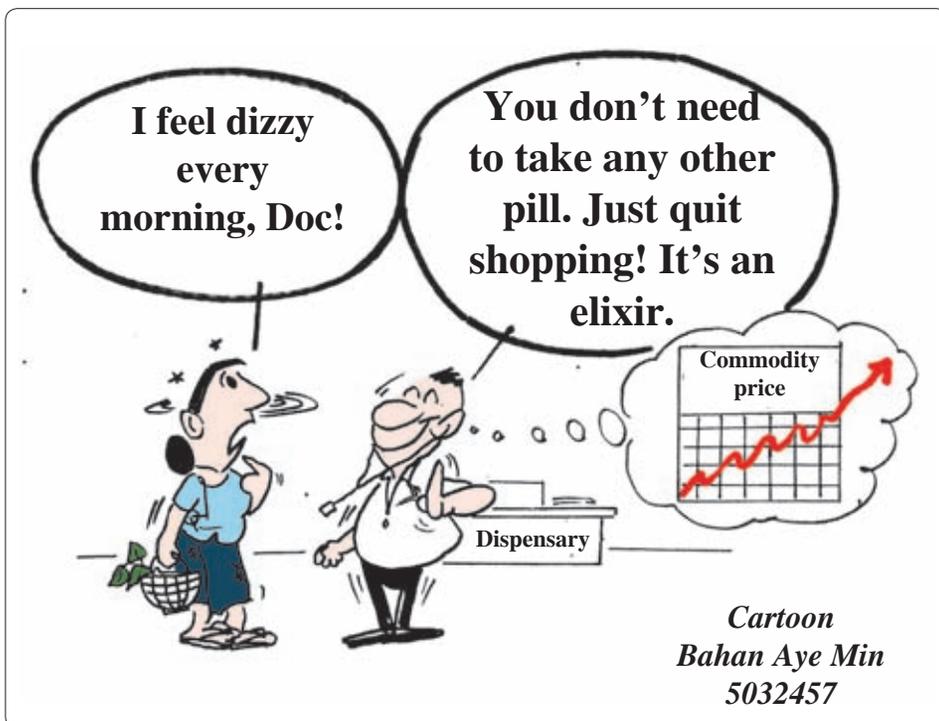
YANGON, 14 Feb—A coordination meeting for holding International invitational Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2013 Golf Tournament presented by Alpine, was held at Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club Albatross Loung in Mingaladon Township, here, on 11 February.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympics Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaug Htaik made a speech on the occasion. After that, Chairman of Zaykabar Co Ltd Dr Khin Shwe gave suggestions and Vice-President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Aung Kyi explained the arrangement made for holding the golf tournament. Afterwards, the deputy minister left necessary instructions and made a concluding remark.

Golfers from Australia, Bangladesh, China, England, Finland, French, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Norway,

Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taipei, Thailand, USA, Vietnam and 15 professional golfers and six amateurs will take part in the tournament to be held at Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club from 21 to 24 February, 2013.

NLM



Cartoon Bahan Aye Min 5032457

NATIONAL

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Serbian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Ivan Markic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Serbia, which falls on 15 February 2013.

MNA

Ambassador U Kyaw Tin concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Republic of Cuba

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Cuba.

MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister visits Belgium, Luxembourg, UK and France



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin poses for documentary photo together with Ms Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrived back this afternoon by air after paying official visits to Belgium, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and France from 4 to 13 February 2013.

During his European

round of tour, the Union Minister met with H.E Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium on 5 February.

On 6 February, the Union Minister held talks with the 27-member Political and Security Committee of the European Council at the Council Building. Next, the

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb— Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein received the visiting delegation led by Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana at Hluttaw Committee Building (2), the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 3 pm today.

It was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Zaw Myint Pe, U San Tun, Dr Aye Maung, U Aung Nyein, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, Col Maung Maung Htoo and officials concerned from the Hluttaw Office.

During the meeting, the deputy speaker and the committee chairmen answered queries on practicing democracy system at the



Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein holds talks with Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana.—MNA

Hluttaws, taking measures participation of the representatives in the for human rights including defence services personnel Hluttaws.—MNA

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw receives Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb— Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa met Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, at Hluttaw Committee meeting hall No.1, here, this afternoon.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion on human rights situation in Myanmar, activities of Hluttaws and committee, legislature and law amendments in Hluttaw and national unity.

Also present at the call together with the Deputy

Speaker were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U T Khun Myat, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Secretary of Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin and officials.—MNA

Indian parliamentary delegation visits Mandalay



Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar and party of Indian visit Myanmar Sankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—The visiting Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar visited Mandalay this noon.

The delegation visited

Maha Muni Buddha Image, Myanmar Sankyaw Golden Palace and Cultural Museum, Shwe Monastery, Kuthodaw Pagoda, Mandalay Hill Pagoda and donated cash for pagodas. The delegation

also viewed the sunset from Mandalay Hill. Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung hosted a dinner to the delegation at Mandalay Sedona Hotel.

MNA

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights meets Mr Quintana

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb— Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo received Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas

Ojea Quintana, at Hluttaw Committee meeting hall No.1, here, this afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the matters related to human rights situations, legislative measures, activities inside

and outside of Hluttaw, national unity, peace and stability and international relations.

It was also attended by seven members from the committee and officials from the Hluttaw office.—MNA



Naoki Otoma (R), group executive vice president of Fast Retailing Co, attaches a Uniqlo logo on a world map at a Press conference in Jakarta on 13 Feb, 2013. Fast Retailing said it aims to set up its first Uniqlo casual clothing store in Indonesia in May or June and open nine more at an early date with a view to expanding operations in emerging Southeast Asian markets.

KYODO NEWS

Two shot outside US county courthouse

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb—Two people were shot outside of a county courthouse in the US state of South Carolina, local media reported on Wednesday.

The shooting took place outside the Chesterfield County Courthouse on Wednesday afternoon, and the victims were shot

in a vehicle, WBTV, which serves the Charleston area, reported.

Sheriff Sam Parker said the incident happened just before 1 pm outside the courthouse. Deputies were quoted as saying that someone pulled up to a car sitting outside the courthouse and fired shots at the two people

inside.

At this point there was no report of injuries or fatalities. Deputies chased the suspect 12 miles into Pageland, forcing the suspect to crash his vehicle. The suspect has been arrested but his identity has not been released. The investigation is still ongoing.—Xinhua

Russia denies supplying Syria with Iskander missiles

MOSCOW, 14 Feb—Russia has never supplied Syria with *Iskander*, a tactic missile system, or other offensive weapons, head of Russia's military exporting corporation said on Wednesday.

"We have no contracts of the shipments," Anatoly Isaikin, director general of the state-run *Rosoboronexport*, told the reporters.

Russia had only delivered to Syria ground-to-air systems while *Iskander* is an advanced ground-to-ground first-strike complex with a range of 500 km, said Isaikin, adding Moscow sustained military-technical cooperation with the war-torn country because Damascus had not yet been under the UN Security Council's sanctions.

"We are continuing to fulfill our obligations on contracts for the delivery of military hardware," the *Interfax* news agency quoted him as saying, citing Syria ranked 12th or 13th place among the clients of Russian arms trade.

Isaikin also denied that Russia was planning to supply *MiG-29M* fighters to Damascus while confirming that it had a deal for *Yak-130* training planes.

Xinhua

IAEA experts arrive in Iran for new round of talks on nuclear deal

TEHRAN, 14 Feb—Experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in Teheran on Wednesday morning, hoping to resolve the differences between the UN nuclear watchdog and Iran over the latter's disputed nuclear programme.

On Tuesday, before leaving the Vienna airport, Herman Nackaerts, IAEA's deputy director general for safeguards, said "this time we will try to work hard to resolve the differences."

The agency's goal "is to finalize the structured approach document," said Nackaerts.

The IAEA and Iran

met twice last December and in January to finalize a deal over the nuclear programme, but they failed to reach any agreement.

On Tuesday, head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Feridoon Abbasi said that it is necessary for the negotiations to be conducted "rationally" and to avoid disputable points so that ambiguities could be settled.

Also, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast on Tuesday said that his country is prepared to address the IAEA's concerns over certain aspects of the country's

nuclear activities provided that Iran's nuclear rights on the basis of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) directives are recognized.

Iran and the West are locked in a bitter dispute over the former's nuclear activities, with the latter accusing Teheran of developing nuclear weapon under the cover of peaceful purpose, a charge Iran has consistently denied.

Iran has insisted that its rights to peaceful nuclear activities, and above all the right to uranium enrichment should be recognized by the IAEA and world powers.

Xinhua

S Africa to host BRICS investor conference ahead of summit

JOHANNESBURG, 14 Feb—The South African government will host the first BRICS-EXPO and International Trade and Tourism Conference later this month ahead of the fifth BRICS summit.

With the theme of "Pioneering business and investment opportunities between the BRIC countries and North West province", the four-day conference will kick off on 21 February at the Mmabatho Convention Centre in Mafikeng, the North West Province.

North West Premier Thandi Modise, who is organizing the event on behalf of Pretoria, said the conference is aimed at creating a platform for the public and private sector

to explore business opportunities with international businesses from BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

"One of the provincial priorities is to increase investment inflows into the province. Engagements with investors will afford us with opportunities to learn best practices in manufacturing, renewal energy, mining, mineral beneficiation, tourism, infrastructure development and agriculture beneficiation projects," she said in a statement.

The North West Province is the mainstay of South Africa economy because of mining activities which generates more than half of the province's gross domestic production and

provides jobs for a quarter of its workforce.

According to Modise, besides positioning South Africa's North West Province as a preferred investment destination, the province has prioritized the development of key economic sectors to contribute towards job creation and increase contribution to the province's GDP.

She said the province is looking forward to engagement and discussion with BRIC partners to further strengthen and solidify close ties in trade, tourism and investment.

About 300 delegates are expected to converge for the conference. South Africa is to host the BRICS summit in Durban on 26-27 March.—Xinhua



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) and Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad shake hands at a meeting in Tokyo on 13 Feb, 2013. Japan and emerging Asian economies started a two-day meeting the same day aimed at supporting the Palestinian Authority in economic and financial areas by tapping their experience in developing their economies.—KYODO NEWS

US oil dips on easing tension between Iran and IAEA

NEW YORK, 14 Feb—US crude oil price dipped on Wednesday as crude inventories in the world's largest

oil consumer increased, and Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had reportedly agreed on "some points" during talks in Teheran. "In addition to removing some differences and agreeing on some points in the text...the two sides decided to review and exchange views about the new proposals that were given in this meeting, in the next meeting," said Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's envoy to IAEA, media reported.

US crude inventories rose by 560,000 barrels in the week ending 8 February, the International En-

ergy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday in its weekly report.

Meanwhile, average daily production for crude oil in the United States was more than 7 million barrels in January, a multi-year high, according to the IEA monthly report on Wednesday. Besides, IEA cut its outlook for global oil demand growth by 90,000 barrels per day, also dragging on oil prices. On the economic front, US retail sales rose 0.1 percent in January, compared with an increase of 0.5 percent in the prior month, as payroll taxes hikes imposed negative influences to consumers' purchasing will, Commerce Department figures showed on Tuesday.

Xinhua



Pakistani women shop for gifts at a shop decorated with heart shaped Valentine's signs ahead of Valentine's Day in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 13 Feb, 2013. Valentine's Day is increasingly popular among younger Pakistanis, many of whom have taken up the custom of giving cards, chocolates and gifts to their sweethearts to celebrate the occasion.

XINHUA

REGIONAL

Two chairs found on elevated rail tracks in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb— Two chairs were found last month on a segment of elevated rail tracks in Singapore during pre-operation checks by the staff of a subway system operator, local daily *The Straits Times* reported on Thursday.

The chairs were promptly removed after they were found on 13 January, but train services operator SMRT later put up notices warning residents against the haphazard disposal of foreign objects onto the tracks, which could “impede operations” and “disrupt services.”

A police report has been lodged over the latest incident. SMRT said its findings indicate that the chairs were thrown from nearby blocks.

The company said it has encountered 14 cases of foreign objects landing on the Bukit Panjang LRT line since 2004.

“Most objects are small

items like clothes and slippers. Depending on the type of object found on our tracks, delays to service could range from a few minutes to even longer,” a spokesperson was quoted as saying.

“The object can damage equipment on the track, or under the train carriage if a train runs over it,” she said.

In 2007, a youth was placed on two years’ probation for tossing tubes of silicon sealant onto the track, causing an eight-minute disruption and 4,100 Singapore dollars (3,306 US dollars) in damage.

A lawmaker said the issue is a matter of civic consciousness. “We need to appeal to residents to stop these inconsiderate acts that put people’s lives in danger,” he said. “Whether it’s a disgruntled resident or someone playing a prank, it’s about being considerate.”—*Xinhua*

Officials of the Osaka City Board of Education bow at the outset of a Press conference at the Osaka city hall on 13 Feb, 2013. KYODO NEWS



5.5-magnitude quake hits Kyushu, Japan

HONG KONG, 14 Feb— An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted Kyushu, Japan at 03:57:47 GMT on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 41.50 km, was initially determined to be at 30.2809 degrees north latitude and 131.4039 degrees east longitude.—*Xinhua*

Laos donates 30,000 USD to Bopha survivors in S Philippines

MANILA, 14 Feb—The Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic has extended 30,000 US dollars in financial assistance for the victims of typhoon Bopha (local name Pablo) which wrought havoc to southern Philippines last December, the Department of Foreign Affairs

(DFA) said on Wednesday.

Philippine Ambassador to Laos Maria Lumen Isleta received the check from Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Bounkeut Sangomsak at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vientiane recently, the department said.

Sangsomsak expressed the sympathies and condolences of the Lao Government and people to those affected by the large-scale devastation caused by the natural disaster. He also said that Laos shared the pain and suffering of the Philippines and hoped that nature would spare the

country from future major calamities.

Isleta conveyed deep appreciation for Laos’ generous gesture and support during this difficult time.

She also briefed Sangomsak on the continuing relief and reconstruction efforts in the affected areas and the extent of the loss and damage caused by the typhoon.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is appealing for more than 1.3 billion pesos (31.94 million US dollars) in additional funding to help Bopha survivors.

According to Alain Aeschlimann, ICRC’s head of operations for East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific, the additional funding will be used to provide food, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, and hygiene items to 300,000 people who lost everything during the typhoon.

He added that the ICRC will help in repairing damaged water supply systems and health facilities, and restoring livelihoods through cash-for-work programmes and distributing free seedlings and farming tools to the typhoon survivors.—*Xinhua*

Curfew imposed after attack in restive S Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 Feb— Curfew has been imposed in one of Thailand’s violence-plagued southernmost provinces after an attack at a Thai Marine base which resulted in the death of 16 militants on Wednesday morning.

About 1 am Wednesday, over 30 fully armed militants raided a military base in Bacho District of

restive Narathiwat Province.

After a 20-minute exchange of fire between the Thai Marine troops and the suspected separatists, 16 militants were killed, and there is no report of casualties of the Thai troops.

The military had learned of the attack in advance from defected militants, said Southern army

spokesman Colonel Pramate Promin on Wednesday.

Sixteen assault rifles, a motorcycle and a pick-up truck were seized.

After the incident, the Thai security agency decided to impose a 24-hour curfew in four sub-districts and two nearby sub-districts from 6 am Wednesday.

Xinhua



People pray during a memorial gathering at the site of a stabbing rampage in Guam on 13 Feb, 2013. A man stabbed bystanders with a knife the previous night after crashing his car into a convenience store in a major tourist area on the Pacific resort island. Two Japanese women were killed and 11 Japanese nationals were injured.

KYODO NEWS

S Korea’s President-elect nominates six ministers

SEOUL, 14 Feb — South Korea’s President-elect Park Geun-hye named six ministers on Tuesday, tapping her foreign policy adviser as foreign minister and a former Army general to lead the defence ministry.

Yun Byung-se, a former deputy foreign minister who has long advised Park on foreign policy issues, was named as the top diplomat in the incoming Park

administration.

Kim Byung-kwan, a retired Army general who also served as deputy commander of the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command, was named to be the next defence minister.

Park, who replaces President Lee Myung-bak later this month, also appointed ministers of education, justice, public administration and culture.—*Xinhua*

Fire disrupts subway train services in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb — A fire broke out at a subway train station in Singapore on Wednesday morning, disrupting the train services on one of the subway lines for more than two hours.

The northbound train services between the stations of Newton and Toa Payoh were disrupted shortly after 9:00 am in the morning after a traction power cable caught fire.

The cable was supplying electricity to the

third rail.

No one was injured in the incident.

Firefighters arrived at the scene shortly after the fire broke out. The fire was extinguished at 10:06 am.

Railway technicians and the police and firefighters tried to make sure that the track is safe before it resumes full service at around 11:30 am, train services operator SMRT said in a statement.

Xinhua



Customers select bouquets outside a flower shop in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 13 Feb, 2013. Florists in Yinchuan began their preparation of bouquets for the upcoming Valentine’s Day.

XINHUA



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ENTERTAINMENT & ADVERTISEMENT

BOTTLE DESIGN CAUTIONARY NOTICE

MYANMAR BREWERY LIMITED, a company organized under the laws of **THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR** and having its principal office at No. 45, No.3 Trunk Road, Pynmabin Industrial Complex, Mingalardon Township, Yangon, Myanmar is the owner and sole proprietor of the following registered Bottle Design characterized in: A circular glass bottle with “Barley Stalk” device embossed on both sides of the shoulder; implementation of the body consisting of the word “PROPERTY OF M B L” in upper case embossed at the bottom of the body. The following design has been registered under the Registration Number 4/14217/2012 on 11th December 2012.



F.g1 Front View (The Whole Bottle)



F.g2 Side View (The Whole Bottle)



F.g3 Top View (From the top of the Bottle)



F.g4 Bottom View (From the bottom of the Bottle)



F.g5 Front View (Close Up)



F.g6 Side View (Close Up)



F.g7 Bottom View (Close Up from the front of the bottle appearing embossed words “PROPERTY OF M B L” in upper case)

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 B.A(LAW) LL.B, LL.M(U.K)
 Ph:09 73 150 632
 Email : law_chambers@seasiren.com.mm
 (For. Myanmar Brewery Limited, Myanmar)
 Dated 15 February,2013.

Actor Steve Martin is first-time dad at age 67

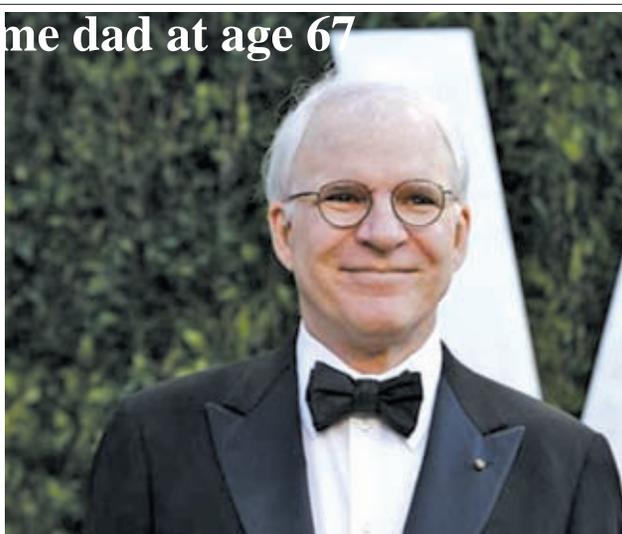
LOS ANGELES, 14 Feb— Actor, writer and comedian Steve Martin has become a dad for the first time at age 67—and managed to keep it secret from the media for more than a month. Martin and his second wife, Anne Stringfield, 41, “are new parents and recently welcomed a child,” a spokeswoman for the actor said on Wednesday.

The spokeswoman gave no details, including the sex of the child or the date of birth. But the *New York Post* cited unidentified sources as saying the

baby arrived in December. The multi-talented Martin, whose career as a writer and performer dates back more than 45 years, has played a father in movies such as “Parenthood,” “Cheaper by the Dozen,” and “Father of the Bride.”

Martin, who has hosted the Oscars ceremony three times, married Stringfield, a former writer at the *New Yorker* magazine, in 2007. His eight-year marriage to British actress Victoria Tennant ended in divorce in 1994.

Reuters



Actor Steve Martin arrives at the 2012 Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, California on 26 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (011)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (011) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
 Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (067)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (067) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
 Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (334)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (334) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-2.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING LINES
 Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Not scared of stepping into character roles: Akshay

MUMBAI, 14 Feb—After moving away from solo-hero projects and tasting success with off-beat movies like ‘Oh My God’ and ‘Special Chhabis’, actor Akshay Kumar says that he would not shy away from doing character roles. “I will keep doing these (‘Special 26’) kind of films even if it’s a character role. I am not scared of going towards character actor zone.

PTI



Request for Expressions of Interest

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Community Driven Development Project
IDA Grant H814-MM

Assignment Title: Township Level Technical Assistance

Reference No: C-4.1, C-4.2, C-4.3

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of its National Community Driven Development Project, which is being implemented by the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Border Affairs. The Government intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of consulting services. The consulting services ("the Services") include:

- * The provision of institutional support, capacity development and technical assistance to the township DRD office in the implementation of the Project, including providing data for the project's monitoring and Management Information System (MIS) and tracking and reporting on performance indicators and project progress;
- * The recruitment and training of community facilitators (with each responsible for about two village tracts) to assist village tract forums with the preparation and annual revision of tract development plans, the approval and implementation of sub-projects, and the organization of annual social audits;
- * Assistance to village tract forums to manage project funds in a transparent and accountable manner;
- * Support to DRD engineers and village level committees for the preparation and technical design of sub-projects, including procurement and the identification and adequate mitigation of potential negative environmental and social impacts;
- * Support to the township DRD office in adapting project informational materials to local context and ensuring wide outreach to and communication and consultation with local stakeholders;
- * Support to the grievance handling system in line with standards established by the DRD project secretariat.

During its first year of operation, the Project will begin operations in one township each in Chin State, Shan State and Thanintharyi Region. While the township selection is being undertaken, DRD now invites eligible consulting firms or NGOs ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services in one or several of these townships. The shortlisting criteria are:

- * Past experience with community based development activities in similar conditions as in Myanmar, with prior experience in Myanmar preferred;
- * Availability of staff with relevant expertise, with all staff fluent in Myanmar language and community facilitators also fluent in local languages (depending on final township selection);
- * Size of contracts over the past five years.

The Services are expected to be carried out by a Consultant team of six experts: lead CDD/training specialist, finance officer, procurement officer, M&E officer, infrastructure specialist and communications specialist. The assignment period will be 24 months.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [January 2011] ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other NGOs/firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS or QBS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1600. Expressions of Interest must be delivered in written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, fax, or email) by February 25, 2013.

Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Border Affairs

Attn: U Myint Oo, Deputy Director General

Chairperson of the Procurement Committee

National Community Driven Development Project

Department of Rural Development

Ministry of Border Affairs

Office Number 14

Nay Pyi Taw

Myanmar

Fax: +95-67-409029

Email to all these email addresses: myint.oo.dda@gmail.com; kzaw.dda@gmail.com; naing.7.koko@gmail.com.



US golfer Phil Mickelson

Mickelson a huge Riviera fan after long learning curve

PACIFIC PALISADES, 14 Feb — Phil Mickelson ranks Riviera Country Club as one of his favourite venues on the PGA Tour, even though it took him almost a decade to discover the art of playing the par-71 layout. Known as a classic shot-maker's course, Riviera continually vexed Mickel-

son as he missed four cuts in eight PGA Tour appearances here between 1988 and 2001.

He then skipped the event until 2007 when he made a last-minute decision to compete and ended up losing to fellow American Charles Howell III in a playoff for the title.—Reuters

Ministry of Information News and Periodicals Enterprise Invitation to Open Tender for Purchase of Nikon Camera

1. Open tenders are invited to purchase five items of Nikon Camera D-7000 for News and Periodicals Enterprise.
2. Open tender forms may be drawn from the following address from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr daily during the period from 14-2-2013 to 25-2-2013.
3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of members of the Tender Board at Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 26-2-2013. The overdue forms will not be considered.
4. For further information, may dial 067-412123 and 067-412128 during the office hours.

News and Periodicals Enterprise
Ministry of Information
Office No.7, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone:067-412123, 067-412128

Unheralded Nuggets playing with chip on their shoulders

TORONTO, 14 Feb — The Denver Nuggets are happy flying under the radar, but a lack of attention despite an impressive campaign has given them added motivation to make noise in a competitive Western Conference. Before Sunday's overtime loss to the Boston Celtics, Denver owned the NBA's longest active winning streak with nine straight victories in which they topped the 100-point plateau in each.

Despite their longest win streak in nearly eight years which lifted them to second place in the Northwest, the Nuggets remain overlooked as talk about who will represent the Western Conference in June's NBA Finals centres around the San Antonio Spurs, Oklahoma City Thunder and Los Angeles Clippers. "We like to be under the radar. We like being made to feel like we

are an underdog and people look down upon us," Denver coach George Karl told reporters before his team's 109-108 road loss to the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday.

The Nuggets (33-20) have gone 1-1 in games against each of the three Western Conference favorites this season and have the fifth best record in the 15-team Western Conference with a balanced attack powered by Italian forward Danilo Gallinari and speedy guard Ty Lawson. Entering Tuesday's game, Denver had six players averaging double figures, something the Spurs (five), Thunder (four) and Clippers (four) could not say.

"There's a lot of good teams out there, the San Antonio Spurs and so forth have a lot of depth, but we feel like we have depth and can compete with those teams," said Denver center Kosta Koufas.—Reuters



Denver Nuggets Kenneth Faried (R) dunks over Toronto Raptors Kyle Lowry during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Toronto on 12 Feb, 2013. REUTERS



Rafael Nadal

Nadal faces Souza in Brazil Open second round

SAO PAULO, 14 Feb—Former world No 1 Rafael Nadal will face Brazilian qualifier Joao Souza in his opening singles match at the Brazil Open on Thursday. Souza advanced to the second round of the ATP 250 clay-court event after opponent Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo was forced to retire hurt with an ankle problem during their first round match on Wednesday. At the time of the injury the 140th-ranked Brazilian led the Spaniard 7-6 (8-6) and 30-0 in the first game of the second set.

Nadal, who earned a first-round singles bye, progressed to the second round of the doubles event with David Nalbandian on Tuesday with a 6-3, 3-6, 11-9 victory over Pablo Andujar and Guillermo Garcia Lopez. The Brazil Open is Nadal's second tournament since returning from a seven-month layoff due to a knee injury. He won the event in his only previous appearance in Brazil as an 18-year-old in 2005.

Xinhua

GENERAL

Local people participate in Myanmar traditional sport competition at the Liekan ward of Thaton Township Mon State on 12 February. To mark the 66th Anniversary Union Day, over 20 traditional games and sports were held during the occasion.

KYEMON



MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-2-13 09:30 am ~ 16-2-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Three Sacred Pagodas each enshrined with Relics of Buddha's Hair, Rib Tooth
- * Urban Life and Electricity Consumption
- * News
- * Music
- * News
- * Myanmar Japan Economic Co-operation
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies & People's Voice
- * Chinese New Year Festival 2013 in Yangon
- * News
- * Myanmar Open International Marathon in the History of Reforms
- * Youthful Sensation Grape Wine
- * News
- * "Hiker's Journey" Episode-6 (Yangon City) (Part-1)
- * News
- * IWT .. Getting Ready for the People & the Country
- * Stone forest in KUNMING
- * News
- * May all the flowers bloom!
- * Myanmar Movies "Regretful Game"

Myanmar TV

(15-2-2013, Friday)

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 5:10 pm | -First Year (Zoology) |
| 7:25 am | 2. Health Programme | 5:15 pm | 15. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:30 am | 3. Morning News | 5:25 pm | 16. Documentary |
| 7:40 am | 4. International News | 5:25 pm | 17. India Drama Series |
| 7:45 am | 5. Teleplay | 6:00 pm | 18. Evening News |
| 7:50 am | 6. Nice & Sweet Song | 6:15 pm | 19. Weather Report |
| 8:00 am | 7. Documentary | 6:20 pm | 20. Amazing World |
| 8:15 am | 8. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies | 6:50 pm | 21. TV Drama Series |
| 8:25 am | 9. Road to 27th SEA Games | 7:00 pm | 22. News |
| 4:00 pm | 10. Opening Song | 7:10 pm | 23. TV Drama Series |
| 4:05 pm | 11. Song of National Races | 8:00 pm | 24. News |
| 4:30 pm | 12. Myanmar Language | 8:00 pm | 25. Weather Report |
| 4:45 pm | 13. Songs of Yester Year | 8:00 pm | 26. Teleplay |
| 4:55 pm | 14. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) | 8:00 pm | 27. Golden Music Of Old Stars |
| | | 10:00 pm | 28. Centenary of Alinga Kyawzwar Myo Ma Nyein (Composer) |
| | | | 29. Teleplay |

Cardinals running back James banned four games for doping



Arizona Cardinals running back Javarri James

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — Arizona Cardinals running back Javarri James has been suspended four games for violating the league's policy on substance abuse, the National Football League (NFL) said on Wednesday. James, who spent the 2012 NFL season with Arizona on injured reserve after suffering a knee injury during the pre-season, has not played a regular season game since 2010 when he was with the

Indianapolis Colts. If he makes a roster for next season James, the cousin of former NFL standout Edgerrin James, would serve his ban for the first four games of the 2013 campaign. James was released by the Colts after he was arrested for marijuana possession in 2011 and made stops with the New England Patriots and Washington Redskins before joining Arizona. — Reuters

China-LatAm relations expected to enter new phase

SANTIAGO, 14 Feb — The next Chinese government to be in place in March will usher in a new phase in China-Latin America relations, an Latin American official told Xinhua on Wednesday. At the latest summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Santiago, leaders of the member states ordered their foreign ministers to work toward the establishment of a CELAC-China cooperation forum, said Osvaldo Rosales, director of International Trade and Integration at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The installation of the new Chinese government will coincide with CELAC's new focus to seek

permanent dialogue with China, especially around the cooperation agenda proposed by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao during his visit to Latin America in 2012, Rosales said. The ECLAC official said there are political will and strategic needs from both sides to build direct dialogue. He believed that 2013 will be a very active year for bilateral exchange. This June, Chinese and Latin American agriculture ministers will meet in Beijing, which was one of Wen's proposals, he said, adding that ECLAC has organized regional talks to prepare an agenda for the meeting. He said Latin America offers multiple investment opportunities and a very dynamic market.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 13 Feb, 2013 shows the rime scenery in Shimian County in southwest China's Sichuan Province. — XINHUA

Finland's Kekalainen becomes NHL's first European GM



Finnish manager Jarmo Kekalainen attends a news conference in Helsinki on 13 Feb, 2013. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — Finland's Jarmo Kekalainen became the National Hockey League's (NHL) first European general manager when the Columbus Blue Jackets entrusted him to run the struggling franchise on Wednesday. Kekalainen, who has been the president and general manager of Jokerit in the

Finnish Elite League since 2010, was named to the position a day after Columbus fired Scott Howson. "Hockey is a truly global game and there are very few people whose knowledge of the game in North America and abroad surpasses that of Jarmo Kekalainen," John Davidson, the Blue Jackets' di-

rector of hockey operations, said in a statement. "He is intelligent, hard-working and a tremendous evaluator of talent. He is a terrific addition to the Blue Jackets family and will play an important role in our efforts to move our organization forward in the coming years."

Kekalainen, who spent eight seasons with the NHL's St Louis Blues from 2002-10 where he was involved in all facets of hockey operations, takes over a Columbus team that has not made the playoffs since 2009 and finished last overall in 2012. Prior to working for the Blues, Kekalainen spent eight years with the Ottawa Senators as their top European scout and later as director of player personnel. He also played three seasons in the

NHL with the Boston Bruins and Senators.

Columbus fired Howson after a 4-7-2 start to the current campaign left them in last place in the Western Conference's Central division, 13 points behind the first place Chicago Blackhawks.

"We have a great challenge before us, but I am confident through hard work, organization and commitment that we will achieve our goal of building a Stanley Cup contending team," Kekalainen said in a statement.

Until Kekalainen's immigration status is settled, assistant general manager Chris MacFarland will accompany the team on its upcoming six-game road trip, which starts Friday in Los Angeles. — Reuters

Afghan president, ISAF welcome US forces pullout

KABUL, 14 Feb — Afghan President Hamid Karzai and NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) welcomed the US President Barack Obama's decision over withdrawal of another 34,000 American forces from Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan welcomes the announcement by President Obama, who in his state of the union address said that the US would be

pulling out another 34,000 troops over the next year from Afghanistan," said a statement posted on Karzai's website on Thursday.

In his State of Union address on Tuesday night, Obama announced that 34,000 US forces will be repatriated home from Afghanistan over the next year. Currently there are about 100,000 NATO-led ISAF forces, with nearly 66,000 of them Americans,

stationed in the country. Under Obama's withdrawal plan, 33,000 US forces pulled out of the country in September last year.

"This spring, our forces will move into a support role, while Afghan security forces take the lead," Obama was quoted in the statement as saying

"This is something Afghanistan has wanted for so long now. The withdrawal in spring of foreign forces

from Afghan villages will definitely help in ensuring peace and full security in Afghanistan," the statement noted.

Meantime, the NATO-led ISAF also hailed the decision, saying the announcement is consistent with the strategy agreed upon by US and coalition partners and the Afghan government at the Lisbon Summit in 2010, and is evidence of that strategy's success. — Xinhua

Indian parliamentary delegation, Pyithu Hluttaw hold meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—India's parliamentary delegation held talks with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and chairpersons and secretaries of Hluttaw committees at Zabuthiri Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building here yesterday.

During the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann and Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of LOK SABHA of India, exchanged views over further bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Thura U Shwe Mann expressed thanks for the meetings during his visit to India as the visit had benefited the bilateral relations, and the experiences and knowledge gained during the visit had been much helpful to the Hluttaw.

He expressed Myanmar's commitment to economic reforms after gaining achievements in the political reforms and also expressed their willingness to cooperate in economic, investment and trade and

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds discussion with Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of LOK SABHA of India.
MNA



technology sectors between the two countries.

Mrs Meira Kumar also expressed her hope that the friendship between the two countries would be strengthened further due to the visits of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Speaker and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to India and the visits of the

Indian Prime Minister and the Indian parliamentary delegation.

Indian government has planned to send a delegation to Myanmar to conduct parliamentary courses to staff of offices of the Hluttaw, she said.

She also pledged to give more assistance to reforms in Myanmar.

After observing the habits, culture and characters of Myanmar peoples, she found the future of Myanmar has a rosy picture, she said.

Mrs Meira Kumar also offered to share experiences of power sharing and budget sharing between the Central Government and state governments of India.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the matters between the two parliaments.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann

and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet hosted a dinner in honour of the Indian parliamentary delegation at the dining room of Hluttaw.

MNA

Writs, vital for rule of law, justice and human rights: Union Attorney-General

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Writs are necessary for the rule of law, justice and human rights, said Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin as he opened the academic seminar on writs embodied in the constitution of Myanmar at Amara Hotel here this morning.

He said the seminar would raise public awareness about the writs.

The seminar was jointly organized by the Office of the Union Attorney-General and International Court of Justice.

Former ICJ Chairman Mr John Dowd AO QC said ICJ recognized the historic reforms of the country and guaranteed aids for the rule of law and wider reforms.

The seminar is held through 15 February.—MNA

Shwe Yanpyay Kyaungdaw in Nyaungshwe Township attracts flock of globetrotters

Most of globetrotters who thronged into Nyaungshwe Township in Shan State (South) visit Shwe Yanpyay Atumashi Shwe Kyaungdaw situated at the entrance to the town first before flocking to Inlay Lake.

Shwe Yanpyay Atumashi Shwe Kyaungdaw situated in Ywadow Village (a) Shwe Yanpyay YwaU in Tilaw Hsakhmgyi village-tract in Nyaungshwe

Township was built and donated by Nyaungshwe Chieftain Sao Ohn and Maha Dewi and local people on 5th Waning of Nayon 1251 ME.

The building supported by 167 wooden posts is 85 feet long and 55 feet wide. The outer posts are mosaic ones designed to resist impacts of bad weather. The multi-tiered-roofed building is a magnificent one with oval-shaped widows.

Two statues of lion

Byline & photo: Htay Aung (Kyemon)

stand in at the bottom of East Mingala stairs at the north side of the building which was roofed with sawn teak under CI sheets. The teak posts and ceiling are decorated with mosaics. Altars where Buddha Images are being kept and thrones are also

decorated with mosaics. So the building with ancient cultural works attracts a flock of tourists.

I have grasped a chance to conduct an interview with a tour guide of the 20-member German tourist group there. He said that globetrotters were very happy to study ancient cultural works and to photograph novices reciting Buddhist literatures.

Kyemon: 10-2-2013

Trs: YM



Photo shows visiting globetrotters at Shwe Yanpyay Kyaungdaw in Nyaungshwe Township.

MRTV invites companies to broadcast live 27th SEA Games

Local and foreign Companies have been invited to carry out broadcasting services such as live broadcast of the opening and concluding ceremonies of the 27th SEA Games, working for IBC

(International Broadcasting Centre) and broadcast of seven sports events.

Those interested companies at home and abroad may submit their proposals to the director-general of

Myanma Radio and Television (Tatkon) not later than 28th February, 2013, and the day on which the officials of companies would meet will be announced.

Myanma Radio and Television