

Government will simultaneously open spaces for participation of individual organization or citizen in peace process

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—*The following is the translation of President U Thein Sein's speech through radio programmes to the entire people the length and breadth of the nation on 1-3-2013.*



Esteemed people,

I am here again on air to inform you of our government's policies and undertakings as I usually update our country's developments.

Firstly, I would like to recall significances of this year's Union Day dinner on 12 February. 66 years ago on that day—on 12 February, 1947—our national leader General Aung San and ethnic leaders signed Panglong agreement amidst a spate of challenges to help the demographically and culturally enriched Union stand head and shoulder on the world stage.

Why I say this year's Union Day is significant is because we have seen lights at the end of the tunnel in our peace process alongside firm potentials for national reconciliation. Ethnic leaders, parties and organizations came face to face with the Speakers of Amyotha Hluttaw and of Pyithu Hluttaw, lawmakers including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Defence Services personnel representatives, leaders of ceased-forced ethnic armed groups at the dinner. We have waited and scarified much years for such a meaningful dinner of Union Day. The dinner strengthened mutual trust among leaders in internal peace talks.

As I have dealt with both ethnic leaders and the people in the course of my service, I understand the pains of the people. I understand that only a handshake or dinner is not enough for genuine peace. Though, we have to build the foundation for eternal peace on friendship and trust from

these events.

My meeting with leaders of ethnic armed groups on internal peace making process on 13 February coincided with the birthday of General Aung San. I would like to convey a message to you that we have made a firm step towards the national reconciliation which would be the best possible birthday present to our national leader by the people of Myanmar.

I had invited KIO/KIA leaders to attend Union Day dinner. We have to understand that they could not attend it due to remaining various difficulties and reasons although we had a belief that they would like to take part in the Union Day dinner together with us happily. But, KIO/KIA and Union government have had more understanding and restored trust through Shweli peace talks held on 4 February. I do believe a truce would be reached and a sustainable peace process could be created. I am very pleased to see the attitude and stance of KIO/KIA on genuine peace, equity and self-determination of national races, rights and negotiation stated on the press release about Shweli peace talks. Cordial greetings between military columns and KIA groups when they came across proved that it is a joyful progress. With more positive signs in security situation, humanitarian aid is being

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It needs to seek solutions in a peaceful way: President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb—President U Thein Sein held discussions with Ambassadors of Norway on peace-making process at Hotel Continental, Oslo of Norway yesterday morning. At the call, they cordially discussed peace-making processes, challenges and Norway's assistance.

It was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Soe Thane, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and ambassador U Kyaw Myo Htut, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Katja Nordgaard, ambassadors Ms Mona Juul and Mr Kai Eide

and General Wilhelmsen.

Then, the President met Foreign Affairs reporter Mr Philip Lote of Norway Public Broadcasting Co.

In the afternoon, the President and party held discussions with Deputy Speaker of Norwegian Parliament Mr Per Kristian Foss at Norwegian Parliament.

The deputy speaker explained unanimous support of Norway's all ruling parties and opposition parties on Myanmar's reform process and parliament's activities.

The President also expressed thanks for Norway's support on Myanmar's reforms and explained democratization processes with three estates and reform processes.

The President met Chairman of International and Defence Affairs Standing Committee of Norwegian Parliament Ms Ine Marie Eriksen Soreide and members.

The committee chairman said that Norwegian parliamentarians were taking keen interest in Myanmar's democratization process and economic reforms. Norway welcomed Myanmar's progress. She asked Myanmar's future reform processes and measures to surmount the challenges. The President replied that implementation of all-inclusiveness political process for peace and stability and rule of law and holding political talks with national races armed groups for eternal peace. The President explained the questions raised by the members on Myanmar's constitutional affairs, resources allocation with national races minority and measures for development of health sector.

Afterwards, the President met Norwegian King His Majesty King



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with Norwegian King His Majesty Harald and spouse at the Palace.—MNA

Harald, at the Palace. The King hosted a luncheon to the President and party.

In the evening, the President met Myanmar

families, at House of Literature in Oslo of Norway. At the call, he explained Myanmar's political and economic reforms.

Myanmar people are regarded as Myanmar national races wherever they live. All Myanmar people

(See page 9)

President U Thein Sein's radio message on air

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes from 1 to 3 March. Nay Pyi Taw Radio Myanmar, Mandalay FM,

Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively. Padauk Myay Radio will air the speech at 5.30 am, 7 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively.—MNA

Loans to be disbursed for rural development tasks

YANGON, 28 Feb—The Ministry of Cooperatives plans to disburse K 50 million to each village for contributing towards rural development, said an official of the Ministry of Cooperatives.

“Disbursement of loans is aimed at developing villages and contributing to development undertakings of the villages” he continued. The loans can be spent on operating small-scale industries, production tasks on a manageable scale and

trade activities. Thanks to loans, rural development tasks will gather momentum. Thanks to loans, the rural development tasks will be carried out on a self-reliant basis in coming years. Nowadays, the government is emphasizing construction of inter-village roads and the roads linking urban and rural areas.

That is why rural development tasks will uplift living standard of rural people in the near future.

Myanma Alinn

Chin National Race Minister's Office opened in Kalay



KALAY, 28 Feb—A ceremony to open the Office of Chin National Race Minister of Sagaing Region was held at No 190/3 on Bandoola Road in Taungzalat Ward of Kalay on 19 February morning.

Chin National Race Minister U No Thang Kap made a speech.

The attendees to the ceremony were served with breakfast.

A ceremony to mark the opening ceremony of the minister's office was held at Satawm Sports Ground in Kalay in the evening. Dr Thang Bill Lwe made a speech.

Then, Sagaing Region Minister for Chin National Race U No Thang Kap extended greetings.

Later, the local people enjoyed the Chin traditional dances.—*Myanma Alinn*

Living standard improvement for timber workers emphasized

BHAMO, 28 Feb—Bhamo timber extraction region of Myanma Timber Enterprise places emphasis on uplifting living standard of timber extraction workers.

A ceremony to open Hsinmin Yadana Library, hand over self-reliant building of Affiliated Basic Education Primary School and present prizes to outstanding students was held at Wema elephant camp in Shwegu Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State on 16 February.

District Manager of Timber Extraction U Htay Lwin, Assistant Managers

U Kyaw Khaing Swe (Heavy Machinery), U Aung Naing Soe (Shwegu) and U Kyaw Tun Min (Bhamo/Mansi), District Education Officer U Naing Hein Kun, Staff Officer Daw Nan Mya Mya Win of District Information and Public Relations Department and officials attended the ceremony.

On the occasion, the school building constructed by Myat Noe Thu Co was handed over to the Ministry of Education. Then, officials presented prizes to outstanding students and opened the library.

Myanma Alinn

New school building handed over in Patheingyi Township

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb—Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung on 16 February morning delivered an address at the ceremony to clarify construction of the garment factory at Delta Industrial Group in Patheingyi.

Managing Director U Zaw Lin Latt explained the progress of the garment factory being built by Delta Industrial Group.

The ceremony to hand over the new school building was held at No 83 Basic Education Post-Primary School in Kanni Village of Patheingyi Township. The building was jointly constructed by Ayeyawady Region Government

and Great Father Land Construction and Decoration Co Ltd.

Region Minister for Social Affairs Daw Khin Saw Mu, Region Education Officer U Soe Myint, Patheingyi District Deputy Commissioner U Aye Maung Kyi, Patheingyi Township Administrator U Chit Ko Ko and Chairman of the company U Kyaw Myint formally opened the building.

The Chief Minister then viewed round the building.

The chairman of the company handed over documents related to the building to Headmistress Daw Naw Freda.

MNA

Aged doctors hold anniversary celebration

Gifts presentation ceremony to aged doctors in progress.



YANGON, 28 Feb—The anniversary celebration of the Day Care Centre of Aged Surgeons Supporting Group of Myanmar Medical Association was held at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 18 February morning.

On the occasion, Union Minister for Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Chairman of MMA Prof Dr U Kyaw Myint Naing made speeches.

Wellwishers donated K 26.3 million.

Chairman of the Group Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin presented sculptures to the contributors to the group.

Myanma Alinn

Union Cup Games Dates and Venues for Sports Events

Nos	sport categories	Event Period		Venue	Remark
		From	to		
	Opening ceremony	28-2-2013	-	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	
1.	Track and field	3-3-2013	7-3-2013	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	
2.	Badminton	23-2-2013	27-2-2013	TC-1 Badminton Training Hall (Zabuthiri Township)	
3.	Basketball	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1, Basketball Training Ground (Zabuthiri Township)	
4.	Billiards and snooker	23-2-2013	2-3-2013	TC-2 Billiards Hall, Lewe Township	
5.	Physical fitness	12-2-2013	-	MCC (Yangon, Thingangyun Township)	
6.	Boxing	24-2-2013	1-3-2013	TC-1 boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
7.	Chess	26-2-2013	2-3-2013	Gold Camp (mess hall) (Zabuthiri Township)	
8.	Cycling (Cross Country)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)	
	Cycling (Down Hill)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)	
	Cycling (BMX)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)	
	Cycling (Road Race)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1 Cycling training gym (Zabuthiri Township) Pinlaung road/ Taungkya Village and Leinli bridge	
9.	Football (Men/women)	20-2-2013	7-3-2013	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)/ Paunglaung ground (Pinyinmana Township) Training grounds (1) and (2) (Zabuthiri Township)	
10.	Fustal (Men/women)	23-2-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1 Fustal training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
11.	Judo	25-2-2013	27-2-2013	TC-2 Judo training gym (Lewe Township)	
12.	Karatedo	4-3-2013	6-3-2013	TC-2 Karatedo training gym (Lewe Township)	
13.	Sepak Takraw	25-2-2013	5-3-2013	TC-1 Sepak Takraw training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
14.	Table Tennis	23-2-2013	27-2-2013	TC-1 Table Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
15.	Taekwondo	1-3-2013	3-3-2013	TC-1 Taekwondo training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
16.	Tennis	23-2-2013	28-2-2013	TC-1 Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
17.	Pancek Silat	2-3-2013	6-2-2013	TC-2 Martial Arts training gym (Lewe Township)	
18.	Traditional Boxing (Muay)	3-3-2013	5-3-2013	TC-1 Boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
19.	Volleyball	27-2-2013	7-3-2013	TC-1 Volleyball training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
20.	Weightlifting	1-3-2013	3-3-2013	Paunglaung Gymnasium (Pinyinmana)	
21.	Wushu	1-3-2013	3-3-2013	TC-2 Wushu training gym (Lewe Township)	
22.	Wrestling	4-3-2013	7-3-2013	Paunglaung gym (Pinyinmana Township)	
	Closing Ceremony	7-3-2013	-	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	

WORLD

Battling a scandal, Britain's deputy PM under pressure in vote

LONDON, 28 Feb— Fewer than 100,000 residents of an English town that hardly anyone outside Britain has heard of will vote on Thursday in an election that could help determine the political fate of the country's deputy prime minister and, ultimately, its government.

The poll to choose a member of parliament for Eastleigh may prove make-or-break for Nick Clegg's leadership of the Liberal Democrats, the junior member of Britain's two-party coalition.

"Most by-elections are events of only fleeting interest. Some are sufficiently dramatic to linger a while

in the memory. Only a few truly matter. Eastleigh could be one of these," Peter Kellner, the president of YouGov, the pollster, said.

On Wednesday, during last-minute campaigning in Eastleigh, Clegg predicted his party was "on the cusp of a great victory".

Many Liberal Democrat supporters have become disenchanted with their party's alliance with the Conservatives, arguing it has betrayed core values on the altar of political expediency. Much of that criticism has been directed at Clegg.

"If the Tories do win, then we may well look back in years to come as



Britain's deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg (2nd L) arrives to take part in a phone-in show at a radio station in central London on 27 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

the contest that marked the beginning of the end of the current coalition," said YouGov's Kellner.

Most opinion polls show Clegg's party the narrow favourite to win, with the Conservatives running a close second and UKIP third. But its lead in the polls—5 percent—is within

the margin of error and a last-minute swing in favour of the Conservatives could rob it of victory. The election comes at a time when Clegg's leadership of his leftist party, without whom the rightist Conservatives cannot govern or pass legislation, also faces specific pressures.—Reuters

Elegant Damascus, besieged by both sides



A man walks at the damaged Harasta area that was caused by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, in Damascus on 25 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

DAMASCUS, 28 Feb — In a city lived in for seven millennia, it may take more than two years of civil war to put a full stop to the genteel round of dinner parties and walks in the

park for the affluent folk of downtown Damascus.

But from out in the grim suburbs, rebels incensed at their prosperous neighbors' passivity lob in more bombs and President

Bashar al-Assad's forces make their presence ever more heavily felt around his stronghold, disrupting comfortable old routines and setting fear gnawing at Damascenes' cocoon of civilization.

Many feel trapped between an unloved authority in the form of the 43-year-old Assad dynasty and hungry revolutionaries at the gates, who resent the city's privileged lifestyle.

Though fighting has turned parts of the outer sprawl of the capital of more than 1.5 million into an urban battlefield, especially since major rebel advances last summer, and though some 70,000 Syrians have been killed

since protests began two years ago, central areas of Damascus long remained untouched.

But that is changing as frontlines encroach and as troops and the shabbiha militias loyal to Assad reinforce the garrison around his power base. Noticeable too is how people who have fled homes in the suburbs have been camping in downtown parks. Then last week three car bombs exploded in central Damascus, killing dozens. Hours later, mortars fell on the wealthiest district of Maliki, where dozens of high-ranking government officials and the prosperous merchant class live.

Reuters

Soldiers from Niger patrol in an open field in Gao on 27Feb, 2013.
REUTERS



creation of the peacekeeping operation, but again it will of course depend on the situation on the ground," he said.

Reuters

US Senate approves Lew as Treasury chief

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — The US Senate on Wednesday confirmed Jack Lew as President Barack Obama's new Treasury secretary, putting the former White House chief of staff in the middle of political brawls over the government's budget.

Senators backed Lew 71-26, with all 53 Democrats voting in favour.

Lew's most pressing task will be to find a compromise to lessen the economic blow from \$85 billion in government spending cuts set to kick in on Friday.

But two more deadlines will quickly follow. Funds for most government operations expire on 27 March, and the US government is expected to hit its legal borrowing limit on 19 May, setting the stage for a default unless an agreement can be secured to raise the debt ceiling again.

Lew was Obama's chief of staff before the president named him to succeed Timothy Geithner at the Treasury, and has spent much of his career in Washington in public service. He was previously

White House budget director under Obama and former President Bill Clinton.

"As my chief of staff, Jack was by my side as we confronted our nation's toughest challenges," Obama said after the Senate vote. "His reputation as a master of fiscal issues who



Jack Lew, US President Barack Obama's nominee to lead the Treasury Department, appears before a Senate Finance Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on 13 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

can work with leaders on both sides of the aisle has already helped him succeed in some of the toughest jobs in Washington."—Reuters

Japanese gov't proposes Kuroda as new BOJ governor

TOKYO, 28 Feb — The Japanese government Thursday proposed to the parliament the appointment of Haruhiko Kuroda, president of the Asian Development Bank, as new governor of the Bank of Japan (BOJ).

The government also nominated the 70-year-old Gakushuin University professor Kikuo Iwata and the BOJ Executive Director Hiroshi Nakaso, 59, as deputy governors of the Japanese central bank.

The appointment must be approved by both chambers of the Diet and the government is seeking to hold a vote on the nominations on 14 March in the

lower house and 15 March in the upper house.

Kuroda, 68, advocates bold monetary easing policy and served as vice financial minister for international affairs for more than three years since 1990.

Both Kuroda and Iwata said they supported the two percent inflation target introduced by the central bank, adding the goal should be achieved in about two years.

The current BOJ governor Masaaki Shirakawa announced earlier this month that he will step down along with his deputies before his five-year term expires on 8 April.

Xinhua

6.1-magnitude quake hits Vanuatu

HONG KONG, 28 Feb— An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted off Vanuatu islands at 03:09:44 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 15.10 km, was initially determined to be

at 17.7706 degrees south latitude and 167.3409 degrees east longitude.

The quake happened at 2:09:44 pm local time with epicenter locating 102 km west from Port Vila, the capital of the South Pacific islands country.

Xinhua

UN Security Council asks for report on possible Mali peacekeepers

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Feb —The UN Security Council will ask UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to report by the end of March on the possibility of creating a peacekeeping force for Mali, French UN envoy Gerard Araud said on Wednesday.

France began a military offensive last month to drive out Islamist fighters, who had hijacked a revolt by Mali's Tuareg rebels and seized two-thirds of the West African country. Paris said Mali's vast desert North was in danger of becoming a springboard for extremist attacks on the region and the West.

France briefed the 15-member Security Coun-

cil on the military operation that has also involved African forces.

"We're asking the secretary-general to make a report before the end of March about the modalities, the feasibility, the conditions of the creation of a peacekeeping operation," Araud told reporters.

"It will be on the basis of this report that

... we will table, eventually, a draft resolution for the

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Huawei presents new mobile products at Barcelona congress

BARCELONA, 28 Feb — Chinese telecommunications company Huawei unveiled its vehicle compatible 3G and 4G communication modules, as well as a 3G mobile hotspot and diagnostic box at the ongoing Mobile World Congress on Tuesday.

These new products represent Huawei's first telematics solution products and aim to provide wireless solutions for vehicles independent of weather, landscape and power supply.

"Huawei is excited to welcome in an era of smart vehicles with the availability of products that integrate wireless communications and automotive electronic technologies," said Kevin Liu, the vice-president of Huawei's mobile broadband division.

"Huawei's telematic solutions are designed to enable cars and other trans-



portation vehicles to exist in a seamless wireless mobile environment, so that users are truly able to enjoy the benefits brought about by ICT services," he added.

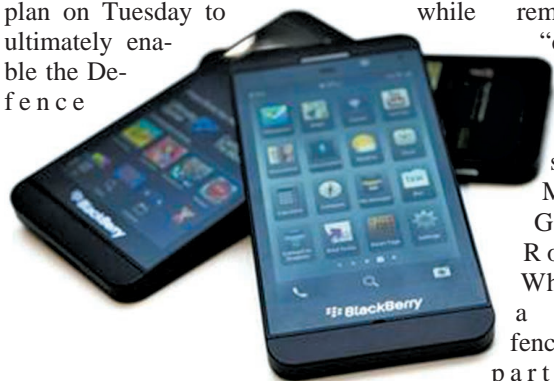
The DA6810 3G WiFi allows vehicles to become interactive and networked, allowing their drivers high-speed internet and audio visual services, while the DA-3100 is useful for insurance companies and car hire companies to locate vehicles, as well as collect in-

formation on the condition of the vehicle and driver habits.

It also allows the headlights and horn to be operated through the use of a mobile phone application. Other products unveiled by Huawei include the Ascend P2, the world's fastest 4G handset. The company's products and services are sold in over 140 countries with over 20 research and development centres around the world.—Xinhua

Pentagon unveils plan to tap potential of mobile devices

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — The Pentagon unveiled a plan on Tuesday to ultimately enable the Defence



BlackBerry Z10 devices are displayed at a Rogers store in Toronto on 5 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Department's 600,000 users of smartphones, computer tablets and other mobile devices to rapidly share classified and protected data using the latest commercial technologies. The system aims to quickly enable the

latest technologies to be securely used by the military while remaining "device agnostic," said Major General Robert Wheeler, a Defence Department

deputy chief information officer. That sets the stage for an intensified struggle for Pentagon customers among BlackBerry devices, Apple's iPhones or iPads, and units using Google's Android platform. The De-

fence Department currently has more than 600,000 mobile device users, including 470,000 with BlackBerries, 41,000 who have Apple operating systems, and 8,700 who use Android devices.

The new plan will result in the use of a much wider variety of mobile devices across the military. Currently most devices using Apple and Google platforms are in pilot or test programmes, officials said. Few commercial devices are used for classified communications, whereas the new system aims to bolster security of commercially available devices so they can be used for classified information, they said. Wheeler said the implementation plan aimed to ensure that mobile devices, wireless infrastructure and

mobile applications remain "reliable, secure and flexible enough to keep up with the fast-changing technologies of today." He said the department has a broad range of mobile device users, from the chairman and planners on the Joint Chiefs of Staff to policymakers and soldiers on the battlefield, all of whom would be affected by the implementation plan.

The military services would decide which devices to buy and provide to users based on need. The system would not initially enable an individual service member to purchase their own mobile devices and use them on the Pentagon's networks, but that is a longer-range goal if security can be assured, officials said.

Reuters

PayPal co-founder Levchin launches new mobile

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Feb — Max Levchin, co-founder of online payment giant PayPal, launched a rival business on Tuesday called Affirm that will compete in the crowded but fast-growing mobile payments business. Affirm's technology helps shoppers complete online purchases more quickly and easily when they are using smart phones and other mobile devices, according to the firm's website. PayPal, owned by eBay Inc, is the leader in

online payments, however, the company is being challenged by a host of startups, including Square Inc, that focus on new opportunities and problems created by the boom in mobile commerce.

Affirm is focusing on streamlining the mobile checkout process online, which can involve typing in lots of information, such as an address and card numbers, using a small type pad. Affirm said it has whittled the online buying

process down to two taps on a smart phone screen — one to tap the Affirm button on participating merchant websites and a second to confirm the order. Affirm is using Facebook Inc to con-

A page from the PayPal website is seen in Singapore on 21 July, 2011.

REUTERS



Crick's letter about DNA discovery to be sold at auction

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — A letter by Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA, outlining the Nobel Prize-winning achievement to his young son is expected to fetch as much as \$2 million when it is sold at auction in April, Christie's said on Tuesday. Crick and James Watson unraveled the double-helix structure and function of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) while working together in Cambridge, England, in 1953. They received the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1962 for their ground-breaking work.

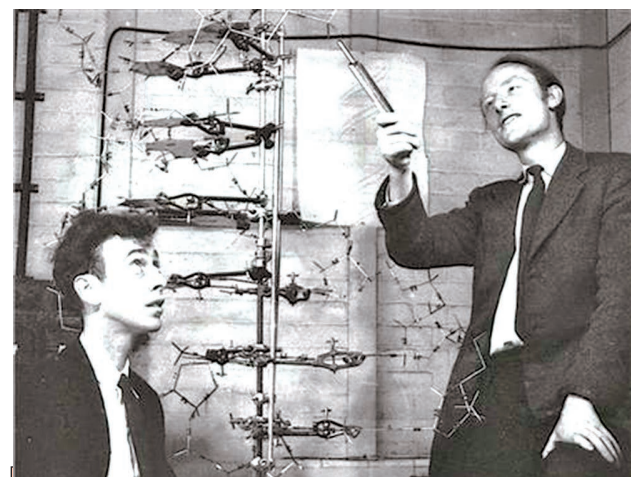
In the seven-page, handwritten letter, Crick, who was 33 years old at the time, described the discovery to his 12-year-old son Michael, who was away at a British boarding school. "When you come home we will show you the model," he wrote in the letter. Crick

went on to say he believed DNA is a code and that the order of the bases (the letters) makes one gene different from another gene.

"In other words we think we have found the basic copying mechanism by which life comes from life. You can understand that we are very excited," Crick added, before signing the letter, "Lots of love, Daddy." In his later years Crick was a professor at the Salk Institute for Biological

Studies in La Jolla, California. He died in 2004.

The letter, which is being sold by Crick's son, will be part of the books and manuscripts sale on 10 April. A letter dated 2 Aug, 1939, by physicist Albert Einstein to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt warning him of the potential danger of "the construction of extremely powerful bombs" through nuclear fission sold for more than \$2 million at auction in 2002.—Reuters



Francis Crick (R) with James D Watson, co-discoverers of the structure and function of DNA, are shown in this image taken circa 1953 in this image released to Reuters on 26 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Cablevision sues Viacom over fees for low-rated networks

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — Cablevision Systems Corp has accused Viacom Inc in an antitrust lawsuit of forcing it to pay for more than a dozen low-rated cable networks in order to get access to Viacom's more popular channels such as Nickelodeon, MTV and Comedy Central. The case represents the latest flare-up in the contentious relationships between distributors and programme makers. Industry observers will be watching to see if the lawsuit could disrupt the model of selling

have been upheld by a number of federal courts and on appeal." The two companies signed a long-term programming agreement in December 2012 for Cablevision to carry Viacom's networks for an undisclosed sum.

The lawsuit



Cablevision CEO James Dolan is seen at a news conference in New York, on 22 Nov, 2010.—REUTERS

bundles of cable channels to operators, a common practice employed by Viacom and its media company peers in the \$97.6 billion cable industry.

"Viacom effectively forces Cablevision's customers to pay for and receive little-watched channels in order to get the channels they actually want," Cablevision said in a statement. In response to the lawsuit, Viacom said that "these arrangements

seeks to void that agreement and it also wants Viacom banned from making similar deals involving networks it calls "ancillary." Cablevision says these less popular channels include CMT, MTV Hits, Nick Jr, Nicktoons, Palladia and VH1 Classic. Viacom said it "will vigorously defend this transparent attempt by Cablevision to use the courts to renegotiate our existing two month old agreement."

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Advanced breast cancer inching up in young women

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — More young women are being diagnosed with advanced, metastatic breast cancer than were three decades ago, a new study suggests — although the overall rate of cancers in that group is still small. One in 173 women will develop breast cancer before she turns 40, researchers said, and the prognosis tends to be worse for younger patients. In the new study, a team led by Dr Rebecca Johnson at Seattle Children's Hospital and the University of Washington found the rate of metastatic breast cancer, in particular, rose about two percent

each year between 1976 and 2009 among younger women.

"We think that the likelihood is that since this change has been so marked over just a couple of decades, that it's something external, a modifiable lifestyle-related risk factor or perhaps an environmental toxic exposure, but we don't know what," Johnson said. One possibility is that overeating and lack of exercise are driving up early-life metastatic breast cancer rates, Johnson added. Or, the use of hormonal birth control could play a role, she said. But Johnson also pushed for more

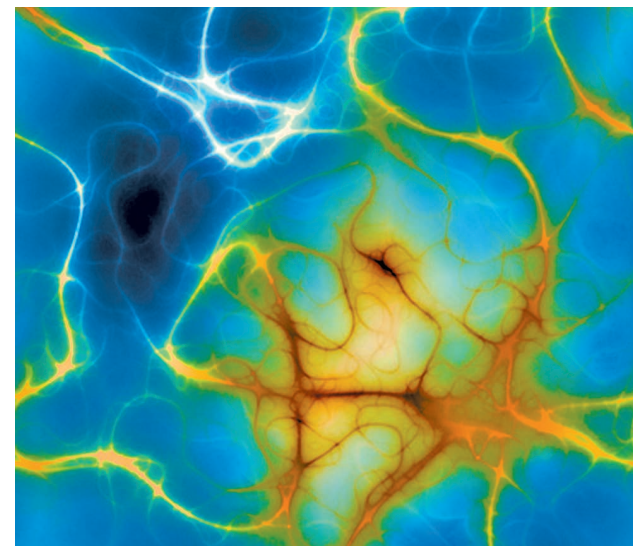
research into the potential effects of hormones in meat or plastic in bottles, for example. Johnson and her colleagues analyzed data from cancer registries run by the National Cancer Institute.

As expected, they found that the number of early breast cancer diagnoses increased among middle-aged and older women during the study period, likely due to widespread screening.

The only other change in cancer incidence was among the youngest women, between ages 25 and 39. In that group, the number of women diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer — which has spread to the bones, brain or lungs — rose from one in 65,000 in 1976 to one in 34,000 in 2009. More of the increase appeared to be in cancers that are sensitive to estrogen, which is "comparatively fortunate," the authors note, because those cancers are somewhat more responsive to treatment and have longer average survival rates in general.

Still, metastatic cancer is the most dangerous kind, with less than one-third of women surviving at least five years after diagnosis, Johnson's team wrote on Tuesday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Surgeon Dr. Julie Margenthaler, who has studied breast cancer in young women at the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, said the new study was limited by a lack of data on women's family history, including which ones were carriers of BRCA gene mutations.

Women with those mutations are known to be at high risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer at a young age. "It is intriguing data, but I think that it's going to have to be validated in some other datasets," said Margenthaler, who was not involved in the new research. Because the overall rate of cancer in young women is still low, Johnson said the findings shouldn't cause alarm — but should prompt further research. — Reuters



Brain cells may survive organisms

BEIJING, 28 Feb — Brain cells can live longer than the organisms in which they reside, according to a study in Monday's journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The researchers from University of Pavia in Italy took neurons, or brain cells, from mice and implanted them into the brains of about 60 rat fetuses. The study outcome showed that the neurons transplanted from mice were still alive when the rats died.

That means it's

possible the cells could have survived even longer if they were transplanted into a longer-lived species. The finding is good news for life extension enthusiasts.

But it doesn't mean humans could live forever, even if brain cells may be proved to live longer than expectation. Scientists still don't understand exactly what causes people to age, said study co-author Dr Lorenzo Magrassi, a neurosurgeon at the University of Pavia.

Xinhua



Dynavax may have to repitch hepatitis B vaccine for smaller market

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — Dynavax Technologies Inc may need to repitch its hepatitis B vaccine for a smaller patient population, after US health regulators declined to approve the vaccine for adults — an estimated \$700 million global market. The US Food and Drug Administration said the safety data provided by the company was insufficient to support an approval of Heplisav — Dynavax's most advanced clinical candidate.

The company said in a statement earlier on Monday that the FDA had indicated its willingness to discuss a more restricted use of the vaccine. It said it expects to meet with the FDA within six weeks to discuss Heplisav's

approval. The rejection, which potentially delays the market entry of a faster-acting and less frequently needed vaccine for the liver-attacking infection, sent the company's shares down 37 percent to \$1.87 on Monday, their lowest in more than a



A view shows the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) logo at the lobby of its headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland on 14 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS

year. However, Dynavax said on a conference call with analysts that it may not need to conduct additional tests to assess the safety of its vaccine.

"It isn't going to be an instantaneous turnaround. We are going to have to do some work to assemble all (the data) and make sure that it fits the FDA's requirement.

Let's just say we're talking in months and not years," Tyler Martin, Dynavax's president and chief medical officer, told analysts on the call. Cowen & Co analyst Phil Nadeau said the approval of Heplisav within a limited population may still be possible late this year or the first half of the next year.

Reuters

Value of calcium supplements put in doubt



BEIJING, 28 Feb — Adding calcium and vitamin D supplements to daily diet doesn't prevent broken bones but can increase the risk of kidney stones, according to US Preventive Services Task Force on Monday. It's a confusing message that for years, calcium and vitamin D supplements have been widely considered an insurance policy against osteoporosis, with little side

effect.

"Regrettably, we don't have as much information as we would like to have about a substance that has been around a long time and we used to think we understood," said Dr Virginia Moyer of the Baylor College of Medicine, who heads the task force. There's not enough evidence to tell if the high-dose calcium and vitamin D supplements

would prevent bone fractures if taken before menopause, or if they can strengthen men's bones, the task force concluded. Calcium and vitamin D work together, and humans need both nutrients to build and maintain strong bones in lifetime. But the body also produces vitamin D from sunshine and gets other nutrients from various foods such as orange juice, milk, yogurt, cheese, salmon and cereals.

Specialists advise getting these nutrients as much as possible from a good diet. These recommendations aren't for people at high risk of weak bones, including older adults who have previously broken a bone and are at risk for doing so. And those people should consult a doctor, said a bone specialist. — Xinhua

JPMorgan to cut up to 17,000 jobs by end of 2014

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) said on Tuesday that it plans to cut 17,000 jobs by the end of 2014, representing about 6.6 percent of the company's overall workforce, as the bank sheds staff that helped it deal with bad home loans. The bank is optimistic that it can generate record income this year and is planning

to add 4,000 employees in commercial and investment banking and credit cards to help it win business, bank executives said at an investor conference.

That hiring will be more than offset by job cuts in areas like mortgage servicing and retail banking, where the bank is positioning for a recovering housing market and new

forms of branch banking. The net impact of the additions and cuts will be 17,000 fewer employees on the bank's payrolls. The job cuts reflect the pressure that banks are under, even as the US housing market and overall economy show signs of recovery. Many banks are looking to automate more of their businesses to make their staff more productive

and improve profits. For example, at JPMorgan's branches, where it plans to cut about 6,000 tellers and other employees, the bank hopes customers will use automated teller machines for every day transactions and that remaining staff can focus on higher-margin activities like selling wealth management services.

Reuters



The entrance to JPMorgan Chase's international headquarters on Park Avenue is seen in New York on 2 Oct, 2012. — REUTERS

Europe still needs reforms: Van Rompuy

BUDAPEST, 28 Feb — European Council President Herman Van Rompuy on Wednesday called for continued economic reform now that the European Union is going upward after hitting the bottom in 2012.

Van Rompuy made the remarks at a joint news conference here with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban following a meeting between the two.

Van Rompuy warned that this was not the time to sit back and relax despite

the positive results of crisis management. Instead, gradual and consistent steps have to be taken towards establishing a true economic union among European Union members, he said.

A stronger economy means greater competitiveness, he said, adding that establishment of a bank union could help to attain long-term growth and increase employment.

He deemed job creation as the best way to ensure the welfare of Euro-

pean citizens.

Given Hungary is not a eurozone member, Orban called on the European Council to be more willing to accept and understand those of Hungary's economic measures that might seem unusual to eurozone countries.

These measures, he said, included tax reforms and measures to improve competitiveness.

While hoping Hungary's economic growth to exceed expectations, Orban said that Van Rompuy had always been open to the measures Hungary has taken to stabilize the economy and shift it to a growth pattern.

Calling the Council President an important friend, Orban said Hungary could be counted on to support bank union, and monetary and economic coordination within the EU.

Van Rompuy, serving his second term as Council President, has been acclaimed by some as a consensus-builder.—Xinhua



European Council President Herman Van Rompuy (L) and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban attend a joint news conference after their talks in Budapest, Hungary on 27 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Obama to meet top lawmakers on spending cuts

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — US President Barack Obama is scheduled to meet top congressional leaders for talks on government spending cuts this Friday, White House spokesman Jay Carney said on Wednesday.

Obama has invited

four leading lawmakers including House Speaker John Boehner to meet at the White House, and hopes to have a "constructive discussion" with them, Carney told reporters here at a daily briefing.

The meeting is to take

US welcomes Iran's interest in nuclear talks proposal

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — The US State Department on Wednesday welcomed that Iran was interested in the proposal presented by the world powers at the nuclear talks in Kazakhstan.

"The process will continue, we have to see how it's going to play out over the coming weeks, but we welcome that, you know, Iran was interested in our ideas," said State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell at a regular briefing.

However, he did not give details of the proposal, only characterizing it as "updated" and "serious."

Describing the talks as "useful," Ventrell stressed that now the "onus is absolutely on Iran."

"We'd like to see them to take some of the concrete steps they need to come in line with the international communities concerns or come in line with their ob-

ligation quite frankly," he told reporters.

The two-day talks between Iran and the P5+1 powers — Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States plus Germany, over Teheran's disputed nuclear programme concluded on Wednesday in Almaty, Kazakhstan. World powers attending the talks said on Wednesday that the meeting had produced positive results.

Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili expressed optimism Wednesday about the outcome of the nuclear talks, saying that the world powers' attitude toward Iran's nuclear issue was "more realistic."

Iran and the world powers agreed to hold an expert-level meeting in Istanbul, Turkey on 17 and 18 March, and another high-ranking meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 5 and 6 April.

Xinhua

place not before but on the day that across-the-board automatic government spending cuts, the so-called "sequester" or "sequestration" in US government budget language, are set to kick in, signaling that efforts of Democrats and Republicans to avert the sequester may have stalled.

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

"Compromise here in Washington can usually be measured by a willingness of one leader to put forward proposals that demonstrate



Students of the Hungarian Dance Academy perform on stage in the National Dance Theatre in Budapest, Hungary, on 27 Feb, 2013. XINHUA

Kenya's security agencies, electoral body say ready for polls

NAIROBI, 28 Feb — Kenya's security agencies and the electoral body charged with overseeing the March 4 general elections said on Wednesday they were fully prepared for the exercise. Briefing President Mwai Kibaki on their preparations, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) chairman Isaack Hassan and the Inspector General of Police David Kimaiyo said adequate measures are in place to make next week's polls

successful.

During the meeting, Kimaiyo said he has deployed a contingent of heavily armed police officers to the country's major hotspots as precautionary measures to avert chaos following the heated political campaigns in the area.

"The mobilization of 99,000 security officials has begun to all parts of

the country and 85 persons have been arrested for committing various election offences," the police chief said. The Inspector General informed the meeting that investigation has been launched and action will be taken against those behind the distribution of negative leaflets in parts of the country.

Xinhua

Putin presses for comprehensive military upgrade

MOSCOW, 28 Feb — Russian military science should be comprehensively developed and advanced to meet modern challenges, President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

"We need to develop leading scientific schools which work on theories of building and using armed forces, to support military-scientific centres, including those creating unmanned drones and combat robots," Putin told a meeting at the Defence Ministry.

The president ordered to create a system of the prospective research in military science and technology in two years and vowed to advance Russian armed forces to a new level of capabilities in three to five years.

"We see it today that instable zones multiply on the planet ... The efforts to stagger strategic balance have been undertaken methodically," the Kremlin website quoted Putin as saying.—Xinhua

Colombian police capture head of drug trafficking gang

BOGOTA, 28 Feb — Colombia's police announced on Wednesday the capture of a leader and eight members of one of the country's largest drug trafficking groups.

Alejandro Beltran, alias "Alex," was arrested in central Colombia during a national police operation. He is reportedly the current leader of the Los Rastrojos gang, which police said has participated in several massacres that left 45 people dead.

The police said the success of the operation was the strongest blow yet against the organized crime group that operates mainly

in the Coffee Triangle region.

"This criminal group is responsible for drug trafficking activities, blackmailing and assassinations in the departments (states) of Risaralda, Caldas, Quindio ... and of using international routes to ship drugs to Panama, Honduras and the Dominican Republic," the police said.

"Alex," who started out as the right-hand man of the group's former leaders who are currently in US jails, is accused of trafficking between two and three tons of cocaine a month to Central America and the Caribbean.—Xinhua



Members of Fire Department work to extinguish a fire in the Merced's Market, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 27 Feb, 2013. The fire that broke out this morning in the Merced's Market was already controlled by the Fire Department with no victims being registered, official sources said.—XINHUA

NATIONAL

Norway's strong support for peace process under way...

(from page 16)

deterred due to the sanctions from members of international community. Norway ensures support and trust by writing off all the money Myanmar owed to Norway in our reform process help fast greatly in our negotiation with other member countries of Paris Club. And as a result they agree to write off significant percentage of debt we owed. Your commitment to our environments identify the ways the best protect our natural environment is also great significant. Myanmar and Norway may different in climate and culture. But we share a few similarities. We are both nations with trimediuos natural resources, especially in energy sector. We should learn from you the ways in which we can manage these natural resources to the benefits of our people. Both countries are relatively small. But they have times to fight for independence. After independence, we both carefully managed our relations with bigger and more powerful neighbors. And I know Norway was in 19th century among the poorest economy in Europe. Today you have become one of the richest countries. Understanding your history and success will be key for our success.

Q: How would you expect the success of peace talks with different minorities and how does your assessment on it in Myanmar. What is your assessment of the talks with minorities and what will be the results?

President: We can roughly say that we have more than one hundred of national races in the country. An then we have and we gain our independence in 1948. Before independence from the British colonial administration, they adopted the divide and rule policy in the country. As a result, those people who lived in the hilly regions distrust those who lived in the plain areas. As a result, they held arms fighting against the successive governments for the last 65 years. This we can turn up the longest armed conflict in the world. The successive government tried to end this armed

conflicts and they have achieved success to a certain extent. But there is [still the conflict and the problem is continued. Politically we have by the time our government assumed office altogether eleven armed groups in the country. So longest the existence of the armed conflicts we cannot address the issue of the development of the country. We cannot address the issue of socioeconomic development. So when our government assumed state's responsibility, we build up addressing the armed conflicts issue, one of the top priorities. So in my impetus to armed conflicts, we laid down the very basic principles so we can build trust with the national ethnic armed groups. So it is like we are living in the country it is like a family living in the same house. So it is of no use for fighting against the members of the family. In fact the fighting in the country has lasted for 65 years. So it is our desire to end this fighting. — The loss of the people on the side of the people and the loss of the government's side are in fact the loss of the country. It is of no use to continue this path. So now during our time we have concluded the peace agreement with 10 out of 11 groups. Only one is left in the northern part of the country. We had started engagement and have talks with this group. Fighting in the region is almost stopped. Political dialogue will be held soon. We will strive to reach a stage of holding the peace talks, stopping the attack from the government side. We have a parliament formed with national races and then we have different political parties. Continued political dialogues are to be made in the parliament for a lasting peace. Rights and protection of national races are enshrined in the State Constitution, but we don't have the detailed description about that. We are working for the legislation for the detailed rights and protection of national races so that we can ensure the lasting peace.

Q: Mr Prime Minister. What is your future plan between Myanmar and Norway.

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chinese Ambassador



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua at Zeyathiri Beikman. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb— Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar

PM: I think it is very significant and very strong sign that U Thein Sein decided to visit Norway as the first country in Europe. We have been a strong support for reform in Myanmar. We have seen such a rapid development in Myanmar towards democracy last year with the release of political prisoners, election, lifting of restrictions imposed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and transformation from military to civilian rule. Now we believe that we can take part in development of its economy. Norwegian companies are famous and willing to help Myanmar develop its economy. Fair competitiveness, transparency, open economic conditions are key to success. We will continue discussion this

at Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning. The cordial discussions focused on cooperation between the governments and armed forces of Myanmar and China, ensuring peace and stability at common border, narcotics

evening.
Q: How can Norwegian companies, especially oil and natural gas companies invest in Myanmar through Norway-Myanmar relations?

President: Myanmar has three requirements for economic development, which are capital, technology, human resources. Our country is rich in natural resources. Because of capital, technology, human resource requirement our country does not achieve economic development it deserves. Norway on the other hand has these three. The potential areas for investment in Myanmar are not only gas and oil. There are many other areas. We are going to adopt means that are beneficial to investor companies, Myanmar people, and Myanmar government.

Thai tourists conclude visits in Myanmar

KYONDOE, 28 Feb— The Thai-Myanmar goodwill convey, under the arrangements of Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services, entered Myawady from Mae Sot of Thailand as of 18 February.

An 18-car convoy carrying 49 Thai tourists led by Liaison Officer Assistant Manager Daw Mi Mi Khaing of the service

visited Myawady, Hpa-an, Yangon and Thanlyin. On their way back, the tourists paid homage to Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda.

On 23 February, they arrived in Mawlamyine of Mon State and proceeded to Hpa-an.

After that, they stopped over on Pontoon in passing Gyaing River at 11.15 am and enjoyed scenic beauties

eradication in Mekong basin, and continued implementation of border management agreement.

Also present at the call were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-

in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe of Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Xiong Shaowei and officials.

MNA

Second Japan Festival 2013
9-11 March

YANGON, 28 Feb— The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO Yangon) will organize the second Japan Festival 2013 for the second time at Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC), here, from 9 to 11 March.

The festival will introduce quality Japan brand products and Japanese traditions to the people at the single place with the aim of uplifting the Myanmar-Japan trade without any benefit.

Over 100 Japanese companies will display their products at the festival, comprising electronics, machinery, motorcycles, car, personal goods, household goods, pharmaceuticals, solar energy-used products,

toilet products and cosmetics, foodstuffs.

A Japanese star J Pop Group Berryz Kobo will entertain performance at noon on 10 March at the festival.

The separate shuttle buses will run for visitors to the festival free of charge from the side of Maha Bando Park to Myanmar Convention Centre once every three days. Some bus-line will change their routes to MCC from their ordinary routes.—Myanma Alinn

Gas pipeline completed by 70 per cent

HPA-AN, 28 Feb— Construction of Kanbauk-Myaingale-Hlawga gas pipeline has completed by 70 per cent, said an official of the project.

Laying of gas pipeline was delayed due to passing the coastal regions and high level of the sea. Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise has been laying the gas pipelines as of year 2000. The gas pipeline is being installed with 40 feet long and 30 inches diameter pipes made in Republic of Korea. The whole length of pipelines will be 180 miles.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 1 March, 2013

Promoting the culture of democracy and national harmony

As Myanmar is in the process of transition to democracy, promoting the culture of democracy and national harmony is of utmost importance. Democratic culture, according to Jack Balkin, is a culture in which all citizens can participate and feel that they have a stake, and unjust social privileges and status hierarchies have been disestablished. And national harmony is a nation-state in which people from different racial, religious, professional or class backgrounds are living peacefully in mutual trust as a society.

In a measure of its resolve towards this end, the government has embarked upon a series of reforms such as expansion of civil and political space allowing civil society to function freely, lifting of restriction on media, releasing political prisoners, creating an inclusive national identity, developing conciliatory discourse and improving state capacity to adjust the way the government function to the democratic setting. Moreover, high on its agenda are acknowledging and accepting differences, public grievances, peace process, poverty reduction, power-sharing, wealth-sharing, security and environmental issues.

Meanwhile, civil and political societies sharing common with the government have extensively engaged in promoting social capital and solving free rider problems, exposing societal problems, ensuring NGOs to engage in activities in different parts of the country, networking among different civil society groups and initiating political education and participatory approach.

As the introduction of democracy in a country is a tough process and takes time, the government, civil society and international partners are to exercise restraint, be rational and wise in promoting the culture of democracy and national harmony. Only then, will it be possible for the country to march towards a democratic nation.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw IRC receives UNDP and CIIS delegates

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo received a delegation led by Mr Edin Elgsaether of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Hall-1 of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 2 pm today.

They had a cordial discussion on holding seminars and workshop on capacity building for

parliaments.

He also met with Vice President of China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) Mr Ruan Zongze and party at the same venue at 4 pm today and exchanged views on current democracy reform process, parliamentary and MP's roles.

Also present at the call were Public Accounts Committee Secretary U Maung Toe, Hluttaw Rights

Government will simultaneously open spaces...

(from page 1)

delivered to conflict zones which are in urgent need of supplies. I would like to inform the people that not only ceasefire but also political dialogue could be reached when peace talks with national race armed groups including KIO/KIA will be held in the not-too-distant future. Cooperation will be made to move towards a national level meeting through the political dialogue.

We have to accept the honest truth that we are facing greater challenges than any other countries because we have to negotiate with about 15 armed groups at the same time. Despite difficulties and challenges, the enthusiasm and genuine willingness to overcome them are the most important things. We will simultaneously open spaces for participation of individual organization or citizen in the peace process. On 7 February, we formed a scrutiny committee of remaining prisoners with the representatives from the government, the civil societies and political parties to enable them do their bits in shaping the future of the nation. The committee will work transparently. The committee will organize family reunion of the prisoners imprisoned for their different ideologies by the then administration, to help them enjoy their freedom like any other citizens and participate in future reforms.

As regards development of telecom industry, you will all be informed of the efforts of our government since taking office.

Plans are under way to sale low-cost mobile sim cards in coming April which can help extend current

communication infrastructures. In addition to the short-term programme, constant efforts would be made for systematic development of communication sector nationwide. These projects will materialize within one or two years.

Efforts are being made for creating more job opportunities for youths. There are a number of graduated youths, those who have no access to the universities and those who have completed the grade-11. For youth's job creation, our country needs lots of industrial zones, workshops, factories, hotel and tourism industry and mechanized farm lands. Soon, foreign investments would flow into the country. I would like you to make cooperation with the government to avoid impediment to foreign investors.

Success of reform processes relies on local strength. Our government is making efforts to shape a modern international relation as it is impossible for a country to stand alone due to the globalization.

The aim of my tour to European countries brings necessary assistances for our reform processes.

Esteemed people,

I strongly believe that peace and national reconsolidation processes can be implemented as quickly as possible thanks to trust building with leaders of national races armed groups and strong desires of the government, Hluttaws, political parties, economic and social forces, civil society organizations, Tatmadaw and all people. All to join hands in these processes.

With the development, the socio-political life of the people becomes variable. In conclusion, I would urge you to be in harmony with swift and dynamic reforms. And each and every body needs to have the abilities for forgiveness, mutual understandings, sympathy and cooperation.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives US businessmen

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a group of businessmen led by Vice President for Asia of US Chamber of Commerce Ms Tami Overby at the Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, this morning.

At the call, they frankly exchanged views on further strengthening relations between the two Hluttaws and the governments of Myanmar and the US, democratic reform process of Myanmar, close cooperation for successful implementation of political and economic reforms, cooperation in financial and trade tasks and raising interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Committee chairmen U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Zaw, U Thein Swe, U Hla Myint Oo, U Thurain Zaw, U T Khun

Committee Secretary Dr Soe Yin, members of International Relations Committee U Aung Kyaw Soe and U Tun Aung Kyaw and officials from Hluttaw Office.

MNA



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Vice President for Asia of US Chamber of Commerce Ms Tami Overby.—MNA

Myat and U Htay Myint, U Maung Toe, Hluttaw Secretaries Dr Soe Yin and representatives and officials of the Hluttaw office. MNA

Yangon Universities Boat Race wraps up

YANGON, 28 Feb—The Yangon Universities' Boat Race was held at the universities' boat club on Inya Road, here, from 25 to 27 February.

Yangon Institute of Economics secured the championship shield.

Yangon Institute of Education stood first in the men's event and Yangon West University first in the women's event.

Yangon Institute of Education (B) won the first prize in the four oars men's event and double

sculls men's event. Yangon Institute of Economics (A) secured the first prize in the single scull men's event. Yangon West University stood first in the women's double scull event and women's four oar event.

Thant Zin Win-NLM

NATIONAL

It needs to seek solutions in a peaceful way...

(from page 1)
have same attitudes towards the development of country and nation-loving spirit even though they have to live in other countries. It needed to join hands in nation's reform processes based on nation-loving spirit though people have different views. Diverse view was the nature of democracy. It needed to seek the solutions in a peaceful way. He invited Myanmar nationals to have a hand in nation building endeavours.

Union Minister U Soe Thane and Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin replied to the queries raised by those present.

Then, the President met Assistant Managing Director U Khin Maung Win of Democratic Voice of Burma at Hotel Continental.

MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Assistant Managing Director U Khin Maung Win of DVB.—MNA



No green light to more hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, except one for retired service personnel

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb— Today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session started with the oath-taking of newly-appointed Chairman and members of the Constitution Tribunal of the Union before Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Win Myint welcomed the re-emergence of the Constitution Tribunal of the Union, saying that his documented proposal seeking the interpretation



U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa Constituency replies to queries.—NLM



Newly-appointed Chairman and members of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union taking oath at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

of the constitution tribunal would be continued to carry out.

Next, Hluttaw sought the approval of Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw representatives on the projects stated in National Planning Bill for 2013-14 fiscal year. The amendment of Health Promotion

Committee was in majority of parliamentarians who objected more constructions of hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, except hospital for

retired service personnel. Chairman of Reform and Development Scrutinizing Committee U Aung Thein Lin said that the committee made the budget cuts of K 3.9 billion budget, placing emphasis on careful spending and not wasting things. That's why, the amount of money deducted from the original proposed budget would be able to be spent on paying allowances for teachers of monastic schools, thereby reducing the burden to villages with these schools and contributing a certain amount of supports to the government's drive to alleviate poverty.

In an interview with Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Mi Myint Than, she called for greater coordination between region/state officials and parliamentarians in the interest of the local people as the latter were playing a role in bridging the gap of connectivity between the departments concerned.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Nann Wah Nu, while giving an interview to NLM news crew, called on NGOs and INGOs to organize necessary training courses, workshops, seminars and paper-reading sessions to be able to heighten peace awareness and to bring about more understandings among the stakeholders before the government and national race armed groups, warning about a profound impact of a lack of political tolerance on political dialogue.—NLM

Observers visit Hluttaws

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb— Observers—61 members of US delegation led by Vice-President for Asia Affairs of US Chamber of Commerce, 62 members of Union Solidarity and Development Party of Kyauktaga Township

in Bagon Region, 52 Paungku members of Bahan Township in Yangon Region, 32 staff of MRTV (Nay Pyi Taw-Tatkon)—visited the 15th day session of sixth regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held today.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Director of HSF

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb— Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a delegation led by Director Mr Christian Hegemer of International Cooperation Group of Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) at the meeting hall (I-1) of Pyithu Hluttaw building, here, this afternoon.

Foundation (HSF), holding workshops for development of human recourses and providing assistance.

Also present at the call were Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Secretary of Public Accounts Committee U Maung Toe, member of Legal Affairs and Special Case Assessment Commission U Win Thein and officials of the Hluttaw office.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb— Hluttaw Committee for Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Mr. Li Junhua, Chinese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, who has completed his tour of duty, at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 4 pm today.

Hluttaw Committee for International Relations Col Maung Maung Htoo, Chairman of the Committee for ASEAN Political and Security Community U Nyunt Tin, Chairperson of the Committee for NGOs and INGOs Affairs Daw Khin Waing Kyi and officials of Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint meets Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.—MNA



On the occasion, they cordially discussed cooperation between the Hluttaw and Hanns Seidel

Chinese team in Egypt to deal with aftermath of balloon crash



Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Song Aiguo (L) receives interview about the hot air balloon crash in Cairo, Egypt, on 27 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

CAIRO, 28 Feb— A Chinese Foreign Ministry work panel arrived in Egypt on Wednesday to deal with the aftermath of a deadly hot air balloon crash, in the wake of nine Hong Kong tourists dying in the tragedy in the country. Meanwhile, officers from the Hong Kong Immigration Department and the tourist company's staff members also fled to Egypt to help.

Speaking to reporters, Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Song Aiguo said: "We have a delegation from Beijing sent by the Chinese government and a delegation from Hong Kong. We have to coordinate and work together to deal with the tragedy."

Since Tuesday's explosion, the Chinese side has been contacting Egypt's health ministry and tourism

ministry as well as the Luxor local government, he said, noting that the Chinese government wants to see swift actions. Particularly, the ambassador said the Chinese side has contacted the Egyptian side for the procedures of transferring the victims' bodies to China.

The two delegations met with Egypt's Foreign Minister's Assistant for Consular Affairs Ali el-Osheiry. For his part, el-Osheiry said: "I would like to convey the condolence of our foreign minister, all Egyptians and myself to the Chinese government and the victims' families."

"I would like to inform your esteemed delegations that we are ready to do as much as we can to help take emergency measures in this regard," he added, noting that the investigation team will be in direct contact with the concerned parties.

Xinhua

JERUSALEM, 28 Feb— Ties between Israel and Turkey have been strained ever since the Israel intercepted the Turkish ship *Mavi Marmara* in May 2010, however lately there have been signs that an improvement might be in sight.

Last week an Israeli defence contractor Elta exported equipment for four Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircrafts to Turkey, however the equipment was part of the deal Turkey signed with the American company Boeing and Elta is a sub-contractor for Boeing.

Although the news of the export showed an improvement compared to the deadlock of the past two and half years, analysts told *Xinhua* that there is still a long way to go before relations go back to normal.

"There are definitely several positive signs, es-

Positive signs show Israel-Turkey ties warming up

pecially that the Israeli side is interested in repairing relations, this has been the Israeli position from the start but it needs more serious efforts to repair the relations," Dr Gallia Lindenstrauss of the Tel Aviv University told *Xinhua* on Wednesday.

Prof Dror Ze'evi of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev said that recent improvement can not be seen as reconciliation between Israel and Turkey, instead it's the realization that the two have a number of common interests in the region.

"The Turkish side isn't very keen on reconciliation right now; in fact it still wants to be portrayed as

very tough on Israel for its own internal and Middle Eastern purposes," Ze'evi said.

"But, it has realized recently that there are many common interests and many things that it somehow needs to coordinate with Israel, chiefly of course being Syria and the Syrian crisis," he added.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has placed anti-missile system on the Turkish Syrian border and allowed Syrian opposition groups to operate from Turkey, he has been very critical of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad from failing to respond to an Israeli air raid into Syria.—*Xinhua*

Hagel sworn in as new US Defence Chief



US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks to Defence Department employees at the staff meeting after he was sworn in as the new Pentagon chief at the Pentagon, on 27 Feb, 2013. In remarks to Defence Department employees, he deplored the uncertainty brought about by impending automatic cuts to the defence budget, and promised to do everything in his power to meet those challenges.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 28 Feb— New US Defence Secretary, Chuck Hagel, has been sworn into office at a small, closed-door ceremony at the Pentagon. Afterwards he told military and civilian staff at the Pentagon that he would do his best to be a worthy leader of the nation's military.

Chuck Hagel, US Defence Secretary, said, "I am proud of the opportunity the President of the United States has given me and the Congress of the United States has given me. And I will tell you that — as I told the President, as I told the Congress — that I will do everything in my power to be the kind of leader that you expect and you deserve; also, the kind of leader the country ex-

pects and deserves."

Hagel's confirmation comes as the Pentagon faces the prospect of cutting 46 billion dollars in spending over the next seven months. The US Senate confirmed Hagel as the new Secretary of Defence on Tuesday, following a protracted confirmation fight.

With just four Republicans voting for him, Hagel, a decorated Vietnam veteran, was confirmed in the closest vote ever for a defence secretary. Many Republicans raised questions about whether he is sufficiently supportive of Israel, tough enough on Iran, or truly committed to maintaining a robust nuclear deterrent.

Xinhua

Over 360 mln people live with hearing loss: WHO

GENEVA, 28 Feb— More than 360 million people in the world are suffering from hearing loss, a report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated on Wednesday.

In the report prepared for International Ear Care Day on 3 March, WHO said one in three persons over the age of 65, or a total of 165 million people worldwide, lives with hearing loss, and another 32 million affected by hearing loss are children under the age of 15.

Shelly Chadha of the WHO's Department of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness said about half of all cases of hearing loss are easily preventable while many can be treated through early diagnosis and suitable interventions such as surgically implanted hearing devices.

However, she warned that the current production of hearing aids met less than 10 percent of global need.

"In developing countries, fewer than one out of 40 people who need a hearing aid have one," Chadha said.—*Xinhua*

UN chief says Iran should gain world confidence over its disputed atomic plan

VIENNA, 28 Feb— UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday stressed Iran should gain the confidence of the international community over its disputed nuclear programme.

During the meeting with Iran's foreign minister in Vienna, Ban said the onus remained on Iran to gain the confidence and trust of the international community.

Ban said he was encouraged that Iran and the six world major countries meet in Almaty, when discussing Iran's nuclear programme with Iranian

Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Salehi in Vienna on Wednesday.

In addition, Salehi told reporters that he was optimistic an agreement could be reached in the negotiations between Iran and the six countries, namely France, Germany, the United States, China, Russia and Britain, which ended without a breakthrough but agreed to meet again.

Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili expressed optimism on Wednesday about the outcome of the two-day nuclear talks, saying that the world powers' attitude to-

ward Iran's nuclear issue was "more realistic."

The two-day talks between Iran and the P5+1 powers concluded on Wednesday in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Jalili said after the meeting that some of the West's offers, including the easing of sanctions "were more realistic comparing to what they had in the past."

In the talks, Iran urged that the steps to build confidence of both sides should be taken simultaneously and in a balanced way, so that Iran's nuclear rights could be preserved, he said.

Xinhua



Former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh attends a rally to mark the anniversary of Yemen's peaceful power transfer in Sanaa, Yemen, on 27 Feb, 2013. Saleh handed over power to Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi under a power transfer deal last February.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Vietnamese lawmakers approve bond allocation plan

HANOI, 28 Feb — Vietnamese lawmakers backed the government's proposal to allocate over 5.524 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (264 million US dollars) in government bonds to important projects during 2012-2015 period.

The approval was made during the two-day long 5th session of the National Assembly's Standing Committee which ended

late Tuesday.

The bond will be allocated to three ministries of transport, health and agriculture and rural development, Vietnam's state-run news agency reported on Wednesday.

Accordingly, the three ministries will receive some 927 billion VND (44.4 million dollars) for 2012 projects, said the report.

The money allocated to

transport ministry will be used to repair roads in central Provinces of Nghe An and Kon Tum.

The health ministry's fund will be sent to hospitals in northeastern Quang Ninh Province and capital Hanoi while ministry of agriculture and rural development will fund the water and canal system in central Ha Tinh Province.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 27 Feb, 2013 shows a couple enjoy the scenery of plum blossoms at the "plum blossom mountain" scenic spot in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province. Plum blossoms began to bloom as temperature rised in Jiangsu.—XINHUA

15 killed in Indonesia's West Java bus crash

JAKARTA, 28 Feb — A tragic crash committed by a bus loaded with pilgrims occurred in Ciloto, Cianjur, West Java shortly before noon on Wednesday, killing 15 people on board and left 32 others injured, a policeman overseeing the crash site said.

Cianjur traffic police chief Dewo Sadewo was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying that 20 of the injured passengers suffer from major injuries while the remaining 12 suffer from lighter one.

He added that 32 survivors were found from the crash. "Most of the injured ones have been evacuated to nearest hospital with part of them were evacuated to larger hospital in Cianjur," he said. Dewo said that most of the death victims were elder ones.

According to the police, the bus failed to pass through a sharp turn and rammmed a gorge that led to the crash. The tourist bus was loaded by pilgrims intending to go to holy place in Cianjur.

Xinhua

Police seize Australia's largest ever "Ice" haul

SYDNEY, 28 Feb — An Australian joint taskforce has seized 585 km of methamphetamine, known as Ice, worth up to 438 million AU dollars (448 million US dollars) during an operation in Sydney, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said on Thursday.

In a joint statement released on Thursday, the AFP said the record Ice haul was seized in Sydney as police executed six search warrants across Sydney suburbs of Regents Park, Bexley North, Wakeley, Canley Heights, Beverly Hills and Ryde.

"This is the largest single seizure of Ice in Australian law enforcement history and almost doubles the previous record seizure

of 300 kilogrammes in July 2012," the AFP said.

The AFP and New South Wales Police Force arrested a 21-year-old man from Sydney, a 32-year-old Singaporean national and a 51-year-old man from Hong Kong in relation to the seizure on Wednesday, when attempting to take possession of the drugs.

The three are expected to face Sydney Central Local Court on Thursday.

The AFP said the taskforce comprising officers from the AFP, Customs, NSW Police and the Australian Crime Commission launched an investigation into a possible drug importation in September 2012, following a tip-off from a member of the public.

"This operation demonstrates that the AFP and its partners have the capability to detect and dismantle the most sophisticated organized crime groups," AFP Commissioner Tony Negus said in a statement.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said the NSW police Asian Crime Squad first began investigating the matter and carried out vital investigative ground work.

"Our combined resources and talents have resulted in what is clearly a very significant seizure of drugs, and the arrests of people we will allege were involved in importing them to Australia," Scipione said.

Xinhua

Indonesia's ruling party reputation tested prior to elections

JAKARTA, 28 Feb — The Democrat Party, Indonesia's ruling party that ushered Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono seized two-term presidency periods in Southeast Asia's largest economy is facing crucial moment at present related to its dimming popularity following the probe of high-profile corruption scandals implicating its chairman Anas Urbaningrum months before the conduction of elections. Indonesia's anti-graft agency, the Commission Eradication Commission (KPK), has declared Anas a suspect in several corruption cases while served as a legislator in the parliament. He was suspected of receiving commission fees, bribes and promises from contractors awarded projects to build national sport facility compound in Hambalang, West Java Province that worth 1.2 trillion rupiah (about 123.7 million US dollars).

Anas had resigned from the party's chairmanship on Saturday, shortly after the anti-graft agency

declared him a suspect in the case. The agency had also asked the immigration office to slap travel ban against Anas than him prohibited from taking overseas trip in the next six months.

Prior to the suspect imposition against Anas, the party's chief patron, President Yudhoyono, had take-over Anas' chairmanship authorities and promised him that the party would provide legal counselors for him regarding the legal case charged against Anas.

President Yudhoyono also ordered the party's officials across the country to sign integrity pact in order prevent splinter group inside the party, assuring party's solid integration prior to the conduction of elections in 2014.

Anas' involvement in high profile corruption cases was indicated from confessions of other senior Democrat Party's cadres now serving jail terms after they were proved of committing corruptions in several state projects. They said that Anas received

ill-gotten money and endowment from contractors awarded those projects.

Responding on such an ordeal that potentially risk the party in the upcoming elections, Democrat party will take immediate action by convening an extraordinary congress to elect new party's chairman. Max Sopacua, a senior Democrat Party cadre said that the congress would be an extraordinary one as it was justified by the party's administration. He hinted that it will be conducted in the

near future, or could be convened sometimes before April this year.

"We still have a month to go. We need to monitor condition inside the party first," Max said in an interview with a local TV station on Wednesday.

The new party's chairman needs to be elected soon so as to save the party's integrity and prepare all necessities to make the party fit to run in 2014 elections whose process will commence within less than a year.—Xinhua



Visitors watch a model of outdoor climbing shoe during the ISPO BEIJING 2013 in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 Feb, 2013. The four-day exhibition, a leading sports business platform in the Asian region with the participation of 516 brands from 22 countries and regions, opened here on Wednesday.

XINHUA

18 killed, 20 injured in major fire at illegal market in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 28 Feb — At least 18 people were killed and more than 20 others sustained burn injuries in a devastating fire which gutted an illegal paper and plastic market in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata in the wee hours of Wednesday, a senior police official said.

"Some 18 people are confirmed dead in the fire which broke out in the six-storied Surya Sen market-cum-godown at the heart of the city around 3.50 am. The death toll may go up. The injured have been admitted to nearby hospitals where the condition of some are said to be serious," he said, on condition of anonymity.

Nearly 30 fire tenders took over three hours to bring under control the inferno which authorities have indicated could have been due to an electrical short circuit at an eatery on the first floor of the market building. "However, a probe has been ordered to ascertain the exact cause of the fire," he said.

Local TV channels showed footage of rescuers trying to bring out those

trapped inside the market located at a congested area and smoke billowing out of the windows of the eatery.

The Fire Minister of the eastern state of West Bengal, Javed Khan told TV channels the market was "illegal" and that local civic authorities had earlier served the shop keepers with an eviction notice. "The market has only one exit point and those who stayed in the market at night were trapped after the fire broke out," he said.

State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee visited the spot and surveyed the damages caused by the fire. She also assured strict action against those responsible for the fire.

Similar fires have claimed many lives in the city over the past decade.

More than 90 people were killed in December 2011 in a blaze at a hospital in Kolkata while in 2010 nearly 50 people lost their lives in a fire at the historic St Stephen's Court building on the city's upmarket Park Street area.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 27 Feb, 2013 shows the scenery of fog-shrouded Weihai, a coastal city of east China's Shandong Province. The central and eastern parts of China still saw fog and haze on Wednesday.—XINHUA

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Vacancy Announcement - 005/UNDP HR/2013

The United Nations Development Programme is seeking applications from dynamic and highly motivated Myanmar nationals for the following vacancy with UNDP, Yangon, Myanmar.

Functional Title : Programme Coordinator
Grade : NO-C
Type of Contract : Fixed Term
Duty Station : Nay Pyi Taw

Under the overall guidance of the Country Director (CD), the Programme Coordinator plays a key role in programme planning, implementation and support, fosters cross-pillar linkages and programme coordination, and strategic dialogues and liaison with government counterparts in Nay Pyi Taw (NPT). The Programme Coordinator also oversees all activities of UNDP Office in NPT. The Programme Coordinator leads and supervises the local staff based in NPT and facilitates the work of project staff, ensuring cross-unit cooperation and coordination. S/he advises the country office senior management on programme implementation and oversight, and responses to emerging complex challenges in strengthening partnership between UNDP and the Government. S/he ensures a client-oriented approach and consistency with UNDP rules and regulations in conformity with the UNDP Internal Control Framework and good management practice. The incumbent will work closely with internal and external counterparts, including government ministries and departments, Parliament and Supreme Court, civil society, private sector etc, to successfully deliver UNDP programme in support of national development priorities.

Competencies Required: Demonstrates commitment to UNDP's mission, vision and values. Builds strong relationships with clients, focuses on impact and result for the client and responds positively to feedback; dialogues with national counterparts and other stakeholders to strengthen advocacy efforts, incorporating country, regional and global perspectives; ensures the full implementation of country programme and Financial Resources to obtain results; creates networks and promotes initiatives with partner organizations; conceptualizes more effective approaches to programme development and implementation and to mobilizing and using resources; actively develops partnerships with potential donors and government counterparts in all sectors at country level; proactively identifies, develops and discusses solutions for internal and external clients, advises and develops strategic and operational solutions with clients that add value to UNDP programmes and operations.

Qualifications: Masters degree in International Development, Social Science, Public Administration, Business Administration or related development areas. At least 5 years of relevant work experience in development in a governmental, multilateral organization in a multicultural setting. 3 to 5 years of senior level management responsibilities of similar size and complexities. Fluency in both spoken and written English is a must.

Candidates should clearly indicate the post title in their application, and should submit the application with complete UNDP P-11 Form. Detailed Terms of References are posted on the bulletin board at No. 6, Natmuk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Applications should be addressed to **Deputy Resident Representative (Operations) Attention: Human Resources Unit, No. 6, Natmuk Road, UNDP, Yangon** or apply on-line through application.mm@undp.org. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Only those candidates in whose qualifications and experience the Organization has further interest will be contacted for subsequent interview(s). UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. UNDP regrets its inability to reply individually or attend to telephone queries on the advertised posts. **Closing date: 14 March, 2013**



Former New York City Mayor Dinkins (3rd R, Front) and New York City Mayor Bloomberg (2nd R) participate in the 20th anniversary ceremony to commemorate victims of the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing attack, at Ground Zero in New York City on 26 Feb, 2013. The bomb explosion with the force of an earthquake rocked the building, killing 6 people and injuring more than 1,000. —XINHUA

Portugal seizes 79 tons of processed foods containing traces of horse meat

LISBON, 28 Feb— Portugal's Food Safety Authority (ASAE) opened criminal proceedings against five Portuguese companies on Tuesday for fraud on supermarket products and seized 79,000 kg meat containing traces of horse meat.

In a statement released on Tuesday evening, the Food Safety Authority stated that "Seizures were made in industrial preparation, packaging and distribution of meat in supermarkets."

The agency announced it had seized some 18,839 packages of meat products, such as lasagne, burgers, cannelloni and meatballs and said they had collected and analyzed 134 samples, of which 13 contained DNA traces of horse meat.

As five criminal proceedings were instituted against companies, the ASAE stressed that there is

"no public health hazard."

Antonio Nunes, inspector general of the ASAE, told Xinhua that "Some 13 of 134 samples collected tested positive for the presence of horse meat in processed meat," confirming that "79,000 kg of Portuguese frozen processed meat plus 18,839 food packages of international origin have been withdrawn from the market."

Xinhua

Ukraine to further cut gas imports from Russia

KIEV, 28 Feb— Ukraine would further reduce the amount of natural gas it imports from Russia this year, an energy official said here on Tuesday.

"This year, we will import 18 to 20 billion cubic metres of gas. We have already told Gazprom beforehand about it," Deputy Chairman Vadim Chuprun of Ukraine's Naftogaz energy firm said at the Press conference.

Ukraine will not feel a lack of fuel because it has sufficient gas reserves after the relatively warm winter, Chuprun said. Ukraine imported around 33 billion cubic metres of Russian gas in 2012, down 27 percent from the year before. —Xinhua

Egypt starts national dialogue amid absence of main opposition bloc

CAIRO, 28 Feb— Egypt's national dialogue among the presidency, different political forces, opposition and national figures, began on Tuesday evening to discuss ways of guaranteeing integrity of the upcoming parliamentary elections slated for 22 April.

President Mohamed Morsi, who headed the dialogue, once again invited

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ER TURKU VOY NO (012)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (012) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.2.2012 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.

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absent political forces to join in, stressing the significance of dialogue in such a critical stage of Egypt's transition to democracy.

"I still stress my invitation to all forces to join the dialogue... for the integrity and transparency of the upcoming parliamentary elections," Morsi said in his opening speech of the session.

The president reaffirmed that "the recommendations of those attending the session will be referred to the Supreme Election Commission for approval."

Earlier on Tuesday, Egypt's main opposition bloc the National Salvation Front decided to boycott the upcoming parliamentary elections and also not to take part in the national dialogue.—Xinhua

The president reaffirmed that "the recommendations of those attending the session will be referred to the Supreme Election Commission for approval."

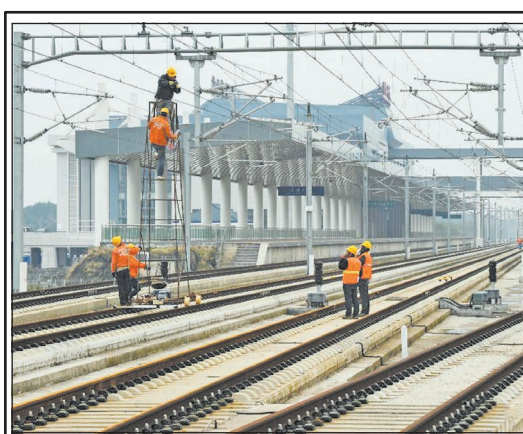


Photo taken on 21 Feb, 2013 shows construction workers working in the completing Shangyu railway station of the Hangzhou-Ningbo high-speed railway in Shangyu, east China's Zhejiang Province. Designed at a top speed of 350km/h, the 150-kilometre Hangzhou-Ningbo high-speed railway linking Hangzhou and Ningbo, two hub cities in Zhejiang, will reduce the travel time to 36 minutes when it is put into operation in July 2013, as expected.

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Ronnie Wood says Rolling Stones hope to play Glastonbury festival

LONDON, 28 Feb — The Rolling Stones picked up two prizes at the NME Music Awards in London on Wednesday, and guitarist Ronnie Wood said the band hoped to play at Britain's Glastonbury music festival in June. The Stones won for best live act and best film, and Wood was on hand to accept a pair of irreverent "middle finger" statuettes. The Stones returned to the

stage in late 2012 to celebrate 50 years in business, and their sellout mini-tour of London and the United States was a hit with critics and fans.

Wood told Reuters Television he wanted to do more live shows, including playing Glastonbury. "Keep your eye out because you know I want to do some more (live shows) and I know that the boys do too," he said. Asked about

rumors the Stones could play at Glastonbury, one of the biggest European music festivals, for the first time in their long career, Wood replied: "I want to do it badly, but I've no idea yet ... but I am just looking forward to ... I know we're the best live, so I just hope we get it," he said.

The lineup for the 26-30 June Glastonbury festival has not yet been announced. The veteran

British rock group — comprising Wood, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Charlie Watts — is one of four acts to be nominated four times for the annual NME awards, organized by NME music magazine. As part of its golden jubilee celebrations, the band collaborated on the documentary film "Crossfire Hurricane" recalling its meteoric rise to fame.

Reuters



Ron Wood (L), Mick Jagger (2nd L), Charlie Watts and Keith Richards (R) of the Rolling Stones perform during the "12-12-12" benefit concert for victims of Superstorm Sandy at Madison Square Garden in New York on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

"Les Miserables" to debut in China



The film starring Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe and Anne Hathaway is expected to attract a large number of moviegoers.

The delicate film is an adaptation of the enduring musical based on the French historical novel by Victor Hugo. The musical was created in the early 1980s and has been performed over 10,000 times across 42 countries.

During the 85th Academy Awards ceremony on Sunday, Hathaway was given an Academy Award for best supporting actress for her role in "Les Misérables." The film also took awards for sound mixing and make up.

Xinhua

BEIJING, 28 Feb — "Les Misérables" will debut in China on Thursday. The film will be shown in Chinese theatres without being dubbed in Chinese, according to the China Film Group Corporation.

Mumford & Sons hold top spot on Billboard 200 in slow music week

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — British folk band Mumford & Sons held their reign at the top of the Billboard 200 album chart with their Grammy-winning album "Babel" in a slow week that saw no new debuts in the top 10. Mumford & Sons, who won Album of the Year at the Grammy awards earlier this month and performed twice on stage, saw a second week of Grammy-related boosts as "Babel" sold 62,000 copies, according to figures from Nielsen

SoundScan.

It is the fifth non-consecutive week at the top spot for the album, which was released in September 2012 and became one of last year's biggest-selling records.

The Grammy awards boost also helped Bruno Mars' "Unorthodox Jukebox" reach No 2 with 48,000 copies, The Lumineers self-titled album at No 5, and Alabama Shakes' "Boys & Girls" at No 6.

Reuters

Actress Lindsay Lohan attends the White House Correspondents' Association annual dinner in Washington in this 28 April, 2012 file photo. REUTERS



Lindsay Lohan has "epiphany," hopes to give inspirational talks

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — Troubled starlet Lindsay Lohan has had an "epiphany," her attorney said on Wednesday, after almost six years of repeated trips to jail, rehab, counseling and courtrooms. The "Mean Girls" actress has started a new round of psychotherapy and is looking at giving inspirational speeches to school kids and cheering up young girls in hospitals, Mark Heller told E! News.

Heller was speaking

ahead of a pre-trial hearing in Los Angeles on Friday where Lohan, 26, has pleaded not guilty to charges of reckless driving and lying to police when she said she was not driving a car that smashed into a truck in June 2012. Lohan risks being sent to jail because she is still on probation after a string of legal woes that started with her 2007 arrest for drunken driving and cocaine possession. She is scheduled to stand trial on the June car crash charges on 18 March.

Heller said Lohan was traumatized by the events of the past few years.

Reuters

Comedian Will Ferrell to be honoured with MTV award

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — Will Ferrell will be honoured by MTV at its 2013 movie awards show in April for his work in television and film comedy, the cable television network said on Wednesday.

The actor and comedian, who spent years on the TV show "Saturday

Night Live" and appeared in the films "Anchorman" and "Elf," will receive MTV's first Comedic Genius Award.

"Over the course of his extraordinary, 17-plus-year career, he has entertained audiences across the globe with an impressive array of laugh-out-loud performances on air, online and in films," Stephen Friedman, MTV's presi-

dent, said in a statement. Ferrell will receive the award at the 14 April show

REUTERS



Mumford & Sons pose with their awards for Album of the Year for "Babel" and Best Long Form Music Video for "Big Easy Express" backstage at the 55th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 10 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS



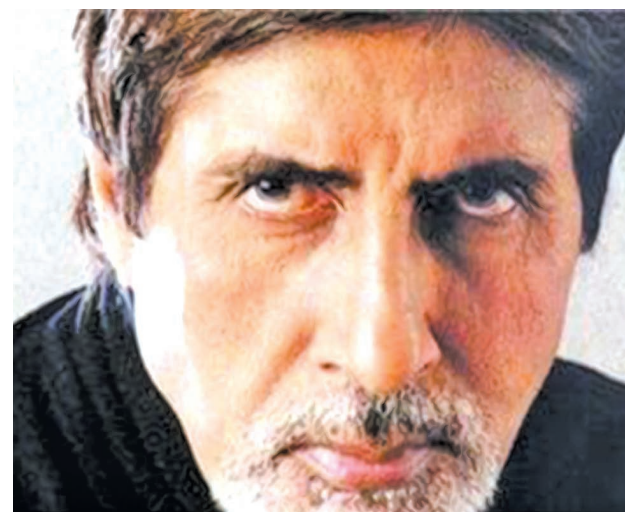
Amitabh Bachchan to work with Anurag Kashyap

MUMBAI, 28 Feb — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan is teaming up with Anurag Kashyap in his next untitled movie.

The 70-year-old will play the lead in the thriller, which is set to go on the floors early next year.

"I am delighted to be working with Anurag, a director, who has through his rugged belief in his kind of cinema compelled us to fall in line with him."

PTI



SPORTS

Federer and Djokovic power through in Dubai

DUBAI, 28 Feb—Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic strolled to easy victories in the Dubai Championships second round on Wednesday, keeping the world's top two players on course for a showdown in Saturday's final.

Other dangers await after Tomas Berdych and Juan Martin Del Potro also claimed straight set wins, but few in Wednesday's 5,000 capacity crowd would bet

against another meeting between the big two, winners of 23 Grand Slam titles between them. Federer dismissed Spain's Marcel Granollers 6-3, 6-4, while Djokovic overcame a late stumble to beat another Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 7-6.

Djokovic was seeking a 15th straight win, his unbeaten streak dating back to October, while Agut has one tour final appearance to his name and the Spaniard was

overawed by the Serb's power and movement. The first set was over in 23 minutes and Djokovic broke for a



Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return to Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain during their men's singles match at the ATP Dubai Tennis Championships, on 27 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS



Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return to Spain's Marcel Granollers during their men's singles match at the ATP Dubai Tennis Championships, on 27 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

fourth game in five to go 2-0 up in the second. The match looked all over, but Agut fought back, breaking Djokovic and saving four match points to take the set to a tiebreak, only for the Spaniard to bow out with a double fault.

"It was not easy to finish the match — he fought very hard and is great competitor," Djokovic said in a courtside interview. "It was my fault—I made some un-

forced errors that gave him the chance to come back." The Serb, 25, now faces Italian Andreas Seppi in Thursday's quarter-finals, while Federer will play Nikolay Davydenko. The 17-times grand slam champion was adamant he would not take the Russian lightly, despite boasting an 18-2 winning record against the veteran, who has slid down the rankings in recent years.—Reuters

Bayern Munich eliminate Dortmund at German Cup

BERLIN, 28 Feb—German record champions Bayern Munich progressed into the DFB Cup semi-finals after they eliminated Dortmund thanks to the sole goal by Arjen Robben whereas Stuttgart defeated Bochum 2-0 on Wednesday. Bayern Munich's negative run against Dortmund came to an end as they wrapped up the semifinals following a dominant performance against the titleholders.

Bayern controlled the proceeding on the pitch against passive visitors as soon as the match started. As a result Bayern had the first chance to break the deadlock

through Toni Kroos who failed to tap in a deflected cross at the far post into the open goal. However, the Bayern train started to roll as Javi Martinez

tested Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller with a volley shot at the 36th minute.

Seven minutes later Weidenfeller was helpless as Arjen Robben utilized a turnover at the edge of the penalty box to curl home into the top left corner to break the deadlock. Bayern Munich dominance declined with beginning of the second half when Dortmund worked out promising opportunities through Ilkay Guendogan and Marco Reus. Nonetheless, at the other end of the pitch Dortmund had to thank their keeper Weidenfeller who denied scoring opportunities through Martinez, Dante and van Buyten in the closing period.—Xinhua



Arjen Robben

Miyazato pulls out of HSBC champions with whiplash

SINGAPORE, 28 Feb—Japan's Ai Miyazato withdrew from this week's Women's HSBC Champions tournament in Singapore on Wednesday because of neck and shoulder pain caused by a car crash that involved two other golfers.

World number 13 Paula Creamer and seventh-ranked Suzann Pettersen were also involved in the six-car crash late on Sunday in Bangkok, where they were driving to

the airport to catch a flight to Singapore for the \$1.4 million tournament which starts on Thursday. World number nine Miyazato, who won in Singapore in 2010, practiced for about 15 minutes at the Sentosa Golf Club on Wednesday before pulling out with whiplash.

"I have pain in my neck and shoulder, so I'll sit this tournament out as a precaution," the Japanese said in a statement. American Cream-



Japan's Ai Miyazato

er strained a muscle in her neck and sustained whiplash, but participated in a photo shoot on Tuesday with fellow LPGA Tour players Pettersen, Angela Stanford and world number one Yani Tseng to promote the event. "I've felt better, that's for sure," Creamer said.—Reuters

Injury keeps Vazquez off Puerto Rico WBC team

NEW YORK, 28 Feb—Starter Javier Vazquez will not pitch for Puerto Rico in the World Baseball Classic due to discomfort in his knee and may miss another Major League Baseball (MLB) season.

Vazquez, trying to come back from right knee surgery, told *El Nuevo Dia* newspaper in San Juan that discomfort in the knee will prevent him from participating in the WBC, according to a report on MLB's website on Wednesday.

Puerto Rico still has major league experience on the pitching staff with JC Romero, Nelson Figueroa

and Fernando Cabrera on its roster for the 2-19 March competition. Vazquez, 36, last pitched in the majors in 2011, when he compiled a 13-11 record and 3.69 earned run average for the Marlins.

An All-Star in 2004, Vazquez registered 10 or more wins in each season from 2000-11, playing for the Expos, White Sox, Yankees, Diamondbacks, Braves and Marlins. Vazquez reportedly garnered some interest for the 2013 campaign, but told *El Nuevo Dia* that a return to Major League Baseball in 2013 was not likely.

Reuters

Florida Marlins starting pitcher Javier Vazquez throws a pitch to the New York Mets in the first inning of their MLB National League baseball game at Citi-Field in New York, in this file photo taken on 1 Aug, 2011.

REUTERS



Hibbert, Lee suspended one game each for altercation



Indiana Pacers centre Roy Hibbert (2nd L) shoves Golden State Warriors forward David Lee (L) while Warriors guards Jarrett Jack (2) and Klay Thompson (R) stand near the play during their NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Indiana on 26 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

TORONTO, 28 Feb—Indiana Pacers centre Roy Hibbert and Golden State Warriors forward David Lee were suspended one game by the NBA on Wednesday for an

altercation that spilled into the stands.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) announced the bans in a statement one day after the pair got into a shoving match late in the fourth quarter, triggering a fight that involved several members of both teams.

Hibbert will serve his suspension on Thursday when Indiana hosts the Los Angeles Clippers while Lee will miss the Warriors' game later on Wednesday at the New York Knicks. The NBA also said Warriors guards Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson and Pacers guard Lance Stephenson have each been fined \$35,000 for escalating the altercation in Indiana.—Reuters

Knicks' Wallace likely out for season with broken foot

NEW YORK, 28 Feb—New York Knicks back-up forward/centre Rasheed Wallace will have surgery this week to repair a broken left foot and will probably miss the rest of the regular season, the team said on Wednesday.

The 38-year-old Wallace, who came out of a two-year retirement to join the Knicks last October, had been sidelined since mid-December with a foot injury.

Wallace played well for the Knicks (33-20), who lead the National Basketball Association's Atlantic Division despite recent struggles, averaging 7.2 points and 4.2 rebounds in 14.6 minutes a game. New York moved to shore up their frontline by signing free-agent forward Kenyon Martin to a 10-day contract on Saturday.—Reuters



New York Knicks' Rasheed Wallace reacts to a referee's call against the Chicago Bulls during the first half of their NBA game in Chicago, in this file photo taken on 8 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

GENERAL

Educative talks on narcotic drug given in Dawbon

YANGON, 28 Feb — Educative talks on narcotic drug and abuse of household pharmaceuticals was held at BEHSNo(1) in Dawbon Township on 19 February. Township police force commander police major San Myaing

made an opening speech. Later, SIP Nay Lin Tun of Yangon East District Anti-Drug Special Squad, Assitant Township law officer Daw Myint Myat Mon and Assitant Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Khin Nway Nway

gave talks on disadvantages of narcotic drug and side effects of household pharmaceuticals. 210 students was attended the ceremony. Headmaster U Kyaw Soe spoke words of thank.

Kyemon

AZ, PSV reach Dutch Cup Final



THE HAGUE, 28 Feb —PSV Eindhoven and AZ Alkmaar qualified for the final of the Dutch Cup, the KNVB Beker, on Wednesday by beating PEC Zwolle and Ajax by identical 3-0 respectively. Ajax dominated the first half against AZ in Amsterdam, but was

not able to create many chances. Defender Niklas Moisander was closest to a goal by hitting the post after a free-kick by Lasse Schone.

In the second half Ajax continued pressing AZ backwards, but the home-team squandered some chances by hitting too high or wide. AZ waited for their chance and that chance came in the 74th minute.

After bad defending by Ajax Adam Maher crossed from the backline and Jozy Altidore headed in. In the final minutes Johann Berg Gudmundsson and Altidore even made it 3-0.

PSV had no difficulties at PEC Zwolle. Due to the absence of the suspended Jeremain Lens and ailing Tim Matavz, Jurgen Locadia had a starting place for PSV.

The 19-year-old striker impressed by scoring three goals, in the 16th, the 34th and the 85th minute. “We won the Super Cup, made it to the Cup final and are still title contenders,” said coach Dick Advocaat. “It could be worse.”

The final will be played on May 9 in Rotterdam. Last year PSV won the final by beating Heracles Almelo 3-0.

Xinhua

Woods against anchored putter despite PGA Tour stance

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 28 Feb—Tiger Woods supports the idea of banning players from anchoring long putters to their body despite the PGA Tour’s recent public opposition to a proposal from golf’s rulemakers to outlaw the practice. Last November, the United States Golf Association (USGA) and the Royal and Ancient (R&A) said they wanted to enforce the ban starting in 2016, but PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem came out against that plan last Sunday.

Since Finchem’s comments, two of the leading names in the game, world number one Rory McIlroy and now Woods, have come out in favor of supporting the governing



Tiger Woods of the US hits off the second tee against his compatriot Charles Howell III during the weather delayed first round of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament in Marana, Arizona in this file photo taken on 21 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

bodies. Finchem’s stance has raised fears of different regulations being in effect for the European Tour and the PGA Tour in the United States and Woods is among

those concerned. “My position hasn’t changed. I still think it should be swung, it shouldn’t be anchored and that hasn’t changed at all,” Woods told

reporters on Wednesday, after the Pro-Am ahead of the Honda Classic. “Obviously nothing is set in stone, nothing is firm. The USGA and the R&A are the governing bodies of our rules and we will see what happens. “Hopefully we don’t have to bifurcate or adapt a local rule like we do sometimes out here on tour with stones and bunkers and things like that. Hopefully we won’t have to do that with the putter.” Three of the last five major tournaments have been won by players using long, or belly, putters - Keegan Bradley at the PGA Championship, Ernie Els at the British Open and Webb Simpson at the US Open.—Reuters

Ibrahimovic banned by UEFA for two European matches



Paris Saint-Germain forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic

GENEVA, 28 Feb — Paris Saint-Germain forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been banned for two

matches on Wednesday for challenging opponents’ player.

Ibrahimovic will sit out of the European Champions League quarter-finals, first leg if Paris Saint-Germain advances.

UEFA extended an automatic one-match sanction for Ibrahimovic’s

challenge on Valencia midfielder Andres Guardado in stoppage-time of a last-16, first-leg match this month when PSG won 2-1. Ibrahimovic was shown a straight red card in stoppage-time in Spain, and was already certain to miss the return in Paris on 6 March.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-3-13 09:30 am ~ 2-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Job Fair Yangon 2013
- * Japan Festival 2013 (Press Conference)
- * News
- * Evergreen Classical Music
- * Those who never give up (Part-II)
- * News
- * Indigenous Fish Culture in the Ponds between Paddy Fields
- * Meeting for the Elimination of Drugs
- * Dying Hair Colour
- * Daungumaw Mudcrab Breeding
- * News
- * Beauty of Ngwe Saung & Lovers’ Island
- * Chinese Traditional Lion Dance Competition
- * Only when the Forestry Development sustains, Will the Good Natural Environment and Ecosystem last long
- * Today Popular Fancy
- * Panto Mime Show in Yangon
- * Myanmar Movies “The True Love”

Myanmar TV

(1-3-2013, Friday)

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 5:10 pm | 15. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:25 am | 2. Health Programme | 5:15 pm | 16. Myanmar Language |
| 7:30 am | 3. Morning News | 5:35 pm | 17. India Drama Series |
| 7:40 am | 4. International News | 6:00 pm | 18. Evening News |
| 7:50 am | 5. Nice & Sweet Song | 6:20 pm | 19. Amazing World |
| 7:55 am | 6. Performance With Song | 6:50 pm | 20. TV Drama Series |
| 8:00 am | 7. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies | 7:00 pm | 21. News |
| 8:10 am | 8. Road to 27th SEA Games (Archery) | 8:00 | 22. News |
| 8:25 am | 9. Documentary | 8:00 | 23. People Talks |
| 8:45 am | 10. Musical Programme | 8:00 | 24. International News |
| 4:00 pm | 11. Opening Song | 8:00 | 25. Weather Report |
| 4:20 pm | 12. Song of National Races | 8:00 | 26. Documentary |
| 4:25 pm | 13. Song of Yester Years | 8:00 | 27. ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Workshop “Supporting Needs SMES” |
| 4:55 pm | 14. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar) | 8:00 | 28. India Single Rock Temple |
| | | 10:00 pm | 29. Milestones in Musical World (Mar Mar Aye) |
| | | 10:00 pm | 30. News |
| | | | 31. Teleplay (Htar) |

Wrestling champion Cejudo enters a new arena

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — Olympic freestyle wrestling champion Henry Cejudo is entering the mixed martial arts arena knowing that he has a lot to learn. Some things, however, he already knows.

“I’m so used to wrestling where they have fans that just yell and scream,” he told Reuters in a telephone interview. “But in MMA, people are drinking. People are fighting in the stands. “People are cussing. It’s something that’s completely, completely new for me.

But at the same time it’s not going to faze me.” The son of immigrants who rose from poverty in South Central Los Angeles to

become Olympic champion, Cejudo was one of the feel-good stories of the 2008 Beijing Games.

On Saturday in Tucson, the 26-year-old Cejudo enters the MMA world to face Michael Poe, an aggressive bantamweight still searching for his first victory after four losses. “I don’t know too much about him,” admitted Cejudo, who at 21 years old became the youngest American wrestler to claim Olympic gold. “I just know he loves fighting. “In MMA anything can happen. He’s ready, I’m ready. It’s going to be a fight. The only thing I can promise you is that I’m going to give it my best.

Reuters



Henry Cejudo of the US celebrates after defeating Tomohiro Matsunaga of Japan in their 55kg men’s freestyle wrestling final match at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in this file photo taken on 19 Aug, 2008.

REUTERS

Norway's strong support for peace process under way will make history: President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb—President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister of Norway Mr Jens Stoltenberg held a press conference after their meeting at the government house in Oslo of Norway at 3 pm on 26 February.

Mr Jens Stoltenberg said: I think it (the visit) underlines very close relationship and cooperation between the two countries. We have seen more active developments towards democracy in Myanmar. The last two years has seen transition to civilian rule, release of political prisoners, elections and lifting of restrictions imposed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. President U Thein Sein has our true recognition for his efforts to reform and to develop democracy in Myanmar since he was elected as President two years ago. Norway has actively supported the development, the democratic development in Myanmar. The fact that this is your first visit to European countries give a strong signal your government aims to develop extensive cooperation with Norway. My government shares this aim. The signal of the long-term commitment to Myanmar, the Norwegian government decided to

upgrade the diplomatic office in Yangon to open full-fledged embassy. In our talk, we discussed many positive developments in Myanmar and we also spent time on the challenges the country is facing. We depend on continued political reforms, respect for human rights and more equitable distribution of the common ground. We discussed the difficult situation of Kachin. It is important to give priority to political dialogue with ethnic armed groups. We also discussed difficult situation of the people of Kachin. I emphasized you to protect everyone in the country. I underline that Norway has prepared to contribute to Myanmar's further development, the development of democracy and also the business relations between our two countries. I pointed out that Norwegian companies are responsible partners and can make a positive contribution to Myanmar's development. I underline



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Prime Minister of Norway Mr Jens Stoltenberg give interview to the press.—MNA

that fair and predictable business conditions are important in this context. It is also important for Myanmar to establish good system for tax collection, for ensuring worker's right and employment protection. Mr President, I hope that your visit to Norway will be positive and fruitful and inspiring you to continue to transform Myanmar into developed economy and a

true democracy. President U Thein Sein in his speech said: I honour to begin my visit to Europe here also. I want to express the great gratitude my government and people of Myanmar and all to the people and government of Norway in recognition of the steadfast commitments over the years and the encouragement and support of transition and most

importantly for the friendship and understanding. Norway has for its commitment to democracy and human rights in Myanmar over the years. In recent years, it has also taken the lead among the western nations in engaging with Myanmar. This will help play valuable role in making possible the positive changes that have been occurring in the country. I would like to tell the world to understand that the role Norway has played for past few years in supporting our transition have offered great significance. The people of Norway should be

proud of their leaders and the diplomats supporting the reforms taking place in Myanmar. Like a true friend, rather than criticizing from thousands of miles away they talk to us candidly and openly and work with the final solution. Your strong support for peace process under way will make history. We will soon end the longest armed conflict in the world. We will have been the part of ending them. Norway support was also instrumental. In our effort and negotiation to get back loan that was previously

(See page 7)

Sports enhance moral, discipline and unyielding spirit



Vice-President U Nyan Tun attends the opening ceremony of Union Cup Games at Wunna Theikdi stadium.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb—Vice-President U Nyan Tun delivered an address at the formal opening ceremony of the Union Cup Games at Wunna Theikdi stadium here this evening.

The Vice-President said sports have enhanced the moral and discipline and the unyielding spirit of the participants to overcome

difficulties. Countries are mobilizing the public to participate more on the sports activities. The country needs modern infrastructures, sports equipment, dedicated coaches, talent athletes and efficient team managers to improve her sports standard and mobilize the people.

Also present on the

occasion were Daw Khin Aye Myint, wife of the Vice-President, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, General Hla Htay Win of Office of Commander-in-Chief and senior military officers, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and committee chairs, Union ministers,

deputy ministers, sports fans and others.

Fifteen teams of regions and states and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are taking part in the 22 sports events including track and field, badminton, basketball, billiards/snooker, boxing, traditional boxing, Wushu and wrestling.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 5/2013
3rd Waning of Tabodwe, 1374 ME
(28th February, 2013)
National Solidarity Congress
Party allowed to register as
political party

The Union Election Commission announced today that National Solidarity Congress Party headquartered at No. 104 (5th Floor), Ward-5, 37th Street (Lower Block), Kyauktada Township of Yangon Region, is allowed to register as a political party as of 28 February, 2013 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law.

The party's registration number is 62.

By Order,

Tin Tun
 Secretary

Union Election Commission