

The New Light of Myanmar

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Volume XXI, Number 306

2nd Waning of Tabodwe 1375 ME

Sunday, 16 February 2014

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Myanmar, Laos to strengthen friendship and amity

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—A Myanmar defence services goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid a call on President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr. Choummaly SAYASONE at the latter's residence at 3:30 pm LST yesterday.

First, the Laotian president wished President U Thein Sein and Myanmar people good health. He expressed his belief that Myanmar's internal peace being formulated by the President and the chiefs of defence services would achieve success.

The Senior General said that Myanmar's successive governments had strived for ending the conflicts, adding that the incumbent government and defence services have been making all-out efforts for peace and stability of the country. He highlighted that responsibility of the defence services of every country is to safeguard sovereignty and lives of the people, saying the pur-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo together with President of Lao PDR Mr. Choummaly SAYASONE.—MNA

pose of his visit to Laos is to strengthen friendship and amity between the two armed forces. Myanmar will cooperate with Laos in drugs elimination task which is the main challenge for both countries, he said.

The Laotian president disclosed that since gain-

ing independence, peace and stability have been the cause for Laos and pledged to further make stronger bilateral relations.

The Senior General and wife yesterday evening attended the dinner hosted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National De-

fence Lt-Gen Douangchay Phichith and wife at Don Chan Palace Hotel.

The Senior General and wife and the Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence presented gifts to the entertainment troupes that performed traditional dances and songs

at the dinner, and posed for documentary photo.

Yesterday afternoon, the Senior General received Chief of Staff Major General Suvone Leoungbounmy of Laos People's Armed Forces at Don Chan Palace Hotel.

(See page 9)

Myanmar to see official inauguration of Nangcho hydropower station soon

As electricity is key to building a modern and developed nation, the Hydropower Implementation Department

of the Ministry of Electric Power is working on production of electricity with the use of abundant water resources in the country.

It is delighted to hear that there will be an official inauguration of Nangcho hydropower station soon as its test-running of electricity supply for three months had reached on 11 February. As of 2006-2007 FY, construction-1 of the department started building the hydropower power station at a place which is about seven miles upstream from the confluence of Nangcho creek and Paunglaung river, 16-mile east of Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinmana. The station aims to generate 40 megawatts a year.

In cooperation with engineers from The Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc of Japan and experts from Colenco Power Engineering Co., Ltd of Switzerland, the department performed feasi-

Byline & Photo:
Chan Myae Maung

bility studies for the project within two years from 2002 to 2004 and completed construction of an approach road in 2008.

Having an interview with U Min Aung, assistance director of the department, he assured that there will be no environment impacts from the Run-Off River hydropower station. The station installed with one turbine and one generator has a combined electricity generation capacity of 40 MW. The station attained cent-per-cent completion on 13 October and its test running period started on 11 November, supplying electricity to the national power grid through 230 KV power line.

Kyemon: 15-2-2014

Trs: YM



Photo shows progress of Nangcho Hydropower Station, 16 miles east of Pinyinmana.

CB Bank to open branch in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 15 Feb—A building is under construction for opening the bank branch of CB Bank on Meiktila (B) Street of Aung San Road.

It is located near Myanmar Apex Bank building.

So far, eleven bank branches have been opened in Myingyan.

Banking services are being provided by bank branches to the customers.—*Kyemon-Htay Myint Maung*

CB Bank building is under construction in Myingyan.



Mahlaing Township spends K 100 million on rural development

MAHLAING, 15 Feb—Mahlaing Township allotted K 100 million on rural development of Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Aye Mauk, Region Hluttaw MP U Shwe Nan and township level officials inspected progress of development tasks on 12 February.



Officials look into progress of construction tasks in Mahlaing.

They also looked into the construction tasks at BEPS in Kynthia Village and a reinforced concrete bridge linking Ahson Village's Ahson BEPS.

In Chaukkhwe Village, they inspected repairing and construction tasks.

They viewed BEPS buildings in Awzahan BEPS and Hsinkyin BEPS, Nyaunggon-Ywathit-Ledaw inter-village road and BEPSs in Ledaw, Dahattan and Kungyan villages.

In Mahlaing Township, development fund K 100 million will be spent on 34 education buildings,

Village and repairing the bridge linking Htantaw and Monbinlay village.

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Construction

Development tasks for urban area of Mohnyin inspected

MOHNYIN, 15 Feb—Mohnyin Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Soe Lay, Deputy Commissioner of the district U Kyaw Swa Aung, Township Engineer U Myint Zaw of Public Works, Executive Officer U Hla Moe of Township Development Affairs Committee and Chairman of Township Development Affairs Committee U Zaw Win Lay and officials inspected progress of development projects in Mohnyin Township in Kachin State on 14 February.

They looked into repaving of asphalt road to Mohnyin Degree College which is 5400 feet long being

implemented by Township DAC. Assistant Engineer (Civil) U N Khun Aung conducted them round the worksite.

They also viewed progress of buildings at Mohnyin Degree College, gymnasium, stadium with 400-m track and other hostels. Principal of the degree college Dr Aung Min Win conducted them round the construction tasks.

The officials inspected construction of earthen detour and small bridges in the town and Township Engineer U Myint Zaw explained progress of works.

Kyemon-K Hsai Naw (Phakant)



25 roads and bridges, three tube-wells, two rural health centres and three rural electrification tasks. Officials of the township development affairs

committee conducted them round the work sites and explained progress of tasks.

Kyemon-Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Globetrotters go shopping at Myoma market in Thanlyin



Tourists visiting Thanlyin Myoma Market on their arrival at toilet of the market.

YANGON, 15 Feb—Globetrotters arrived at Thanlyin of Yangon Region on 13 February and went round the market to purchase the goods they liked.

“As Thanlyin is a township, the layout plan of the township is so nice.

Thanlyin Myoma market is a good shopping centre, and there are many items of goods they want to buy,” said an entrepreneur.

Thanlyin is a district level town. The Township Development Affairs Committee is trying hard to

keep the town neat and tidy in conformity with the town characteristics.

Myoma market in Thanlyin is facilitated with best toilets for foreigners as a good tourist service.

Kyemon-Tin Maung Ngwe (Thanlyin)

Milch cow breeding on manageable scale in Meiktila Township

MEIKTILA, 15 Feb—Local people in Phalankyin Village of Meiktila Township breed milch cows on a manageable scale and earn incomes for their livelihoods, said local people.

“The whole village is engaged in breeding of

milch cows. Each breeds a pair of cows at least. Each milch cow produces four to five viss of milk. We feed them with groundnut paste cakes. Dr Win Myint Thein and party of Township Livestock Breeding and

Veterinary Department provide necessary assistance for breeding with animal health care services.

Families of the whole village breed about 200 milch cows. So we all can earn increased incomes daily,” said Ko Zaw Min Tun.

Phalankyin Village is located near Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung Road.

Most of the local people are engaged in milch cow breeding in addition to cultivation of paddy and crops.

MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)



WORLD

Italy's Renzi readies for power but faces daunting task

ROME, 15 Feb — Matteo Renzi is one step from becoming Italy's youngest-ever prime minister after swiftly dispatching Enrico Letta in a party coup, but the manner of his political triumph could make it harder to carry out the bold reforms needed to resurrect the economy.

After Renzi and the rest of the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) leadership forced Letta to quit by withdrawing their support at a special meeting on Thursday, the prime minister handed his resignation to President Giorgio Napolitano.

Napolitano will hold two days of consultations leading to the appointment of a successor. The 39-year-old Renzi, whose PD is the biggest party in parliament, could be named premier as soon as this weekend.

Ironically, the fall of the government coincided with an implicit recognition by Moody's investor services that Italy's economic outlook had improved during Letta's administration.

Moody's on Friday night lifted Italy's sovereign rating outlook from negative to stable, signalling a possible change in sentiment towards the

country's sovereign debt since the start of the euro zone crisis.

Renzi, who would be the third Italian prime minister in a row to be appointed without winning an election, faces intense pressure to achieve the structural reforms that have eluded Italy for years.

Though he has long been agitating for sweeping change in Italian politics and won a landslide victory for his party's leadership in December, few had expected him to snatch power from Letta so soon.

Renzi's decision to bring down the prime minister matured over the past fortnight, according to people close to him, after mounting pressure from unions and Italy's business lobby which have criticized the Letta government for not doing enough to help the country's struggling corporate landscape.

"The change came after a rather abnormal piece of pyrotechnics but I wouldn't waste too much time on the whys and hows of it all. The problem is this: Can he help get the country moving again?" Carlo De Benedetti, one of Italy's most prominent businessmen, said at an event in Turin.



Centre-left leader Matteo Renzi drives as he leaves at the end of a meeting with Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta in Rome on 12 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

"If he can, the way the change happened will be forgotten. If he can't, that is all that will be remembered," he said.

Renzi has shown himself a decisive, even ruthless political tactician but the structural problems that have made Italy one of the world's slowest growing economies over the past two decades will be a tougher challenge than sidelining rivals.

Data from statistics office ISTAT on Friday showed a 0.1 percent rise in economic output in the final quarter of last year, the first increase since 2011.

The meager scale of the growth underlines how slowly Italy is emerging from its worst recession since World War Two and how far it has fallen behind other European economies like France or Spain, let alone continental champion Germany.

Over the whole of 2013 the economy, the third largest in the 18-member euro zone, contracted by 1.9 percent after a 2.6 percent drop the year before.

Gross domestic product has shrunk around 7 percent in the last five years and industrial output has fallen by 25 percent. Hundreds of thousands of companies have gone out of business and in the southern half of the country less than half of the working age population has a job.

Italy's 2 trillion euros of public debt are equivalent to more than 130 percent of total economic output and its 12.7 percent unemployment rate is at a level unseen since the 1970s. "What Italy needs at this point is not a reformer, it's a revolutionary," said one senior official from business lobby Confindustria.

Reuters

Peace stone from Hiroshima presented to E Timor

DILI, 15 Feb — A Hiroshima-based civic group on Friday presented East Timor with a stone from the 1945 US atomic bombing of the Japanese city, engraved with an image of the Buddhist goddess of mercy.

Representing a country that achieved independence in 2002 after many years of colonial rule and internal strife, East Timorese President Taur Matan Ruak received the Stone for Peace from Yoji Okamoto,

which represents Hiroshima's heart, to the people of your country who have been making great efforts to keep the world peaceful." More than 50 government officials and dignitaries, including Japanese Ambassador Yoshitaka Hanada, attended the ceremony.

The granite stone is about 50 centimetres square and weighs about 50 kilograms. It was one of the paving stones for the Hiroshima streetcar network and



East Timorese President Taur Matan Ruak speaks at a presentation ceremony for the Stone for Peace from a Hiroshima-based civic group in Dili on 14 Feb, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

secretary general of the Stone for Peace Association of Hiroshima. The president said the stone, as "a symbol of the deepening friendship" between the people of East Timor and Japan, represents "the common commitment to bringing about consolidation of peace and harmony" in the world.

Okamoto said, "It is an honor for us indeed that we have this opportunity to present this stone,

was just 200 meters from ground zero. The ceremony was held in the presidential palace's entrance hall where the stone will be placed on permanent display.

More than 100 countries have so far received or agreed to receive stones, which also have the English words "From Hiroshima" engraved on it, since the start of the donation campaign in 1991.

Kyodo News

Keidanren chairman awarded Singapore's highest honour for foreigners

SINGAPORE, 15 Feb — The Singapore government on Friday awarded its highest honour for foreigners to Hiromasa Yonekura, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, also known as Keidanren, in recognition of his "significant contributions to Singapore."

Yonekura, who is also chairman of Sumitomo Chemical Co, received the "Honorary Citizen Award" from President Tony Tan at a ceremony at the presidential palace.

The statement said

Yonekura has long played "a key role in fostering close economic ties between both countries" and has contributed significantly to the growth of the city-state's chemicals industry through the formation of Petrochemical Corp of Singapore, the first petrochemical complex in Southeast Asia. Sumitomo Chemical is the largest Japanese investor on Singapore's Jurong Island, with more than S\$3 billion (US\$2.38 billion) in cumulative investments.

Kyodo News

Japan, US to hold high-level talks on TPP trade pact



Akira Amari, Japan's minister in charge of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks, speaks to reporters at Narita International Airport, northeast of Tokyo, on 15 Feb, 2014, as he leaves for Washington to talk with US Trade Representative Michael Froman to try to bridge bilateral gaps over the TPP. —KYODO NEWS

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — Japan and the United States will hold high-level talks on Saturday in Washington to bridge bilateral gaps over the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks ahead of a plenary ministerial meeting on it in Singapore.

The results of the talks will be closely watched as a possible failure for the two biggest economies in the envisioned TPP pact to make progress could affect prospects for an early conclusion of the deal.

Given both governments have remain apart on Japan's intention to keep tariffs on sensitive agricultural produce, the issue will be top on the agenda in talks between Japanese TPP minister Akira Amari and US Trade Representative Michael Froman.

"I'll work hard on making progress that would

be good both for Japan and the United States," Amari told reporters at Narita airport before leaving Japan.

Kenichiro Sasae, Japanese ambassador to the United States, told reporters Friday, "I hope Japan-US negotiations will see progress (through the Amari-Froman meeting) by showing flexibility and making utmost efforts."

Japan has said it will retain tariffs on five farm product categories — rice, wheat, beef and pork, dairy products and sugar — as an exceptional measure in the free trade framework to protect domestic farmers.

But the United States has urged Japan to drop the demand, a sticking point in TPP negotiations since Japan joined the United States and 10 other countries in the framework last year.

Kyodo News

WORLD

Policeman dies of injuries in Bahrain terror blast

MANAMA, 15 Feb — A Bahraini policeman died of his injuries in a bus explosion on Saturday, Bahrain police said.

The policeman was among the two people who sustained injuries in a terror blast in Daih village, as anti-government protestors clashed with security forces in several parts of the country on Friday to mark the third anniversary since protests broke out in February 2011. "There was an explosion that damaged a bus carrying policemen in Daih," the Interior Ministry said in



An anti-government protester clashes with riot police in suburban Manama, Bahrain, on 14 Feb, 2014, the third anniversary of Bahrain's on 14 Feb, 2011 protests.

XINHUA

a statement "Two policemen were injured in a terrorist explosion," it said, adding that a policeman later died of his injuries.

The deceased policeman is been identified as Waheed Al Balooshi. Police said they arrested 26 rioters on Friday and 29 on Thurs-

day who vandalised properties, illegally blocked roads to disrupt traffic and attacked police with firebombs in several parts of the kingdom.

"Some villages saw rioting, vandalism and the targeting of policemen. This required police to respond to these criminal acts with legal means." The ministry said that the current increase in police deployed throughout the country is for the protection of all and will continue in the coming days in order to respond to attempts to riot or to vandalize property.

Xinhua

N Korean scholar voices hope for better inter-Korean economic ties

PYONGYANG, 15 Feb — A senior North Korean scholar on Friday expressed hope that a recent improvement in political relations with South Korea will lead to economic cooperation between the two countries.

"If the right political and military conditions were met, we could have economic cooperation," Ri Gi Song, a professor at the Economic Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, said in an interview with *Kyodo News* shortly after North and South Korea agreed to hold reunions of families separated by the Korean War as scheduled on 20-25 February.

Ri said at a Pyongyang hotel that "politics plays a

decisive role" and he is "convinced that the south-north relations will develop in line with the marshal's intention," pointing out that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year's address called for the creation of a favourable climate for improved relations between the two Koreas.

Ri said that Kim made "a very courageous decision" to state clearly in the address his wish to engage in political dialogue with the South Korean government under President Park Geun Hye, while criticizing her predecessor Lee Myung Bak as a follower of the United States.

The two rounds of talks this week at the border vil-

lage of Panmunjom marked the first encounter of high-level officials of the two Koreas in seven years.

During the first round of talks on Wednesday, the two sides failed to strike a deal on the reunions, last held in 2010, at North Korea's Mt Kumgang resort.

North Korea had urged South Korea to delay its annual military exercises with the United States, which it sees as a rehearsal for invasion, scheduled to begin 24 February. But it eventually backed down from its initial demand.

The two Koreas, still technically in a state of war as the 1950-1953 Korean War ended only with an ar-



Ri Gi Song, a professor at North Korea's Economic Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, speaks during an interview with Kyodo News in Pyongyang on 14 Feb, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

mistice, not with a permanent peace treaty, also agreed to stop slandering each other's government in the high-level talks.—*Kyodo News*

Colombian illegal goldmine collapse kills 5

BOGOTA, 15 Feb — At least five people were killed and 17 others injured Friday in the collapse of an illegal goldmine in southwestern Colombia, said the authorities.

The remote goldmine

in the heart of a jungle near the city of Santa Barbara in Narino Department can only be reached by boat or helicopter, which makes search and rescue operations difficult, said Narino Governor Raul Delgado.

Preliminary investigation showed that the tragedy may be caused by unlicensed digging that loosened the earth, added the departmental chief.

Colombia has a rich resource of gold. However,

with some areas under the control of armed anti-government groups, it has been difficult for mining companies to conduct business, while illegal, private mining is common in parts of the country.—*Xinhua*

Investigation into Kawasaki train collision starts

YOKOHAMA, 15 Feb — Transport authorities Saturday launched an investigation into a commuter train collision in Kawasaki city south of Tokyo earlier in the day that left 19 passengers with light injuries.

At around 12:30 am, a train on the Tokyu Toyoko line linking Tokyo and Yokohama bumped into another train that was standing at Motosumiyoshi Station after overrunning the stop line by about 30 metres.

The first and second cars of the moving train derailed after the collision and the driver said he had applied the brake but not in time, according to Kanagawa prefectural police.

According to railway operator Tokyu Corp, there is a possibility the automatic train control system did not function properly. Train services had been suffering disruption at the time of the accident due to heavy snow.—*Kyodo News*



Photo shows Takeshi Notsu, a keeper at Matsue Vogel Park, and 10-year-old female penguin Sakura in Matsue, Shimane Prefecture, western Japan, on 14 Feb, 2014. The bird and flower garden says Sakura frequently chases and stays close to the male keeper in apparent courtship behaviours.

KYODO NEWS

Places to Eat

The following is a reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2013. Please visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed



Restaurants

Restaurants serving traditional Myanmar dishes can be found throughout cities and towns and at the main tourist attractions. Most Myanmar restaurants maintain high standards of hygiene. Salads and noodle dishes can be complete meals in themselves but the experience of a multi-dish Myanmar meal is much enjoyed by visitors. There is also a wide range of restaurants serving Western, Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, Malaysian, Korean, Indian and Thai food.

Teashops

A visit to Myanmar is not complete without experiencing its ubiquitous teashops, but most close in the early evening. There are teashops in all towns or cities and those which are crowded are renowned for their good tea and food, including one-dish meals.

Street Food

Visitors who want to enjoy a night on the town in Yangon should consider beginning their evening by savouring the city street food. In Yangon and Mandalay seek out Chinatown for good Chinese food. Shan and fried noodles, spring rolls, roast chicken and spicy chicken salad are also available in Chinatown. There are shops selling delicious Myanmar salads made from ingredients such as pickled tea, ginger and seaweed and tomatoes.

Wife of Japanese rampage victim hoping for early revisit to Guam

MITO/UTSUNOMIYA, (Japan), 15 Feb — The wife of one of the Japanese victims of a car and knife rampage in Guam a year ago is planning to revisit the island as soon as possible to convey her gratitude to those who have supported her. Michiko Yokota, 52, from Itako, Ibaraki Prefecture, broke both her legs in the mass attack that killed her husband Hitoshi, 51, and two other Japanese.

Hitoshi died two days after being hit by a car driven by the assailant in a major tourist area of the resort island, while Michiko only left hospital at the end of January. "She cannot walk without a cane. She is still working hard to rehabilitate," Tadahito Hanyu, 52, a high school classmate of the Yokotas, said of Michiko's condition.

Michiko underwent six rounds of operations while in hospital, including the implanting of artificial bones into her right leg. She was not present when her husband died in hospital in Guam, nor was she able to attend his cremation in Japan.

She is now—with the help of her parents — attending rehabilitation sessions at a hospital in Chiba Prefecture twice a week as she works on regaining the use of her legs. But she still wasn't strong enough to visit the island to observe the first anniversary of her husband's death.

Since the attack, Michiko and her supporters have campaigned for changes in the law. Japan's crime victim compensation system does not cover victims of crimes abroad, and it was only as the result of a campaign run by Hanyu and others that Itako city established an ordinance so that victims of crimes abroad are eligible to receive consolatory payments. The central government is now also considering a new compensation system for victims of overseas crimes. "I will make efforts to contribute to support for victims of crimes overseas. Please do not forget us," Michiko said when the anniversary was observed in Japan on 8 February, according to attendants of the service.

Kyodo News

WORLD

Missing panda said to be mating confirmed dead

HONG KONG, 15 Feb — A zoo manager in central China's Henan Province allegedly lied about the condition of a giant panda, saying she was sent away for mating purposes when in fact she was dead, according to reports on Friday.

The 7-year-old female panda, Jinyi, was on loan to the Zhengzhou Zoo when she went missing last week, the *Southern Metropolis Daily* reported.

The zoo's manager Li Chaojun had claimed she was sent back to a breeding base in Sichuan for mating as she was in heat, but the China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda later found that Jinyi had died from internal

bleeding, shock and heart and lung failure caused by acute hemorrhagic enteritis.

Some zoogoers suspect Jinyi was mistreated, especially considering that the zoo's panda house was smelly and scattered with massive amount of feces and dried bamboo sticks.

The zoo told the Press on Thursday that Jinyi lost her appetite on Friday last week and her condition quickly deteriorated. It said she died early Sunday despite medical attention. Li said he did not reveal the truth because "the cause of Jinyi's death was not confirmed then." A full autopsy will take place in two weeks to ascertain the cause of death.—*Kyodo News*



Volunteer guide Shuji Yamamoto (R) recounts damage inflicted on the town of Yamamoto, Miyagi Prefecture, by the devastating earthquake and tsunami of on 11 March, 2011, to visitors in December 2013.—*KYODO NEWS*

JCP not to field candidate in Osaka mayoral election

OSAKA, 15 Feb—In joining other major political parties, the Japanese Communist Party said Friday it will not field a candidate in an Osaka mayoral election to be held next month after Mayor Toru Hashimoto tendered his resignation to seek re-election to achieve his local government reform goal.

The JCP's local chapter said it decided not to field a candidate to get into line with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, its coalition partner New Komeito party and the main opposi-

tion Democratic Party of Japan, which have made similar decisions.

Meanwhile, the Osaka municipal assembly voted Friday to reject Hashimoto's resignation set for Saturday. However, he will automatically lose the mayoral post on 27, 20 February days after he submitted his offer to resign, under the local autonomy law.

Hashimoto, who is also co-head of the opposition Japan Restoration Party, tendered his resignation on 7 February as an initial step toward seeking re-election

to achieve his controversial goal to merge the Osaka prefectural and municipal governments into a single metropolitan government by winning "a fresh mandate from voters."

The JCP's local chapter had planned to field a candidate in the election but its municipal assembly members were opposed to the plan.

Hashimoto could be re-elected with a vote in the election set for March 23. Official campaigning will start on 9 March.

Kyodo News

Abe's legal aide to be discharged for hospital soon

TOKYO, 15 Feb — The chief of the government's legal advisory body is expected to be discharged from hospital as soon as next week, a government source said on Friday. The government will decide in coming weeks whether Ichiro Komatsu, who heads the Cabinet Legislation Bureau, will resume his duties after taking into account his health and preferences.

Komatsu has been hospitalized since late last month with an unknown illness. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference Friday that the government will make public details of Komatsu's illness later this month.

Komatsu's hospitalization could affect Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's plan to begin allowing Japan to participate in collective defence, or coming to the defence of an ally like the United States if it were attacked. Komatsu is instrumental to Abe's plan since opinions from his bureau could possibly change how the Constitution is interpreted.—*Kyodo News*



Louay al-Safi, spokesman of the opposition delegation, attends a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14 Feb, 2014. Delegates of Syrian government and the opposition both admitted on Friday that the second round of the Geneva II conference failed to achieve any progress.—*XINHUA*

New Tokyo Gov Masuzoe to attend closing ceremony of Sochi Olympics

TOKYO, 15 Feb — New Tokyo Gov Yoichi Masuzoe will attend the 23 February closing ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympics, the metropolitan government said on Friday.

During his trip to the Russian city from 21 to 25 February, Masuzoe is arranging a meeting with International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach as the representative of the host city of the 2020 Summer Olympics.

"I hope to build a relationship of trust with the



Fans show their support for Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan in the men's figure skating short programme at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, on 13 Feb, 2014.—*KYODO NEWS*

IOC as a partner," said Masuzoe, who scored a landslide victory in Sunday's gubernatorial election.

Kyodo News

Toshiba to invest 50 bil yen in infrastructure businesses in India

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb — Toshiba Corp said on Friday it will invest about 50 billion yen in infrastructure-related businesses in India by March 2018 amid mounting demand for improved infrastructure in the country.

Toshiba also plans to

increase overall sales in India about seven-fold to 180 billion rupees (about 300 billion yen) by March 2018, while increasing its employees there to 8,000 from about 3,000 at present. The company aims to expand development, production and sales

of thermal power generation systems with its joint venture in India with an eye to exporting them particularly to Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa, where many major thermal power generation projects are planned.

Kyodo News

Peach stepping up efforts to hire pilots to boost flights

OSAKA, 15 Feb — Peach Aviation, a Japanese budget carrier, is stepping up efforts to win the competition for pilots as scores of new carriers enter the aviation market.

Peach, one of the low-cost carriers struggling in the increasingly competitive industry, says getting hold of pilots is one of the most vital issues for its future growth as it aims to boost the number of flights.

"Competition to recruit students aiming to be a pilot has become severer and we are actively visiting universities and holding orientations for students," said Kenji Kakujo, a 62-year-old executive officer who leads the company's flight operations department and is also a pilot himself.

The carrier based at Kansai International Airport in Osaka now has a total of some 100 pilots and co-pilots. Most of them joined

from major airlines including Japan Airlines, which failed in 2010 before undergoing rehabilitation.

Peach, partly owned by ANA Holdings Inc, is recruiting graduates who have received basic pilot training at university as "co-pilot candidates" as it seeks to hire a total of 20 to 30 pilots a year, including

experienced flyers from other airlines. The first pilot trained by Peach started flying as recently as May 2013.

Ryoji Fujii, 32, is now in the final phase of the company's pilot training program and learning to fly an airplane actually in service a few times a week under the direction of a captain.

Kyodo News



Photo taken in January 2014 at Kansai International Airport shows Ryoji Fujii (R), a rookie pilot of Peach Aviation, ready to fly an airplane under the direction of a captain. Fujii, who entered Peach as the low-cost carrier's first pilot trainee in January 2013, is in the final phase of the airline's pilot training programme.—*KYODO NEWS*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Tennessee Volkswagen plant votes against union in UAW defeat



A general view of the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee on 14 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

CHATTANOOGA, (Tennessee), 15 Feb — In a stinging defeat that could accelerate the decades-long decline of the United Auto Workers, employees voted against union representation at Volkswagen AG's

Chattanooga, Tennessee plant, which had been seen as organized labor's best chance to expand in the US South.

Retired Tennessee Circuit Court Judge Sam Payne, who oversaw the

count, said workers voted against UAW representation by 712 to 626. Advocates on both sides sought to sway workers' opinions to the very end. Republican US Senator Bob Corker, the former mayor of Chattanooga who helped win the VW plant, said on Wednesday after the first day of voting that VW would expand the factory if the union was rejected. "Needless to say, I am thrilled," Corker said in a statement after the results were disclosed. An announcement of whether a new seven-passenger crossover vehicle will be produced in Chattanooga or in Mexico could come as early as next week, VW sources told Reuters.

Pro-union advocates

blamed Republicans for trying to manipulate the outcome, and President Barack Obama waded into the discussion early on Friday, accusing Republican politicians of being more concerned about German shareholders than US workers. But legal experts earlier had said that any challenge of the outcome, based on Corker's comments, would be difficult, given broad free speech protection for US Senators.

The loss in Tennessee could further dent the prestige of the UAW, whose membership has plummeted 75 percent since 1979 and now stands at just under 400,000.

The decision also is likely to reinforce the

widely held notion that the UAW cannot make significant inroads in a region that historically has been steadfastly against organized labor and where all foreign-owned assembly plants employ nonunion workers. The results were particularly surprising for UAW supporters because VW had allowed the union access to the factory and officially stayed neutral on the vote, while other manufacturers have been hostile to organized labour. Local anti-union organizer Mike Burton cheered the results. "Not on our watch," he exulted.

"We think it's unfortunate that there was some outside influence exerted into this process," a red-eyed Gary Casteel, regional

director of the UAW, told reporters after the results were announced, adding that the process needed to be "evaluated". For VW, the stakes also were high. The German automaker invested \$1 billion in the Chattanooga plant, which began building Passat mid-size sedans in April 2011, after being awarded more than \$577 million in state and local incentives. VW executives have said the new crossover vehicle, due in 2016 and known internally as CrossBlue, could be built at either the Chattanooga plant or in Mexico. Some 89 percent of eligible voters cast ballots, Judge Payne said. The election was held over three days.—Reuters

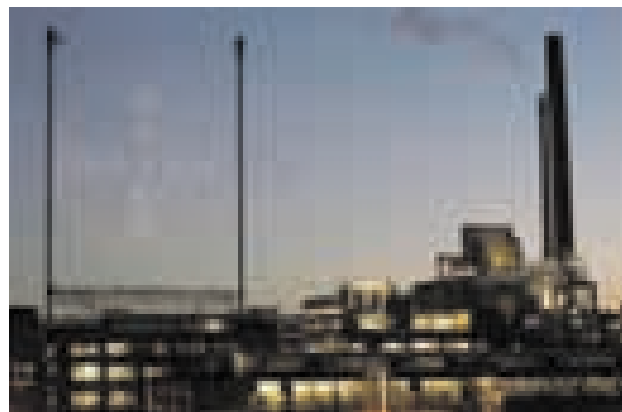
FDA rejects wider use of Xarelto drug

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — US health regulators have again declined to approve proposed wider uses of Bayer AG and Johnson & Johnson's lucrative blood clot preventer Xarelto, the drugmakers said on Friday. The companies had sought approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market the blockbuster pill for prevention of new heart attacks and strokes, and death, in patients with acute coronary syndrome (ACS), and also to prevent clogging of heart stents.

ACS is an umbrella term covering any condition brought on by sudden reduced blood flow to the heart, including heart attack and chest pain. Xarelto's biggest current approved use is to prevent blood clots

and strokes in patients with an irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation. The condition occurs mainly in the elderly. An advisory panel to the FDA concluded in January that Xarelto should not be approved to prevent new heart attacks or strokes, a use referred to as secondary prevention. The medicine is co-marketed by J&J and Bayer.

Clinical data from a single J&J trial was not strong enough to justify approval to market Xarelto to prevent further heart problems, especially since some data was missing, the panel found. J&J originally filed for approval of Xarelto in ACS in late 2011. The FDA rejected the application, citing missing data. The company retrieved some missing data but the FDA



A plant belonging to Germany's largest drugmaker Bayer is seen in Leverkusen on 30 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

once again declined to approve the drug, prompting J&J to appeal the decision. After the FDA denied the appeal, J&J filed a revised marketing application. But panelists in January said the additional data did not alter their view that the benefit of the drug was not shown to outweigh an increased risk of bleeding.

Johnson & Johnson spokeswoman Kristina Chang on Friday declined to comment when asked if

the FDA, in its rejection, had asked for new clinical trials to be conducted for the requested new uses or asked for other information. "We are not disclosing the details because we still are evaluating the contents and our next steps," Chang said. Shares of J&J were down 0.5 percent in morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange, while shares of Bayer rose 0.86 percent in Germany.

Reuters

Japan retailer to sell "kawaii" goods in Singapore via high-tech vending machines

SINGAPORE, 15 Feb — Japanese fashion brand and retailer Satisfaction Guaranteed said on Friday it will launch the sale of Japanese products, mainly "kawaii" or cute goods usually associated with Japan, through high-tech digital vending machines in Singapore on Saturday.

"Singapore will...be the first country outside of Japan to have this intelligent digital vending machine," the company said at an event to introduce its new retail platform in the affluent

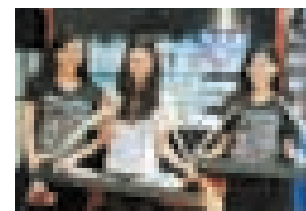


Photo shows a vending machine in Singapore on 14 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS city-state. "These state-of-the-art digital vending machines...will pair technology with an exclusive range of quality Japanese products to bring a fresh shopping experience," it said in a statement.

Kyodo News

Digital media could work as tool to improve health

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — After a desperate mother in South Wales, UK, posted a video of her baby having a seizure on Facebook, one of her friends provided the diagnosis that had eluded the boy's doctor. The discovery that Evan Owens suffers from reflex anoxic seizures, a rare but treatable disease, provided a happy ending and is just one example of the public health benefits of digital media, says a new perspective in the *Journal of Public Health*.

Evan's story, published in the UK's *Daily Mail*, illustrates how people are turning to the Internet for healthcare advice and how important it is for healthcare professionals to participate in the discussion, the perspective's lead author, Amelia Burke-Garcia, told Reuters Health. "There's

always the risk of misinformation or false information floating around on these channels," Burke-Garcia said.

"The fact that people are using them demonstrates the need for healthcare professionals to be active and share information in these environments." Public health professionals are beginning to use digital media as a research tool and to deliver messages about everything from obesity to AIDS, the study says.

"But there are many other opportunities that can be explored especially because existing platforms will evolve and new ones will emerge," Burke-Garcia said. She runs the Center for Digital Strategy and Research at Westat, a research corporation in Rockville, Maryland.—Xinhua

Vitamin C could reduce risk of stroke



WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — Eating foods that contain vitamin C, such as oranges, papaya, peppers, broccoli and strawberries, may reduce your risk of stroke, a new study has found. The study, to be presented at the American Academy of

Neurology's annual meeting in Philadelphia later this year, involved 65 people who had experienced an intracerebral hemorrhagic stroke, or a blood vessel rupture inside the brain, as well as 65 healthy people.

Participants were

tested for the levels of vitamin C in their blood in order to investigate the relationship between the vitamin and hemorrhagic stroke, which is less common than ischemic stroke, but is more often deadly. Overall, 41 percent of participants had normal levels of vitamin C, 45 percent showed depleted levels of vitamin C and 14 percent were considered deficient of the vitamin.

On average, people who had a stroke had depleted levels of vitamin C, while those who had not had a stroke had normal levels of the vitamin, the researchers said. "Our results show that vitamin C deficiency

should be considered a risk factor for this severe type of stroke, as were high blood pressure, drinking alcohol and being overweight in our study," said study author Stephane Vannier of Pontchaillou University Hospital in Rennes, France, in a statement.

Vannier added that vitamin C appears to regulate blood pressure and also has other benefits like creating collagen, a protein found in bones, skin and tissues, but more research is needed. Previous studies have found that vitamin C deficiency may be linked to heart disease.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

World's largest solar power plant delivers electricity to California



LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb — The world's largest solar power plant of its type is now delivering electricity to California customers, Jeff Holland, spokesperson for NRG Energy, told *Xinhua* on Friday. At full capacity, the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System produces a gross total of 392 megawatts of solar power, enough electricity for 140,000 California homes, and would avoid 400,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, equal to removing 72,000 vehicles off the road.

Ivanpah, which accounts for nearly 30 percent of all solar thermal energy

currently operational in the United States, is for now the largest solar project in the world. The complex is sprawling across roughly 3,500 acres of land near the California-Nevada border, four times the size of New York's Central Park, Holland said. He disclosed that most solar PV panels used in the facility are manufactured by Chinese manufacturing companies. Using technology known as solar-thermal, nearly 350,000 computer-controlled mirrors roughly the size of a garage door reflect sunlight to boilers atop the 450-foot towers.

Since breaking ground

in October 2010, the project has created thousands of jobs and, at the peak of construction, employed nearly 3,000 site workers, said NRG Energy, which jointly owns the complex with Google, and Oakland-based BrightSource Energy. Tom Doyle, president of NRG Energy, said, "Cleantech innovations, such as Ivanpah, are critical to establishing America's leadership in large-scale, clean-energy technology that will keep our economy globally competitive over the next several decades."

"We see Ivanpah changing the energy landscape by proving that utility-scale solar is not only possible, but incredibly beneficial to both the economy and in how we produce and consume energy," said Doyle. The opening of Ivanpah comes as the government is pushing for development of greener, cleaner power. Currently, solar power accounts for less than 1 percent of the country's total power output. —*Xinhua*

NASA solves mystery of "jelly doughnut" rock on Mars

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — The mysterious Martian rock resembling a jelly doughnut, which appeared in front of NASA's Opportunity rover in early January, is a piece of a larger rock broken and moved by one of the rover's wheels, the US space agency said on Friday.

Only about 1.5 inches wide (4 centimeters), the white-rimmed, red-centered rock dubbed Pinnacle Island caused a stir last month when it appeared in an image the rover took on 8 January at a location where it was not present four days earlier. Now researchers with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory claimed that the rock mystery has finally been solved, as the rover has sent back more images that show where the rock came from.

"Once we moved Opportunity a short distance, after inspecting Pinnacle Island, we could see directly uphill an overturned rock that has the same unusual appearance," Opportunity Deputy Principal

Investigator Ray Arvidson of Washington University in St. Louis said in a statement. "We drove over it. We can see the track. That's where Pinnacle Island came from." Examination of Pinnacle Island revealed high levels of elements such as manganese and sulfur, suggesting these water-soluble ingredients were concentrated in the rock by the action of water.

"This may have happened just beneath the

surface relatively recently," Arvidson said. "Or it may have happened deeper below ground longer ago and then, by serendipity, erosion stripped away material above it and made it accessible to our wheels." Opportunity landed on Mars on 24 Jan, 2004 on what was to be a three-month mission, but instead the rover has lived beyond its prime mission and roved the planet for more than 10 years. —*Xinhua*



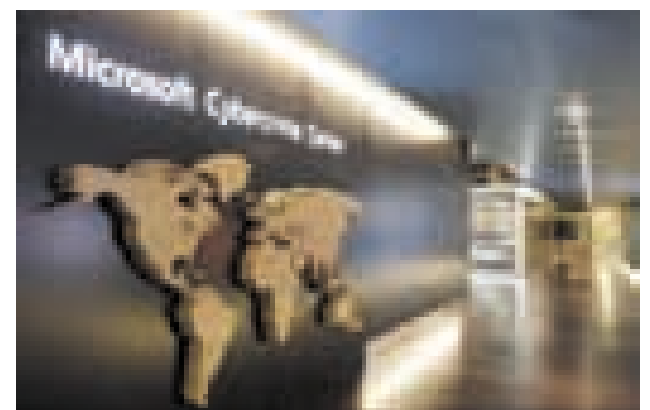
Microsoft flaw used to attack French aerospace employees, veterans

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Feb — A flaw in recent versions of Internet Explorer was used to attack visitors to a website for US military veterans, and also appears to have been used earlier against French aerospace industry employees, researchers said on Friday. The flaw in Microsoft Corp's IE 10 Web browser was reported on Thursday, days after it was used inside the Web page of nonprofit US group Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW said Friday that an unspecified federal law enforcement agency is investigating and that the malicious code on its site had been removed.

Security firm Websense Inc said it found similar attack code on a page set up on 20 January with a Web address nearly identical to one used by a French aerospace association. That sug-

gests the attacks using the flaw have been going on for at least three weeks, but might have succeeded earlier against higher-value targets and escaped discovery, said Websense Director of Security Research Alexander Watson. FireEye Inc, which discovered the VFW attack, said it appeared connected to previous attacks against the Japanese financial sector, security firm Bit9 and others that Symantec Corp security researchers attributed to a large and well-organized group in China. The latest attacks are considered to be sophisticated as they rely on a previously unknown flaw of a sort that can cost \$50,000 or more when sold by shadowy brokers to government agencies or contractors.

The industry calls these flaws "zero-day vulnerabilities." —*Reuters*



A sign is pictured in the hallway of the Microsoft Cybercrime Centre, the new headquarters of the Microsoft Digital Crimes Unit, in Redmond, Washington on 11 Nov, 2013. —*REUTERS*

China Telecom rolls out 4G network

BEIJING, 15 Feb — China Telecom Corp Ltd, the third-largest telecom carrier of the country, officially began the commercial rollout of its fourth-generation mobile network in the domestic market on Friday, competing with its leading rival China Mobile Ltd in the early stages of a new business sector. China Telecom leaped ahead of China Unicom (Hong Kong) Ltd to become the nation's second telecom operator to offer 4G services.

It plans to start 4G businesses in close to 100 cities across the country but only for wireless network cards rather than handsets. The

rate standards, which are in line with those of China Mobile unveiled a month ago, provide users with seven different pricing plans from 70 yuan (\$11.54) for 1 gigabyte of data traffic per month to 280 yuan for 10 GB of data volume every month. China Telecom said all 4G data cards it is scheduled to promote in the coming days support the home-grown Time Division-Long Term Evolution (TD-LTE) 4G technology.

After the Chinese government issued 4G licenses to telecom carriers on 4 December, 2013, industry analysts expected China



to quickly emerge as the world's biggest 4G market with an estimated 4G service subscriber base of 440 million by 2017. China Telecom's participation in the 4G race will stir the current market and pose a challenge to China Mobile, they said.

China Telecom's shares traded on the Hong Kong

stock exchange fell by 1.1 percent to close at HK\$3.58 (\$0.46) per share on Friday. China Mobile, the biggest Chinese telecom operator with a subscriber base of 760 million, said last December that it aims to offer 4G services in 340 cities in the country by year-end.

—*Xinhua*

Japan's Rakuten buys chat app Viber for \$900 million to expand digital empire

Tokyo, 15 Feb — Japanese e-commerce giant Rakuten Inc, controlled by billionaire Hiroshi Mikitani, will buy call and messaging app provider Viber Media Inc for \$900 million in a deal that would more than double the number of users in its digital empire. Rakuten offers services from financing to shopping to online video on its e-commerce platform, the largest in Japan. But in the face of



Viber's Founder and Chief Executive Marco Talmon gestures during a news conference at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona in this 26 Feb, 2013 file photo.

—*REUTERS*

a shrinking population and weak consumer spending at home, Mikitani is trying to re-invent Rakuten as a one-stop-site for a global audience.

Privately held Viber, run from Cyprus by Israeli entrepreneur Talmon Marco, will add 300 million users to Rakuten's existing 200 million users, Mikitani told reporters in Tokyo. "This acquisition... will take Rakuten to a

different level," said Mikitani, who is also the company's chief executive. The all-cash deal was announced after Rakuten reported an 80 percent jump in its 2013 operating profit. "Developing this messaging system on our own would have been impossible," he added, saying Rakuten users could, for example, use Viber's instant messages to contact an online store while considering a purchase. —*Reuters*

ARTICLE

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 16 February, 2014

Fight against gambling

A series of reforms have been taking place since the current government took office. Now the country is on the right track to the democratization. Special emphasis is being placed by the government on rural development and poverty alleviation tasks.

Seventy percent of the country's total population is living in the rural areas. The country's poverty rate is 26% and is set to reduce to 16 percent by 2015. In an effort to eradicate the poverty, the government is implementing poverty alleviation tasks across the country after laying down eight poverty alleviation and rural development tasks. SMEs development and microfinance loan schemes are among them.

Gambling is rampant in four corners of the country. This is not a good sign for our country. We can see these cases mostly in the grassroots. This is a deterrent to the poverty alleviation tasks. Some spent a lot of money on it. The majority of their incomes flow into the gambling. Their purchasing power becomes lower.

In the fight against the gambling, authorities concerned needs to take two-and three-digit illegal lottery cases into account. And severe action should be taken against those officials involved in the cases. In an attempt to alleviate the poverty rate, it needs to open more vocational training schools, creating more job opportunities and encourage those people to alter their mindset.

All our people should keep in mind that the country's development would far away unless our mindset remains unchanged. To keep abreast of other countries, our country must possess qualified human resources. We all should not turn a blind eye to it.

Prize awarding ceremony held in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 15 Feb— Prize Awarding Ceremony for outstanding students in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 academic years took place at the hall of No.2 Basic Education Post-Primary School yesterday morning.

Headmistress Daw Khin

Hla Myint explained background history of the school and urged the students to be outstanding ones. A total of 17 teachers with no absent in their attendance and prize winner students were awarded at the ceremony.

U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

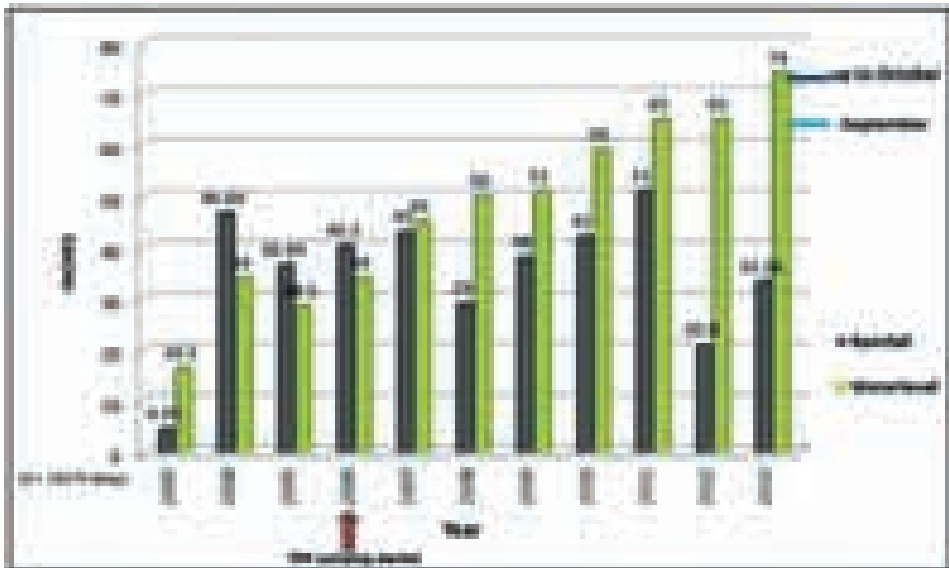


Fig.2. Yearly changes of rainfall & waterlevel (inches) of Twyn Taung lake water from 2003 to 2013.

Current situation of Fresh Water Seepage into Twyn Taung Crater Lake with high pH and alkaline ecosystem, causing lower pH and Dilution with increased population of Tilapia fish eating Spirulina and water beetle

"Conservation of natural resources is a very important matter. Improper management and destruction of natural resources also destroys the nation."

President U Thein Sein (18-11-2013, Nay Pyi Taw)
Introduction

1. Fresh water seepage into Twyn Taung Lake lowers the pH at lakeside and surface water increasing the population of Tilapia fish. The fish eat the Spirulina blue green algae and larvae of water beetle insect, leading to near extinction of the two unique and rare living resources in the crater lake of Myanmar.

Beneficial effects of Twyn Taung Spirulina blue green algae (Cyanobacteria)

2. Twyn Taung Spirulina blue green algae is a living relative of 3500 year old ancestral live forms and is also a medicinal plant of international recognition.

3. Myanmar Spirulina is recognized by international scientists to have special health benefit properties amongst the Spirulina strains produced by less than ten countries in the world.

4. Spirulina is a living natural resource which is rich in protein, vitamins, and minerals. It can enhance the immune system, reduce bad cholesterol, promote lactobacillus bacteria which assist digestion in the stomach and prevent the growth of viruses.

5. Spirulina products are

marketed as nutritional supplement tablets, pharmaceutical raw materials, cosmetic and skin care, aquaculture and animal husbandry as well as bio-fertilizers amounting to a total of more than 1000 items worldwide.

factor must be present nearby in space and time. Since fresh water seepage is the main cause of the deterioration of Twyn Taung ecosystem, an evaluation is made about the presence of massive fresh water volume near-

and Twinma lakes which are in a series with Twyn Taung lake also have no apparent changes nor any rise in lake water level. Thus, the rise in lake water level is not due to earthquakes causing water seepage.

Dr. Min Thein

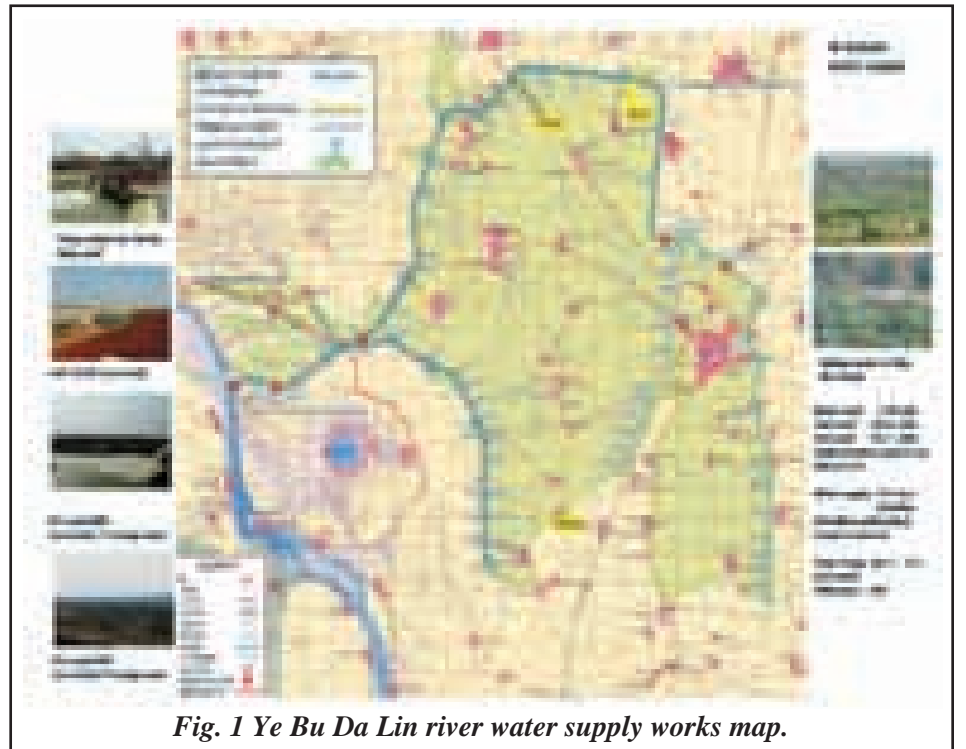


Fig. 1 Ye Bu Da Lin river water supply works map.

Deterioration of high pH and extreme alkaline ecosystem in Twyn Taung Lake

6. The water level of Twyn Taung Lake has risen by 44 inches during the 7 years period from 2006 to 2013. Fresh water seepage was more than usual and the water at the lake side has a reduced pH value of less than 9.8. At this pH, Tilapia fish population exploded and they eat the Spirulina algae blown ashore by wind, thereby reducing the growth of Spirulina. Tilapia also eats the larvae of water beetle insect. With continued fresh water seepage, the pH value of the lake water will be drastically reduced and the high pH and extreme alkaline ecosystem in Twyn Taung lake will be replaced by a fresh water lake ecosystem permanently.

The possible main cause of fresh water seepage into Twyn Taung Lake

7. In order to destroy a natural ecosystem, a prominent and massive casual

by as follows;

(a) Twyn Taung crater lake lies adjacent to be Chindwin river (Fig.1) which has is similar water surface above sea level (250 feet). There is no open channel connection as the water level of the lake remains the same at the time of high river water. Thus, the present rise of lake water level is not due to the Chindwin river.

(b) The average annual rainfall in the Twyn Taung region is as usual (30 to 50 inches) in the past and present although the lake water level has risen steadily since the river water pumping started in 2006 (Fig.2). Thus, rain water also cannot be the main cause.

(c) Although the frequencies of earthquakes were high during 2012-2013, there was neither apparent soil erosion nor turbidity of lake water. Taung Pyauk

(d) Ye Budalin river water supply work is situated about 1.5 mile-sat nearest point from Twyn Taung Crater Lake and is pumping big volume of water (30 to 40 million gallons / day). Thus, as it is a possible source of fresh water seepage into Twyn Taung lake, further studies are carried out.

Ye Budalin river water supply work facts and information

8. The pumping station (2) of Ye Budalin river water supply work is located on the northern outside slope of Twyn Taung crater at 444 feet about sea level (Fig. 1)

9. The volume of river water pumped up the station ranges from 30 to 40 million gallons per day. The pipeline diameter is 30 inches and a total of 1 megawatt electricity per pipeline is needed. At present, five pipelines are run simultaneously for 10 to 15 per day.

(to be continued)

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Laos to strengthen ...

(from page 1)

At the call, the Senior General expressed his belief that both Myanmar and Laos will not accept all issues to lose interests of two countries. He invited exchange of armed forces leaders and sports teams between the two countries.

After the meeting, the Senior General presented gifts to the Chief of Staff of the Laos People's Armed Forces.

During the visit, the Senior General, wife and party visited That Luang temple, a Laos traditional textile and silk ware industry, and Kaisone Phomvihane National Defence Academy.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Kaisone Phomvihane National Defence Academy.—MYAWADY

At viewing round training of Laotian cadets at the lecture halls of the academy,

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Commandant and officials of the academy

posed for documentary photo in front of the academy.

Myawady

ESIA Scrutinizing Committee of Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—A coordination meeting on reviewing environmental and social impact assessment report of Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project was held at the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry yesterday.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister U Than Tun Aung said that emphasis should be made to win public trust with regard to Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project.

Managing Director Maj-Gen Zarni Win from Union of Myanma Economic Holdings Ltd said that Knight Piesold Consulting Co Ltd had compiled environmental and social impact assessment report. Group Leader Mr. David Morgan of Knight Piesold Consulting Co Ltd said ESIA Scoping Study was conducted by the experts and Baseline Study by the experts from Environment Myanmar Cooperative Ltd.

Chairman of ESIA Scrutinizing Committee Deputy Director-General U Hla Maung Thein of Environmental Conservation Department reported on findings on ESIA report of the project. Then, officials of Myanmar-Wenbao Co, MEHL, experts from Knight Piesold Consulting Co Ltd, report scrutinizing committee members and scholars took part in the discussions.

MNA

Mini e-libraries at public spaces soon



NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—The Ministry of Information arranged plans to launch many mini e-libraries at public spaces giving public digital library service to the people in order to raise reading habits, said the Director of Information

and Public Relations Department at the hall of its department on 7 February.

The 16x11x3cm public digital library service machines based on Samsung mobile processors worth about K 250,000 can give WiFi Internet services at

200 meters radius areas and store some 6000 e-books on technology, political, social, economic, religious, cartoon, short-story, novel, law, language and health genres, and it divides Download and Read Only sectors for users, he added.

Readers may enjoy such service using www.minilib.net link on their Laptop, Tablet, iPad, Netbook and Android Phone and the government sees results of these e-libraries and plans are underway to launch mini e-libraries in far and wide the nation in 2015-2016, he said.—Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)

14th Meeting of ASEAN ...

(from page 16)

on maternal health and maternal mortality in March 2014.

As a follow up to the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the AICHR has begun discussion to consider drafting a convention on the prevention and elimination

of violence against women and children in ASEAN. The AICHR also embarks on the deliberation on the draft Guidelines on the AICHR's Relations with Civil Society Organizations.

With a view to having closer cooperation with other ASEAN bodies, the AICHR will invite several ASEAN

bodies, including the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), for a consultation in April 2014. The AICHR will also engage with the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) on the possibility of cooperation on the implementation of the

Declaration on Social Protection.

The AICHR will be holding a Special Meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat on 8-9 March 2014. The Meeting also thanked the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the hospitality and excellent arrangement extended to all the delegations.—MNA

Union ECF Minister meets Executive Director of Knight Piesold Consulting Co.

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—U Win Tun, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry met with Executive Director Mr. David Morgen of Knight Piesold Consulting Company and party at his office, here, yesterday.

At the call, they discussed assessment of environment and social economic impacts in implementation of Let-

padaungtaung copper mining project, enhancement of socio-economy of local people and interest of the State, and ongoing tasks of Environmental Impact Assessment Report Scrutiny Committee in scrutinizing the report of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment-ESIA.

Knight Piesold Consulting Company compiled the report on the ESIA.—MNA

Union Minister U Win Tun holds talks with Executive Director Mr. David Morgen of Knight Piesold Consulting Company.—MNA



Fire, escape attempt occur in Pyinmana custody facility

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—An arson attack and attempted escape of a detainee happened to a custody facility in Pyinmana this morning.

Maung Maung Naing held at the Pyinmana custody facility in which other 300 detainees are housed was taken to Pyinmana hospital to be given treatment to his self-harming injury after banging his head against the wall as he was stuck in mental illness this morning. Shortly after

arriving back at his cell at about 8.30 am, he set fire to a cell lock by wrapping it with pieces of newspaper and cloth, shouting that he was under torture due to his mental illness. The fire spread next cells.

Authorities concerned and fire fighters accompanied by four fire engines of Pyinmana fire station

rushed to the scene in time and put out the fire at about 10.45 am.

Police fired more than ten warning shots into the air with blank bullets in order to control the situation.

"The attempted escape was foiled by authorities, said Police Major Than Myint.

Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)



Authorities concerned seen near custody in Pyinmana.—KYAW THURA (NAY PYI TAW)

Public recreation hall under construction at Myoma Jetty in Kawthoung

KAWTHOUNG, 15 Feb—A recreation hall for the public where passengers can take shelter before departure for their ferries is under construction at Myoma Jetty in Kawthoung.

Myoma Jetty is a

venue for passengers and globetrotters who take ferries for their trips from Myoma Jetty of Kawthoung to other jetties by speed boat.

As Kawthoung is a border town, Myoma Jetty is a significant point for

the passengers of waterway transport.

In the past, the passengers waited for the ferries on the platform without any shelter. So they overcame hot sunshine and rains. Myanmar Port

Authority allotted K 17.95 million on construction of the public recreation hall with the use of iron frames.

So far, the construction has been completed by 80%.

Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)



Golden umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in Tatkon Tsp



NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—A ceremony to hoist a golden umbrella, pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb atop Thabba Theikdi Pagoda was held in Kimpundan Village of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

Sandayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandavara of Kanyinbin Village of Htantabin Township together with

member of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Yegyaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Obhasa and disciples hoisted the tiers of the umbrella, pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb atop the pagoda.

They also hoisted similar objects atop the encircled zedies, and then, they consecrated the pagoda.

Aye Than

Health Care Services

Free medical checkup, surgical operation performed at Zabuthiri Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Medical checkup and surgical operations were provided to needy patients at Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital near Zizawa Flower Roundabout in Zabuthiri Township on 13 and 14 February.

On the second day, a medical team of Mount Elizabeth Hospitals Singapore led by ear, nose and throat specialist Dr Goh

for the second day.

The specialists chose 11 patients for surgical operations. They gave surgical operation at six patients on 13 February.

The remaining five patients were treated surgically on 14 February.

On the second day treatment, the specialists gave health care services to

Among the spectators were township level officials.

A total of 43 football teams took part in the tournament that last from 25 January to 12 February.

Kyemon-Khun Arkar (Taunggyi)

KYAUKTALONGYI, 15 Feb—Under the supervision of Kyauktalongyi Sub-Township Administrative Office of Taunggyi District in Shan State (South), the Townsellers Chairman Cup Football Tournament reached the final match on 12 February.

At the people's sports ground in the sub-township, Hamhsee team trounced Donohn team 5-2.

Chairman of Township Townselder U Khun Nyunt Maung made a speech.

Township level officials presented first prize to Hamhsee team, the second to Donohn team and the third to Naga Youth team.

Sub-Township Administrator U Htet Lin Naing presented championship trophy to Hamhsee team.

Rice offering held at Hsandawpyae Pagoda

MYINGYAN, 15 Feb—The 11th rice offering for monks was held as annual activities at the platform of Hsandawpyae Pagoda in Myingyan on 14 February.

The local people around Myingyan and villages donated alms to over 2000 monks and over 200 nuns.—*U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)*

Magway Region holds third Htamane making contest

MAGWAY, 15 Feb—Organized by Magway Region government, the third Htamane making contest as Myanmar traditional meal was held at the ground near Myathalon Pagoda in Magway on 13 February.

At first, Magway Region Minister for Social Affairs U Aung Kyaw Myint and the Magway Region Auditor-General formally opened the contest.

Officials explained disciplines for the participants.

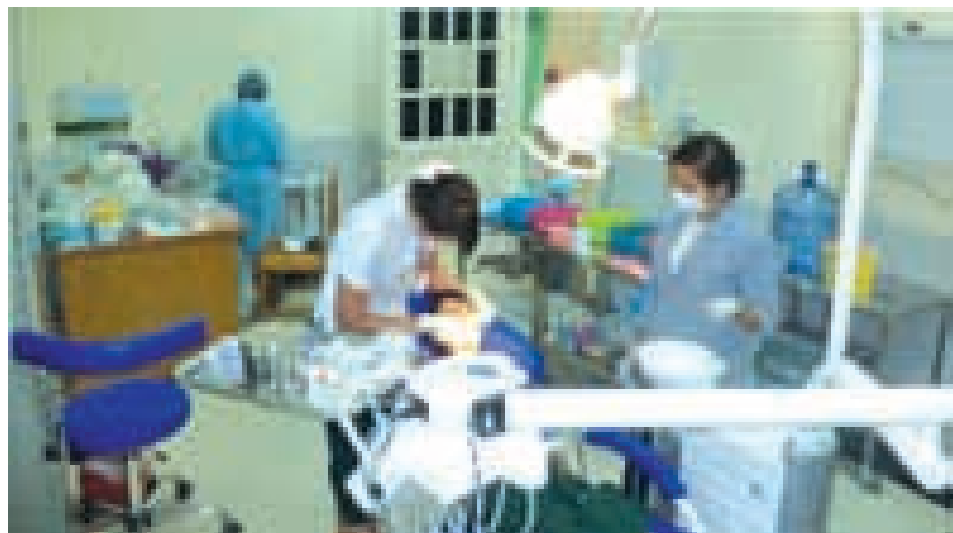
In the contest, Magway Region education office secured the first prize,

Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Women's Affairs Organization office the second and Hson Ward the third.

Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe, Region Minister U Aung Kyaw Myint and Region Advocate-General U Zeya presented prizes to the winners. A total of 45 teams participated in the contest.

The Htamane meals were offered to Myathalon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Tabodwe on 14 February.

Kyemon-Magway Hla Myint



Yau Hong and Specialist Dr Myo Htet Kyaw and specialists of Zabuthiri Hospital and medical officers of Defence Services Medical Corps conducted surgical operations at needy patients from villages and wards of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 14 February

109 general patients and 74 ear, nose and throat patients free of charge.

The medical treatment was arranged by Parkway Hospitals Singapore of Singapore and Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital of Myanmar.

Khin Zaw (Mingala)

REGIONAL



The Sapporo Motor Show begins at Sapporo Dome in Sapporo, Hokkaido, northern Japan, on 14 Feb, 2014. The event runs through on 16 February.
KYODO NEWS

Heavy snow continues to fall in eastern Japan

TOKYO, 15 Feb — Heavy snow continued to hit eastern Japan on Saturday, with snowfall reaching 27 centimetres in Tokyo and rewriting records in some other cities.

The snowfall in Tokyo was the fourth-largest for the capital in the postwar period and matched the level seen a week ago.

One person died in an accident involving five vehicles on the Tomei Ex-

pressway in the city of Shizuoka, southwest of Tokyo, in the early hours of Saturday, apparently affected by the snow.

The Tomei and other highways in the metropolitan region centering on Tokyo were closed from the morning. Air traffic was also hit, with about 4,500 people forced to spend Friday night in the lobbies of Tokyo's Haneda airport and many flights to and from the

airport cancelled Saturday.

The Japan Meteorological Agency expects the heavy snow to continue through Saturday in the Kanto-Koshin region and Sunday in the Tohoku northeastern region, warning of blizzards and tidal waves.

Kyodo News

Singapore's crime rate falls while cyber crimes increase

SINGAPORE, 15 Feb — Singapore's crime rate fell to its lowest level in 30 years in 2013, but there were more crimes targeting victims on cyberspace, according to statistics released by the police on Friday.

Police said cheating cases involving e-commerce was one of the areas of concern, with the number of such cases more than doubled to 509 cases last year from 238 cases in 2012.

Internet love scams also increased by 62 percent to 81 cases, resulting a total loss of 5.8 million Singapore dollars in 2013, compared with 1.8 million Singapore dollars in 2012.

"There is a discernible trend that scams are migrating to cyberspace," said Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Lau Peet Meng, who is director of operations.

"We'd like to

encourage members of the public to be very careful when they use the Internet, and not to transfer any money to persons they have not met."

The total crime cases in Singapore fell by 4.3 percent year on year to 29,668 cases in 2013. The crime rate was 549 per 100,000 people, compared with 584 in 2012. Singapore has been one of the safest cities in the world, and the crime rate has been falling since 2005.

In a breakdown, four of the six categories of crimes fell last year, such as crimes against persons, house-breaking and related crimes, theft and related crimes, and miscellaneous crimes.

However, the number of commercial crime cases increased more than 10 percent to 3,880 cases last year. Violent or serious property crimes also saw an increase to 406 from 389.—Xinhua



Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono speaks during the Chinese Lunar New Year celebration in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, on 14 Feb, 2014. Chinese-Indonesians across the country celebrate Cap Go Meh on the 15th day in the first month of the Chinese lunar new year.—XINHUA

Seven Japanese divers missing off Bali since Friday

JAKARTA, 15 Feb — Seven Japanese women have been missing since Friday afternoon while diving in waters off the Indonesian resort island of Bali, police said on Saturday.

The body of a woman was found in waters where the Japanese scuba divers went missing near the Nusa Penida area in southern Bali, but her identity has yet to be confirmed, police said.

A Bali police spokesman later said none of the Japanese women had been found.

Local police chief Nyoman Suarsika said the seven Japanese — five tourists and two diving instructors

— left for Nusa Penida on Friday morning.

They began diving in Nusa Penida's Crystal Bay mangrove area at 1 pm and never appeared to have surfaced, he said.

"The weather was extreme at the time. The wind was strong with heavy rain," Suarsika said.

According to the Japanese consulate general in Denpasar, the two Japanese diving instructors are based on Bali.

Japanese diplomats said the seven Japanese — aged between their 20s and 50s — chartered a boat for the diving trip.

According to the Indonesian skipper of the char-

tered boat, the boat owner said the Japanese dived twice in the morning and failed to return to the vessel after they went out for a third outing, in the afternoon.

Local police authorities began searching for the Japanese divers Friday after they received a report about the missing Japanese.

Rescuers called off the search operation after darkness on Friday and resumed their search on Saturday using rescue boats and helicopters.

Other locally based Japanese diving instructors also joined the search, Japanese diplomats said.

Kyodo News



Newly wed couples pose for a photo on Valentine's Day in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 14 Feb, 2014. About 130 couples married on Valentine's Day in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.—XINHUA

Showa Shell Sekiyu group net profit expands sharply

TOKYO, 15 Feb — Showa Shell Sekiyu K K said on Friday its group net profit in 2013 soared to 60.30 billion yen from 1.01 billion yen in 2012 due to a robust sales expansion and a large inventory valuation profit.

Consolidated sales grew 12.3 percent to 2.95 trillion

yen due to petroleum product price hikes, the oil company said.

Operating profit quintupled to 75.43 billion yen, supported by the sales expansion as well as the inventory valuation profit accompanying crude oil price hikes.

The earnings growth led

the company to double its dividend to 36 yen per share for the year.

For this year, Showa Shell expects group net profit to plunge 38.6 percent from the previous year to 37 billion yen on 3.15 trillion yen in sales, up 6.6 percent.

Kyodo News

Three injured in gas cylinder blast in Indian capital

DELHI, 15 Feb — At least three people were injured in simultaneous blasts of three gas cylinders in the Indian capital on Friday, said local TV channel.

The explosions took place almost simultaneously in Sarai Kale Khan, Pitampura and Matiyala

road areas and fire engines were rushed to the spot.

While ruling out foul play, police said three members of a family, including a couple and their child, were injured in the cylinder blast in Sarai Kale Khan, said NDTV.

Xinhua

Sri Lanka confident of concluding FTA with China in 2014

COLOMBO, 15 Feb — Sri Lanka's government is confident the Sri Lanka-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will be concluded before the end of 2014, the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement on Friday.

The FTA had featured during discussions between Sri Lanka External Affairs Minister Prof. GL Peiris and China's vice-President Li Yuanchao when the two met in Beijing for talks this week. China has agreed to fast track negotiations to conclude the FTA.

Prof Peiris, as a special envoy of Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa, was on a four-day official visit to Beijing at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

In an exclusive interview before concluding his visit, the minister has said that the feasibility study on a FTA is nearing completion. "The feasibility study is on the verge of completion. It will be a landmark, historic achievement since the Rubber-Rice Pact in 1952," Peiris has said.

Sri Lanka is targeting an economic growth of 7.5 percent for 2014 and finalizing an FTA with China as soon as possible will help Sri Lanka to achieve the targeted growth.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**Yangon Golf Club
(Danyingone)**

The Annual General Meeting of the Yangon Golf Club and Annual-At-Home with Prize Giving ceremony, will be held at the Club Premises on Sunday 9th March 2014 on the following programme.

Annual General Meeting - 10:00 a.m

Annual-At-Home - 12:00 noon

All members cordially with their families are invited to join us on this special occasion of Annual-At-Home.

Executive Committee
Yangon Golf Club



Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama (R) shakes hands with visiting Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in the capital of Suva on 14 Feb, 2014. The Pacific Islands Forum Ministerial Contact Group (MCG) comprising Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully as well as other officials from Pacific Islands Forum countries arrived in Fiji on Friday.

XINHUA

Toyota city to earn 5 times more corporate tax in fiscal 2014

NAGOYA, 25 Feb — The city of Toyota, where Toyota Motor Corp is headquartered, is expecting over five times more corporate tax income in fiscal 2014 than the previous year, thanks to the leading Japanese carmaker's robust performance.

The city office in central Japan's Aichi Prefecture expects 26.2 billion

yen in local tax from resident companies in the fiscal year starting April, against 4.5 billion yen in fiscal 2013, it said in a draft budget revealed on Friday.

The highest-ever increase is attributed to Toyota Motor's record profit forecast for fiscal 2013 and the improved performances of its business partners.

Kyodo News

Three al-Qaeda linked militants arrested in Pakistan's Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 15 Feb — Pakistan's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Police has arrested three militants allegedly associated with al-Qaeda from a university in the southern port city of Karachi, local media reported on Saturday.

Geo TV said that the CID conducted a search operation in the University of Karachi Friday afternoon, arrested three suspects and later recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition from their hideouts in some downtown area.

Police said that the arrested militants were active at the University of Kara-

chi and some other private universities across the city from where they recruited religiously-inclined students into al-Qaeda.

The suspected militants were monitored by an al-Qaeda commander from the tribal area of North Waziristan, who assigned them different tasks including target killings and bomb blasts in Karachi. Police said that the suspected militants were actively involved in carrying out various major terrorist activities in the city in the last two years. The insurgents were shifted to some unknown location for further investigations.

Xinhua

Oregon woman trapped in crater survives week of freezing weather

PORTLAND, 15 Feb — A distraught woman who became stranded in a large crater in rural Oregon survived for a week despite snow, ice and freezing temperatures before she was rescued, police said on Friday.

Sharon Bates, 52, was not dressed for the outdoors and had no food when she left her home in Cottage Grove on 7 February, distressed and seeking

solitude, Cottage Grove Police Corporal Conrad Gagner said.

She apparently climbed into a 30-foot-wide, 12-foot-deep crater near the town's historic McFarland Cemetery, then couldn't get back out, Gagner said.

Bates's sister reported her missing on Sunday, prompting a search by police in and around Cottage Grove, a picturesque small town about 130 miles south

of Portland.

She was ultimately found on Thursday by police who searched the crater after family members told them that Bates liked the area around the cemetery.

"She was in surprisingly good condition, considering what she endured," Gagner said.

In the first few days after Bates became stuck in the pit, a fierce snowstorm hit western Oregon, fol-

lowed by freezing rain, and temperatures dipped into the low 30s at night.

Conditions improved only slightly as the week wore on, with rain and nighttime lows in the mid-30s.

Bates survived by catching small amounts of snow and rain water in a plastic bag she found in the pit, he said. The crater was somewhat protected by evergreen trees.—Reuters

Rain, snow to disrupt China's return-trip travel peak

BEIJING, 15 Feb — China's top observatory forecast Saturday that rain and snow will sweep a vast part of the country over the next three days to challenge a new period of heavy holiday traffic.

From Saturday to Monday, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in southwestern China, and most regions to the east of the plateau will be pelted by a new round of precipitation, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) said in a statement.

On Saturday, snow will fall in the south of Tibet Autonomous Region and the southeast of Qinghai Province, with some parts

dumped with heavy snow or snowstorms, the center said.

Rain and snow will then move eastward from Sunday to Monday.

The weather will likely disrupt the upcoming return-trip travel peak in China's chunyun, a period of travel rush around the country's Lunar New Year. A large number of migrant workers and students will be on their return journeys in the next few days.

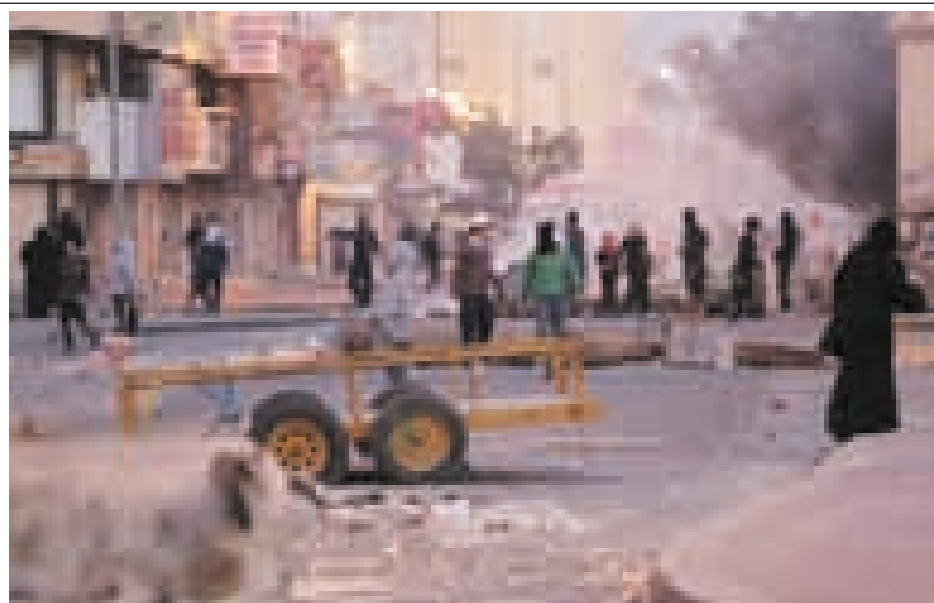
This year's chunyun runs from 16 January to 24 February. Chinese passengers are expected to make 3.62 billion trips during the period, with road trips

hitting 3.2 billion, according to the transport authority.

The NMC warned the affected regions to take precautions against negative impacts of the rain and snow on transportation.

The centre also issued a yellow alert for smog in Beijing, Tianjin and some areas in the Provinces of Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Shanxi and Shaanxi, partly triggered by firecrackers and fireworks set off Friday to celebrate the Lantern Festival. China's meteorological alerts are labeled blue, yellow, orange and red as the severity ascends.

Xinhua



Bahraini Shiite youth block a road in the suburb of Manama, capital of Bahrain, 13 Feb, 2014. The demonstrations came a day ahead of the third anniversary of Bahrain's 14 Feb, 2011 protests, where thousands of people took to the streets in unprecedented numbers asking for political reforms in the majority-Shiite country governed by a powerful Sunni party.—XINHUA

At least three injured in Paris explosion

PARIS, 15 Feb — At least three persons were seriously injured on Friday afternoon after an explosion occurred in a chocolate shop in Paris, local media reported.

The incident occurred

around 4:00 pm local time (1500 GMT) in a chocolate shop under construction in Paris 9th arrondissement, French daily *Le Figaro* reported on its website.

According to local newspaper *Le Parisien*, the

victims are employees of France's network of distribution of natural gas GRDF and had been transported to hospital immediately. The cause of the accident is still unknown, the police told local media.—Xinhua

Australia to buy seven drones for border protection

MELBOURNE, 15 Feb — The Australian government would spend around 3 billion Australian dollars to purchase seven large unmanned aircraft for the country's border protection, local media reported on Saturday.

The aircraft would be primarily used for military purposes such as spotting enemy ships and planes in a conflict, but they can also be used to detect asylum seekers since the drone can search an area of 40,000 square nautical miles in a single mission.

Defence Minister David Johnston would soon refer to the cabinet for its first pass approval of 3 billion dollars for the seven US made *MQ-4C Triton*, a maritime version of the *Global Hawk*.

Johnston also attacked the former Labour government for withdrawing from the unmanned aircraft program in 2009 after spent 100 million dollars in the development of American company Northrop Grumman's *Global Hawk* drone programme.

"I was extremely disappointed," said the minister, quoted by *The Australian* newspaper.

According to the plan, the seven new drone would be deployed in a air force base close to the southern city of Adelaide and will replace the current aging fleet of *P-3 Orion* surveillance planes.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Childhood epic, religious drama vie for Berlin film

BERLIN, 15 Feb — Films ranging from a coming-of-age docudrama using the same actors over a 12-year span, a feature about radical Catholics and an unflinching look at Northern Ireland's troubles stand out as possible winners at the annual Berlin film festival.

Twenty titles will compete for the Golden Bear award on Saturday night at the 2014 Berlinale although some critics have called the lineup a letdown despite the screening of more than

400 films from around the globe. "It's been a disappointing Berlinale and there isn't all that much I think for the jury to ultimately really consider," said Jay Weissberg, Europe-based critic for trade publication Variety.

His picks as frontrunners were Richard Linklater's docu-drama "Boyhood", the harrowing "Kreuzweg" (Stations of the Cross), which depicts a young girl's collapse under the pressures of growing up in a strict Catholic family, and a drama



Director, screenwriter and producer Richard Linklater and cast members Lorelei Linklater, Ellar Coltrane and Patricia Arquette (L-R) pose during a photocall to promote the movie "Boyhood" during the 64th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on 13 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

about a British soldier in Belfast in the movie "71". Gory thriller "Black Coal, Thin Ice", one of three Chi-

nese films in competition, also earned positive reviews this week.

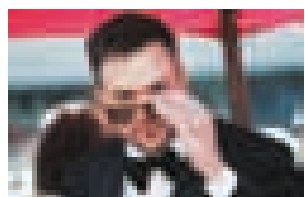
Reuters

NBC's Joel McHale to headline White House correspondents' dinner

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — Actor and comedian Joel McHale will be the featured performer at the annual White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, which is attended by members of the media, celebrities and the president, the association said on Friday.

McHale is the star of the NBC television comedy "Community" and host of E! network's "The Soup." "He's sharp, funny, and just the type of comic who can navigate the unique challenge of our dinner, making fun of Democrats, Republicans and especially the news media," WHCA President and McClatchy Co political editor Steven Thomma said in a statement.

"Washington can use a little good-natured ribbing," he added. This year, the dinner will be held on 3 May. In a Twitter post after the announcement, McHale said: "My material will be equally offensive to all & over within 30 min — just like a Congressional work year." Past performers at the dinner include Cedric the Entertainer, Steven Colbert, Conan O'Brien, Jay Leno, Seth Myers and Wanda Sykes.—Reuters



Actor Joel McHale arrives at the 65th Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 15 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

A romantic night awaits 'House of Cards' binge-watching couples

WASHINGTON / LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb — On this Valentine's Day, some couples will enter a committed relationship, but it might end up lasting a mere 13 hours. That's the time it would take to binge-watch the 13 episodes of the second season of "House of Cards," the Emmy Award-winning political thriller from Netflix Inc released on the online streaming service

on Friday.

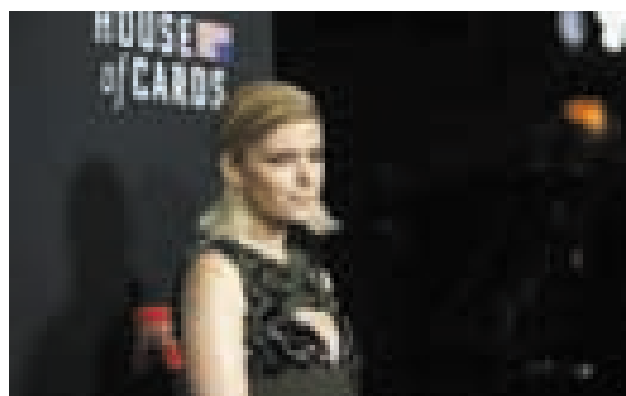
Chicago-based retail manager Rachael Wrenn said that she and husband James did not watch the first season right when it came out, but she found it later on Netflix and turned him onto the show. "And he just loves that show now," Wrenn said. "And so when we found out it was coming out today, he decided these are our Valentine's plans.

And I was definitely on board with it."

Starring Kevin Spacey as the underhanded Congressman Francis Underwood, "House of Cards" last year put a new twist on the binge-watching trend in television because Netflix, in its big push to offer original programming, makes all the season episodes available at once. Spacey and Robin Wright, who plays his cool-as-ice wife and partner in boundless political ambition, gave very little away about the season in their media presentation. The first episode included a shocking, sudden twist that sparked gasps from an audience at a Los Angeles screening Thursday night, a few hours before the show's release on Netflix.

Within minutes of its release, "House of Cards" ranked among the most-viewed shows on Netflix around the world, spokesman Joris Evers said.

Reuters



Cast member Kate Mara poses at the premiere for the second season of the television series "House of Cards" at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles, California on 13 Feb, 2014. Season 2 premieres on Netflix on 14 February.—REUTERS

Horror of Ethiopian bride abduction shown at Berlin festival

BERLIN, 15 Feb — "Angelina Jolie presents" is the first thing on screen in the Ethiopian movie "Difret", but the true story of a 14-year-old girl's abduction, rape and trial for killing her abductor speaks for itself. Shown at the Berlin film festival, it features Hirut, a bright, studious girl who dreams of going to university but whose life becomes a nightmare when she is abducted, as is the custom in rural Ethiopia, by a young man to be his bride. He beats, rapes and imprisons her in a hut, but she manages to grab his rifle, runs away and while being pursued, shoots him dead.

The twist that will jar Western

audiences in this Sundance festival audience award winner based on events that took place in 1996 is that she is charged with murder. From the minute of her arrest the men of her village demand she be killed. Jolie, who adopted one of her children from Ethiopia, asked to be an executive producer to raise the profile of a film. "This is the first time for me to see the movie and for me it's a flashback to 16 years," Meaza Ashenafi, the head of a women's law network in Ethiopia that successfully defended Hirut, said after a festival screening on Thursday night. "It's beautiful, let me put it this way, it's simply beautiful," Ashenafi said in

a post-screening talk.

Ethiopian-born and US-trained director Zeresenay Berhane Mehari said while he hoped the nascent film industry will grow in Ethiopia, he felt it was even more important to shine a light on the problem the movie depicts. "It challenged me as an Ethiopian man, you know. I thought, would I be part of the problem?," Mehari told Reuters in an interview. "This is tradition, I know about it, I am part of that society. So, it was a question to myself first, could this be something I am also contributing to?" And I wanted to say something about it and in the process I found out this actually

is such a great story also as a filmmaker to tackle. So it was a win-win on both ends."

He said the involvement of Jolie, who has directed a film about the impact of war on relations between ethnic Serbs and Bosnians during the Bosnian war, had given the project a huge lift. "She gave me a call and said she wanted to be part of this and she wanted to be able to make it visible to a larger audience. And as you know, independent films especially from Africa don't see a lot of light, (no matter) how great of a subject matter, how great of a production it is," Mehari told Reuters.

Reuters

Leonardo DiCaprio, Best Actor? Did CNN just spoil the Oscars? Nope, keep calm

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb — When The Wolf Of Wall Street scored a Best Actor Oscar nomination for Leonardo DiCaprio this year, fans everywhere sang hopeful hallelujahs. Would this finally be the year the Academy hands Leo his Oscar?

Leonardo has been previously nominated for his roles in What's Eating Gilbert Grape, The Aviator and Blood Diamond, losing every time. Leo fans also think it a disgrace he was not nominated for Catch Me If You Can, Gangs Of New York, The Departed, Revolutionary Road and Django Unchained.

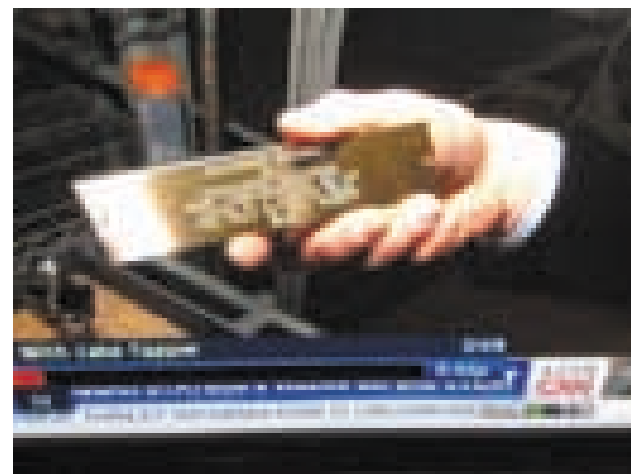
So, when CNN appeared to pre-emptively announce Leonardo as this year's Best Actor, the shrieks of joy online were deafening. A report on the Oscar-making process showed the camera zooming into a metal nameplate engraved with these words: Academy Award to Leonardo DiCaprio, Best

Performance By An Actor In A Leading Role, The Wolf Of Wall Street, 2013.

Long overdue too, said tweets like these: @amandacasey: CNN supposedly leaked the best actor winner and it was Leonardo DiCaprio hell yeah!@Dr_White8: Leonardo finally getting his Oscar "@Joerobinow: CNN Showed the Oscar winner for Best Actor in a Leading Role

CNN accidentally leaks this year's Best Actor, screamed headlines on the internet. Until, they were reminded that nameplates such as the one bearing Leo's name are made for every nominee in advance. The winners get their nameplates tacked onto their Oscars at the post-ceremony Governors Ball and the unused nameplates are recycled the next year. And, of course, final Oscar voting only begins today. So no, Leonardo DiCaprio has not won the Best Actor Oscar this year. Not yet.

PTI



SPORTS

Putin visits US team, sips wine and builds bridges

SOCHI, (Russia), 15 Feb — Russian President Vladimir Putin dropped in on the US team at the Winter Olympics on Friday and sipped red wine with officials in an apparent attempt to build bridges with the United States. US President Barack Obama decided not to come to Sochi and, after criticism of Putin's stance on gay rights, sent a delegation including gay officials.

But there was no sign of the strains as Putin, looking relaxed, sat on a sofa with US team officials at their headquarters and chatted about the Games. The conversation soon moved on to Russia's much-anticipated ice hockey game against the United States on Saturday. "Of course we'll be supporting our guys," Putin could be overheard

saying in footage of the previously unannounced meeting shown by Russian state television.

Pointing out that some of Russia's team play in the US National Hockey League, he said: "I assure you there are many fans here who know and love the American players. We'll all enjoy the game. I'll watch it on TV or maybe come to the game."

Putin, a keen skier who has taken a growing interest in hockey in recent years, also had a few words of praise for the US competitors although some American media have criticized their performance. "What I like in you is that you have strong competitors in almost every discipline, in almost every event you fight for medals," he said.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (2nd L) sits next to United States Olympic Committee (USOC) chairman Larry Probst (2nd R) as he visits Team USA House at the US Olympic Committee headquarters in the Olympic Park during the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics Games, on 14 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

US-Russian relations are strained by differences over many issues, from civil rights to regional conflicts such as the civil war in Syria. Putin, who has staked his reputation on the Games, likened criticism of Russia over the Games this week to the West's Cold War "containment" of the Soviet Union. Putin

also visited the Canadian team headquarters and was cheered by Canadian fans on the way out. He wished the Canadians success but added: "Of course not at all hockey tournaments and not in all matches. Let's hope our teams meet in the final and together we can enjoy their skill and courage." —Reuters

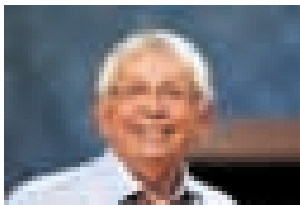
Stern elected into basketball Hall of Fame

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — Former NBA Commissioner David Stern is elected into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, just two weeks after retiring from a successful 30-year reign. The Hall of Fame Committee acknowledging Stern's contributions of, how the league has flourished and gained enormous global popularity during his three decades as chief.

"He deserves to be recognized in a huge way," said Jerry Colangelo, chairman of the hall of fame board, who made the announcement Friday as NBA All-Star Weekend tipped off in New Orleans. Stern was elected by the

contributors committee and will be inducted into the hall of fame in early August and enshrined with the Class of 2014 on 8 August in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Five new members were also directly elected to the Naismith Hall of Memorial Basketball Fame, including former Indiana Pacers' coach Bob Leonard, voted in from the American Basketball Association Committee; former New York Knicks Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton from the Early African American Pioneers Committee; Lithuania star Sarunas Marciulionis from the International Committee; and



Former NBA Commissioner David Stern

Temple University's Guy Rodgers from the Veterans Committee.

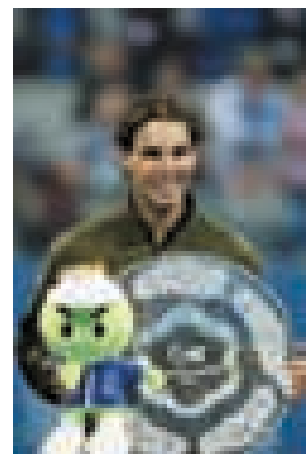
Former players chosen as finalists include seven-time NBA All-Star Alonzo Mourning, five-time NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway, six-time NBA All-Star Mitch Richmond, three-time NBA All-Star Kevin Johnson and four-time NBA All-Star Spencer Haywood. The Class of 2014 will be announced 7 April during the NCAA men's Final Four Championships. —Xinhua

Nadal set for Rio Open after injury

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Feb — World No 1 Rafael Nadal has confirmed he will play in next week's Rio Open after recovering from a back injury. The 27-year-old winner of 13 Grand Slam titles has been sidelined since his loss to Stanislas Wawrinka in the final of the Australian Open last month. "I have good feelings about competing in Brazil," Nadal said during a Press conference on Friday.

"I have a great connection with the fans here. This country is very special and I hope to enjoy the experience." Nadal will play his first match at the inaugural ATP tour event next Wednesday against a yet-to-be-determined opponent. He admits he is still unsure how his back will cope. "We'll have to see how it goes. I hope I can tolerate it," he said.

The Spaniard has fond memories of Brazil, where he won as an 18-year-old in 2005 at the Costa do Sauipe ATP event. He returned last year to win the Brazil Open in Sao Paulo, his first victory after a seven-month injury layoff. "When I won the tournament in 2005, that was the start of my success," he said. —Xinhua



World No 1 Rafael Nadal

1st golds for Japan and Britain, as Cologna, Domracheva take 2nd titles

SOCHI, (Russia), 15 Feb — Yuzuru Hanyu captured Japan's first gold of the Winter Games on Friday in the men's free figure skating and Lizzy Yarnold did likewise for Britain

in the women's skeleton, while Swiss cross country skier Dario Cologna and Belarusian biathlete Darya Domracheva both joined the double-gold club.

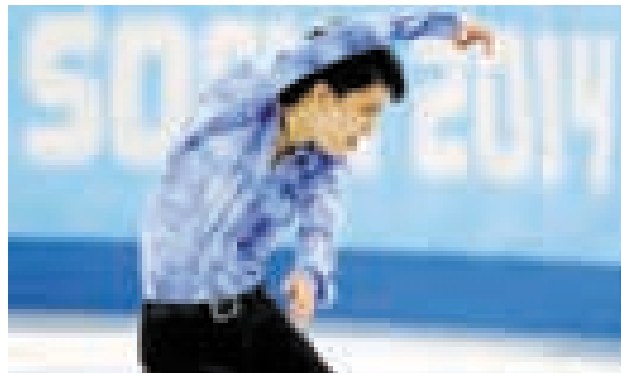
Hanyu became the

first Japanese man to win an Olympic figure skating gold, which was also the first gold medal for Japan at a Winter Games since Shizuka Arakawa won the women's figure skating title in Turin in 2006.

The 19-year-old Olympic debutant led three-time world champion Patrick Chan after posting the highest ever score of 101.45 points in Thursday's short program, and despite two falls in the free skate amassed a total of 280.09 to win gold by a nearly five-point cushion over the Canadian.

Denis Ten gave Kazakhstan its first medal of the Games in taking bronze.

Kyodo News



Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan performs in the men's figure skating short program at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, on 13 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Centrowitz, Cain spark mile fields for Millrose Games

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — World silver medalist Matthew Centrowitz and teenage sensation Mary Cain will headline the featured Wanamaker Mile fields at the Millrose Games at The Armory on Saturday.

Centrowitz will be joined by three-time Olympian Nick Willis of New Zealand in the men's race, and triple US champion Morgan Uceny will challenge Cain in the women's race in what has become the trademark event in the 107-year-old New York indoor meeting. Cain, who recently broke her world



Matthew Centrowitz of the US holds up his national flag as he celebrates winning second place in the men's 1500 metres final during the IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow on 18 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

junior indoor record for 1,000 metres, was originally announced for the 800 meters, but decided to change events. "We felt Mary needs the experience of running in a competitive mile with a big pack before the USA Indoor Championships," said her coach, Alberto Salazar.

"The Wanamaker Mile will be the pre-eminent indoor mile race in the world this year so it will be great for Mary to continue to experience running in a large field against very good runners." The Millrose Games is the second stop of the 2014 Indoor US-

ATF Championship Series, which will conclude at the USA Indoor Track & Field Championship and world trials on 22-23 February in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Willis also switched after initially planning to run in a special 2,000 meters race to honor Finland's Paavo Nurmi, who won gold medals at three Olympics and set a 2,000 metres world record at The Armory in 1925.

"I was scheduled to run the 2,000 but I ran a 3:53 mile in New Zealand in January," said Willis, the 1,500 metres silver medalist at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. So

I thought if I'm ever going to have a chance to run a fast time in the mile this might be my best opportunity on one of the fastest tracks in the world," Willis told reporters on Friday. Featured in the Paavo Nurmi 2,000 metres is the all-time leader of Wanamaker Mile winners Bernard Lagat, whose eighth victory in 2010 put him one-up on the great Irish miler, Eamonn Coghlin.

Lagat has registered US records over two miles and 5,000 metres in the past two Millrose Games and is targeting another US best in the 2,000. —Reuters

GENERAL

Korean Bae takes sole command at Riviera



PACIFIC PALISADES, (California), 15 Feb — South Korea's Bae Sang-moon learned the value of patience at Riviera Country Club last year and used it to his advantage on Friday as he seized a one-shot lead at the Northern Trust Open. On another picture-perfect day of unbroken sunshine with barely a breath of wind in the Santa Monica

Canyon, Bae fired a flawless five-under-par 66 to take control in the second round of the PGA Tour event.

The 27-year-old from Daegu, who tied for eighth on his debut at the tournament last year, carefully plotted his way around a course that offers a variety of options for shot selection to post a nine-under total

of 133. Australian Aaron Baddeley, champion here in 2011, birdied the last four holes for a 65 to finish at eight-under, level with American Robert Garrigus (67) who played in tricky afternoon conditions as the firming greens became bumpy.

Charlie Beljan, beaten by fellow American John Merrick in a playoff for last year's title, was alone at seven-under after a 68 with first-round leader Dustin Johnson (70) among a group of four players a further stroke back. Play was suspended for the day due to darkness at 8:50 p.m. ET with six players yet to complete the second round. Among those, the closest to the lead was American Harold Varner III, at one-under after 16 holes.—Reuters

Thai FM lashes at election commissioner for "talking too much"

BANGKOK, 15 Feb — Thai acting foreign minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul on Saturday lambasted an election commissioner for "talking too much" only to confuse foreigners about the country's trouble-plagued polls.

In a Press conference, Surapong criticized Election Commissioner Somchai Srisuthiyakorn for "talking too much" about the 2 February election and its advance voting only to confuse dozens of foreign diplomats

recently invited to a briefing by the polling agency.

Speaking to the diplomats, Somchai remarked that a post-election government might not be set up over the next six months unless the caretaker government has held talks with leaders of anti-government, anti-election protesters to end their prolonged street protests.

Surapong said the commissioner should not have made such comments at the cost of the foreigners' confidence in Thailand's

democratic rule and political stability while the country's tourism and economic climate also remain at stake.

"Foreign affairs are a very delicate matter about which those who do not understand should refrain from talking too much.

"It's the primary duty of the foreign minister to talk about it. Somchai's comments did not do any good to the country. He should have talked less and worked more," said the frustrated Surapong.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(16-2-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am	2:30 pm
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	18. Documentary (ASEAN)
6:20 am	3:00 pm
2. Physical Exercises	19. News
6:30 am	3:15 pm
3. Musical Programme	20. Musical Programme
6:45 am	3:25 pm
4. Documentary	21. Documentary
7:00 am	4:00 pm
5. News/Weather Report	22. News
7:20 am	4:15 pm
6. Youth Programme	23. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Physics)
8:00 am	4:40 pm
7. News/ International News	24. Sing & Enjoy
8:30 am	5:00 pm
8. Amazing World	25. News
9:00 am	5:15 pm
9. News	26. Sing & Enjoy
9:25 am	6:00 pm
10. Beautiful ASEAN	27. News/Weather Report
9:40 am	6:20 pm
11. Cultural Dances	28. Cartoon Series
10:00 am	7:00 pm
12. News	29. News
10:15 am	7:20 pm
13. Documentary	30. Weekly Entertainment
11:10 am	8:00 pm
14. Gitadagale Phwintbaooohn	31. News/International News/Weather Report
12:00 am	8:35 pm
15. News/International News/Weather Report	32. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
12:25 am	8:45 pm
16. Round Up of The Week's International News	33. Hit Songs of Stars
12:35 pm	9:00 pm
17. 40 th Years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Corporation	34. News
	35. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
	36. New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

16-2-14 07:00 am ~ 17 -2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (EP-3)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass Class "Contemporary Art"
- * Local News
- * Myanmar National Poet and Literary Icon "Min Thu Wun" (Part- II)
- * World News
- * Talented Musicians
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Kyaukkyi
- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Local News
- * Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory Of Bago City
- * World News
- * Tea
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon-Charitable Associations
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * Local News
- * A Novitation Ceremony in a Rural Township
- * World News
- * Inspiration
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Min Gun)
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
- * Lucrative Myanmar Rattan Industry
- * TECH School

Pikus-Pace says silver makes the pain worth it

ROSA KHUTOR, (Russia), 15 Feb — An elated Noelle Pikus-Pace called her Olympic skeleton silver "as good as gold" on Friday and announced her retirement for the second time after bouncing back from injury, family trauma and the disappointment of just missing a medal four years ago. The 31-year-old American missed the 2006 Olympics when she broke her right leg after being hit by America's four-man bobsleigh. She retired from skeleton after coming fourth in Vancouver in 2010, before returning to the sport in 2012.

It was third time lucky

on Friday as she claimed the silver medal behind Britain's Lizzy Yarnold and immediately climbed into the stands to embrace husband Janson and children Lacey and Traycen. "This is everything I could have imagined and more ... This is as good as gold," said Pikus-Pace, dubbed the "fastest mom on ice", told reporters with tears in her eyes. "It was worth the wait, it was worth every minute of it. Honestly, you know, getting hit by the bobsleigh, some people look back and say 'Oh man, that's horrible'. Taking fourth in the Olympics, some people say 'Ah too bad, that stinks.'"

"And then I had a

miscarriage at 18 weeks and many tears were shed. But if I hadn't gone through every single one of those things I would not be here today. And this is right where I want to be." Having achieved her goal, Pikus-Pace said she would now retire for good from skeleton, the hair-raising sport in which competitors throw themselves hurtling down a snaking icy run head first on sleds wearing Darth Vader-like aerodynamic helmets. "One hundred percent, that was my last run," she said emphatically. "Every run I write down three goals for myself and my one goal was: 'This is it. Don't get

scared now.'"

Pikus-Pace was shocked to learn from reporters that team mate Katie Uhlaender, in fourth place, had missed out on a medal by just 0.04 second after the fourth and final run — an even narrower margin than her own defeat four years ago. The red-haired Uhlaender, 29, could scarcely believe she was beaten to the bronze by Russia's Elena Nikitina. "I feel like I slid my heart out. I think I'm suffering from, like, 'the baby who had the candy ripped out of its hands'," she told reporters.

"I don't even know where that four-hundredths



Noelle Pikus-Pace of the US reacts after competing in the women's skeleton event at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, at the Sanki Sliding Centre in Rosa Khutor on 14 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

came from. I just am blown away. Right now I am really heartbroken," she said. Pikus-Pace said she would give her team mate a hug. But speaking from experience, she added that it would take a while for Uhlaender's

disappointment to fade. "Like any challenge we have in life, it takes time to overcome that and to figure out what you're supposed to learn from it, because you can't see those things in the moment." —Reuters

14th Meeting of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights held

YANGON, 15 Feb—The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) convened its first meeting in 2014, under the chairmanship of U Kyaw Tint Swe, the Representative of Myanmar to the AICHR, here, from 8 to 11 February 2014. Building on the success and achievements in 2013, this year will be important for the AICHR to further contribute to the development of the ASEAN community post-2015 vision as well as to the review of its Terms of Reference (TOR). In this connection, the AICHR has scheduled a series of consulting to assess its work and to gather inputs from stakeholders to help formulate the AICHR's recommendations for the consideration of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

With the conclusion of the AICHR's first thematic study on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Human Rights in ASEAN, an outcome workshop to present the findings of the study will be conducted in June 2014. The meeting also approved the thematic study on the Rights to Peace.

For the implementation of its Priority Programme and Activities, the AICHR has agreed to conduct a workshop on reporting obligations. This regional workshop is aimed at sharing experience and best practices among ASEAN Member States in drafting and presenting national reports under the United Nations human rights mechanisms. The AICHR will also conduct the workshop (See page 9)

Dy Information Minister inspects construction of the New Light of Myanmar Printing House



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe inspects installation of printing machine for the New Light of Myanmar Daily.—MNA

YANGON, 15 Feb—Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe inspected construction of the New Light of Myanmar Printing House being implemented by the News and Periodicals Enterprise and Global Direct Link Co on a joint venture basis in Bahan Township yesterday.

Joint venture was registered by the name of Global New Light of My-

anmar in 2013 and construction works started on 16 August 2013. Construction of the building was completed by 70 percent and installation of Mitsubishi Lithopia 4 Hi Tower 3 Unit Offset and related equipment by 40 percent.

The deputy minister then viewed round publishing of primary-level textbooks for 2014-15

YANGON, 15 Feb—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung attended Singapore Airshow Leadership Summit 2014 and enjoyed the Airshow in Singapore from 9 to 13 February.

The Union minister was among the audience at the opening of the Summit at Raffles City Convention Centre on 9 February evening.

On 11 February, the Union minister addressed a MoU signing ceremony between Myanmar Airways to lease six new Boeing 737-800 and four new 737-8Max jets from GE Capital Aviation Services (GECAS) of the United State. According to the deal that has a list price of US\$ 960 million, GECAS, a leasing company of General Electric, will rent two aircrafts a year within a period from 2015 to 2020.

During his visit to the Airshow, the Union minis-

Union Transport Minister attends Singapore Airshow Leadership Summit 2014



Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung views scale model at Singapore Airshow.—MNA

ter held talks with the senior vice-president of ATR, aircraft manufacturer of France on the establishment of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul services (MRO) for ATR aircrafts in Myanmar. They also held discussions on the purchase of six new ATR 72-600 aircraft for Myanmar Airways from 2015 to 2017.

The Union minister

also visited Mitsubishi company in Singapore. In meeting with an official of Cessna company, a final discussion on the purchase of two more Grand Caravan aircrafts from the US aircraft manufacturer in July, 2014 was made.

The Union minister attended EU-ASEAN Summit at Grand Copthorne Water Front Hotel on 12

February. In the afternoon, he met President Mr. Ralph L Boyce of Boeing at the Airshow. In meeting with Director-General Mr. Tony Tyler of International Air Transportation Association at his office, the Union minister said Myanmar will continue its efforts for IATA membership.

MNA

Public suggestions to Defence Subcommittee invited

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — The Ministry of Defence announced today that a Subcommittee on Defence had been recently formed for ensuring speedy and effective implementation of undertakings in various sectors

being carried out by the ministry for the development of the country, there by contributing towards better socioeconomic status of the people through negotiation and coordination.

As the subcommittee will coordinate and respond

to the public suggestions, people are invited to directly send their suggestions to the Subcommittee on Defence via email: kyawnyunt dymod@gmail.com or by fax: 067 404443, and please call Ph: 067404429.

Alleged offenders in connection with Unity Journal's report of Secret Chemical Weapon Factory brought to court

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — As the department concerned on 30 January filed a lawsuit against the reporter and the in-charge of Unity Journal for printing a news report about No (24) Defence Industry under the headline "Secret Chemical Weapon Factory" with photos in the Unity Journal, Vol. 3 No 4, issued on 25 January and disclosing State secrets, trespassing on the restricted area of the factory, taking photographs and the act of abetting, Pauk Myoma police sta-

tion opened the case No (Pa)8/2014 under Myanmar Official Secret Act Section 3 (1) (a)/9.

According to findings of the investigation and legal advices, the alleged offenders— U Tin Hsan, 52, of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, U Lu Maw Nang (a) Lin Kyaw Oo (a) Lu Maw, 28, of Pauk, U Sithu Soe, 22, of Pyapon, U The Yazar Oo (a) Yazar Oo (a) Ko The, 28, of Hlinethaya Township and U Aung Thura (a) Paing Thet Kyaw, 25, of North Okkalapa Township— were brought before

Pakokku district court under 1923 Myanmar Official Secret Act Section 3/9 on 14 February, 2014 and they are presently on trial at the court.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ma Lwin Lwin Myint, 38, of Pauk who was allowed to go free on 4 February in accord with Article 170 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure was released on bail in accord with Article 169 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as there was not enough evidence to send her to the court. — MNA

MNA