

Feasibility studies for wind energy underway in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb —“Feasibility studies for generating electricity through wind power have been underway in four regions and states including Rakhine State in accord with the MoU with Three Gorges Cooperation

of China. Wind power projects will be implemented in accord with a report that indicates potential sites with wind energy available,” said Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo at the 12th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw today.

In his response to questions about health sector, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung made clarifications on ongoing construction works and acquisition of pharmacy and pharmaceutical equipment of the health projects

for 2013-2014 FY and future works. He vowed to build health infrastructure in townships with the use of allotted funds after coordination between the health department and administration department and support committee of respective

townships.

At the 11th day session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung assured that examination of matriculation results for understanding of accomplishment of learning and

school pass rates was carried out and a list of the results a six-year period from 2007 to 2012 compiled by the Myanmar Education Research Bureau of the ministry. He continued that capacity building courses (See page 8)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker attends ceremony to mark 67th Anniversary Shan State Day



Shan cultural troupe performs entertainment at ceremony to mark 67th Anniversary Shan State Day at MICC.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann attended ceremony to mark the 67th Anniversary Shan State Day at MICC, here, this evening.

First, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Shu Maung from Shan State Constituency No (8) read out the message in commemoration of the 67th Anniversary Shan State Day sent by the President and Hluttaw Representative U Sai Tun Sein of Mongpyin Constituency, the message sent by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and

Then, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint delivered

speeches.

Those present were served with Shan traditional food and cultural troupes entertained them with dance and song. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives from Shan State presented commemorative gifts to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker and party. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and (See page 8)

Correction

Please read Notification No. 16/ 2014 instead of Order No. 16/2014 in the news with the heading “Formation of Investigation Commission” in fifth and sixth columns of page 1 in this daily issued on 7-2-2014.—NLM

National fish breeding lake, home to endangered migratory birds

By: *Thi Thi Min*

A study team comprising students of Zoology Department of Yangon University and a researcher team led by Dr John B Sale, Consultant of Environmental Conservation of UK made a field trip to a fish breeding lake of Orchard Farm-1 in Tamalo Village of Maubin Township in Ayeyawady Region on 1 February.

The lake is 1800 acres of area and the paddy plantation is on 450 acres of land. Over 350,000 plants of bamboo grove covers the 35 square miles area and various kinds of perennial trees shape the area as a natural forest.

As Myanmar's wetlands are included in central Asian flyway and East Asian Australian flyway,

migratory birds take shelter at these areas in cold season yearly. Over 100 species of migratory birds including endangered red head flamingo inhabit at the lake through these two ways arrive at the Orchard Farm-1.

With regard to water birds and migratory birds, researcher Dr John B Sale said that the lake could not be seen as a natural fish breeding pond due to cover of weeds, grass and algae, and it was rounded with bamboo grove. Thus, the birds prefer to take shelter at the lake, he said.

Various species of fish are being bred at respective layers of the lake. The breeders did not give feed-stuff to them, but the species eat weeds, grass and insects naturally. Whenever

the lake was cleaned once every three years, a lot of fish weighing three to 13 viss each can be caught.

The panoramic scene of the lake covers thriving paddy plantations and desks for watching birds. Various species of birds can be seen on bamboo groves and banana plantations. Researcher U Saw Moe Zet said, “The restricted disciplines are effective till today so birds are free from danger. It is a drive for conservation of environment.”

Owner of the lake Dr Myint Sein said that he was delighted for visits of students, foreigners, experts, bird watchers and researchers. He expressed that he was proud of their research works and observation at his lake.

(See page 8)



Photo shows migratory birds seen at national fish breeding lake.

Farming rights certificate issued in Magway Region

MAGWAY, 7 Feb—The government is giving services of farming registration and issuance of farming rights certificates to farmers as of 1 January 2013.

Farmers are to pay K 500 as registration fee for each plot so as to take the farming rights certificates in time.

In Magway Region, farming certificates were issued to 121,557 holding plots in Gangaw District, 400,794 holding plots in Pakokku District, 541,160 holding plots in Magway District, 228,881 holding plots in Minbu District, 221,624 holding plots in Thayet District for the first phase.

The certificate issuance was carried out for 9056 holdings plots in Gangaw District 6891 plots in Minbu District and 60773 plots in Thayet District.

Certificates were issued to 866,083 farmers for 2,799,226 acres of farmlands by January 30.

In Minbu Township, No 7 certificate for 13060 holdings plots in Mann and Htaukshabin oilfields has not been issued yet but it was submitted to the Central Farmland Management Committee. The certificates for remaining holdings plots have been issued to the farmers.

MMAL-Tin Tun Oo (IPRD)

Seinle Kantha Road repaved in Sanmyo Ward of Kalay



KALAY, 7 Feb—Kalay Township Development Affairs Committee spent K 4.212 million on repaving 633 feet long and 12 feet wide Seinle Kantha Road with asphalt in Sanmyo Ward of

Kalay in 2013-14 fiscal year, as of 23 January.

On 29 January, Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and officials inspected progress of seven

wells renovated by Tech Friend Co with K 11.167 million funded by Kalay Township Development Affairs Committee in the urban area.

The Township DAC has tarmacked four miles long new road with the use of heavy machinery for better transport of the local people.—MMAL-Ju Nine

National Sports

5th Junior Golf Myanmar Tournament 2014 on 15 Feb

YANGON, 7 Feb—Organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation, the 5th Junior Golf Myanmar Tournament 2014 will be held at City Golf Course in Insein Township, here, on 15 and 16 February.

It is aimed at emerging professional youth golfers for selected Myanmar golf team through the tournament.

There are two categories and four classes—men's and women's U-24, U-18, U-14 and U-10 events.

Golfers may enlist at MGF with the birth certificate or original and copy of Citizenship Scrutiny Card, not later than at 2 p.m. on 13 February.

For further information,

anyone may dial 09 36020978 and 01 9669526. Sponsors in individual or groups are invited to the tournament to award handsome prizes to the winners.—NLM

Rural electrification discussed in Pakokku Township



PAKOKKU, 7 Feb—A meeting between Village Sayadaw, village elders, village development supportive committee members, village administrator, chairmen of Township DSC, the township electrical engineer, the Rural Development Department and the commander of Township Police Force.

Departmental officials and towns elders focused on electrification, rural region development, crime reduction, decrease of child rape cases and practising thrifty for rural electrification. Village administrator U Htay Zaw Lwin made a speech.

MMAL-Aung (Mann Tekkatho)

Pyinmana residents get 230 CSCs



NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—Officials from Immigration and National Registration

Department shared knowledge on census taking process in 2014 and presented

citizenship scrutiny cards to 230 locals through a one stop service at the playground of Paywetseikkhon Village of Thitlaylon Village-tract in Pyinmana Township, here, on 30 January.

"I thank officials for sharing knowledge about census taking process and issuance of CSCs to the residents in the village. Thanks to holding CSC, we do not need any documents in travelling," said Administrator U Pho Ni of Payutseikkhon Village. The village administrator, teachers and locals totalling over 300 attended the ceremony.—Ko Gyi Kyaw

Refreshments, stationery provided to schoolchildren



MAHLAING, 7 Feb—The refreshment and stationery donation was held at Basic Education Primary School in Letpansauk Village of Mahlaing Township on 4 February.

Headmistress Daw Htay Htay Myint of the school expressed that she thanked the wellwishers very much for their

donations to the needy students.

U Aung Chit-Daw Khin Kyi of KanU Village in Mahlaing Township donated 20 dozens of exercise books and stationery to each child.

Later, the wellwishers served the children with refreshments.

MMAL-Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

K 563.38 million loans disbursed to cooperative societies in Mahlaing Tsp

MAHLAING, 7 Feb—As of 2 February, the local authorities disbursed K 398.05 million from EXIM Bank of China and K 165.33 million from CB Bank to local farmers.

They presented K 100,000 each to farmers

who paid K 5000 as member share of EXIM bank.

CB Bank issued K 50000 each to farmers who saved K 5000 to the bank.

The farmers must pay K 1.5 per cent of interest. The loan term was designated five months.

Mahlaing Township Cooperative Department and Township Cooperative Syndicate disbursed K 563.38 million to 12053 farmers from 133 cooperative societies.

MMAL-Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

WORLD



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R front) and Finance Minister Taro Aso (L front) bow in appreciation after a 5.47 trillion yen extra budget for the fiscal year through March 2014 is approved by the House of Councillors with a majority vote on 6 Feb, 2014.
KYODO NEWS

Kishida to meet with Kerry, Hagel, Rice during US trip

TOKYO, 7 Feb — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday he will meet with US Secretary of State John Kerry, Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel and National Security Adviser Susan Rice during his visit to Washington.

Kishida told reporters that through the series of talks starting on Friday, he will discuss how to respond if North Korea takes provocative actions over

US-South Korea military exercises slated for late February to early March.

He reiterated calls on North Korea to take specific actions toward denuclearization.

Kishida said he wants to affirm the Japan-US alliance and explore specific bilateral cooperation in line with a new security strategy the Japanese government adopted in December.

It will be the first foreign ministerial meeting between the two countries since Japan's establishment of the National Security Council and the adoption of the National Security Strategy in December to promote Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's policy of proactively contributing to peace based on the principle of international cooperation.

Kishida said he and

Kerry may discuss a planned visit to Japan by US President Barack Obama. News reports have said Obama plans to visit Japan in April, but Kishida said, "At present, I understand that specific dates have yet to be decided."

Kishida is scheduled to leave Washington on Saturday and return home on Sunday, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Kyodo News

Republicans urge stop to IRS tax-exempt groups rule rewrite

WASHINGTON, 7 Feb — Senior congressional Republicans on Thursday called for a halt to a US tax rule rewrite that would affect powerful political pressure groups, charging that the overhaul could be politically motivated by the Obama administration.

"Abandon this pro-

posed rule," 11 top Republicans said in a letter signed by House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner and sent to Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John Koskinen.

"Finalizing this proposed rule would make intimidation and harassment of the administration's po-



John Koskinen testifies before a Senate Finance Committee confirmation hearing on his nomination to be commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on the Capitol Hill in Washington, on 10 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

litical opponents the official policy of the IRS," the letter said.

The demand was the latest jab by Republicans at the Obama administration

in a fight over IRS treatment of conservative political pressure groups organized under tax code Section 501.

Reuters

Cameron to Scotland: Don't break away and erode UK's global clout

LONDON, 7 Feb — Prime Minister David Cameron will make an emotional appeal on Friday for Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom, warning Scots a vote for independence would undermine Britain's image and standing in the world. Speaking in London, Cameron, an Englishman whose Conservative party has only one of 59 UK-wide seats in Scotland, will make one of his most passionate defences yet of the UK, which comprises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

"We would be deeply

A "yes" vote would place the future of Britain's Scotland-based nuclear submarine fleet in doubt and could weaken London's claim to a permanent seat on the United Nations and its influence in the European Union. EU People familiar with the matter say Cameron doesn't want to go down in history as the prime minister who lost Scotland. But he has conceded that his privileged background and centre-right politics mean he isn't the best person to win over Scots, usually more left-wing than the English.



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (R) arrives with sports broadcaster Gary Lineker at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School in Birmingham, central England on 6 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

diminished without Scotland," Cameron will say, according to a note released by his office.

"If we lost Scotland, if the UK changed, we would rip the rug from under our own reputation. The plain fact is we matter more in the world together," he will tell an audience at the park used to host London's 2012 Olympic Games. Scots will decide in a referendum on 18 September whether their nation, which has a population of just over 5 million and is a source of North Sea oil, should end its 307-year-old union with England and leave the UK.

Polls show Scots would vote to reject independence if a vote were held today, with only around a third keen to break away from the UK. However, there are still many undecided voters and Cameron will say the outcome is "up in the air". "There can be no complacency about the result," he will say. He will evoke the spirit of the 2012 London Olympics as an example of how the UK's four nations work well together and say that Scotland already has a large measure of independence when it comes to health, education and policing matters.—Reuters

Syrian troops repel rebels' attack on Aleppo's central prison

DAMASCUS, 7 Feb — The Syrian troops repelled on Thursday rebels' attack against the central prison of the country's northern Province of Aleppo, the official SANA news agency reported. The army killed a large number of attackers and destroyed their weapons and ammunition, SANA said, spelling no further details.

Meanwhile, Syrian military sources were cited by Russia Today TV as saying that the Syrian troops killed some leaders of the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front when the group attacked the prison. The report said a suicide car bomber detonated his explosive-laden car at the prison's gate on Thursday morning, adding that the Syrian troops managed to ward the attackers off.

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad stressed that the government troops succeeded in protecting the prison and repelling the attack, pointing out that the attackers were equipped with different kinds of weapons. The report came after activist reports claimed that the rebels managed to enter parts of the prison and freed some detainees.—Xinhua

Musharraf to appear in court in high treason case this month



Lawyer for Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf, Ahmed Raza Kasuri (C), reacts to journalists' questions after a hearing in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan on 7 Feb, 2014. A court trying Pakistan's former President Pervez Musharraf for treason Friday ordered him to appear on Feb. 18, the latest postponement in the long-delayed case.—XINHUA

ISLAMABAD, 7 Feb — Former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf will appear before a special court, hearing a high treason case against him, later this month, his defence lawyer told the court on Friday.

The three-member court had issued a bailable arrest warrant for Musharraf last week and had ordered him to appear on Friday. However, he did not appear once again and his defence lawyers requested another exemption.

Musharraf faces treason charges for suspending, subverting and abrogating the Constitution, imposing an emergency in the country in November 2007 and detaining judges of the superior courts.

Justice Faisal Arab, heading the bench, said the court could issue a non-bailable warrant for Musharraf's arrest if he did not appear on next hearing.

Musharraf's lawyer, Anwar Mansoor Khan, assured the court that his client will appear on February 18. He also argued that the court has not heard him and issued arrest warrant.

The former military ruler has not appeared before the court since the court started the trial in December 2013.

Musharraf was taken to a military hospital in Rawalpindi near the capital Islamabad last month when he was heading to the court to stand in the high treason case. The former military

president is still under treatment at the Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology (AFIC), his lawyers say. The hospital has presented Musharraf's medical report in the court and the court ruled that there is nothing serious in the report to stop the former president from court appearance.

Last week the court, while delivering verdict on the medical report, issued bailable arrest warrant for the former military ruler after his failure to appear despite several orders.

The Islamabad police had served the arrest warrant on Musharraf in the hospital this week and submitted the report in the court on Friday.

Defence lawyers of Musharraf had earlier insisted that their client could not appear because of his poor health condition and had also opposed arrest warrant. The medical report had suggested an immediate angiography for Musharraf as his lawyers said he suffered from heart problem. The medical report said Musharraf has refused to undergo angiography in Pakistan and wants it outside the country and in the hospital of his choice. As all facilities of angiography are available at the AFIC, the report called for a decision about the angiography as soon as possible.—Xinhua

Pentagon to boost missile defence spending by over \$4 billion

WASHINGTON, 7 Feb—The US Defence Department plans to ask Congress for \$4.5 billion in extra missile defense funding over the next five years as part of the fiscal 2015 budget request, say congressional sources and an expert. Nearly \$1 billion of that sum will pay for a new homeland defence radar to be placed in Alaska, with an additional \$560 million to fund work on a new interceptor after several failed flight tests, said Riki Ellison, founder of the non-profit Missile Defence Advocacy Alliance, and two of the congressional sources, who were not authorized to speak publicly.

The Pentagon's request for added funding comes despite continued pressure on

military spending and cuts in other arms programme, a sign of Washington's growing concern about missile development efforts by North Korea and Iran, the sources said.

The White House plans to send its fiscal 2015 budget request to Congress on 4 March. Missile defence is one of the biggest items in the Pentagon's annual budget, although Republicans have faulted the Obama administration for scaling back funding in recent years.

The request is expected to garner bipartisan support in Congress, but it may also spark questions about billions of dollars spent over the past two decades on a "kill vehicle" built by the Raytheon Co that is used to

hit enemy missiles and destroy them on impact.

The kill vehicle is part of the larger ground-based missile defence system managed by Boeing Co. Orbital Sciences Corp builds the rockets used by the system.

Michael Gilmore, the Defence Department's chief weapons tester, last week questioned the robustness of the Raytheon kill vehicle after a series of test failures, and said the Pentagon should consider a redesign. "We need a new interceptor that actually works," said one of the congressional sources, adding that both of the existing kill vehicle models also needed to be fixed and tested since the replacement would need about five years to be made ready.—Reuters

More than 130 hurt in anti-government protests in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, 7 Feb — More than 130 people, including 104 police officers, were injured on Thursday in a second day of anti-government demonstrations in the Bosnian town of Tuzla, as protests over unemployment and political inertia spread across the country.

The protests highlight public resentment over the political bickering that has stifled governance and economic development since the 1992-1995 war in the Balkan country.

police spokesman said.

The town's emergency service said it admitted 104 police officers who were seriously hurt, and 30 civilians with lighter injuries.

Hundreds of people turned out in solidarity protests in the capital Sarajevo and the towns of Zenica, Bihac and Mostar. In Sarajevo, protesters clashed with police who had blocked traffic in the city centre. Four officers were taken to hospital, officials said.

The prime minister of



Police detain an anti-government protester in Tuzla on 6 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Police fired teargas to drive back several thousand people throwing stones, eggs and flares at a local government building in Tuzla, once the industrial heart of Bosnia's north which has been hit hard by factory closures in recent years.

A strong police contingent dispersed the crowd in the evening after protesters started rioting, smashing shop windows and setting garbage bins on fire, a Tuzla

Bosnia's autonomous Bosniak-Croat federation, where the protests took place, held an emergency meeting with regional security ministers and prosecutors.

"We put on one side the workers who were left without basic rights, such as pensions and health benefits... , and on the other side all hooligans who used this situation to create chaos," Prime Minister Nermin Niksic said after the meeting.—Reuters



Women disembark from a helicopter after being rescued from their flooded homes, in Trinidad, some 400 km (249 miles) northeast of La Paz on 5 Feb, 2014. REUTERS

Bolivia floods kill 38, more heavy rains forecast

LA PAZ, 7 Feb — Torrential rain and floods in Bolivia have killed 38 people and left many homeless, said the government on Thursday, as forecasters predicted more heavy rainfall with the north of the Andean country again likely to be the worst affected.

The Ministry of

Defence said it had flown in food aid and the army was evacuating families from the worst affected regions, such as the Amazonian and cattle-rearing department of Beni, northeast of the capital La Paz. Around 100,000 head of cattle are threatened and some 6,000 hectares of crops have been destroyed,

around 0.2 percent of Bolivia's total, the government said. More than 40,000 households have been affected by the heavy seasonal rains since October, around five times more than last year, with the central and northern regions of the country hardest hit.

Reuters

An exhibition of Japanese goods including clothes and sundries, as well as local specialties from across Japan starts in New York on 6 Feb, 2014, in which some products are for sale. The event held by Isetan Mitsukoshi Holdings Ltd runs through on 13 February.—KYODO NEWS



UN nuclear watchdog expects cooperation at last in Iran inquiry

VIENNA, 7 Feb — The UN nuclear watchdog hopes to persuade Iran in talks on Saturday to finally start addressing long-held suspicions it has worked on designing an atomic bomb, a test of whether ties really are thawing under the Islamic state's new president.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has made it clear it now wants Iran to end what the West sees as years of stonewalling the IAEA's investigation into alleged nuclear bomb research by the country, which denies any such activity.

Diplomats are cau-

tiously optimistic that the team of senior IAEA inspectors will return from the meeting in Teheran — which may run into Sunday — able to show at least some progress in gaining Iran's cooperation with the investigation.

However, they said the IAEA may tread carefully to avoid upsetting the delicate building of rapport at a time when Iran and six big powers are due to start separate, high-stakes talks on a broader settlement of the decade-old nuclear dispute.

The UN agency may therefore try to begin with getting Iran to clarify ques-

tions about some of the less sensitive aspects of the IAEA's inquiry into what it calls the "possible military dimensions" (PMD) to Teheran's nuclear programme.

"I think they absolutely have to start with some PMD issues. Low-hanging fruit would be fine as long as it was real PMD," a Western diplomat said.

The investigation "is about being thorough and transparent, not about being fast," the envoy, who closely follows Iran's nuclear programme but is not from any of the big powers, said.

This probably means that the IAEA's long-sought access to the Parchin military base, where it believes explosives tests relevant for nuclear bombs took place a decade ago, may have to wait a while longer.

The IAEA wants Iran to clarify suspected activities in a range of areas of potential application to developing atomic bombs, including computer calculations and experiments that could be of use for any nuclear test.

Reuters

Cabinet approves bill to toughen punishments for juvenile delinquents

TOKYO, 7 Feb — The Cabinet on Friday approved a bill to toughen punishments for juvenile delinquents by raising the maximum jail term for offenders under 18 years old to 20 years from the current 15. The government aims to win parliamentary approval for the bill to revise the Juvenile Law in the face of calls from crime victims to narrow the differences in punishment between adult and juvenile offenders.

Academics and lawyers, however, have voiced criticism that the move goes against the spirit of the law, which places priority on rehabilitating young offenders. Adult offenders in Japan currently face a maximum of 30 years in prison if they are given definite jail terms. Justice Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki told a Press conference after the Cabinet meeting, "It is necessary to improve the legislation to secure public trust in the judicial system and prevent juvenile offenders from committing crimes again."

In cases where juvenile offenders under 20 face indeterminate sentences, the revised bill will change the terms of imprisonment to 10 to 15 years from the current five to 10 years.

Kyodo News



A view of the Arak heavy-water project 190 km (120 miles) southwest of Teheran on 26 Aug, 2006.—REUTERS

WORLD

Abe leaves for Sochi to attend opening of Olympics, meet with Putin

TOKYO, 7 Feb—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday left for Sochi, Russia, to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics and meet President Vladimir Putin with the aim of accelerating ongoing negotiations over a territorial dispute between the two countries.

Abe met with Putin four times last year. His attendance in the ceremony, despite the absence of US and many European leaders in protest over Russia's handling of human rights issues, will add to their closeness, which Tokyo hopes could help solve the long-standing dispute on the ownership of Russian-administered islands.

At the summit in the Black Sea resort on Saturday, the two leaders are also



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe waves to onlookers at Haneda Airport in Tokyo on 7 Feb, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

expected to discuss further deepening of economic ties, including Japanese investment in Russia's Far East, where abundant oil and gas

reserves have been confirmed.

"I'm determined to deal with negotiations patiently to resolve the Northern Territories issue and conclude a peace treaty with Russia, while attempting to develop Japan-Russia relations as a whole," Abe said at an annual government-sponsored rally on the issue in Tokyo.

Japanese and Russian officials have been in talks to address the dispute over the four islands off Hokkaido, held by Russia but claimed by Japan, which has prevented the two governments from signing a peace treaty following World War II.

Russia has maintained it acquired the islands, called the Northern Territories in Japan and the South-

ern Kurils in Russia, when the war ended in 1945, when Japan surrendered and the Soviet Union occupied all of the four islands.

Japan has said that if Russia acknowledges the four islands as belonging to Japan, Tokyo is prepared to respond flexibly to the timing and manner of their return. But Russia has shown no sign of recognizing Japanese ownership.

Abe has said he is going to Sochi to demonstrate the importance Japan places on its relations with Russia.

His presence at the Olympics will be significant, as US and European leaders have decided not to attend the opening ceremony to protest antigay legislation enacted by Russia last year.—Kyodo News



Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto (L) and King Abdullah II of Jordan (R) review a guard of honour during a welcome ceremony at the National Palace in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 6 Feb, 2014. King Abdullah II of Jordan was in Mexico on an official visit upon the invitation of Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, the state-run Petra news agency reported.

XINHUA

SKorea to unveil schedules for military drills with US next week

SEOUL, 7 Feb — South Korea planned to unveil detailed schedules for joint military exercises with the United States next week, while notifying the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) of the schedules in the near term, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

Defence Ministry deputy spokesman Wi Yong-seop told a routine Press briefing that South Korea-US Combined Forces Command will announce the schedules early next week, saying that the DPRK will be informed of it via the United Nations Command, which oversees the Armistice Agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War. Seoul and Washington tended to conduct the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle war

games from late February to April, which Pyongyang has denounced as the rehearsal for a northward invasion. The DPRK on Thursday urged South Korea to cancel the scheduled military exercises with the US, warning that it may reconsider holding the reunion of families separated by the Korean War.

The two Koreas agreed Wednesday to stage the family reunion from 20 to 25 February at the DPRK's scenic resort of Mount Kumgang. On Wednesday when Seoul and Pyongyang held talks to sort out details on the reunion, US Air Force's nuclear-capable B-52 bomber flew over western seas in South Korea, causing strong backlash from the DPRK.

Xinhua

Venezuela, Colombia to jointly fight border smuggling

MARACAIBO, (Venezuela), 7 Feb — Venezuela and Colombia will implement effective security plans to control food and fuel smuggling across the border, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua said Thursday. Jaua and his Colombian counterpart Maria Angela Holguin signed on Thursday in Maracaibo in northwestern Venezuela a memorandum to work together along the 2000-kilometer-long border to combat smuggling, which accounts for up to 40 percent of the food Venezuela produces or imports.

"We have signed this agreement to fight smuggling and there is no economic activity whatsoever that justifies a Venezuelan to leave our families no food, which contributes

to shortages in certain products," Jaua said.

Both countries agreed to implement the mandatory marking of livestock and revise transactions related to money laundering through the effort of their central banks, said Jaua.

In judicial matters a permanent mechanism for information exchange was established between both countries, he added.

Venezuela also proposed remittances sent from the country to Colombia should be made in pesos, not in dollars, in order to avoid irregular currency handling. Holguin said within 30 days, both countries "will perform an assessment of the results (of the agreement) once these measures are adopted."

Xinhua



Afghan security forces sit in a military vehicle in Nangarhar Province in eastern of Afghanistan on 6 Feb, 2014. Afghan security forces detained 36 suspect Talebans with their ammunition during an operation in Nangarhar Province on Thursday officials said.

XINHUA



(L to R) US Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Mike Lee (R-UT) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) attend a news conference to address the introduction of the Senate's bipartisan resolution that would require congressional approval for any military mission in Afghanistan after 2014, on Capitol Hill in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 6 Feb, 2014.

XINHUA

New Zealand, Australian leaders align on int'l issues

WELLINGTON, 7 Feb — The New Zealand and Australian governments on Friday confirmed they had aligned their positions on a range of international issues in the first joint meeting of Cabinet ministers since Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott's government was elected in September last year. At the third annual joint meeting, Abbott and New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key agreed to work together on restoring democracy in Fiji and on preparations for this year's annual Pacific Islands Forum meeting.

Key said in a statement issued from his office after the meeting in Sydney that New Zealand and Australia shared one of the closest economic partnerships in the world and it was critical

they continued to deepen the economic and business links. Key thanked Abbott for inviting New Zealand to join the G20 meetings, which Australia is hosting in June.

Abbott had also invited New Zealand to join the Business 20, which ran parallel to the G20, and to have a representative on the organizing committee.

The leaders agreed that an Australasia Business Week showcasing the Australasian economy to the world would be held at the same time as the B20 summit in Sydney in July.

"This is a great opportunity for New Zealand and Australia businesses to work together to advance trade and economic reform," said Key. They also announced that internation-

al visitors would only need one visa to attend games in next year's Cricket World Cup which is being co-hosted by New Zealand and Australia.

In a joint statement after the meeting, they expressed their shared commitment to concluding the controversial 12-nation Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations "as soon as possible."

Abbott reaffirmed Australia's "strong support" for New Zealand's bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council in 2015-2016, while Key pledged support for Australia's nomination of Dr Francis Gurry for a further term as director-general of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Xinhua

Death toll from N Philippine bus accident climbs to 14

MANILA, 7 Feb — Fourteen people were confirmed killed and 29 others were injured after a passenger bus fell into a deep ravine in northern Philippines on Friday morning, a police official said.

Supt Davy Vicente Limmong, spokesman of the Cordillera regional police office, said the bus lost control as it was traveling along Talubin village, Bontoc town in Mt. Province.

The passenger bus came from Manila and was on its way to the Bontoc town proper.

Police said the victims were brought to a nearby hospital. —Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Yoghurt cuts risk of type 2 diabetes

LONDON, 7 Feb — Eating more yoghurt can reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, researchers at Cambridge have found.

Published in the journal *Diabetologia*, the study showed that higher consumption of yoghurt can reduce the risk of new-onset type 2 diabetes by 28 percent, and that higher consumption of low-fat fermented dairy products,

including all yoghurt varieties and some low-fat cheeses, also reduced the relative risk of diabetes by 24 percent overall.

The research was based on a large scale study, which compiled a daily record of all the food and drink consumed in the course of a week by 4,255 participants, including 753 who developed type 2 diabetes over 11 years.

Those with the highest consumption of low-fat fermented dairy products, such as yoghurt, fromage frais and low-fat cottage cheese, were 24 percent less likely to develop type 2 diabetes over the 11 years, compared with non-consumers.

“This research highlights that specific foods may have an important role in the prevention of type 2



diabetes and are relevant for public health messages,” said lead researcher

Dr Nita Forouhi, adding foods like yoghurt and low-fat fermented dairy prod-

ucts could be good for our health.

Xinhua

US drugstore chain CVS to stop selling cigarettes



Photo taken on 5 Feb, 2014 shows a view of the entrance of a CVS store in Arlington, Virginia.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 7 Feb — CVS Caremark, the second largest drugstore chain in the US, announced on Wednesday it will stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products in its more than 7,600 stores nationwide, a decision US

President Barack Obama immediately hailed as “a powerful example” and having “a profoundly positive impact on the health” of the country. CVS said in a statement it will phase out all tobacco products by 1 October, making the com-

pany the first US drugstore chain to remove cigarettes from its shelves.

“Ending the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products at CVS/pharmacy is the right thing for us to do for our customers and our company to help people on their path to better health,” said Larry Merlo, president and CEO of CVS Caremark. “Put simply, the sale of tobacco products is inconsistent with our purpose.” President Obama, a former smoker, immediately applauded the company for its efforts to help make the country’s next generation tobacco-free.

“As one of the largest retailers and pharmacies in America, CVS Caremark sets a powerful example,

and today’s decision will help advance my Administration’s efforts to reduce tobacco-related deaths, cancer, and heart disease, as well as bring down health care costs — ultimately saving lives and protecting untold numbers of families from pain and heartbreak for years to come,” Obama said in a statement. “I congratulate — and thank — the CEO of CVS Caremark, Larry Merlo, the board of directors, and all who helped make a choice that will have a profoundly positive impact on the health of our country,” he said.

While the prevalence of smoking in the US has decreased from approximately 42 percent of adults in 1965 to 18 percent today, smoking is still the leading cause of premature disease and death in the country with nearly 500,000 deaths annually.—Reuters

Kids learn to shoot down stroke with video game

NEW YORK, 7 Feb — A doctor who generally advises children to turn off electronic devices urges them to play “Stroke Hero,” a video game that teaches kids to identify stroke symptoms and summon help, according to a new study.

“While I recognize the hazards of video games, and I recognize the need to limit screen time, what better way to enable children to save lives than to have them play a video game?” Dr Olajide Williams, the study’s lead author, told *Reuters Health*.

Americans suffer nearly 800,000 strokes a year, and on average, one American dies from stroke every four minutes, according to the US Centres for Disease Control

and Prevention. reverse disabling symptoms, said Williams, who is chief of neurology at Columbia University Medical Center. Better known as the Hip Hop Doc, Williams founded and runs Hip Hop Health, a public health organization that works with rap stars like Doug E Fresh to promote healthy living through music, videos and games.

Williams and rapper Artie Green designed Stroke Hero for an experiment with 210 low-income nine- and 10-year-olds in New York’s Harlem neighborhood, where the neurologist estimates 15 to 20 percent of kids are raised by their grandparents — who are at high risk for stroke.

Reuters

Boeing sees ‘tough’ defence business climate, flat margins

CHICAGO, 7 Feb — Boeing Co (BA.N) expects its defence business to continue facing a tough environment with “flatish” profit margins, Chief Executive Jim McNerney said on Wednesday.

A recent federal government budget deal has pushed off automatic spending cuts known as sequestration by two years, but “sequestration has not gone away,” McNerney said at a Cowen & Co investment conference. In contrast, the commercial jetliner business is better than McNerney has seen it in his career, which includes time running General Electric (GE.N) Aviation, the maker of aircraft engines. Commercial aircraft business margins have room to widen, he said, due to faster jet production and the ability to get better prices from suppliers.

But he said it is a “fair criticism” that Boeing needs

to do more to help suppliers on engineering and process improvement that will provide better prices.

He said about one-third of Boeing’s suppliers are involved in the company’s “partnering for success” programme, under which they work together to reduce costs and share the benefits. The remaining two-thirds are either in discussion or not engaged in the programme, he said. He said he expects the program to continue to grow. “We have volume to offer and

they have efficiency they can offer,” he said.

McNerney also acknowledged that Boeing is hiring contract workers to help fix production problems at the 787 Dreamliner factory in South Carolina, and that some work was being moved to the Seattle area to be finished. “We have traveled some work to Everett,” he said, referring to the location Boeing’s main 787 assembly line. But he characterized it as routine: “This is what we do all the time.”—Reuters



The Boeing logo is seen at their headquarters in Chicago, on 24 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Bionic hand allows amputee to feel again



LONDON, 7 Feb — Dennis Aabo Sorensen lost his left hand when a firework rocket he was holding exploded during New Year’s Eve celebrations 10 years ago, and he never expected to feel anything with the stump again. But for a while last year he regained his sense of touch after being attached to a “feeling” bionic hand that allowed him to grasp and identify objects even when blindfolded.

The prototype device, which was wired to nerves

in the 36-year-old Dane’s left arm, blurs the boundary between body and machine and scientists hope it could one day revolutionize the lives of many amputees. There is still work to be done in miniaturizing components and tidying away trailing cables that mean the robotic hand has so far only been used in the lab, but Sorensen said the European research team behind the project had got the basics right. “It was a great experience. It’s amazing to feel something you

haven’t been able to feel for so many years,” he told Reuters in a telephone interview. “It was pretty close to having the same feeling as in my normal hand.”

Details of his month-long use of the bionic hand, including results from a week of concentrated daily tests, were reported by researchers from Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Britain and Denmark in the journal *Science Translational Medicine* on Wednesday. Alastair Ritchie, a bioengineering expert at the University of Nottingham, who was not involved in the research, said the device was a logical next step but more clinical trials were now needed to confirm the system’s viability. “It’s very exciting preliminary data but it’s a one-case study and we now need to see more cases,” he said.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



A Mammoth tusk extracted from ice complex deposits along the Logata River in Taimyr, Russia, is shown in this undated handout photo provided by Professor Per Moller on 5 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

Disappearance of wildflowers may have doomed Ice Age giants

WASHINGTON, 7 Feb — Flower power may have meant the difference between life and death for some of the extinct giants of the Ice Age, including the mighty woolly mammoth and woolly rhinoceros. Scientists who studied DNA preserved in Arctic permafrost sediments and in the remains of such ancient animals have concluded

that these Ice Age beasts relied heavily on the protein-rich wildflowers that once blanketed the region. But dramatic Ice Age climate change caused a huge decline in these plants, leaving the Arctic covered instead in grasses and shrubs that lacked the same nutritional value and could not sustain the big herbivorous mammals, the scientists re-

ported in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday.

The change in vegetation began roughly 25,000 years ago and ended about 10,000 years ago — a time when many of the big animals slipped into extinction, the researchers said. Scientists for years have been trying to figure out what caused this mass extinction, when two-thirds of

all the large-bodied mammals in the Northern Hemisphere died out. “Now we have, from my perspective at least, a very credible explanation,” Eske Willerslev of the University of Copenhagen, an expert in ancient DNA who led an international team of researchers, said in a telephone interview.

Reuters

France plans law to restore GMO crop ban

PARIS, 7 Feb — France has launched a move to restore a ban on genetically modified (GMO) maize annulled by its top court to prevent sowings this spring that could raise public outcry in a country strongly opposed to GMO crops. A Senator of the ruling Socialist party submitted a draft law on Tuesday calling for the cultivation of any variety of genetically modified maize to be prohibited in the country.

France’s previous bans on GMO maize, which only applied to Monsanto’s MON 810, the sole GMO crop allowed for cultivation in the European Union, had all been overturned by the country’s highest administrative court as lacking sufficient scientific grounds. The new measure would also apply to any strain adopted in the future, including the insect-resistant maize known as Pioneer 1507 developed jointly by DuPont and Dow Chemical, which could be approved by the EU later this year. A German government spokesman said on Wednesday Berlin would abstain in an upcoming vote to approve cultivation of the 1507 maize.

The proposed French law could be voted by the Senate as soon as 17 February before being passed to the lower house, a French farm ministry official said on Wednesday. The implementation of the ban would be monitored by inspectors and GMO crops destroyed, the draft legislation says. France, the EU’s largest grain producer, has argued the technology poses environmental risks, referring to studies by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA). Monsanto says its GMO maize is safe.

Reuters

Tele2 seeks lifeline in Norway through Access talks

PARIS / LONDON, 7 Feb — Tele2, which lost a December auction for the mobile spectrum it needs to run its Norwegian network, is in deal talks with the winner, Access Industries, in a bid to salvage its local operation, said four people familiar with the matter. Tele2, which is Norway’s third-largest mobile operator behind Telenor and Teliasonera, has spent nearly 400 million euros since 2011 to build a business that now has 1.2 million customers and some 1,700 mobile towers.

But Access Industries, a holding company owned by Ukrainian-American billionaire Len Blavatnik who also owns Warner Music

Group, deprived Tele2 of the industry lifeblood - mobile spectrum to carry its customers’ data and calls over its network — by winning an auction with a \$115 million bid for airwaves in the 800, 900 and 1800 megahertz bands. The two sides are now in talks, the sources said, but are unlikely to reach a deal before Tele2 results on Friday. Options on the table include Access selling its spectrum to Tele2, Access buying Tele2’s Norway operation, or some type of licensing of the spectrum to Tele2.

But Access would only sell its spectrum to Tele2 on condition that it also buys ice.net, a small Norwegian mobile broadband compa-

ny owned by Access. Nor is Access willing to pay a high price for Tele2’s Norway unit, two of the sources said. Tele2 assets in Norway are worth less without a robust spectrum portfolio because it would have to rent capacity on rivals’ networks instead of carrying its own, dampening profit margins.

Reuters



A sign displays the Twitter logo on the front of the New York Stock Exchange ahead of the company’s IPO in New York, on 7 Nov, 2013. — REUTERS

Twitter’s sputtering user growth unnerves investors

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Feb — Twitter Inc on Wednesday reported its slowest pace of user growth in recent company history, dimming hopes that the social media phenomenon can sustain its torrid pace of expansion and wiping out nearly a fifth of the company’s value in after-hours trading. The San Francisco company posted better-than-expected fourth-quarter revenue of \$243 million in its first results as a public company. But investors focused on the anemic user growth, as well as a severe decline in timeline views, a measure of user engagement.

Twitter, which held a highly anticipated initial public offering in November at \$26 a share, has divided investor opinion in recent months, as shares raced to more than \$66 ahead of Wednesday’s results despite an absence of news. Twitter’s valuation has been predicated in part on the belief it could expand its mainstream appeal and eventually become as ubiquitous as Facebook Inc, which has five times as many users. Some analysts warned that its valuation looked increasingly bloated.

User growth, a closely watched metric, in fact sput-

tered. Twitter averaged 241 million monthly users in the December quarter, up just 3.8 percent from the previous three months — the lowest rate of quarter-on-quarter growth since Twitter began disclosing user figures. “What this report will do is it will question how mainstream is Twitter as a platform,” said Arvind Bhatia, an analyst at Sterne, Agee & Leach. “Both in the US and internationally, the monthly active user base did not grow as fast as people thought, and that has an impact on the number of timeline views.”

Reuters



A man talks on a telephone outside a branch of Nordic telecoms group Tele2 in St. Petersburg, on 28 March, 2013. —REUTERS

Google taps longtime executive Wojcicki to head YouTube

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Feb — Google Inc executive Susan Wojcicki has been appointed new head of the company’s YouTube video business, a source familiar with the matter told *Reuters*. The move, in which Wojcicki will replace Salar Kamangar, represents the latest change to Google’s top properties by Chief Executive Larry Page and comes as Google is striving to turn the popular video portal into a bigger money-maker.

“It’s one of the biggest traffic sources on the Internet, so it makes sense to

want to try to monetize the best they can,” said Needham & Co analyst Kerry Rice. Google does not disclose YouTube’s financial results, though analysts believe the website generates several billions of dollars in annual revenue from video ads and other promotions. Wojcicki who is a member of Page’s inner circle of top managers known as the “L” Team, was most recently senior vice president of Ads and Commerce. She shared the title with Sridhar Ramaswamy, another Google executive.

Wojcicki’s new job is



Susan Wojcicki, senior vice president of Ads and Commerce for Google, speaks at the garage where the company was founded on Google’s 15th anniversary in Menlo Park, California on 26 Sept, 2013. —REUTERS

effective immediately, according to the source. It was not immediately clear what Kamangar would do.

A report in the tech blog *The Information*, which first reported news of the change, said that Kamangar was expected to remain at Google, perhaps playing a greater role in Google’s in-house venture capital arm. YouTube, the world’s No 1 video website, is moving to add professional-grade video programs to the vast archive of amateur, home-shot videos as it seeks to attract a bigger slice of the estimated \$70

billion in spending on US television ads. “Like Salar, Susan has a healthy disregard for the impossible and is excited about improving YouTube in ways that people will love,” Page said in a statement. The change at YouTube comes nearly a year after Google appointed Sundar Pichai to lead its Android mobile software group, taking over from Andy Rubin, who is now spearheading a secretive group within Google that is developing robots. Wojcicki has been with Google from its earliest days.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 8 February, 2014

Entrepreneurship is the key to reduce poverty

UN could reach its target of reducing extreme poverty rates by half in 2010 five years ahead of 2015 deadline. However, at the global level, 1.2 billion people are still living in abject poverty which means, according to UN's definition, they earn less than \$ 1.25 a day.

Just after taking the office, the civilian government launched an eight-point rural development and poverty alleviation scheme, focusing on socio-economic development of rural folk, mostly the farmers who make up the 70 per cent of the population.

Myanmar has been receiving financial assistance from international countries and organizations as a reward for its reforms. However, according to a survey of United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the largest proportion of total household budget—up to 68 percent—is still spent on food.

The government, having stated its intention of facilitating national economic development through development of small and medium enterprises, has launched SME loan programmes plus a series of campaign to attract potential small businessmen. Nonetheless, there is still significant increase in the number of small businessmen. Why?

Traditionally leading an austere and easy-going life, Myanmar people, particularly the older generation, find entrepreneurship a strange thing. Life begins at forty, there goes a saying. But this saying is fundamentally wrong for Myanmar people who traditionally think they will become nothing if they are still nothing at forty.

Yes, it is happening. In western countries, a 70-year-old man who was nothing yesterday would make himself a rich man today. But in Myanmar, a man who has reached 40 and older would no more dream of becoming a rich person. Instead, they would take it for granted that their life is over and would end up as what they are being now.

What is the difference, systems or policies of governments? Right, but just partially. The main reason is their attitude towards life.

Both the Myanmar government and people need to wake up to the fact that we will not be able to walk out of poverty just by relying on others and it is unrealistic to expect donor countries to provide assistance for a long period.

The upper echelons of the administration are required to encourage entrepreneurship, especially youth entrepreneurship, without hesitation as an integral part of poverty alleviation effort. To provide the people with access to small loans is a must, but it should be focused on generating income and making profits instead of turning the borrowers into passive recipients.

National fish ...

(from page 1)

He set an aim to show off his organic fish that feed on grass at his lake to the Sea Food Show in Boston of the US together with over 100 countries.

Dr John B Sale remarked that he would like to give suggestions to train the

children to have knowledge about environmental conservation since their childhood. They need to foster the spirit of loving wildlife and spirit of environmental protection.

While the Russian Federation faces depletion of endangered species Spoon billed Sand Piper

Feasibility ...

(from page 1)

for teachers, subject-wise talks, publishing and broadcasting matriculation subjects in newspapers and on

the television and necessary preparations for the exams have been undertaken. Moreover, plans are underway to conduct more capacity building courses and nurture more teachers

who obtained B.Ed degree, he added.

Next, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint presented Bills amending the Highways Law and around 30-year-old Use of

Road and Bridge Law to the Hluttaw that decided to discuss the bills. Then, two members of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committees read out the committee's report on Anti-money Laundering Bill and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Development Fund Bill, both were sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ...

(from page 1)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint presented baskets of flower to the cultural troupes.

After the ceremony, they cordially greeted those attendees. Present on the occasion were Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Hluttaw MPs and guests.—MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and Hluttaw Committee Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attend Shan State Day reception. (News on page 1)—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing honours victorious defence services athletes, coaches



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with victorious athletes.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented certificates of honour and cash awards to the victorious coaches and athletes in the 27th SEA Games, the 7th ASEAN Para Games and the 23rd ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet, at Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning.

The Senior General said in his address that the today's event was to honour the defence services athletes and coaches who won victory in the sports events showing their sportmanship.

in a least number across the world, Myanmar should focus on conservation of rare bird species, ecosystem and bio-diversities.

Kyemon: 4-2-2014

Trs: TTA

From 1964 to 1973, Myanmar had seen a Golden era of Myanmar football team. Over 50 defence services footballers were among the players of the national team. Besides, defence services athletes secured 32 medals including 16 gold of 80 medals in the

2nd Southeast Asian Peninsula Games hosted by Myanmar in 1961. Similarly, 58 of the 163 defence services participants, bagged medals in the 27th SEA Games. In the 7th ASEAN Para Games, 27 of the 74 defence services athletes won medals.

The Senior General and

wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented certificates of honour and cash awards to the victorious athletes. A total of 81 athletes and 15 coaches were honoured at the today's event for winning 36 gold, 17 silver and 52 bronze, totaling 105 in the three sporting events.—Myawady

Kengtung, Lashio celebrate 67th Anniversary Shan State Day

KENG TUNG, 7 Feb—The 67th Anniversary Shan State Day ceremonies were held at the Town Halls of Kengtung and Lashio in Shan State this morning respectively.

Officials read out the messages sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of My-

anmar and Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat on the occasions.

The Deputy Commissioner of Lashio District and party attended the get-together party to mark the Shan State Day at Lashio Nursing and Midwifery Training School and enjoyed the dances presented by national cultural troupes. They presented cash awards to na-

tional cultural troupes.

The ceremonies were attended by departmental personnel, members of social organizations, cultural troupes, and development support committee, and township development affairs committee, guests and media men.

Sub-printing House (Kengtung)/Zaw Lwin (Lashio)

LOCAL NEWS

Ancient Buddha images found at Shwezigon Pagoda built by King Mohnyin



THAZI, 7 Feb—According to the documents, King Mohnyin built many Shwezigon pagodas across the nation. Among them, Zigon and Shwekyangdaw were built, east of Nyaungyan in Thazi Township.

While renovating the pagoda, the pagoda board of trustees and town's elders found ancient Buddha images in the reliquary.

Assistant Director U Hla Shwe of National Museum and Library Department of the Ministry of Culture and party arrived at Nyaungyan Village on 17

October 2013 and surveyed the ancient works together with local authorities.

The ancient Buddha images are being kept at the eastern prayer hall of the pagoda.

The Buddha images were works of late Pyu period, late Bagan period, early Inwa period and Konbaung period. In addition, Mohnyin Pagoda was built in Inwa era.

The Buddha images found at the Shwezigon Pagoda (a) Mohnyin Pagoda were five three inches high golden Buddha images, 217 marble images, 133 bronze

images, five lead images, four lacquerware images, five damaged wooden images, totaling 496 with various posture of hands.

Those wishing to make donations to the fund of the pagoda may contact U Tin Hla, Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees, 09-2225257 and Secretary U Ye Win Lwin, Tel: 0940-2689733.

NLM-018

Kalay District focuses on construction of roads, bridges

KALAY, 7 Feb—Kalay District Public Works is carrying out substitution of Bailey bridges and wooden bridges with new reinforced concrete ones and upgrading the Kalay-Gangaw road BEPS, inter-village road, Thayetkaungpin Village BEPS, Thondaung Village BEPS and Nyaungok-chinya inter-village road.

NLM-018

National Objectives of 67th Anniversary Union Day 2014

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



MPs make field trips to grassroots level

MAHLAING, 7 Feb—Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aye Mauk and Mahlaing Township Administrator U Aung Thein Hlaing together with departmental officials on 5 February inspected

progress of education, health and transportation in the township.

They visited construction of Hsondwin Bridge, dispensary, Myaukle Village BEPS and culvert, Baukkhwaydaw Village

Students enjoy reading at NyaungU District library

NYAUNGU, 7 Feb—NyaungU District Information and Public Relations Department gives people with public service media.

The department changes its library as public

library with the title of Sunset.

Students visit there to read various subjects of books from the morning to the evening.

"Most of the readers were students. As the

library is close to the Basic Education High School, the students enjoy reading there. Some of them borrow the books to home. About 100 students visit the library daily. In addition, shopkeepers of Manisithu Market arrive there for reading," said Staff Officer Daw Tin Mya Lwin of the department.

The district public library is facilitated with various subjects of books and dailies, journals and publications. Moreover, the readers may enjoy Internet through WiFi for browsing the international news and all subjects.—MMAL-Ye Thura Aung (NyaungU)



Rural development meeting held in Haka

HAKA, 7 Feb—Delivery Unit for rural development and Chin State government held a meeting at the city hall in Haka on 5 February morning.

Secretary of the delivery unit Deputy Director-General of Rural Development Department U Kyaw Soe explained matters related to the delivery unit.

Chin State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Van Thong, Thantlang Township's

Chin State Hluttaw MP U Robin, chairmen of development supportive committees of Thantlang and Haka townships and Matupi Township development affairs committee participated in the discussions.

The Chin State minister and the secretary of the delivery unit reviewed the discussions. It was attended by district and township management committee members and officials.

MMAL-Chin State IPRD

Battery lost from navigation buoy

YANGON, 7 Feb—Staff of Light House Division of Myanma Port Authority saw loss of one dry cell battery worth K 1.5 million at upper

MMAL-Ju Nine

float buoy between Lat 26 21.591 (N) and Long 96 21.173 (E) in Yangon River near Kungyangon Township of Yangon Region on 11

January morning. Seikkan Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over loss of one dry cell battery under the law.—Aung Thura

Trawler drowns in east sea

YANGON, 7 Feb—Acting on a tip-off, police members of Seikkan Myoma Police Station enquired sinking of a trawler in the East Sea of Myanmar waters in Kungyangon Township on 3 February afternoon.

The incident occurred that a trawler namely Kyaw Ye Naing driven by U Tin Myint left Myanmar

Millennium Group-MMG jetty near Central Fish Market in Kyimyindine along Hline River at 7 am on 2 February.

The trawler carried 1000 gallons of diesel and 200,000 pounds of ice to Ayeya Mon trawler fleet.

Unfortunately, the trawler stranded at Lat 16 degree 28.87 minutes (N) and Long 96 degree 19.12

minutes (E). To move from the sandbank, the trawler that tilted against other side and sank in the river.

The sailors and materials were saved from other trawlers.

Seikkan Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against reckless driving of U Tin Myint under the law.—Aung Thura

WORLD



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (R) and Mali's Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly attend a Press conference after their meeting at EU headquarters in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 6 Feb, 2014.—XINHUA

Thirty Minnesota school children treated for carbon monoxide

MINNEAPOLIS, 7 Feb — A southern Minnesota school building was evacuated on Thursday and 30 elementary students were treated at a local hospital for possible carbon monoxide poisoning, officials said.

The cause of the incident Thursday morning at the Springfield Public Schools building has not been determined and investigators have not picked up carbon monoxide readings in their search of the facility, Superintendent Keith Kottke said.

"We haven't ruled anything out at this point," Kottke said. "We want to make sure it isn't an indoor air quality issue."

All but one of the children had been treated and released by late Thursday afternoon from Mayo Clinic Health System in Springfield and the remaining child was being evaluated, system spokesman Kevin Burns said.

More than 600 students from kindergarten through 12th grade attend school at the building in Springfield, which is about 100 miles southwest of Minneapolis. It will stay closed Friday while the investigation continues, Kottke said.

Kottke said fourth and fifth graders were practicing in the school's auditorium Thursday morning for a concert when a handful became ill followed by others, and first responders found the symptoms might indicate carbon monoxide exposure.—Reuters

Steam is seen drifting from a factory over the Hoan Bridge as another round of arctic air blasts the mid-west keeping the wind chill in the negative numbers, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 6 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

Ireland's main rivers at high risk of bursting banks

DUBLIN, 7 Feb — Ireland warned on Thursday all the main rivers are at high risk of bursting their banks due to continuous rainfall in recent days.

Met Eireann, the Irish national meteorological service, said the current unsettled weather is likely to continue for the next number of days and that there will be heavy rainfall particularly in the south, southwest and southeast on Friday and into the weekend.

This rain will serve to top up the already near capacity of Irish rivers and poses a major risk.

Irish officials said the risk is heightened in slow

moving rivers and particularly River Shannon, adding that the Barrow, Nore and Slaney rivers are also at very high levels and any additional rain may cause serious flooding.

On Thursday, a further meeting of the National Co-ordination Group to discuss the ongoing severe weather was convened to discuss the threat posed by rising rivers.

The coordination group advised there is a body of information in relation to the levels of water in Irish major rivers on www.waterlevel.ie. There is also advice on how to deal with episodes of flooding on www.flooding.ie.

Hundreds of thousands lose power after US Northeast storm

NEW YORK, 7 Feb — Utility crews worked on Thursday to restore power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses in the US Northeast after a snow and ice storm slammed the region, but flights began returning to normal after thousands of delays or cancellations.

The latest in a series of winter blasts dumped up to a foot of snow on Wednesday and early Thursday on the Eastern Seaboard from Maryland to Maine. About 100 million people, or one-third of the US population, lives in the region.

The storm coated roads

with ice and snapped tree limbs, knocking down power lines. At least four deaths were storm-related, authorities said.

Pennsylvania was the hardest hit. At one point, 849,000 customers were without power, according to the state's Emergency Management Agency. By 8 am EST (1300 GMT), utility crews had gotten that number down to just over 500,000.

"The storm that we had yesterday is pretty much done for Pennsylvania," said Craig Evanego, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in State College, Pennsylvania.



Death toll from Colombian prison fire climbs to 16

BOGOTA, 7 Feb — The death toll from a prison fire in Colombia's northern city of Barranquilla has climbed to 16, local authorities said on Thursday.

The fire on 27 January at the city's Modelo Prison started when inmates set fire to mattresses after wardens used tear gas to stop a

clash between members of rival gangs. On Thursday, Alma Solano, local health secretary in Barranquilla, said the death of inmates who had been taken to hospital for injuries brought the toll to 16.

"Between yesterday and today, the death toll has climbed to 16 from 14. One

of the inmates had burns over 40 percent of his body as well as (damage to) his respiratory system," she said. Prison authorities said 15 inmates are still hospitalized and security measures have been strengthened at the hospitals after one of them attempted to escape.

Xinhua



A worker welds on the newly settled metal separation barrier replacing a security wall on a major road leading to Tahrir Square in Cairo, capital of Egypt, on 6 Feb, 2014. A downtown Cairo security wall erected in late 2011 to keep protestors away from government buildings near Tahrir Square was brought down and replaced with a large metal separation barrier on Thursday.—XINHUA

Chicago jury deliberates in alleged NATO summit attack plot

CHICAGO, 7 Feb — A Chicago jury began deliberations on Thursday in the trial of three men who face terrorism charges for allegedly plotting to attack high-profile targets during a 2012 NATO summit. A prosecutor said in closing arguments in Cook County Circuit Court that the so-called "NATO 3" were bent on mayhem. Defence attorneys described the three as drunken braggarts who had talked big to impress undercover officers.

The men are accused of planning attacks during the Chicago meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organization officials using firebombs, targeting police stations and President Barack Obama's re-election headquarters, along with other locations.

"While Chicago was on the world stage, their plan was to light a police officer on fire," Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Tom Biesty told jurors. "By attacking the police they planned to attack us all."

But Thomas Durkin, attorney for defendant Jared Chase, described the three as "goofs" who "can't even agree on what to have for

breakfast." "If these people can be labeled terrorists, we're all in trouble," he told jurors before they began deliberations. The trio - Brian Jacob Church, 22, and Brent Betterly, 25, both of Florida, and Chase, 29, of New Hampshire — are charged with conspiracy to commit terrorism under a state anti-terrorism law adopted after the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks.

The case marks the first time Illinois prosecutors had invoked the conspiracy charge. They could face decades in prison if convicted.

Church's attorney, Michael Deutsch, told jurors the case hinged on whether the men intended to intimidate a significant portion of the civilian population, and said his client had done nothing but talk.

"Their intent was to impress these older undercover officers," he said.

Prosecutors have painted the men as anarchists bent on causing mayhem, offering testimony from undercover Chicago police officers to show that the defendants were "ready for war."

Reuters

Reuters

REGIONAL

Ritz-Carlton hotel opens in Kyoto

KYOTO, 7 Feb — The Ritz-Carlton Kyoto opened on Friday as the fourth branch of the luxury hotel chain in Japan, following those in Osaka, Tokyo and Okinawa.

The hotel mainly targets wealthy travelers from abroad, charging between 65,000 and 1 million yen per room.

The hotel has four floors above ground and three below, housing 134 guest rooms.

Prestigious sweets shop Pierre Herme Paris, Japanese restaurant Mizuki



An opening ceremony is held at the Ritz-Carlton Kyoto hotel in Kyoto, western Japan, on 7 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

and Italian restaurant La Locanda are operating in the hotel.

Kyodo News

Pakistan gov't, militants hold peace talks

ISLAMABAD, 7 Feb — The Pakistan government and Pakistani Taliban militants held their first round of peace talks on Thursday, according to a joint Press release issued after the three-hour-long meeting.

It said they have agreed to meet again, though no meeting was immediately scheduled.

Government represent-

atives said they reiterated to the Taliban side that the talks should be held within the boundaries of the Constitution and limited to matters relating to the country's troubled tribal areas.

They said both sides agreed there should be a suspension of activities that could adversely affect the peace talks.

Kyodo News



Photo shows "Kaguyabina," couple dolls in bamboo tubes in the town of Kamigori, Hyogo Prefecture, on 6 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Mt Fuji eruption may force 470,000 people to evacuate

SHIZUOKA, (Japan), 7 Feb — A panel set up by Shizuoka and two other prefectures around Mt Fuji worked out a regional evacuation plan on Thursday, projecting that a violent eruption could force around 470,000 people in the prefectures to evacuate if more than 30 centimeters of ash accumulates on the ground.

In a meeting held in the city of Fuji, Shizuoka Prefecture, the panel of Shizuoka, Yamanashi and Kanagawa prefectures also projected that if lava flows similar to the 1707 eruption occur, 750,000 people in

Shizuoka and Yamanashi prefectures may have to evacuate.

Under the evacuation plan, around 406,000 would need to evacuate in Kanagawa Prefecture, 62,000 in Shizuoka Prefecture and 1,000 in Yamanashi Prefecture.

Volcano expert Toshitugu Fujii, a panel member and professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo, said it is important for local people to confirm where they will evacuate to in the event of a volcanic eruption.

Kyodo News

Gov't mulls reviewing research plan to commercialize Monju reactor

TOKYO, 7 Feb—The government is considering reviewing its research project to commercialize the Monju prototype fast-breeder reactor, a move that could affect Japan's long-held policy of recycling spent nuclear fuel, informed sources said on Friday.

It could be an option to use Monju, operated by Japan Atomic Energy Agency, mainly for studies seeking to cut down the high-level radioactive waste generated through spent fuel reprocessing and reduce the toxicity of the waste.

The latest development comes as the government is working on the nation's medium- to long-term energy policy in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant disaster.

In the Basic Energy Plan compiled in 2010, the government said it would seek to develop a commercial fast-breeder reactor before 2050. The Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, who is in charge of compiling the new energy plan, told a Press conference the government has not decided whether to use Monju for waste-reduction studies.

Monju, located in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, has been regarded as central to realizing the country's ideal nuclear fuel cycle, which aims to reprocess spent nuclear fuel and reuse the extracted plutonium and uranium as reactor fuel.

Using the extracted plutonium and uranium, Monju is said to produce more fuel than it consumes while generating power.

But the reactor has remained largely offline since first achieving criticality in 1994 due to a series of problems, casting doubt on the project's viability.

It has also been effectively banned from operation since May last year following the revelation of lax safety inspections.

Kyodo News



A July 2013 file photo shows the Monju prototype fast-breeder reactor in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture. The government is considering reviewing its research project to commercialize the Monju reactor, a move that could affect Japan's long-held policy of recycling spent nuclear fuel, informed sources said on 7 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Japan role in collective defence should follow "clear requests"

TOKYO, 7 Feb — A government panel on security policy will propose in its final report that Japan should exercise the right to collective self-defence when it receives "clear requests" from allies under armed attack, a key member of the panel has said in a recent interview.

The Japanese government would also need to secure approval from the Diet and notify countries concerned such as South Korea of Tokyo's plan to exercise the right, said the panel's acting chairman Shinichi Kitaoka, president of the International University of Japan.

Kitaoka's remarks suggest the panel launched by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

has watered down its original plan to call for Japan to exercise of the right to collective self-defence with or without requests from its allies. The panel's final report is scheduled to be released in April.

"When exercising the right to collective self-defence, we need to have clear requests from countries that have close ties (with Japan), or it cannot be tolerated," Kitaoka said. "As Japan upholds pacifism, the use of collective self-defence must be restrained." He referred to past instances in which the United States and the former Soviet Union took advantage of collective self-defence during the Cold War.

Japan maintains it has

the right to collective self-defence but cannot exercise it due to the pacifist Constitution that forbids the use of force to settle international disputes. Under international law, a country can exercise the right when there are no other means, but the use of the right should be kept at a minimum.

Abe has said he will decide whether to lift Japan's self-imposed ban on exercising the right by reinterpreting the Constitution after the panel releases the report, while arguing it would be "detrimental" to the bilateral alliance if Japan cannot exercise the right to help the United States.

Kyodo News

China provides military trucks and uniforms to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 7 Feb—China on Friday delivered 26 military trucks and 30,000 sets of military uniforms to Cambodia in order to help relieve the difficulties of the Cambodian army.

At a handover ceremony held at the Trucking Battalion No 99 on the outskirts of the capital Phnom Penh, Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Bu Jianguo said the trucks and uniforms were the aid from the Chinese People's Liberation Army to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. "China hopes that the aid will help ease the difficulties of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, and will further promote ties and cooperation between the armies and peoples of the two countries," she said.

Moeung Samphan, Secretary of State at the Cambodian Ministry of Defence, extended gratitude to the Chinese government and the Chinese People's Liberation Army for continuous supports to Cambodia. "The aid is timely as Cambodia is facing shortage of military materials," he said. "This truly reflects China's attention to assist Cambodia and it will create closer friendship relations and solidarity between the armies of the two countries." —Xinhua



Photo taken on 6 Feb, 2014 shows the snow-covered landscape of a scenic area in Kaifeng City, central China's Henan Province, on 6 Feb, 2014. The city witnessed a snowfall Thursday.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(3/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-181(2013-2014)	30 Ton (6x4) NGV Tractor (1) No with 30 Ton Cascade Trailer (3) Nos	(1) Lot	US\$
(2)	IFB-182(2013-2014)	Skid Mounted Engine Driven Air Compressor	(1) No	US\$
(3)	IFB-183(2013-2014)	Cummins Engine with Gear Box	(1) Set	US\$
(4)	IFB-184(2013-2014)	Assorted Sizes of Seamless Casings	(10) Items	US\$
(5)	DMP/L-058(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT D 3512 Engine Ex D 3 T 2 SR-I & II Rigs	(4) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-059(2013-2014)	Spares for FA 1600 Triplex Pump Ex Emsco Rig	(1) Lot	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-060(2013-2014)	500 KVA Trasformer and Dual Transformer	(2) Items	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-061(2013-2014)	1.5 HP Air Conditioner Split Type and Floor Standing Type Air Conditioner	(2) Items	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 5-3-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5th February, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES- FIRMS SELECTION)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project
Credit No.: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: Myanmar Power Sector Financial Analysis and Viability Action Plan
Reference No.: MEPE-CS-2

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the following scope:

1. Review recent financial, commercial, and relevant operational performance of Myanmar's electricity enterprises;
2. Review recent budgetary arrangement and budgetary statistics of Myanmar's Ministry of Electric Power and electricity enterprises in recent fiscal years. This includes the sources of revenues and financing, key expenditures, and net budgetary positions;
3. Review Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise's existing financial model and develop an integrated financial model(s) for forward-looking financial analysis of the power sector, covering generation, transmission and distribution subsectors. Where necessary, the financial model(s) will also cover natural gas and other energy sources as inputs for power generation;
4. Prepare draft financial viability action plan, facilitate consultations on the draft plan, and help finalize the plan.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of nine months, starting in May 2014.

The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. The interested consulting firms should have previous experience in the area of power utilities financial advisory, analysis and modeling in developing countries;
2. A minimum of 10 years of experience in carrying out Consulting Services as a consulting firm in the field of assignment;
3. At least 3 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past 5 years; and
4. Experience of working in the Client's country or similar country environment.

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

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by February 21, 2014.

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise
Attn: Daw Zaw Zaw Than, General Manager for Finance Building-27
Ministry of Electric Power
Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 095-067-410-064
Fax: 095-067-410-076
E-mail: mepefin@moep.gov.mm



THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT
INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS
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2. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD FOR FINANCE INTEGRATION DIVISION
3. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH & TRAINING DIVISION
4. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/SENIOR ECONOMIST ASEAN INTEGRATION MONITORING OFFICE (AIMO)
5. PROGRAM COORDINATOR (AADCP II)
6. SENIOR OFFICER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
7. SENIOR OFFICER SOCIAL WELFARE, WOMEN, LABOUR & MIGRANT WORKERS
8. SENIOR OFFICER HUMAN RESOURCES (ARISE)
9. SENIOR OFFICER ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AADCP II)

More information on the terms of reference for the above positions can be accessed via www.asean.org/opportunities/vacancies.

If interested, please send your application to asean.hr@asean.org highlighting your suitability and potential contribution to the position together with a detailed CV, including a recent passport-sized photograph, certified true copies of educational certificates obtained and completed Employment Application Form which can be downloaded at www.asean.org.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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Performers prepare to
rehearse for the Chin-
gay Parade for media
preview at the F1 Pit
Building in Singapore,
on 6 Feb, 2014.

XINHUA



Zimbabwe taskforce to raid
uncomplying foreign shops

HARARE, 7 Feb — Zimbabwe's government has formed a task-force to carry out raids across the country to ensure retail shops owned by foreigners have secured the "indigenization license", which seeks to promote black employment.

Wilson Gwatiringa, chief executive officer of the National Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Board (NIBB) told the national parliament Thursday that the task-force is composed of indigenization officials, police, local officials, and key stakeholders.

Gwatiringa said the NIBB had received 1,311 compliance applications to date, with 578 certificates issued.

Zimbabwe's controversial indigenisation law, drawn up in 2007, stipu-

lates 14 sectors of the economy as "reserved sectors" where foreigners are not allowed to operate. A government circular issued last year demanded that all retail shops should comply with the indigenization law and get a certificate before the deadline of 1 January, 2014. Uncomplied shop owners will face fines or a maximum three months jail term.

The calling for a task-force, however, seems to run against the claim made by Indigenisation Minister Francis Nhema about a month ago. Nhema said foreign shops won't be forced to shut down even if they did not comply with the indigenization law. New business certificates, however, will be favored for indigenous people.

Xinhua



Afghan refugee children play with snow at a refugee camp during heavy snowfall in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 6 Feb, 2014.

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Tom Cruise's lawyer dismisses \$1 billion lawsuit

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb — Hollywood star Tom Cruise has been hit with USD 1 billion lawsuit for alleged copyright infringement.

Timothy Patrick McLanahan, who filed the suit in December, claims his script idea was stolen for 2011's film Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol. He named Cruise, Brad Grey, Paramount Pictures and 10 others as defendants, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

In the document, screenwriter McLanahan

claims he wrote a script titled *Head On* in 1998 and pitched it to the William Morris Agency, but he was told "that they could not use the script as a movie."

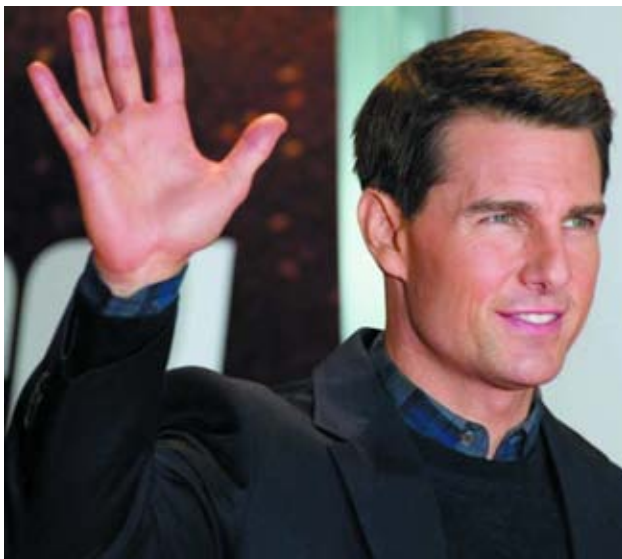
He alleged that his script was passed to Creative Artists Agency (CAA), which represents Cruise, and that was how they stole his idea.

"I immediately recognised that the scripts for this movie had been illegally written and produced from *Head On*'s 1998 copy-

right," he claimed.

"Because the *Ghost Protocol* film generated close to USD 1 billion, I am asking for this amount in damages," he added. McLanahan, however, does not provide any examples of similarities in his lawsuit.

Cruise's lawyer Bert Fields has denied the accusation. "Tom Cruise has never stolen anything from anyone. This bizarre lawsuit against 13 people will be quickly dismissed by the court," he said.—PTI



Tom Cruise in a still from *Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol*

Madonna says she got death threats, 'was punished' for speaking her mind

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb — Pop star Madonna has received death threats for defending Pussy Riot and was threatened with arrest for promoting "gay behaviour" at her Russian concerts in 2012.

The 55-year-old gave an impassioned speech at the Amnesty International Concert in New York on Wednesday, in which she described herself as a "freedom fighter" as she introduced the Russian group to the stage to address the audience at the Barclays Centre.

The Russian group was jailed on charges of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred after performing a protest song in a Moscow cathedral, reports *contactmusic.com*.

"The right to be free, to speak our minds, to have an opinion, to love who we

want to love, to be who we are — do we have to fight for that?

"I've always considered myself a freedom fighter since the early '80s when I realized I had a voice and I could sing more than songs about being a material girl or feeling like a virgin. And I have definitely paid for and have been punished for speaking my mind and for sticking my neck out for this kind of discrimination. But that's OK," said Madonna.

Madonna also admitted she was threatened with arrest for her performances in Russia in 2012 because they promoted "gay behaviour".

"Needless to say, I did not change one moment of my show. 87 of my fans were arrested for gay behaviour — whatever that is," she said.—PTI



Madonna says she was even threatened with arrest



Scarlett Johansson reveals she feels betrayed by the comment

Apple's Siri calls Scarlett Johansson 'beyond artificial'

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb — Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson, who lent her voice to operating system named Samantha in the Oscar-nominated film *Her*, was recently dissed by Apple's Operating System — Siri.

"Her portrayal of artificial intelligence is beyond artificial," Siri said in a statement.

When Johansson was asked to comment on Siri's comment, the actress replied: "I feel like I've been betrayed. The other day I asked Siri how I looked and she said, 'You're the fairest of them all.' So, she's obviously playing both sides. What the hell? What a backstabber, man."

Her will release in India on 14 February.

PTI



Johnny Depp proposed to Amber Heard last year

Johnny Depp wants The Rolling Stones to perform at wedding

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb — Actor Johnny Depp is keen on having The Rolling Stones rock band perform at his wedding.

Depp, who is close to band member Keith Richards, is said to have asked him to perform and might

even be joining him in the performance.

"The wedding plans are at an early stage. But the one thing Johnny does know is he wants Keith and the guys there."

He might even ask to join them on a track or

two," *contactmusic.com* quoted the 50-year-old as saying.

He had proposed to his girlfriend Amber Heard in December last year; however the date for their wedding has not been set as yet.

PTI

Stolen 300-year-old Stradivarius violin recovered in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, 7 Feb — A rare Stradivarius violin worth millions of dollars that was stolen from a concert violinist in an armed robbery last week has been recovered from a Milwaukee residence, law enforcement officials said on Thursday.

Authorities discovered the prized string instrument inside a suitcase in the attic of a home on the city's south side late Wednesday night, Milwaukee Police Chief Ed Flynn said during a news conference at police headquarters.

The recovery of the violin came after the arrest on Monday of three unidentified suspects, one of whom police said has a history of

stealing art in Milwaukee.

"At this point it appears we have a local criminal, who was very much interested in art theft and who was smart enough to identify this as a valuable instrument," Flynn said.

The 300-year-old instrument was being held at the city's police headquarters and will be returned to its anonymous owner on Thursday.

The so-called Lipinski Stradivarius had been on loan indefinitely to Milwaukee area concert musician Frank Almond, officials said. Made in 1715, the instrument can be distinguished by unique striations on its back.

Early last week, thieves



The 300-year-old Stradivarius violin that was taken from the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's concertmaster in an armed robbery is on display for the media after it was recently recovered, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 6 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

incapacitated Almond with a stun gun and took the violin following a concert in suburban Milwaukee, police said.

One of the three suspects arrested on Monday

could be charged as soon as Friday, Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm said. Chisholm did not say whether the other two suspects would be charged.—Reuters

SPORTS

Hanyu gives Japan lead with stellar performance

SOCHI, (Russia), 7 Feb —Reigning Grand Prix champion Yuzuru Hanyu shined like a rock star with a near-flawless performance Thursday to give Japan the lead as the figure skating team event made its Olympic debut at the Sochi Games.

Hanyu, who skated to Parisian Walkways by Gary Moore, reeled off jump after jump with perfection on the way to a

high score of 97.98 points at Iceberg Skating Palace. Turin Olympic men's champion Evgeni Plushenko of Russia scored 91.39, while three-time world champion Patrick Chan put Canada in third with 89.71. "I was really nervous, but I was able to do my best and do all the things I'm now capable of," said the 19-year-old Hanyu, who is making his Olympic debut here.

"I feel that so many

different people were supporting me here at the arena. With all those Japanese flags and all their support, I was really able to enjoy myself out there. Now I want to cheer on the team in the next segment."

Hanyu's performance gave Japan 10 points ahead of the pairs programme, in which Narumi Takahashi and Ryuichi Kihara were to skate later in the day.

"It wasn't like I was competing to get 10 points for the team, I just wanted to contribute as much as I could and I was able to compete for all I was worth," said Hanyu. "Now I feel like I've really been on this rink and I'm looking forward to the individual competition."

Plushenko rode the

wave of a partisan crowd, getting started with a beautifully executed quadruple-triple combination jump en route to a personal-best score. "Today's performance was really great," said Plushenko. "The team competition is not only for me but a special performance for the team. No matter what the result, I am satisfied that the Olympics have come to Sochi in my fourth Olympics." Japan national champion Hanyu took to the ice as the final skater, following Chan and immediately wowed the crowd with a stunning quadruple jump, pumping his fist high in the air after his landing.

The short dance and the women's short programme are scheduled for Saturday.



Photo shows jump ramps for the snowboard slopestyle in Sochi, Russia, on 6 Feb, 2014.

KYODO NEWS



A volunteer for the Winter Olympics poses for souvenir photos at the Olympic Park in Sochi, Russia, on 6 Feb, 2014, the day before the start of the Games.

KYODO NEWS

The top five teams will advance to the free programme for a shot at the medals.

The skaters for Saturday will be announced a day before they compete, and it appears Vancouver Games silver medalist Mao Asada will skate the short program with Tatsuki Machida lined up for the men's free skate should Japan reach the final round. The 28-year-old

Akiko Suzuki, who has been designated the team captain, is likely to skate the women's long programme.

Machida bruised both his knees performing a quad in Wednesday's practice but does not appear to be affected by the injury. Chris Reed, who will partner with sister Cathy as Japan's dance couple, has been appointed vice captain.—Kyodo News

Newcastle's Tiote ruled out for up to three games

LONDON, 7 Feb — Newcastle United's Cheick Tiote could miss up to three matches after injuring his hamstring in training, the club said on Thursday.

The Ivorian midfielder has been ruled out of the Premier League fixtures away to title-chasers Chelsea on Saturday and Wednesday's home game against Tottenham Hotspur, the club said on their website (www.nufc.co.uk).

He is also a doubt for the home match against Aston Villa on 23 February.

Tiote's injury is another blow for manager Alan Pardew, whose depleted side are already without leading scorer Loic Remy, who is serving the second of a three-match ban, and injured captain Fabricio Coloccini for Chelsea's visit. Newcastle are eighth in the league, but have only won once in their last six games.—Reuters



Newcastle United's Cheick Tiote (R) confronts referee Mike Jones who ruled out his goal against Manchester City for offside during their English Premier League soccer match at St James' Park in Newcastle, northern England, on 12 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Woods opts for Florida-only Masters build-up

PALM BEACH, GARDENS, (Florida), 7 Feb — Tiger Woods says he will play three events in Florida as he gears up for the 10-13 April Masters, the year's opening major, and will skip the upcoming WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship in Arizona as had been expected.

The American world number one has competed in only two tournaments this

year, the PGA Tour's Farmers Insurance Open and the European Tour's Dubai Desert Classic, and will next be in action at the 27 February- 2 March Honda Classic in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

After that, he will defend his titles at the 6-9 March WGC-Cadillac Championship in Miami and the 20-23 March Arnold Palmer Invitational in Or-



Rafael Nadal speaks during a news conference in Paris on 9 June, 2012.—REUTERS

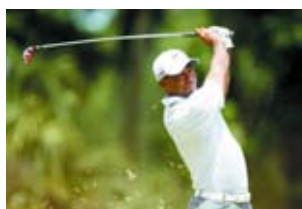
Nadal out of Buenos Aires tournament

BARCELONA, 7 Feb — Rafael Nadal will miss next week's ATP tournament in Buenos Aires following a stomach bug that has hindered his recovery from the back injury he sustained at the Australian Open.

"I had a stomach virus that has not allowed me to train this morning (Thursday) and I have had to put back everything," the world number one said on his website (www.rafaelnadal.com).

"We are three days from the start of the tournament and without having been able to train a single day since Australia it means it has been impossible for me to prepare sufficiently to compete in an event so important as Buenos Aires."

Nadal's back injury contributed to his surprise four-set defeat by Switzerland's number eight seed Stanislas Wawrinka in the Australian Open final at the end of January.—Reuters



Tiger Woods

lando. "The Honda Classic is close to my home, and I want to support it whenever I can," 14-times major winner Woods said on his official website on Thurs-

day. "I'm also excited about spending time with Arnold and defending my title at his tournament and the WGC-Cadillac."

Though Woods is a three-time winner of the 19-23 February Accenture Match Play Championship, the first of the year's four World Golf Championships events, he confirmed that had not been on his schedule for this season.—Reuters

Vidic to leave Man United at end of season

LONDON, 7 Feb — Manchester United captain Nemanja Vidic will leave the Premier League club at the end of the season, flagging a move abroad and signalling a possible break-up of Alex Ferguson's last great team at Old Trafford.

The 32-year-old Serbian defender, one of a clutch of seasoned players on the last year of their contracts at United, has struggled for regular game-time under new manager David Moyes, and been linked with Serie A giants Inter Milan.

"I never could have imagined winning 15 trophies and I will certainly never forget that fantastic night in Moscow, memories that will live with me and the fans forever," Vidic said in a statement on the club's website (www.manutd.com) on Friday, referring to the team's Champions League win over Chelsea

in 2008. "However, I have decided that I will move on at the end of this season. I want to challenge myself again and try to make the best of myself in the coming years."

Captain since the start of the 2010-11 season, the former Red Star Belgrade and Spartak Moscow defender joined United in 2006 and with Rio Ferdinand, formed one of the strongest central defensive pairings in the club's history.

A formidable tackler and a towering presence in the air, Vidic came back from a serious knee injury to help outgoing manager Ferguson claim a 20th Premier League title in 2012-13, and honoured the Scot by handing him the silverware after his final victory against Swansea City at Old Trafford.

Reuters



Manchester United's new manager David Moyes speaks to his captain Nemanja Vidic before their kick off against Wigan Athletic's in their English Community Shield soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London, on 11 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL



A visitor tries a recreational vehicle (RV) during the 50th Houston RV Show in Houston, the United States, on 5 Feb, 2014. The 50th annual event opened here Thursday and will close on 9 February. It features over 600 RV models from travel trailers, tent campers, fifth wheels to luxurious motor homes.—XINHUA

Romania's finance minister resigns

BUCHAREST, 7 Feb — Romania's Finance Minister announced on Thursday he has decided to quit the cabinet and focus his effort on helping his party in a key election year.

Chitoiu, also deputy prime minister, said he decided to get more involved in the activities of the National Liberal Party (PNL) by serving as the party's interim secretary-general, as it was gearing up for the Euro-parliamentary elections and Romania's presidential election.

"I am an old party man, I am co-working with all my fellows in the party leadership very well, as well as with all the PNL organizations and that is why I've decided to take up this position," Chitoiu said.

While announcing his decision to leave the coalition cabinet, Chitoiu stressed that there was no other reason for his resignation. Earlier media reports quoted sources from the PNL as saying that Chitoiu's departure from the cabinet was almost certain

since he had only minimum support from the PNL party.

Senior PNL members were "extremely dissatisfied" with Chitoiu, as he did not fully communicate with them on issues including the reduction of bank lending rates for low-income borrowers. In an apparent response to these reports, PNL leader Crin Antonescu said later Thursday that Chitoiu carried out his cabinet duties with "permanent support" from him and the party.

Xinhua

India postpones Rafale fighter jets deal for short of money

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb — The Indian Defence Ministry has reportedly said that it is left with no funds in its kitty to go for any fresh major acquisition in this financial year.

"The Defence Ministry has used up 92 percent of its defence budget. There is no money left. All ma-

jor projects have to wait till 1 April," Indian Defence Minister AK Antony said here on Thursday, quoted by local media.

Funds crunch has also delayed the Indian Defence Ministry's plans to acquire 126 Rafale combat jets from France's Dassault Aviation, according to Antony.

The Rafale deal is estimated to be 15 billion US dollars. India has been the world's biggest arms importer for the last three years, and has undertaken a 100 billion US dollars defence modernization programme to replace its Soviet-era fighter jets and tanks.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(8-2-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am	3:15 pm
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	19. TV Drama Series
6:30 am	4:00 pm
2. Physical Exercises	20. News
6:40 am	4:15 pm
3. Nice & Sweet Song	21. 67 th Anniversary Union Day Programme
6:50 am	4:25 pm
4. Documentary	22. 2014 University Entrance Examination (History)
7:00 am	5:00 pm
5. News/Weather Report	23. News
7:20 am	5:30 pm
6. Business News	24. Game For Children
7:45 am	5:15 pm
7. Hyper Sports	25. Documentary
8:00 am	6:00 pm
8. News/ International News	26. News/Weather Report
8:30 am	6:20 pm
9. India Drama Series	27. MRTV Youth Programme
9:00 am	7:00 pm
10. News/ International News	29. News
9:30 am	7:20 pm
11. Documentary (Part-2)	30. ASEAN-Japan Music Festival
10:00 am	8:00 pm
12. News	31. News/International News/Weather Report
10:15 am	8:35 pm
13. TV Drama Series	32. Business News
11:30 am	8:45 pm
14. Game For Children	33. Hit Songs of Stars
12:00 pm	9:00 pm
15. News/International News/Weather Report	34. News
12:20 pm	35. Myanmar Series
16. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News	36. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn
1:50 pm	
17. Round Up of The Week's Hluttaw News	
3:00 pm	
18. News	

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

8-2-14 07:00 am ~ 9-2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon - The Planetary Posts
- * World News
- * Orphanage
- * Local News
- * Htamane Making: Myanmar's Enchanting Fiesta
- * World News
- * Kyaike-Hti-Yo Wellcome All
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Pyin Oo Lwin)(Ep-2)
- * World News
- * Traditional Snacks
- * Local News
- * Large Parasol: A Souvenir of Patheingyi
- * World News
- * Myanmar Harpist
- * Local News
- * Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Sunee
- * Local News
- * A Visit To San-Taw-Shin Kyi-Ke-Hti-Yo Pagoda
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor
- * Local News
- * Wa Traditions & An Engagement Ceremony
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art
- * Local News
- * Distinguished Donation Of King Dhamma Ceti - Kyaik Pun Pagoda
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting

Wagner gambles on 'vicious' new routine

SOCHI, 7 Feb — Controversially gifted a spot on the US Olympic figure skating team despite an error-strewn performance at the national championships, Ashley Wagner decided only radical change would give her shot at the podium in Sochi.

Wagner ditched the problematic long programme she had been rehearsing all season just weeks before the 7-23 February Sochi Olympics. She concedes making the decision so close to the Games was a massive gamble.

"It is absolutely crazy, insane that I decided to change it, but I am so passionate about what I do and so driven to get onto

that Olympic podium, I just felt in my heart that program was not going to get me there," she said.

"It's a big risk."

Wagner's skate at nationals ended in tears, fourth place and a sleepless night while she prayed selectors would overlook her performance and select her for one of the three places.

Gracie Gold earned her Olympic ticket after capturing her first national title while 15-year-old sensation Polina Edmunds took second, locking up two of the three spots.

Mirai Nagasu, who was fourth at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, placed third and had looked set to grab the final position.

However, a nine-member panel awarded it to Wagner based on the two-time national champion's past performances.

"Seeing Sochi 2014 and the Olympic rings everywhere, you know, I kind of half to pinch myself," she said.

The last leg of her journey has not been easy. She has had to face down a storm of controversy over being picked and claw back her confidence to bring it to the Games.

Shakespeare's soft-hearted, tragic heroine in Sergei Prokofiev's score of Romeo and Juliet was not going to get her to the podium, she felt.

"The break up with Ro-



Ashley Wagner of the US skates during a figure skating training session in preparation for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics at the Iceberg Skating Palace, on 5 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

meo and Juliet was when I fell twice at nationals. That was a really bad break up," she said.

So Wagner, against

her coach's advice, revived an old programme to composer Camille Saint-Saens' Samson and Delilah.

"This music makes me

competitive, this is the one that kind of raises the hair on my arms, gets me excited to go out there and be vicious," Wagner said.

In the world of figure skating, artistry is only half the battle. Nailing the big jumps is what puts Japan's Mao Asada and South Korea's Kim Yuna at the top.

To help her stick the elusive triple-triple jumps when it counts, Wagner shed pounds and let coach Rafael Arutunian work her "to the point of exhaustion."

It paid off as she landed the difficult combination at her first practice session in Sochi.

"I can't sugarcoat it, that is really what is going to make or break this competition," Wagner bluntly told reporters.

Reuters

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives French Ambassador to Myanmar



NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Thierry MATHOU at Zeyathiri Beikman today.

They exchanged views on stance and cooperation of defence services in mov-

ing towards multi-party democracy system, armed conflict and riot resolution in accord with the Constitution by the defence services and cooperation in various sectors between the two armed forces.

Present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Ser-

vices Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and the senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The French ambassador was accompanied by French Military Attaché to Myanmar Lieutenant-Col Thierry POIGNANT.

MNA

Japan Festival-2014 kicks off in Yangon

YANGON, 7 Feb—To mark the 60th Anniversary of Myanmar-Japan diplomatic relations, Japan Festival-2014 was launched at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township, here, this morning.

Executive Managing Director of JETRO (Yangon) Mr. Masaki Takahara

extended greetings.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Minister for Development Affairs Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata, UMF-CCI President U Win Aung and Executive Managing Director of JETRO (Yangon) Mr. Masaki Takahara

opened the festival. They viewed round Japan-made electronic devices, machines, motorbikes and automobiles, home decoration accessories and foodstuff at 200 booths of 193 companies. The festival runs up till 10 February.—MNA

US wartime bomb defused by Hong Kong police

HONG KONG, 7 Feb—Kyodo Hong Kong police on Friday successfully defused a 900-kilogram bomb from World War II, described as the biggest war-era bomb ever found there, local media reported.

The US Navy AN-M66 bomb was found Thursday in a construction site in the Happy Valley district, near Hong Kong's famous downtown racing track, The Standard daily reported. The bomb, 1.68 meter in length and 60 centimeters in diameter, contained about 450 kg of explosives, with officials saying the disposal was a lengthy operation.

"We had to remove and burn the explosives at a low temperature and prevent air pressure from building up inside the bomb because that could have lead to a

major explosion," said Jimmy Yuen of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau.

He told reporters an explosion of the bomb would have caused severe damage to buildings within a 10-meter radius, adding that his team spent more than two hours dismantling it in the early hours of Friday.

"The bomb's two detonators were intact and operational. We managed to control the burning temperature and speed, and safely set off small explosions, avoiding a major blast," Yuen said, adding that 2,200 people were evacuated before the operation began. The bombshell is still intact despite the bomb squad drilling two holes into it, with local media reporting the shell will likely be put on display in a museum.

Kyodo News

Amendment to Constitution of Myanmar discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a del-

egation led by Mr Roelf Meyer, member of Global Leadership Foundation and Former Minister of Constitutional Affairs of South Africa, at his office, here, this morning.

On the occasion, they exchanged views on matters of legislation, activities of the foundation, reform experiences of South Africa and Indonesia and matters related to amendment to the Constitution of Myanmar.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Thierry MATHOU at Zeyathiri Beikman.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Information Team

Press Release (2/2014)

7th February 2014

8th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1375 ME

Press release on investigation made in accord with the law on some journalists

1. The Government of Myanmar has noticed the concern of domestic media organizations including the Myanmar Press Council (Interim) and international media organizations over the government's investigation on five journalists including U Tin Hsan, Chief Executive Officer of Unity Journal, under the Myanmar Official Secret Act. The government on its part also seriously recognized for their concern.
2. For the purpose of rule of law, the Myanmar Police Force will handle the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the journalists can enjoy all their legal rights during the investigation period.
3. It is believed that judicial sectors will adjudicate an independent and fair trial on the said journalists in accord with its fundamental judicial principles, and this press release regarding investigation made in accord with the law on journalists of Unity Journal by the Myanmar Police Force is issued for the public information.

Information Team

Pickups to be replaced with new minibuses in Yangon municipal area

The officials have already announced that pickup cars which operate in Yangon municipal area will be allowed to run as passenger carriers till 15 February.

According to All Bus Lines Supervisory Committee (central), there are over 800 vehicles in 46 the passenger bus lines in Yangon Region. The vehicle owners asked for permission to replace the passenger cars with Hyundai, minibuses manufactured by South Korea, said an official of ABLSC. The bus fares are K 50, K 100 and K 200. "Plan to run minibuses instead of five pickups was submitted to ABLSC and even those minibuses are not ready to operate with CNG, we will run the routes with petrol. It will be more

convenient if permission is given to directly fix CNG from pickups to minibuses," said a car owner.

It is learnt that vehicle owners submitted a plan to ABLSC (Yangon Region) for operating a new Number 59 air-con minibus lines and the fixed bus fare

Byline & Photo; Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)

will be K 200. It can be seen new minibuses stationary near No (3) small vehicle line on Lower Kyimyindine Road, describing a line of writing

"CCTV is installed for your safety" beside side-view mirrors of the cars.

Myanma Alinn;
6-2-2014
Trs; KHS

