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Liu Xiang wins indoor British Grand Prix



**Le KPL Quotidien : le cahier des nouvelles françaises pages 7-10**  
Plusieurs questions approuvées, lors de la réunion de l'Assemblée nationale

Four-breakthrough resolution of the 9th Party Congress: mindset change, human development, governance and poverty reduction.

## Nationwide meeting on Public Prosecutors General Office held



NA President Pany Yathortou present at the nationwide meeting on Public Prosecutors General Office 2011. Vientiane, Feb 21, 2012.

(KPL) A nationwide meeting on Public Prosecutors General Office for the year of 2011 was officially held in Vientiane on 21-22 February under the presidency of Mr Kham-sane Souvong, President of the Public Prosecutor General Office.

The two day event attended by representatives from 16 provinces and military prosecutors office was also presented by National Assembly President Mrs. Pany Yathortou who are invited to give an direction and some important comments to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## French proficiency competition to be held early March



Mr. Bernard Vanthomme, second left, at a press conference in Vientiane on Monday

(KPL) The Francophonie University Agency (AUF) in the Lao PDR will hold a French spoken and written proficiency competition in the early March.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >

## Sepon mine performing well: NA Vice President

(KPL) Vice-President of the National Assembly Saysomphone Phomvihane praised MMG LXML

Sepon, the gold and copper mine, during a visit on Feb 6.

Mr. Saysomphone, who was accompanied by 26 delegates from the NA, said the visit provided an opportunity to monitor poverty reduction activities in the district.

"The Sepon mine is a good example of a well performing mine investment," he said. "Poverty reduction always depends



Saysomphone Phomvihane at one of the local business groups which supplies the Sepon mine

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >

**ອ່ານຂ່າວເບິ່ງຟິດ**  
News on Mobile

**Lao News Agency**

From: KPL News  
09:10 04/05/2011

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# National News

## Vietnam willing to support Laos in organising ASEM-9



ASEM 9 logo

(KPL/VOV) - Relevant Vietnamese agencies will do their best to assist Laos to organize the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM-9) scheduled to take place in Vientiane on November 5-6 this year.

The statement was made by Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh at a

February 20 meeting with Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Bounkeut Sangsomsak who is on a three-day working visit to Vietnam.

FM Minh expressed his delight at the strong development in the Vietnam-Laos special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation, especially the

successful visits by senior leaders from the two countries after the Party congresses and National Assembly elections in each country.

He highlighted the significance of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship and Solidarity Year 2012 launched by State President Truong Tan Sang and Lao Party General Secretary and State President Choummaly Sayasone.

Both sides need to work more closely both in bilateral cooperation and at multilateral forums, FM Minh said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Bounkeut Sangsomsak, who is also head of the ASEM Senior Official Meeting (SOM) delegation of Laos, spoke highly of Vietnam's close and effective cooperation and thanked it for shar-

ing experience in hosting ASEM and international activities.

During his stay in Vietnam, Deputy FM Bounkeut Sangsomsak met with leaders of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry and the head of ASEM SOM Vietnam.

The Vietnam visit by the Lao Deputy FM takes place while ASEM members are preparing a senior officials' meeting in Denmark early next month to discuss preparations for ASEM-9, one of largest international conferences to be hosted by Laos.

After 15 years of development, ASEM remains an important inter-regional forum with 48 members, representing more than 60 percent of the world's population and contributing to 55 percent of the global GDP.

## Gender role for women with disabilities discussed

(KPL) The POWER International to Laos and the European Union organized a seminar on strategy on gender role promotion for women with disabilities.

Held on February 20-21 at the Lao Women's Union Training Centre, Vientiane, the seminar saw the presence of President of the People with Disabilities Association Bounvien Louangyoth, representa-

tives of the POWER International and the European Union Delegation to Laos as well as project coordinators from provinces benefited from the project.

Also disseminated in the seminar was health survey and livelihood of women with disabilities in rural and remote areas of Oudomsay, Luang Prabang, Sayaboury and Saravane.

## Nationwide meeting ...

< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meeting.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mrs. Pany Yathortou has asked the leaders of the Public Prosecutors General Office to do their utmost to improve the organisation and activities of the Public Prosecutors General Office in

2012. She also asked them to hardly work to implement the resolution of the 9th Party Congress provided for the Public Prosecutors General Office.

During the past one year, the Public Prosecutors General Office has achieved a number of works including the addressing of 2.247 cases.

## ASEAN next five-year plan further combats violence against women and children

By ASEAN Secretariat

(KPL) The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) concluded its Fourth Meeting which was convened from 16-18 February 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, according to the press release of ASEAN Secretariat on 21 February.

At this Meeting, the ACWC's work plan for 2012-2016 was concretised to ensure that the Commission's journey in the next five years would bring impacts to women and children in the region. Among

the activities/projects identified are publication of the compilation of good practices in combating violence against women and children in ASEAN and establishment of an ACWC network of social service agencies involved in preventing, protecting and helping victims of violence against women and children in ASEAN.

Projects and activities that were identified at the ACWC's Consultation Meeting with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC) and prominent international experts

on elimination of violence against women on 16-17 January 2012, and the ACWC's Dialogue with civil society on 18 January 2012 in Manila, the Philippines, were taken into consideration in developing ACWC's 2012-2016 work plan.

At the Meeting, the ACWC Representatives included a visit to the Counseling and Protection Centre for Women and Children in Vientiane in the afternoon of 18 February 2012. This Centre, which is the first shelter established by the Lao Women's Union, provides comprehensive services for victims of domestic

violence, trafficking and sexual exploitations with the support of its networks throughout districts and villages in the country. The study visit is the first of the ACWC's series of study visits designed for the ACWC Representatives to have a better knowledge and understanding of what each Member State is doing for the healing, well-being, and reintegration into society.

The ACWC continues to synergize their work with other ASEAN bodies relevant to their focus areas by welcoming consultations, dialogues and meetings with them. No-

table among them were the meeting of ACWC Chair with the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) in September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand; the meeting of ACWC Chair and Vice-Chair with the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) in October 2011 in Bogor, Indonesia; and the dialogue of the ACWC Representatives with the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. A consultation of the Drafting Team of the ASEAN Commit-

tee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW-DT) with the ACWC representatives is in April 2012 in Singapore.

The Meeting welcomed Brunei Darussalam's new Representative for children's rights, Datin Paduka Hajah Apsah binti Haji Majid, who is replacing the former Representative, Datin Hajah Adina Othman.

The Fifth ACWC Meeting is scheduled for 3-5 July 2012 at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Exchange Rates as 21 February 2012		
Currency	Buy	Sell
USD	7,980.00	8,020.00
THB	260.39	261.70
EUR	10,526.00	10,579.00
GBP	12,466.00	12,715.00
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CAD	7,917.00	8,075.00
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# National News

## Hongsa power company backs up elephant festival



Director of External Relations of Hongsa Power Company, Mr. Pichet Chuchuen, 2nd right, presents cash contribution of Hongsa Power to Sayaboury District Chief, Mrs Bounphak Inthapanya for Elephant Festival in Sayaboury

By: Singkham

(KPL) Hongsa Power Company Ltd has donated 40 million kip for the 6th Elephant Festival held this year in Sayaboury district

and province on 17-19 February.

The donation was presented by Director of External Relations of Hongsa Power Company, Mr. Pichet Chuchuen, to Sayaboury District Chief, Mrs Bounphak Inthapanya.

The handover ceremony was held at the elephant festival on 17 February in the presence of officials of both sides.

More than 150,000 foreign and domestic tourists visited the elephant festival. Last week, Hongsa Power Company has also donated 100 roofing tiles for the construction of Simounkhoun temple in Hongsa district.

One thousand lighting balloons for the beauty night were presented to the province, made by the women group in the new resettlement village. Lighting balloon is one of handicraft trainings provided by the project to generate income for the re-settlers.

This temple has a main sanctuary (locally known as Sim) of Leu tribe style, a unique one facing to the west and aging over 400, Vice Chief of Simounkhoun village, Mr Sieng-ou Phuangkeo said.

The objective was to monitor the impact of the mine on surrounding communities and associated social and environmental issues. The delegation was welcomed to the mine site by company Directors and Mr Bouasone Mahavong, Chief of Vilabouly District.

These included a community water supply project, which has provided 13 communities

## Sepon mine performing ...

< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

around the mine with a clean, convenient and sustainable source of water, and the Ban Nongkadeng Vila Boutique, one of several local business groups which supplies the mine and helps to direct financial benefits into local communities.

MMG LXML Sepon has spent about US\$3.3 million on community development related initiatives in the last four years alone, including programmes related to livelihoods, water and sanitation, health, village banking and savings, small enterprise development and improving local infrastructure.

Since the mine began, more than US\$4 million has also been invested in infrastructure for Vila-bouly district (through the Sepon Development Trust Fund). In addition, the mine spends approximately US\$2.5 million a year on training and scholarships for employees, many of whom are from the area around the mine.

In addition to learning about the mine, Mr. Saysomphone and the delegation met with a group of senior Lao employees to brief them of government policy and strategy.

He also encouraged them to continually improve their skills and experience in order to develop capacity within the Lao mining industry.

## DPM Asang Laoly urges Houaphanh to materialise Party's resolution

By Soulapphone Kanyaphim

(KPL) Deputy Prime Minister Asang Laoly has urged Houaphanh province to pay attention to translating into reality the resolution of the 9th Congress of the Party.

Meeting local author-

ities, including Governor of Houaphanh Mr. Khamhong Heungvongsy, on February 17, Mr. Asang urged the authorities to materialise the Party policy through continuing to make efforts in reducing poverty, merging small villages into larger village clusters, help-

ing local people gain an access to vocational training to ensure they have proper skills for income generation such as weaving, and tackling social problems including opium cultivation.

After meeting with the provincial authorities where he was briefed of the socio-

economic development, infrastructure development, political grassroots building and poverty reduction in the province, Mr. Asang and his delegation visited villagers in Meuangkwanh focal development area in Samtay district, Houaphanh province.



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Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
21/02/2012	09	23		Fog
22/02/2012	09	23		Windy
23/02/2012	09	24		Fog
Luangnamtha				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
21/02/2012	15	27		Light rain
22/02/2012	16	28		Partly cloudy
23/02/2012	17	29		Mist
Luangprabang				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
21/02/2012	16	30		Partly cloudy
22/02/2012	17	31		Mist
23/02/2012	18	32		Mist
Vientiane Capital				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
21/02/2012	18	29		Mist
22/02/2012	19	30		Mist
23/02/2012	20	31		Mist
Savannakhet				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
21/02/2012	13	26		Mist
22/02/2012	14	27		Mist
23/02/2012	15	28		Mist
Pakse				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
21/02/2012	17	31		Windy
22/02/2012	18	31		Windy
23/02/2012	19	32		Mist

# National News

## ASEAN, India enhance closer ties



Mr. Bounpan Konghinxayaseng, Deputy Director General, Institute of Foreign Affairs

(KPL) The fourth Delhi dialogue, themed “ASEAN-India Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability” has been held in New Delhi on 13-14 February as part of activities to mark two decades of their dialogue partnership.

The ASEAN Secretariat said in a Feb. 14 press release that at the dialogue, the two sides discussed issues related to economic integration prospects and challenges, non-traditional security challenges, traditional security architec-

ture in the Asia-Pacific and building a network of knowledge and science.

Addressing the event, Indian Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna stressed the necessity of strengthening the partnership, saying the further development of India’s “Look East” policy will benefit people in both India and ASEAN countries.

Meanwhile Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong welcomed India’s commitments and contributions to the process of building an ASEAN community, including a new infrastructure facility linking India, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

He also called for the upgrading of the ASEAN-

India dialogue relations to a strategic partnership.

Mr. Bounpan Konghinxayaseng, Deputy Director General, Institute of Foreign Affairs has said that the Lao government has consistently devoted its self to the national socio-economic development plan in accordance with a five years which currently is in the process of implementation of the 7th five year social-economic development plan (2011-2015), this plan is designed to the implementation of the resolution of the 9th Party Congress, aiming at constantly and tremendously be proactive in creating a foundation and favorable conditions for the nation to shed its level developed country status by 2020.

## Vietnam helps improving local print media skills

By Vinnaly

(KPL) Ministry of Information and Communication of Vietnam has helped improving technical skills on news report for Lao print media nationwide.

The training course held in Vietnamese Cultural Centre on 20 to 24 February, thanks to close cooperation between Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism and Ministry of Information and Communication of Vietnam.

Taking part at the opening ceremony were Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Bosengkham Vongdara and Vice Minister of Information and Communication, Mr. Do Quy Doan and Vietnamese Ambassador to Laos, line directors and

deputy directors.

The training course was aimed at improving technical skills on news report for Lao mass media especially print media.

So far, Vietnamese Ministry of Information and Communication has successfully trained 8,000 Vietnamese journalists before transferring their lesson for Lao journalists.

The training course is a part out of many activities to celebrate the upcoming 35th anniversary of friendship and cooperation treaty and the 50th anniversary of founding of diplomatic tie between Laos and Vietnam.

The training was to reaffirm the existing cooperation between two countries as well as two ministries.

## Japan provides fund for agroforestry project in Houaphan

(KPL) The Government of Japan has decided to provide grant assistance worth over 138,200 US dollars for NPO Green Forum, a Japanese NGO, to carry out the project of “Livelihood Improvement by Agroforestry in Rural Areas of Houaphan Province (Phase II)”.

The grant contract of the above project was signed on Monday, Feb 20, at the Embassy of Japan to the Lao P.D.R, between Mrs. Junko Yokota, Ambassador of Japan to the Lao P.D.R, and Mr. Koichi Furusawa, representative of NPO Green Forum with the attendance of officials and staff concerned.

The contents of this project is as follows;

- Poverty reduction:
1. Cultivation of fruit trees from Japan and planting in the target villages.
  2. Cultivation of benzoic trees and planting of benzoic trees in the target villages.
  3. Bee keeping project in the target villages.

Activity 1. Poverty Reduction

- A-1 Cultivation of blue berry trees which are brought from Japan.

100 blue berry seedlings are cultivated at Foimen nursery to produce seedlings for planting at target villages. Other species

such as pear, ki-wi are cultivated for future use.

- A-2 Planting of blue berry seedlings
- 50 blue berry seedlings are planted at several villages where villagers are interested in orchards and production of fruit jam.

B-1 Cultivation of benzoic seedlings

10,000 benzoic trees are cultivated at Foimen nursery, which are seedlings and cuttings.

B-2 Planting of benzoic seedlings

5,000 seedlings are planted at mountains near to the target villages’ site to increase

productive efficiency to bring more profit to the villagers.

C-1 Lecture of bee keeping at villages

By cooperation with BRDC(Vietnam), giving lectures to villagers who started bee keeping from last year. PAFO, DAFO

NPO Green Forum will visit villages to direct keepers and inspect colonies.

C-2 Provision of colonies and equipments

Provide 200 colonies and necessary equipments which are

imported from Vietnam (by help of BRDC) to target villages in three districts.

## French proficiency ...

< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ciency competition (Dynamique 2012) on March 3, 2012.

“The objective of the competition is to decide the Lao winners to compete at regional competition also to be held in Vientiane on March 31,” Head of the Francophonie University Agency in the Lao PDR Mr. Bernard Vanthomme told a press conference on Monday.

Over 90 students from nine faculties of the National University of Laos and the University of

Health Sciences are expected to participate in the competition early next month and the winners will compete against rivals from Cambodia and Vietnam at the Dongdok campus, National University of Laos.

The competition is part of celebrating the international francophonie festival, according to Mr. Bernard.

The following is prize breaks:

1st prize: 3 million kip for the national competition and 12 million kip for the regional contest.



**P.D.C.**

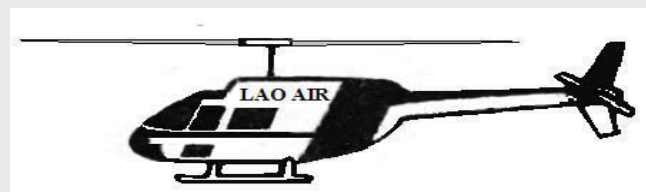
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# Photo focus



Sinsay Lower Secondary School as winner of Thanva Juvenile Contest at the National Cultural Hall in Vientiane, Feb 18, 2012



Print and broadcast media journalists on their field visit at the Nam Luok dam, subsidiary hydropower project of the 1878-MW Hongsa Mine Mouth Power Project in Sayaboury province. Feb 16, 2012



Colorful performance by Sayaboury residents as part of celebrating Elephant Festival 2012. Feb 18, 2012.

ຕາຕະລາງສາຍທາງ ແລະ ລາຄາບໍລິການ ລົດໂດຍສານສາຍໃຕ້

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ບຸງກວາງ BOUN GKUANG	50,000	60,000	
ສອງທ້ອງ SONGHONG	60,000	70,000	80,000
ທ່າແຂກ THAKEK	60,000	70,000	80,000
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ເຊບັ້ງໄຟ SE BANG FAI	70,000	80,000	
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ຫຼັກ 35 LAK SAM SIB HA	80,000	100,000	
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ປາກເຊ PAKSE	110,000	140,000	170,000
ເລົ່າງາມ, ບາຈຽງ LAO NGHAM, BA JIENG	120,000	140,000	180,000
ປາກຊ່ອງບໍລິເວນ PAK SONG BOR LI WEN	120,000	140,000	180,000
ດອນຕະລາດ DONE TA LATH	130,000	160,000	200,000
ປະທຸມພອນ PA TUM PONE	140,000		
ດອນໂຂງ DONE KHONG	150,000	180,000	210,000
ເວີນຄາມ VERN KHAM	150,000	180,000	210,000
ເຊກອງ XE KHONG	130,000	160,000	190,000
ສາລາວັນ SALAVANH	130,000	160,000	190,000
ອັດຕະປື ATTAPUE	140,000	180,000	200,000

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Have a nice trip

## Notice



Mr. Chansy Sidouangsay (nicknamed Aak) former salesman of the Toyota Lao Thani has violated the company's statute and he has been dismissed from the company. As a result, from today onward, whatever he does is no longer related to the company.

## Feature

## Eurozone bailout will not end Greece's pain

ATHENS-Xinhua

Eurozone finance ministers will convene in Brussels Monday after weeks of brinkmanship to decide whether to offer Greece its next round of rescue funding to avoid a chaotic default.

The Eurogroup conference, originally scheduled for last Wednesday, was delayed by head of the currency bloc Jean-Claude Juncker because the Greek government had not fulfilled all the bloc's demands.

Juncker, who is also Luxembourg's prime minister, said Tuesday he had not received any pledges from the Greek coalition government about the implementation of its austerity program.

The peripheral eurozone country is expected to face a national default if it cannot make a 14.5-billion-euro (19 billion U.S. dollar) bond repayment due on March 20.

According to analysts, Greece will continue to struggle with its economic woes even with the new 130-billion-euro (170 bil-



Greek Prime Minister Lucas Papademos, left, speaks with Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, center, during a round table meeting of eurozone finance ministers at the EU Council building in Brussels on Monday, Feb. 20, 2012.

lion dollar) bailout. They say the funds may still not be enough to bring the country's debt down to a manageable level in the long term.

**NATIONAL PROTESTS CONTINUE:**-- Meanwhile, thousands of disgruntled Greeks staged rallies in Athens once again on Sunday, waving banners and protesting the painful austerity measures which were passed by the Greek cabinet a week ago.

Under the protection of riot police, the coalition government approved

the austerity program in a 199-74 vote on the evening of Feb. 12 and tens of thousands took to the capital's streets, throwing stones and setting fire to several buildings.

The violent protests reportedly spread to other areas, such as the northeastern city of Thessaloniki.

However, according to a series of recent opinion polls published in local newspapers, a majority of the Greek people strongly support the country's membership in the euro-

zone, acknowledging that Greece would certainly face a devastating bankruptcy if it quit.

What's more, more than 90 percent of Greeks expressed deep opposition to the interim government, criticizing the two-year austerity and reform drive underway as the wrong way to tackle the debt crisis.

Greece's jobless rate in November rose to a record 20.9 percent, the country's statistics service ELSTAT said earlier this month.

As analysts said, the soaring unemployment has buried a ticking bomb, which is destabilizing the country's social security.

**ECONOMIC GLOOM:**-- The Greek coalition government, which groups the two main political parties, pledged to cut the minimum wage 22 percent and to dump 15,000 jobs in the country's public sectors by the end of this year.

It also promised to further trim its 325-billion-euro (425 billion-dollar) national budget during its 2012 debt-restructuring plan.

However, this won't help

the country's flatlining economy, which, according to official figures released last week, dropped at a 7-percent annual rate in non-seasonally adjusted terms in the fourth quarter of 2011.

If previous forecasts of a 6 percent contraction for all of 2011 prove true, it will be the fourth consecutive year of economic decline in Greece.

In October, the Greek government was asked to reduce its debt from the current 160 percent of annual economic output to about 120 percent by 2020.

However, according to international observers, the government has failed to tackle the economy's slide since it was hit by the sovereign debt crisis.

What's more, they said, harsh austerity measures demanded by Greece's so-called troika of foreign lenders -- the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission and the European Central Bank -- would to some extent further hammer the country's economy.

**DIVIDED COALITION GOV-**

**ERNMENT:** -- The Greek coalition government remains widely divided, although leaders of the two main parties, the socialist Pasok party and the conservative New Democracy party, urged their deputies to back the austerity bill.

The two coalition parties expelled more than 40 lawmakers for not supporting the bill, proving the claims made by socialist George Papandreou and conservative Antonis Samaras that dissenters were not welcome in the parties.

George Karatzaferis, leader of the right-wing Popular Orthodox party, said he did not back the tough terms attached to the bailout.

Later, all four cabinet members from the party resigned and two other members, both socialist deputy ministers, also quit the government.

Prime Minister Lucas Papademos might reshuffle the cabinet in the coming days, analysts said, citing the possibility the dismissed legislators might form a new political party.

-- BY WANG LEI

# Influenza A (H1N1)

## How to Protect Yourself and Others

### Cover your mouth when coughing and sneezing



Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your sleeve

Dispose of used tissues properly immediately after use

Call the toll-free influenza hotline 166 for more information!

National Emerging Infectious Disease Coordination Office  
**NEIDCO**



World Health Organization

unicef  
unite for children

# Business

## Gazprom May Launch Project of New Gas Pipelines to Europe



US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.

MOSCOW-RIA Novosti

Moscow and Paris may launch a project to build new gas pipelines from

Russia to Europe to meet the growing demand by EU states, Russian gas export monopoly Gazprom said.

"The parties have come to agreement that it is necessary to build new direct gas transport capacities from Russia to Europe to meet the growing demand of European consumers in Russian natural gas," Gazprom said in a statement.

Faced with severe weather conditions, some EU states complained in late January and early February that they were receiving less gas from Russia than expected, however, Gazprom, which supplies a quarter of Eu-

rope's gas imports, said it was delivering as much gas as it could under current contracts.

The two parties prevented a crisis in gas supplies and blue fuel deliveries returned to contract volumes after a week or two.

In 2011, France, the third largest consumer of Russian gas in Europe, received 9.53 billion cubic meters from Gazprom under a core contract and up to 1.5 bcm through Nord Stream pipeline under an additional contract.

## China lowers banks' RRR



BEIJING-Xinhuanet

China's central bank announced a lowering of banks' reserve requirement ratio. The People's Bank of China says the RRR will drop by 50 basis points to 20.5 percent for large commercial banks and 17 percent for medium- and small-sized banks.

This is the second time the central bank has low-

ered the figure in 3 months. The move will become effective on February 24th. An estimated 400 billion yuan, or 63.54 billion U.S. dollars will be injected into the market.

Last December, the People's Bank of China cut the RRR by 50 basis points for the first time since December 2008. The RRR were hiked six times last year in an effort to check inflation.

## S. Korea's external debt rises in 2011 on euro woes

SEOUL-Yonhap

South Korea's external debt rose in 2011 from the previous year, as financial institutions raised foreign currency-denominated debts on euro-area concerns, the central bank said.

The country's external debt amounted to US\$398.4 billion as of the end of December, up \$39 billion from one year ago, according to a preliminary report by the Bank of Korea (BOK).

The amount is the highest reached since the end of June 2011, when the outstanding external debt hit \$399.2 billion.

In 2011, South Korea saw its long-term external debt increase by \$42.6 billion from a year ago, outpacing a decline of \$3.6 billion in its short-term overseas debt, according to the BOK.

Asia's fourth-largest economy held \$262.2 bil-

lion in long-term external debt, which has a maturity of more than one year. Its short-term debt totaled \$136.1 billion.

Financial institutions sought to secure foreign currency liquidity by taking up overseas borrowing and floating foreign currency-denominated bonds, according to the BOK.

"More than half of the increase in long-term external debt came from banks," said a BOK economist. "Banks tried to secure foreign currency assets for rainy days."

Overseas borrowing by financial institutions stood at \$194.1 billion as of the end of December, up \$21 billion from a year earlier.

South Korea's long-term external debts also grew on the back of overseas investors' appetite for government bonds, the BOK official added.

External debt held by the government, mostly long-term treasury bonds,



rose \$9.1 billion in 2011 from a year earlier.

The country held \$98 billion of net external credit as of the end of 2011, up \$6.4 billion from 2010, its data showed.

Meanwhile, foreign investment in South Korea grew in 2011 from a year ago because overseas investors picked up more bonds in South Korea even though the local currency's depreciation to the U.S. dollar and the decline

in domestic share prices undercut the value of their shareholdings.

The won fell 3 percent to the greenback in 2011 from a year ago and the KOSPI, South Korea's benchmark stock price index, fell 11 percent.

Outstanding foreign investment, including securities investment, stood at \$839.2 billion as of the end of December, up \$7.8 billion from a year ago, the BOK said.

## Mexico, U.S. sign agreement on cross-border oil exploitation

LOS CABOS, Mexico-Xinhua

Mexico and the United States signed an agreement on how to regulate oil exploitation along their borders, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico, to prevent possible disputes over the lucrative natural resources.

The agreement said both sides shouldn't unilaterally exploit newly found oil reserves along the borders, whose proprietary rights are disputable, unless they agree on an exploi-

tation plan.

The agreement was signed between U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Mexican Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa in the northern resort town of Los Cabos, where they were attending preparatory meetings for the G20 Summit due in June here in the State of Baja California Sur.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who attended the signing of the agreement, said "with this agree-

ment we have stopped the old fears of many Mexicans that Mexican oil would be extracted unilaterally from the other side of the border."

Clinton said the agreement would "ensure safe, efficient, responsible exploration of the oil and gas reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico."

She said it was a win-win deal for both countries, praising spirit of cooperation during the negotiations for the deal.

## WB committed to helping Vietnam with economic restructuring

VOV

The World Bank (WB) will provide Vietnam with financial and technical assistance to restructure State-owned enterprises, said WB Country Director Victoria Kwakwa.

Restructuring State-owned Enterprises: a thorny problem

WB help Vietnam deal with floods in cities

Kwakwa made the statement at working session with Vietnamese Minister of Finance Vuong Dinh Hue, who asked the WB to increase official development assistance (ODA), including direct assistance to the State budget, for Vietnam to develop its socio-economic infrastructure.

Hue proposed that the WB help the Ministry of Finance (MoF) carry out its project to restructure

State-owned enterprises. He highly valued the WB's research into investment mechanism for local infrastructure and expressed hope that the WB will join MoF in a project to exploit financial resources from land and traffic infrastructure.

Talking about the WB's ODA projects for Vietnam, Hue affirmed that his ministry will work with other Vietnamese agencies and the WB to speed up the disbursement of the capital for some key projects, especially the Tax Management Project (TAMP) and the School Quality Assurance Programme (SE-QAP).

Victoria Kwakwa praised Vietnam's efforts in its economic restructuring and promised to cooperate with the Ministry of Finance in researching the project to exploit financial resources from land and traffic infrastructure.

She said the WB will also work with the MPI and other related agencies to provide US\$250 million in loans for the "economic management to sharpen competition capacity (EMCC)" programme in 2012.



# Regional News

## ASEAN senior defense officials meet to further defense cooperation



PHNOM PENH-Xinhua

ASEAN senior defense officials met here to draft a declaration on enhancing defense cooperation towards the realization of ASEAN Political Security

Community by 2015, said a Cambodian defense official.

Addressing an opening session, Maj. Gen. Lay Chenda, director of the Defense Ministry's ASEAN Affairs Depart-

ment, said the three-day meeting would discuss the draft Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defense Ministers on Enhancing ASEAN Unity for a Harmonized and Secure Community.

Also, it would discuss the Concept Paper on Review of Frequency of ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) meeting for convening the ADMM-Plus meeting once every two years.

Moreover, the officials would debate broader defense-related issues, including human assistance on disaster relief, peace keeping operations, mar-

itime security, military medicine, and counter-terrorism, he said.

"Besides fostering personal ties and friendship among ASEAN defense officials, I hope the meeting will give fruitful results to our existing cooperation to further strengthen peace, stability and development in South East Asian countries," he said.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in 1967. It groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

## Mekong countries to discuss growth amid water, energy and food challenges

(KPL) Policy-makers from the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) will meet in Bangkok next week to discuss the challenges and opportunities for balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability.

The GMS 2020: Balancing Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability conference, organised by SMS countries in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, will propose strategic measures to ensure economic growth is balanced with food, water and energy security, especially in light of increasing climate variability.

"Countries in the GMS are well-placed to continue on the impressive

growth during the last two decades. The challenge will be to adopt development pathways that secure the subregion's economic prosperity without depreciating the environment," said Javed Mir, ADB's Director, Environment and Natural Resources Division for Southeast Asia.

Since the six countries sharing the Mekong River formed the economic cooperation programme in 1992, gross domestic product growth in the subregion has averaged about 8 per cent a year, while real per capita incomes more than tripled between 1993 and 2010. But as the economies of Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam grow, so do

competing demands for natural resources. The conference, taking place 20-21 February at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, will examine how growth has impacted the environment and look at the future of water in the region.

Conference participants, including government officials, development partners, academics and private sector representatives, will look at whether economic growth has led to poverty reduction forecast food and water needs to 2050, and discuss ways of scaling environmental and economic challenges.

GMS countries already cooperate on the Core Environment Programme Biodiversity Conservator

Corridors Initiative, which addresses adaptation and mitigation measures, as well as environmental implications for agriculture, energy, tourism and transport planning and investment decisions.

In December, GMS leaders endorsed a 10-year strategy to enhance agricultural development, pro-poor sustainable tourism, low-carbon development and management of the sub-region's richly diverse ecosystem.

Since 1992, ADB has provided the GMS Economic Cooperation Programme with technical assistance worth more than US\$57 million for specific environmental initiatives.

## Indonesian parliament vows to finalize election bill in March

JAKARTA-Xinhua

With the 2014 general elections two years away, the House of Representatives is committed to finalizing the election bill by next month at the latest, the Jakarta Post quoted a top official as saying.

House Speaker Marzuki Alie said on Monday such a move was aimed at giving election organizers ample time to familiarize themselves with the legislation. "The House is still deliberating revisions to the 2008 Election Law. We still need to negotiate several issues," Marzuki said after a

meeting with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and heads of state institutions at the House.

The existing political system, Marzuki said, should be improved by making better regulations which were applicable, certain and not overlapping.



• **Kaysone Museum,**  
Saysettha district,  
Vientiane.  
Tuesday-Sunday  
from 8-12; 1-4 pm.

• **That Luang  
(Buddhist shrine)**  
That Luang Esplanade,  
Saysettha district,  
from 8-12; 2-4 pm.

• **Army Museum,**  
Phonkenh Rd. Open daily.

• **Hor Phakeo  
(Buddhist art),**  
Setthathirath Rd,  
Chanthabouly district,  
from 8-12; 1-4 pm.

• **National  
Museum(Lao history)**  
Samsanthai Rd,  
Chanthabouly district,  
8-12; 1-4 pm.  
Tel: (856-21) 212460 -62

• **National Library**  
Setthathirath Rd,  
Namphu, Open Monday-  
ay, 8-12; 1-4 pm.

• **Wat Sisaket  
(Buddhist art)**  
Setthathirath Rd,  
Chanthabouly district;  
from 8-12; 2-4 pm.

• **Lao Textile Museum**  
Nong tha tai Village,  
Chanthabouly District,  
everyday From 9 am to  
4 pm. tel: 030-525.8293

• **French Language  
Centre**  
Lane Xang Ave. Open  
Monday-Friday. from  
8:30 am-6:30 pm, and  
Saturday 8:30 am 5:30 pm.

• **Ethnic Handicrafts**  
Between main Post  
Office and LFNC Office.  
Textiles, Silverware.  
Open every day.

• **The Lao-American  
college**  
Ban Phonkheng, Saysettha  
district. Open Monday  
to Friday. 8 am-8:30 pm.  
Sat: 8 am-12 noon

• **Vientiane  
International School**  
Adult volleyball, every  
Wednesday. 5:30 pm  
at VIS School. Contract  
Don at 314512.

• **Vientiane  
Rugby Club**  
Men and Women, all  
ages Thursday. 5-6 pm,  
Sunday. 10 am Thechnical  
School, Sokpaluang  
or call 020-517455.

• **Dutch Language &  
Culture Programme**  
Librally and Video  
services. Contract  
ntcdekup@bigfoot.com

• **Gender and  
Development Centre**  
Phonthan Rd, across  
from Rattana Business  
College. Open Mon-  
Fri. 8 am-12; 1-4 pm.

• **Body Language**  
Stretching, respiration  
with an oriental touch,  
Tuesday and Thursday 5:30  
pm to 6:30 pm at Vientiane  
Accueil, Khounvieng Rd.  
Contract: 020 5612107.

• **Aerobics Dance  
Course**  
Fitness Centre, Lao Plaza  
Hotel. From 6 to 7 pm.

• **Aerobics**  
At Sokpaluang Swimming  
pool, Sisattanak district,  
6-7 pm and 7-8 pm. And  
Horkang Wat Chane,  
Mekong River side,  
6-7 pm, every day.

• **Meditation  
Vipassana**  
at Wat Sokpaluang every  
Saturday from 4 pm to  
5:30 pm, Contract Kooba  
Khuan or Meakao Keo at  
the temple or call: Don  
213938; Manu: 216214  
Hermiene: 351620

• **Zen meditation**  
at Kounta residence.  
Please call: (020) 5518217

• **Emergency call  
for Ambulance.**  
150-beds Friendship  
Hospital, tel: 56131 4

# International News

## UNESCO chief urges to use multilingualism to benefit for all



UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova

PARIS-Xinhua

Linguistic diversity is the common heritage of human being and should be used for the benefit for all, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) chief said on

the occasion of marking the International Mother Language Day (IMLD).

To recognize the importance of linguistic diversity, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed IMLD in November 1999 and since then the day has been observed

every year throughout the world on Feb. 21, aiming to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingual education, and to help develop better awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

"Languages are who we are. By protecting them, we protect ourselves," said UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova.

According to UNESCO's estimation, nearly half of the approximately 6,000 languages spoken in the world could die out by the end of the century, with 96 percent of these languages spoken by a mere 4 percent of the world's population.

The UN cultural agency finds that there is a growing awareness that languages play a vital role in development, in ensuring cultural diversity and in-

tercultural dialogue, but also in strengthening cooperation, building inclusive knowledge societies, preserving cultural heritage and providing quality education for all.

This year's celebration is dedicated to multilingualism for inclusive education. "Multilingualism is our ally in ensuring quality education for all, in promoting inclusion and in combating discrimination. Building genuine dialogue must start with respect for languages," said Bokova, stressing that "linguistic diversity is our common heritage, and it is fragile."

To the UNESCO chief, linguistic and cultural diversity are of strategic importance for people around the world in strengthening the unity and cohesion of societies. "Multilingualism is a living resource, let us use it for the benefit of all," Bokova said.

## VN to boost relations with Dominican Republic party



Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong receives MIU Secretary General Miguel Mejia

VNA

Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong vowed to deepen the relationship between both countries' parties during his meeting with Miguel Mejia, Secretary General of the United Left Movement of the Dominican Republic (MIU) in Hanoi.

The head of MIU congratulated Trong on the successes of the 11th National Party Congress and the general elections at all levels, along with the country's socio-economic progress.

Mejia informed Trong of the latest situation in the Dominican Republic, the

activities of the MIU and the Left Movement of Latin America.

Trong thanked the party and people of the Dominican Republic and the Secretary General for supporting Vietnam during its struggle for independence and in the renewal and reconstruction processes. He said he hopes that in the future, the MIU and the Progressive Movement in the Dominican Republic will achieve further victories in their quest for justice and peace.

Earlier, the Dominican delegation also met with Hoang Binh Quan, head of the Party's National Committee's Commission for External Relations.

## Egypt's withdrawal of ambassador to Syria further isolates Assad

CAIRO-Xinhua

The decision by Egypt to recall its ambassador in Damascus is likely to lead to more international isolation for the Syrian administration, analysts said.

The Egyptian decision, meant to increase pressure on the already embattled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as growing violence in Syria have raised fears of a civil war, came days after Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel Amr condemned the continuous violence in Syria.

Amr stressed Cairo's support for the Arab initiative, as well as its refusal for military intervention in Syria. But he also said that "It's time for change in Syria before the situation gets worse to affect the regional situation and stability."

"The decision expressed Egypt's dissatisfaction re-

garding the violence escalation against the Syrians who asked for their legitimate rights," said Hussein Derag, Egypt's former ambassador to Lebanon.

Countries including the Gulf states, Tunisia and Libya have already decided to withdraw their ambassadors to Syria and expel Syrian envoys.

Egyptian People's Assembly (lower house of parliament) decided earlier this month to freeze its relations with the Syrian parliament due to the violence in Syria.

Demonstrations were also held in Cairo outside the Syrian embassy and the Arab League (AL) headquarters, asking Assad to leave power and the Egyptian government to take more serious steps.

According to Derag, Egypt has been stuck between helping the Syrian people achieve their aspirations and avoiding foreign intervention.

Although Egypt will keep its other embassy staff in the Syrian capital, the withdrawal of ambassador Shouki Ismail indicates the downgrading of diplomatic levels between the two countries.

Derag said the decision was hard for Egypt, because Egypt and Syria had enjoyed special historic and geographic relations as they were once unified during the era of Gamal Abdul Nasser in late 1950s and both adopted so-called Arab nationalism.

The decision was a political message rather than a real cutting of the diplomatic ties, Derag said, adding that "but it will accumulate more pressure over Bashar (al-Assad) and increase the sense of international isolation."

The Syrian government has blamed the unrest in Syria on plots by terrorists and foreign-backed armed gangs, and said more than

2,000 army and security personnel were killed during the 11-month unrest. The United Nations recently put the death toll in the Syrian unrest at around 6,000.

There is no doubt that the Syrian administration has put itself in an embarrassing situation with his people, the Arab countries and the whole world, said Talaat Hamid, assistant general secretary of the Arab parliament, an AL-affiliated body.

Egypt is under pressure to protect the lives of Syrians and to respond to their demands, but it is also expected to prevent the Libyan scenario to repeat in Syria, Hamid said.

Meanwhile, Helmy Sharawy, chief of the Cairo-based Arab Studies Center, said that Egypt had "tried to keep a link with the (Syrian) government for negotiations, but the situation in Syria led to the current decision."

## Seven hours sleep enough for teenagers

BEIJING-Xinhuanet

How much sleep do teenagers need? The more, the better? Not really.

Researchers from Brigham Young University found that seven-hour sleepers do better academically than their 9-hour counterparts, even though guidelines recommend nine.

This study was published in *The Eastern Economics Journal*.

Eric Eide and economics professor Mark Showalter aim to determine what impact sleep duration and quality might have on people's educa-

tion and health.

This study report is the first in a series.

They gathered data on 1,724 primary and secondary pupils across the United States.

They believed that theirs was a nationally representative sample of schoolchildren.

"We're not talking about sleep deprivation. The data simply says that seven hours is optimal at that age," said Eric Eide.

Apparently, test performance results depend on several factors, but as far as sleep is concerned, more does not necessarily mean better.

The study found that sleep schoolchildren require drops with age:

10-year olds. The optimal amount is 9-9.5 hours each night

12-year-olds. The optimal amount is 8-8.5 hours each night

16-year-olds. The optimal amount is 7 hours each night

## International News

# Medvedev Wants Unregistered Party Support for Reforms



Dmitry Medvedev meets with the leaders of several unregistered parties

### GORKI-RIA Novosti

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met with the leaders of several unregistered parties and discussed the course of political reforms in the country.

"I expect to hear some words of support on this issue because you do not have state registration, and because for you liberalization of party registration and the general liberalization of political life can be much more important than for the established political parties," said Medvedev, who is not running for re-election in the March 4 vote.

The time for change has arrived, he said.

"Our political system is not ideal and many of those who have gathered here today criticize it, sometimes harshly. At the same time, we should proceed from general principles when changing it," Medvedev said.

Medvedev said that the main aim of the meeting was to discuss the future political system "in the context of those political reform bills that were submitted to the State Duma."

"Here there are people of different political views and this is probably a good thing simply because of

the fact that we must understand the direction in which our political reform should develop," president added.

The State Duma is scheduled to debate the reforms at a February 28 session to which representatives of non-parliamentary parties have been invited. The bills concern elections to the Duma, direct popular election of regional governors from among candidates nominated by the political parties, simplified procedures for registering political parties, and reductions in the number of signatures required by non-parliamentary parties and independent candidates to participate in elections.

"All these draft laws are, so to speak, on the table. Let's talk about what you think is right, what is not right, or what can be changed," Medvedev said.

He added that all the leaders of public organizations that were at the meeting plan to register their political parties shortly after the relevant laws come into force and "much more actively influence the political life of the country."

"I am ready to discuss other issues but I think that the main problem is connected with how we see the development of the political system," president said.

# Mexican president urges G20 countries to restore economic growth, stability

### LOS CABOS, Mexico-Xinhua

Mexican President Felipe Calderon urged G20 countries to restore economic growth and stability ahead of the G20 Summit slated for June in Los Cabos, a resort town in southwestern Mexico.

"Clearly, economic stabilization should be the dominant theme, and I also know that it is the issue that in the minds of most of the G20 leaders," said Calderon in a welcome speech to the senior diplomats attending the G20 informal foreign minister meeting from Sunday to Monday.

The leaders of the G20 member countries will discuss important economic topics including seeking economic stability and structural reform to promote growth and employment, strengthening financial system and promoting financial inclusion to boost economic growth, said Calderon.

According to the President, strengthening the international financial institutions, food security and sus-



Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

tainable development will also be the topics of the upcoming G20 Summit.

Calderon said Mexico, which holds the G20 presidency this year, will try to enhance dialogues and cooperation not only among G20 countries, but also among non-G20 countries, international organizations, trade unions and academic institutions. "We have confidence that the Los Cabos G20 Summit will be a true success," he added.

Calderon also urged the ministers attending the meeting to "take strong measure to restore the market confidence".

"I know the vision, experiences of the ministers and deputy ministers of Foreign Affairs are important to the success of our Summit, which will solve the most important economic challenges that the human beings have ever seen, including the fragile state of the world economy," said Calderon.

The informal meeting brought together 10 foreign ministers from G20 member economies. Among them are U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd.

The Chinese delegation is led by Assistant Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu. Mexico also invited representatives from non-G20 economies and international organizations to participate in the meeting.

# Cuba condemns Spanish "interference" in domestic affairs

### HAVANA-Xinhua

Cuba on Monday condemned Spanish foreign minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo's criticism on its human rights situation, calling it "disrespectful interference in Cuban internal affairs."

"We express our strong opposition to these statements constituting a new interference in Cuban internal affairs," Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Dagoberto Rodriguez Barrera said in an official release Monday afternoon.

In an interview with Spanish daily El Mundo published on Sunday, Garcia-Margallo said that "as long as Cuba does not take steps toward democracy ... and full recognition of rights and freedoms, his country would not support any change of the so-called 'Common Position' of the

European Union (EU) toward Havana."

The "Common Position," adopted in 1996, conditions the EU relations with Cuba to the "improvement of the respect to human rights and freedom on the island."

Havana rejects the EU measure and considers it as a "violation to its sovereignty and interference in its domestic affairs."

"The Spanish foreign minister should remember that Cuba is no longer a Spanish colony" and "does not accept questions from anyone, especially those trying to give lessons, when they actually have a roof of glass," Rodriguez stressed.

Rodriguez stated that instead of interfering in Cuban internal affairs, the Spanish government should try to solve its own economic and human rights problem.

# Hungarian parliament agrees to EU fiscal pact

### BUDAPEST-Xinhua

The Hungarian parliament voted to approve Hungary's support to the new European Union (EU) fiscal pact aiming to impose tougher fiscal discipline.

The final version of the pact, the details of which were ironed out in January at a summit of national leaders, is expected to be signed in the first days of March at a meeting of the European Council.

Hungary shocked the media world back in December when Prime Minister Viktor Orban opted out of the pact the first time the EU discussed it, only to backtrack within hours, when he said he was only calling for parliamentary approval.

Given the government's two-thirds majority in parliament and the certainty of a party-line vote, the statement had the overtones of retreat, possibly because of Hungary's dire need for a line of credit from the EU and the International Monetary Fund that the lat-

ter have been reluctant to give the country.

Last week Orban said the December version had been a rough draft that lacked specifics.

He had been holding out for a version that was only mandatory for euro-zone members and one that did not call for the coordination of tax laws, he said.

Under the new pact the Eurozone members agree to keep their structural deficits to a maximum of 0.5 percent of their gross domestic products unless their national debt ratios are less than 60 percent of their GDPs, in which case their deficits would be permitted to go up to 1 percent of GDP.

The pact also calls for automatic mechanisms to go into action in each country to keep their deficits in line and for member countries to include references to putting brakes on their budgets in their constitutions or other legislation.

The European Union would be authorized to monitor adherence under the current version.

## Sport News

# Liu Xiang wins indoor British Grand Prix



Liu Xiang of China crosses a hurdle during the men's 60m hurdles final at the Birmingham indoor tournament in Birmingham, Feb. 18, 2012. Liu Xiang wins the men's 60m hurdles final at the Birmingham indoor tournament on Saturday.

**BEIJING-XINHUANET:** China's Liu Xiang began his new season and Olympic year by beating arch-rival Dayron Robles of Cuba to win the men's 60-meter hurdles final at the Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix. Liu, the Athens Olympic champion ran a new personal best time

of 7-point-4-1 seconds improving on his previous fastest time by 0-point-0-1 seconds.

Robles claimed the silver in 7-point-5-0 and Dexter Faulk of the US took the bronze in 7-point-5-4 seconds.

The 28-year-old Chinese now holds an 8 to 5 advantage over Robles in head-to-head meetings. The victory is not only a good start for his new season but also bodes well for his outdoor season which this year includes the London Olympics.

Liu's coach Sun Hai-pin says if Liu could run under 7-point-5-0 in the indoor event then the former world-record holder is capable of running sub-13 seconds in the 110 meter event.

Saturday's victory raises optimism that Liu is in a good position to lower his personal best time of 12-point-8-8 seconds and to claim the gold at this year's Olympics.

# CSKA-Real: Mourinho Defiant Over Moscow Cold

**MOSCOW-RIA NOVOSTI:** Sub-zero temperatures will not affect Jose Mourinho's team selection for Real Madrid's Champions League knockout stage first leg at CSKA Moscow, the Portuguese coach warned.

The Spanish champions look to extend their perfect record of six wins in six matches in this season's competition on CSKA's artificial pitch Tuesday, when the mercury is forecast to hit minus 9 degrees Celsius.

"I don't think that it's necessary to leave someone out because of the cold or the synthetic pitch," Mourinho said. "My choice of team won't be dictated by that, but according to the characteristics of our opposition, who are strong and used to the surface."

Mourinho suggested that Real would look to score goals in Moscow, rather than sitting back to defend.

"We expect to get a positive result in the away leg, a win or a useful draw. The most important thing for us a win over both legs and reaching the quarter-finals."

Mourinho said that he



Jose Mourinho: Madrid has to be strong to overcome the adverse conditions in Moscow.

would count on his experience of CSKA from his time as Inter Milan manager in 2010, when Inter beat CSKA 2-0 on aggregate in the quarterfinals.

"CSKA has quite a stable squad," he said. "Overall, CSKA have a lot of experience in European competitions, so you always have to take them seriously."

Helping the visitors will be the red-hot form of winger Cristiano Ronaldo, who bagged his 121st goal

for the club in 123 competitive matches in Real's 4-0 drubbing of Racing Santander on Saturday.

Both sides are missing a number of players due to injury.

Real will be without Angel di Maria after the Argentinean winger sustained severe bruising during Saturday's game. Midfielder Hamit Altintop, who tore his calf muscle earlier this month, is also missing, while Lassana Diarra is a doubt with

a back problem.

CSKA, who play their first competitive match without Brazilian striker Vagner Love, who was sold to Flamengo in the winter offseason, have defender Kirill Nababkin and midfielder Pavel Mamaev suspended.

Japanese midfielder Keisuke Honda has a knee injury, while Igor Akinfeev has been out since August with torn knee ligaments.

The absences could spur coach Leonid Slutsky into handing debuts to two offseason signings in Swedish midfielder Pontus Wernbloom and Nigerian striker Ahmed Musa.

Real, who lead La Liga by ten points, won all their group games against Lyon, Dynamo Zagreb, and Ajax, conceding just two goals and recording 56 shots on target, more than any other team in the competition.

Real and CSKA have never clashed in European competition. The Spaniards' last trip to Russia, in the 2008 group stage, saw them beat Zenit St. Petersburg 2-1 on an own goal from Tomas Hubocan and a winner from Ruud van Nistelrooy.

# Mickelson, Bradley share lead after 3rd rd at Northern Trust Open



Phil Mickelson of the U.S. tees off on the second hole during the third round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles.

The Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, California is the venue for this year's Northern Trust Open with the left hander, Phil Mickelson clinging on to the prospect of another victory.

Americans Bryce Molder, Jonathan Byrd and Pat Perez sit in a tie for third at six under with a round to play. Keegan Bradley, who clinched his first major title at last year's PGA Championship, birdied two of the last three holes to match the day's lowest score and join Phil Mickelson at the top.

Mickelson stayed on track for a second consecutive PGA Tour victory by

ending the round in a tie for the lead. The American left-hander shot at par 4 15th hole with tee shot that landed in rough and bounces into spectator's short pants. He then marked the spot with a tee before removing the ball.

Mickelson carded a one-under-par 70 to finish level with compatriot Bradley.

He mixed two birdies with a lone bogey to post a seven-under total of 206. He had chances to regain the outright lead over the closing stretch but narrowly missed an eight-foot birdie putt at the 16th and failed to birdie the par-five 17th after driving into the left rough.

# Kobe gives perspective on Jeremy Lin



LA Lakers megastar Kobe Bryant has shared his views on the recent Jeremy Lin phenomenon.

LA Lakers megastar Kobe Bryant has shared his views on the recent Jeremy Lin phenomenon. Bryant compared China's Yi Jianlian, who is yet to make his impact in the NBA, with Jeremy Lin, who has gone from zero to hero in weeks. Kobe says opportunity counts in the building of a successful career.

The 5-time NBA champion spent time visiting a local community school on Thursday. Kobe was given a warm welcome by the students, who were eager to see their idol. The NBA

All-Star shared his career success with the school kids, encouraging them to never give up striving for their dreams.

Among those children, there were also several youngsters from China, who were excited to see one of the most decorated sports icons in the world.

Kobe also said he felt honored to welcome Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping, who is on a state visit to the United States, to the Staples Center, who will be watching the Lakers game in the arena on Friday night.

# Entertainment

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## Chinese film industry faces pinch



**THE** country's film industry is the world's third largest, both in terms of the number of films produced and box office takings. But many film and TV production companies in China have entered a challenging period. Let's find out what difficulties they are facing.

Hengdian World Studio is the largest film studio in China. Ten years ago, Hengdian was only a small town in Zhejiang Province. But now, it has earned the nickname "Chinawood". The studio consists of 13 shooting bases, which are able to serve more than 40 production teams at the same time.

But being the largest film shooting center is not

enough for the people of Hengdian. They are aiming to become a major film production base. To achieve that goal, Hengdian has invited more than 400 film production companies to headquarter themselves at the studio, then problems emerged.

Liang Wenjian, deputy manager of Hongdian Film & TV Production Company, said, "We didn't have enough equipment, so that our customers got a very bad impression of our company. They thought we were not capable."

The tight budget is the root of the problem. In China, film production companies find it difficult to get loans from banks, since they don't have enough fixed assets.

Ding Shanjun, Hongdian Film & TV Production Company, said, "We have computers and techniques, but no fixed assets. And banks don't accept computers as collateral."

Analysts say that cultural industries such as film and TV production companies, even those that have been operating for a long time, have little more than a pile of scripts and films as property. But the banks will not accept these as collateral either.

And without loans, the film production firms in Hengdian find it hard to survive. It all affects the long-term development of Hengdian World Studio.

# Sport

## Messi scores 4 as Barcelona thrash Valencia



**WHILE** there were some whispers about Lionel Messi having a quiet time on the pitch, those doubters have been well and truly quietened as the world player of the year scored four, and Barcelona came from behind to thrash Valencia 5-1 at home to narrow the gap on La Liga leaders Real Madrid.