First Union Government Golf Tournament held

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan— The first Union Government Golf Tournament took place at City Golf Course and Yepya Golf Course here yesterday and today.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the opening of golf tournament yesterday morning, and enjoyed the first day’s events.

A total of 32 teams participated in the tournament.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister U Soe Maung and chairman of the leading committee for organizing the golf tournament Union Minister U Tint Hsan hit the flashing ball to open the tournament.

President U Thein Sein enjoyed the second-day events at City Golf Course and Yepya Golf Course this morning.

In the evening, prize presentation was held at City Golf Course and Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented prizes to winners.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, deputy ministers, members of the committee for organizing golf tournament and golfers from the participating teams.

Chairman of the leading committee for organizing golf tournament Union Minister U Tint Hsan explained the purposes of the tournament. Next, on behalf of President U Thein Sein, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented the trophy to Defence Ministry team which stood first both in team events (handicap) & (scratch).

Next, patrons and chairman of golf tournament organizing committee, and officials awarded the winners. Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham posed for a documentary photo together with prize winners, followed by a dinner. MNA

PRESS RELEASE

Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Paris Club Conclude Agreement on Debt Relief of US$ 5925 Million

Representatives of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Paris Club creditor countries met on 25th January 2013 and agreed to a comprehensive treatment of Myanmar’s public external debt. The agreement recommended that the creditors “deliver an exceptional treatment providing a cancellation of 50% of the total of arrears due to Paris Club creditors in nominal terms in two phases. The remaining amounts will be rescheduled over 15 years, including a 7-year grace period”.

Following the agreement, Norway has granted an exceptional full outright cancellation on all of its claims amounting to $ 534 million while Japan is committing a substantial cancellation of its arrears worth over $ 3 billion. This results in a very favorable debt relief of nearly $ 6 billion or over 60% of total debt immediately in effect after the meetings in Paris. Meanwhile, other bilateral donors are expected to follow suit and more debt cancellation is coming on the way in the next six months.

During the meeting, Paris Club members took note of the strong commitment the Government of Myanmar (GOM) has shown in implementing economic reforms aimed at maintaining macroeconomic stability, while creating the institutions necessary to manage a rapidly changing economy and achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The Government of Myanmar’s economic reform program is supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with a Staff Monitored Program (SMP) currently providing a framework for cooperation between the GOM.

Paris Club members welcomed the GOM’s commitment to continue their cooperation with the IMF at the end of the present SMP. The creditors fully recognized the commitment to reform and cooperation already shown by GOM; therefore, the Paris Club brought the case of Myanmar to its creditors’ meeting within a short period of time and also determined that the conditionality of SMP was necessary only for one year. Paris Club members also welcomed the comprehensive arrears resolutions that the GOM has committed to implement with all its external creditors.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue His Excellency U Win Shein expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to all the members of the Paris Club, describing how this agreement heralded the beginning of an era of new relationships in which Myanmar is committed to fully cooperate with all the members of the Paris Club. He pledged that the GOM will use the resources made available by the debt relief. In schools, hospitals and poverty reduction programs, while we will also step up a vigorous reform process under the Framework of Economic and Social Reforms.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Press Release on Myanmar’s debts owed to ADB

Myanmar had taken out loans from Asian Development Bank (ADB) to fund State-building projects. The government now is taking steps to settle the remaining debt in coordination with ADB and Japan International Cooperation Bank.

As Myanmar could clear the debt, it would be recognized as a responsible nation in international community. In addition, it would have access to more low-interest-rate development loan programmes. It is learnt that ADB will resume social and economic assistance to help Myanmar build strong foundation for her poverty alleviation scheme and reform process.
Japanese sports gear for Myanmar Judokas

YANGON, 27 Jan — Under the Cultural Grassroots Project of the Japanese government, a signing ceremony for grant contract between Myanmar Judo Federation of the Ministry of Sports and the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar took place at Yankin Hall of Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

First, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Numata Mikio explained purpose of donation.

Next, the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar and President of Myanmar Judo Federation U Tun Tun signed an agreement on donating sports gear worth US$123,456. Then the MFJ President accepted cash donation presented by the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar and presented a certificate of honour to him. — Kyemon

YTU students urged to make great strides in learning

In meeting with students and labs.— MNA

More traffic lights accident-prone Maha Bandaoola Bridge

Yangon, 27 Jan — So far, installation of 15 traffic lights to serve as warning signs for vehicles running on the Maha Bandaoola bridge where road accidents are frequent have been carried out. The bridge links Botataung Township and Dawbon Township. Apart from a series of traffic lights, three slowdowns that forbid road users from driving at speed were also built on the bridge.

An official of Yangon City Development Committee said that road accidents and red light accidents, he added. — Kyemon

Timber shop fire in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 27 Jan — A fire broke out at a timber shop on Pyidawtha street in ward (nga/kha) of Thingangyun Township, here, at about 3.15 am yesterday.

The timber shop caught fire due to the embers from the fireplace. A total 43 fire engines accompanied by 244 auxiliary fire brigade members and 168 fire crews, totaling 412 rushed there and managed to bring the fire under control in cooperation with ward dwellers at about 4 am.— Kyemon

Rehabilitation works for fire victims in Dimawhso Township

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo comforted fire victims and inspected progress of 61 makeshift shelters of 71 being built by Tatmadawmen in cooperation with peace group members at Dawhsawphya Village in Dimawhso Township on 23 January.

Next, the state chief minister accepted cash and kind donations by wellwishers, peace group, social and religious associations and handed over them to fire victims at the village monastery.

After meeting with local people at the monastery, the state chief minister oversaw land preparation at the chosen sites for resettlement of fire victims.

Upto date, wellwishers donated K815,000 and relief supplies including construction materials worth K29,483,750 for fire victims. — MNA

Regional development tasks in Sagaing Region inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — On his inspection tour of Kawlin Township People’s Hospital on 21 January, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye inspected chosen site for construction of new patient ward, operation theatre and medical store and presented cash donation for trust funds of the hospital.

Next, the region chief minister oversaw progress in tarmacming of Kawlin-Mayangon road, a progress of two-storey post-primary school in Thamanta and handed over them to fire victims.

Village where presented notebooks, sports gear and publications and upgrading of road and repair of bridges along Shwebo-Myaikyina road. On his arrival at newly-built two-storey basic education middle school (branch) at Utonbin Village, the chief minister met with local people and presented stationery, sports gear and publications for the school. He also visited worksite of Koebin creek bridge construction in Shwebo Township. — MNA

MTU students donate blood

MANDALAY, 27 Jan — The ninth collective blood donation ceremony of a philanthropic association had frequently happened to vehicles driving along the downward slop of the bridge out of gear.

The committee installed the 15 traffic lights in order to reduce traffic accidents, he added. — Kyemon

Students donated blood collectively and 370 bags of blood were received. — Kyemon
Chavez overcomes respiratory infection

SANTIAGO, 27 Jan—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has overcome a respiratory infection and is under further treatment, a government minister said on Saturday. “The respiratory infection has been overcome, though there is still some degree of breathing difficulty that is being treated appropriately,” Information Minister Ernesto Villegas told reporters in Caracas, where Latin American and European leaders are gathering for a two-day summit. Chavez was said to be in his “best moment” since his operation last December, Vice President Nicolas Maduro said on Saturday. “Vice President (Nicolas) Maduro has estimated that Chavez could come back in weeks, but we do not want to put a time frame on the president’s recovery,” Villegas added.

“Forty-five days after carrying out a complex surgical intervention for the removal of a malignant lesion in the pelvis, with severe, acute complications, the patient’s general evolution is favorable,” the minister said, reading a statement on the health of Chavez. Chavez, who was diagnosed with cancer in late 2011, has been hospitalized since his fourth operation on 11 Dec, 2012. After the surgery, he suffered respiratory failure caused by a lung infection.

Syrian army advances in Idlib province: military source

DAMASCUS, 27 Jan—A Syrian military source said on Saturday that army units have eliminated many armed militia in the country’s northwestern province of Idlib, a main hub of armed insurgency in Syria’s 22-month deadly conflict, according to state-run SANA news agency. The clashes have taken place in the towns of Binnish, Tamsirin and Sarmin, the unnamed source said, adding that the army’s operations were “qualitative” and led to the destroying of several thousand armed men, mortars, sophisticated sniper rifles and rockets.

Meanwhile, local media reports said that clashes between the rebels and government forces on Saturday, at the central prison of Idlib have continued on Saturday, adding that more than 80 armed rebels were killed in the fighting that has been dragging on since Friday morning. Opposition activists, however, said the rebels had managed to storm the prison and free more than 300 detainees.

Malian-French forces recapture Mali’s biggest northern town

BAMAKO, 27 Jan—The Malian and French forces on Saturday said they have recaptured Gao, the biggest northern town, after a series of counter-offensives against rebels in the past two weeks. The biggest ever gain on the ground was announced by allied forces after an overnight bombing by French warplanes on Malian-French troops took control of Wabaria bridge and the Gao airport, the locality of Lere, the French military.

Reinforcements were reported to consolidate the control of Gao, including 350 Malian soldiers, Chadian soldiers and Nigerien troops, who are known for experience in desert warfare, would reach Gao “very soon,” the same source said. The Malian and French forces took control of Wabaria bridge and the Gao airport on 26 Jan, 2013.

The airport is about six kilometers east of Gao and the bridge is at the southern gate of the city. The control of the two sites is strategically on an upper hand position for the coalition forces in the fight against the al-Qaeda-backed rebels.

Malian-French forces recapture Mali’s biggest northern town

Besides the Gao airport, the locality of Lere is also under control of the Malian army which is advancing with the French support towards Timbuktu in the Western part near the border with Mauritania.

Supported with airstrikes by the French forces on the rebel strongholds, the coalition forces are advancing quickly since the launch of offensives against the rebels who occupied the northern part of Mali in earlier 2012, including Gao, Timbuktu and Kidira.

Since 11 January, the Malian-French troops have liberated several towns starting from Kanno in central Mali, pushing back the rebel forces to the north.

The photo released by French Army Communications Audiovisual office (ECAP) on 26 Jan, 2013 shows Chadian soldiers waiting to board a French Hercules military aircraft in N’Djamenah, Chad, on 24 Jan, 2013.

People hold signs memorializing shooting death victims as they participate in the March on Washington for Gun Control on the National Mall in Washington, on 26 Jun, 2013.—Reuters

Thousands march against gun violence in Washington

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan—Thousands of marchers rallied in Washington in favour of gun control on Saturday, including residents of Newtown, Connecticut, where a mass elementary school shooting reignited the US gun violence debate.

Speakers— including Education Secretary Arne Duncan, lawmakers and actors— urged the protesters carrying such signs as “What Would Jesus Pack?” to lobby Congress and state legislators to back gun control measures.

Maliki who is already making efforts to bar PM from his 3rd term

Baghdad, 27 Jan—The Iraqi parliament on Saturday passed a law that would bar Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki from a third term, amid anger of some lawyers who argued that the draft law was unconstitutional. A total of 171 lawmakers out of 242 attended on Saturday’s session which voted in the draft that limits the president, prime minister and parliament speaker to two terms. The move could prevent Maliki from another four-year term in his office, but Maliki’s allies furiously rejected the move and insisted that the law was illegal, saying that they would go to the Supreme Court to have it down. The lawmakers of Maliki’s State of Law bloc walked out of the parliament session, protesting against the vote for the draft law. “This law will not stand long and we will go to the courts,” Khalid al-Aasadi, a lawmaker, told reporters at a Press conference at the parliament.

Observers said that even if Maliki’s allies will manage to abolish the law, the move is still seen as mounting pressures against Maliki who is already facing challenges of month-long protests by the Sunni Arab. Earlier, the Sunni-backed parliamentary Iraqi bloc announced that it has boycotted the upcoming parliament sessions except for those sessions leading to a motion of no confidence against Maliki in his office. The bloc rejected any move to form a new government and insisted that the law was illegal, saying that they would go to the Supreme Court to have it down. The lawmakers Maliki’s State of Law bloc walked out of the parliament session, protesting against the vote for the draft law.

Iraqi parliament passes law to bar PM from his 3rd term

New Light of Myanmar
Andean glaciers melting at “unprecedented” rates

LIMana, 27 Jan—Climate change has shrunk Andean glaciers between 30 and 50 percent since the 1970s and could meet many of them away altogether in coming years, according to a study published on Tuesday in the journal The Cryosphere. A Andean glaciers, a vital source of fresh water for tens of millions of South Americans, are retreating at their fastest rates in more than 300 years, according to the most comprehensive review of Andean ice loss so far.

The study included data on about half of all Andean glaciers in South America, and blamed the ice loss on an average temperature spike of 0.7 degree Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit) over the past 70 years.

“Glacier retreat in the tropical Andes over the last three decades is unprecedented,” said Antoine Rabatel, the lead author of the study and a scientist with the Laboratory for Glaciology and Environmental Geophysics in Grenoble, France.

The researchers also warned that future warming could totally wipe out the smaller glaciers found at lower altitudes that store and release fresh water for downstream communities.

“This is a serious concern because a large proportion of the population lives in and around regions to the west of the Andes,” said Rabatel.

The Chacaltaya glacier in the Bolivian Andes, once a ski resort, has already disappeared completely, according to some scientists.

“My measures for preventing the invasion of privacy caused by photographs taken in secret are now required,” said Isao Echizen of Tokyo’s National Institute of Informatics.

Sony’s lithium-ion battery for its Vaio laptops is seen during a photo opportunity at its showroom in Tokyo on 28 Nov, 2012.

Tokyo, 27 Jan—A Japanese state-backed fund wants a Nissan Motor Co Ltd and NEC Corp joint venture to buy Sony Corp’s lithium-ion battery unit to prevent rivals in China and Taiwan from getting its technology as the Tokyo TV maker looks to offload non-core businesses, the Daily Yomiuri said.

The Bravia TV maker’s shares rose as much as 6.9 percent in Tokyo after the report.

The company declined to comment.

Sony, which last year sold its chemical business to the government fund, Innovation Network Corp of Japan (INCI), for $700 million, is trying to revive the fortunes of its consumer electronics business by focusing on cameras, gaming and mobile devices.

Sony’s CEO, Kazuo Hirai, speaking at the CES consumer electronics show in Las Vegas this month, said any unit not contributing to those core divisions facing ending in losses in televisions could be sold.

Under the company’s accounting rules, asset sales are booked as operating profit.

The INCI has offered to invest in any firm created by merging Sony’s battery division with the Nissan-NEC venture, the Yomiuri said.

It is also looking for other potential Japanese buyers, the paper added, citing unidentified sources familiar with the matter.

Founded as a joint venture with Union Caribde Corp in 1975 and later made a fully-owned unit, Sony Energy Devices Corp was a pioneer in making lithium-ion batteries for computers and mobile devices.

Sony, however, which decided not to enter the more lucrative business for automotive motives, has struggled against price-cutting South Korean rivals in a market worth $3 billion a year.

The unit, which has three factories in Japan and two overseas assembly plants in China and Singapore, has asset valued by Sony at $578 million. NEC’s shares gained 2.4 percent in Tokyo, with Nissan’s 2.5 percent higher.

Sony has been sold at 10 billion yen—Reuters

China’s Lenovo sees RIM as M&A option, CFO says

TORONTO, 27 Jan—A senior Lenovo executive said on Thursday that the Chinese computer maker may consider Research in Motion as a takeover target, sending the BlackBerry maker’s shares up 2 percent just a week before it launches a make-or-break line of redesigned smartphones.

But Lenovo, which ventured into the personal computer market with its 2005 purchase of IBM’s PC division, would face formidable hurdles if it tried to buy a company that Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper once described as a national “crown jewel.”

The Chinese company would also encounter tough regulatory scrutiny in Washington, cybersecurity experts say.

Lenovo, on track to become the world’s largest PC maker, has held talks with RIM and its bankers about various combinations or strategic ventures, its chief financial officer, Wong Wai Ming, said on Thursday.

“We are looking at all opportunities—RIM and many others,” Wong told Bloomberg in an interview at the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting in Davos, saying the company would have no hesitation if the right opportunity comes along.”

A spokesman for Lenovo said Wong was asked about RIM by the financial journalist and that Wong was speaking broadly about Lenovo’s M&A strategy.

Lenovo, once a pioneer in the smartphone industry, has struggled in recent years as its aging line-up of devices has ceded market share to Apple Inc’s iPhone and devices based on Google Inc’s Android operating system.

China’s Alibaba and partners to invest $16 billion in logistics network

SHANGHAI, 27 Jan—Alibaba Group, which runs China’s largest e-commerce platform, and its partners will spend 100 billion yuan ($16.08 billion) in the first phase of its investment to build a logistics network, a local newspaper reported on Friday.

The unit will be chaired by Jack Ma, founder and chairman of Alibaba Group, and over the next 10-15 years aims to complete the network that would allow delivery of products across China within 24 hours, Beijing News said.

Once complete, the network will be able to support annual online sales of $10 trillion yuan, it said. Alibaba will lead the group of investors, which will include private equity firms, express companies and a bank, the paper said.

Alibaba Group said it was spearheading the project in cooperation with industry partners.

“This is consistent with what we’ve said in the past that logistics is a key industry bottleneck for e-commerce growth in China and that everyone involved in this sector needs to work together to drive rapid development,” an Alibaba spokeswoman said in an email to Reuters.—Reuters

Google doodles 64th Republic Day India

NEW DELHI, 27 Jan—Google has doodled a tiger on the India home page as a mark of respect on the occasion of the country’s 64th Republic Day. The Republic Day in India is celebrated as the day India’s own constitution came into effect on 26th January 1950. While India gained independence from the British on 15th August 1947, it continued to be governed by the Government of India Act, 1935, which was a relic of the British era. Thus, the Republic Day, is seen as the day India broke all ties from the British-empire, especial amongst the Commonwealth countries that refused to recognize the British Queen as their head of state after independence. Other countries like Australia and Canada, continue to have the British Monarch as their head of state till date.

Republic Day India commemorates the date that the Constitution Of India was adopted and became the document that governed the country.—PTI

Chinese facial recognition technology is seen on a smartphone.

An employee walks past a wall painted with the logo of Alibaba (China) Technology Co Ltd at its headquarters office on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 21 May, 2012.—Reuters

Privacy visor” goggles help dodge face-recognition cameras

SUNRISE, 27 Jan—Privacy visor” goggles help dodge face-recognition cameras. The goggles, which are made of clear plastic, have lines of lights that emit near-infrared rays. Echizen says this is enough to throw software off the scent, rendering a face invisible to a computer.

However, the large plastic structures, complete with glowing lights and a sizable power pack, may make the wearer somewhat conspicuous to the naked eye.

But, says Echizen, they believe they are improving on previous attempts at privacy shields or the less innovative sunglasses and baseball caps that created a barrier between people by obscuring their faces. Last year, the European Union ordered Facebook to remove a facial recognition service after complaints from users about data protection.—PTI

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New Light of Myanmar
BUSINESS & HEALTH

Samsung Electronics sold 63 million smartphones in fourth quarter: report

SEOUL, 27 Jan— Samsung Electronics Co, the world’s top handset maker, sold 63 million smartphones in the fourth quarter and commanded a 29 percent share of the global smartphone market, a report by research firm Strategy Analytics showed on Friday.

In 2012, Samsung sold 213 million smartphones with a 30 percent market share, followed by Apple with a 28 percent share of the global smartphone market, Strategy Analytics said.

Samsung’s Galaxy S3 mini (R) phone and a ‘Galaxy S3’ phone during the mini’s world premiere in Frankfurt on 11 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

FDA approves three type 2 diabetes pills from Takeda

NEW YORK, 27 Jan— US health regulators approved Takeda Pharmaceutical Co’s alogliptin to treat type 2 diabetes as a standalone drug and in combination pills with older diabetes medicines.

The US Food and Drug Administration announced the three approvals simultaneously on Friday.

Alogliptin by itself will be sold under the brand name Kazano, one of the most common initial treatments for the disease—will be sold as Kazano, and alogliptin along with pioglitazone — the chemical name for Takeda’s Actos — will be sold as Oseni, the FDA said.

Type 2 diabetes is a growing health crisis that can lead to numerous serious complications, such as heart disease, circulatory problems and amputations, kidney damage, and blindness. It affects about 24 million Americans and accounts for more than 90 percent of diabetes cases diagnosed in the United States, the FDA said.

Alogliptin, which lowers blood sugar levels by stimulating the release of insulin after a meal, was shown to be safe and effective in 14 clinical trials involving about 8,500 patients with type 2 diabetes.

Due to caution about the heart safety of diabetes drugs after GlaxoSmithKline’s Avandia was shown to cause heart problems, the FDA is requiring five postmarketing studies for Nesina, including a cardiovascular outcomes trial to assure that the drug does not increase the risk of heart attacks or strokes.

A nother study to be conducted once the drug is being used by the public will monitor for liver abnormalities and serious cases of pancreatitis.

Kazano’s label will include a boxed warning for lactic acidosis, a build-up of lactic acid in the bloodstream associated with metformin use, the agency said.

The Oseni label will have a boxed warning for heart failure associated with pioglitazone use. Pioglitazone belongs to the same class of diabetes drugs as Avandia, known as thiazolidinediones, or TZDs.

REUTERS

China economy to underpin global demand in 2013: CIC

BEIJING, 27 Jan—China’s economy could grow at an annual rate of 7.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012, snapping seven consecutive quarters of weaker growth, as a raft of pro-growth policies kicked in.

China’s economic growth could be over 8 percent this year, a year after China’s economic support a very large global demand,” Lou Jiwei, chairman of the China Investment Corp (CIC)ICICJUL, told a forum.

China’s economy expanded an annual rate of 7.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012, snapping seven consecutive quarters of weaker growth, as a raft of pro-growth policies kicked in.

The Q4 bounce helped lift full year growth in the world’s second biggest economy to 7.8 percent, which, though China’s slowest pace for 13 years, generated roughly a third of global economic growth of 3.2 percent— itself the worst since the 2009 financial crisis and just barely above the 3 percent mark economists say signals a worldwide recession.

Lou said that even if China’s growth did accelerate further in 2013, increased financial market volatility caused by Europe’s debt crisis and just barely above the 3 percent mark economists say signals a worldwide recession.

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Yemen tightens security ahead of UN delegation visit

President of Chile Sebastian Pinera (C) meets with Serbia’s President, Tomislav Nikolic (2nd R) in Santiago, capital of Chile, on 25 Jan, 2013. The meeting was held as part of the first summit of Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU).

A Yemeni soldier checks a vehicle on a street in Sanaa, Yemen, on 26 Jan, 2013. Yemen Interior Ministry said on Saturday that it has tightened security in the streets of the capital Sanaa as a precautionary measure ahead of a UN delegation’s visit due on Sunday.

**Bahrain’s national dialogue to start soon without preconditions**

**Foggy weather to afflict central, eastern China**

**5.0-magnitude quake hits southern Sumatra, Indonesia**

**India’s left-wing Naxalite rebels abduct seven labourers in eastern state**

**760 mln USD needed for Mali’s anti-rebel operations**

**5.0-magnitude quake hits Philippine Islands region**

**Yemen tightens security ahead of UN delegation visit**
Questions of two Amyotha Hluttaw representatives raised at the fourth day of the sixth regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw held on 21 January and answers of Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin are as follows:-

Question as to annual rabies cases in Yangon Region and States, and is rabies vaccine produced by BPI enough or not in case of the bite of an infected dog?

Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency (6)

Regarding the permission with the permission of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker. The aim of the question is that there was the Anti-rabies Day designated by the United Nations which falls on a day between the fourth and fifth Hluttaw regular sessions. But, the Anti-rabies Day has not been marked. I happened to attend a workshop on continuing medical process programme and read a perspective on "be careful of rabies" appeared on the 15-2-13 issued Yama A line and Htaw A line. In my perspective, I had learnt that there were about 55,000 deaths globally through the bite of infected dogs which carry viruses rabies. The fact of being infected by a rabid dog is in the perspective, I had learnt that there were about 55,000 deaths globally through the bite of infected dogs which carry viruses rabies. The fact of being infected by a rabid dog is in the least figure being 240, there is under reporting in medical process programme.

My question is that what measures should be taken to prevent rabies. In the question of Dr Tin Shwe on the bite of an infected dog when he was in service in Africa, a child was mauled and eaten up by dogs when he was upper in Myanmar when third Hluttaw regular session was held, a rabies patient I had witnessed in the time of my career, a warning letter written by a literary agent that his son who studied in Thailand returned to Pala Myothit, Yangon Region on school holidays. The student was mauled by a dog. As the dog happened to be an infected one, the student later died of rabies transmitted through the bite of the infected dog. A nobler factor inspired me to ask question was an educational article about rabies written by Dr U Khin Shwe in the newspaper. In the past, my clinic saw two or three dog-bite patients who were referred to Yangon Health Centre. The Township Medical Officer asked in a hurry the victims to purchase Anti-rabies vaccines at the BPI. The Anti-rabies vaccines that were expiring were expected. Fourteen ampoules of Anti-rabies vaccines were injected intratemporally into the dog-bite victims for as many as five or six times, generally that the injection can be saving the life of the victims. The symptoms of rabies included photo-phobia, hydrophobia, and regurgitation. Therefore, the victims need to be quarantined. Rabies is incurable. Its incubation period is from six days to three years since it is of viral infection. Scientists believed that the rabies virus gene in human beings is recognized. The rabies virus in a cat is that which is closely associated with dogs.

Similarly, abatoracoon that is often seen in houses is a host of rabies. Therefore, prevention should be taken against dogs, cats and bats that can be carriers rabies, especially in the months that rabies occur. Studies showed that rabies virus can be extensively multiplied in the hottest season. Thus, if the bite of the rabid dog is in the upper part of the body virus can spread rapidly, and if the bite is in the lower part of the body, the virus cannot spread rapidly. Whatever it is, it should be treated immediately. Therefore, whatever part of the body is bitten by a dog, the victim should rush to regional health care centre or township health care centre or rural health care centre of the Ministry of Health, and try to obtain rabies vaccines produced by BPI. Additionally, the dog owners also need to vaccinate their dogs to prevent them from being infected. So, when one is being bitten by a dog regardless of upper part or lower part of the body he should get vaccinated to save his life. To be able to do so, let me ask the question to the Ministry of Health, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker. Question on whether there is plan to address the problem of those from remote areas of the country who are out of reach of health care services as a harm holders medical graduates from remote areas with poor transport fail several times the exam of Union Civil Services Board.

U Ha Shin Bwe of Chin State Constitution (8)

Firstly I would like to extend my greetings to the respected Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Union ministers and MPs. I am Ha Shin Bwe of Chin State Constitution (8). My question is that in case of the bitten cases, there is plan to address the problem of those from remote areas of the country who are out of reach of health care services as a harm holders medical graduates from remote areas with poor transport fail several times the exam of Union Civil Services Board.

The students of Chin State are not committed to serving the whole Chin. 42 in Sagaing, four in Tanintharyi, 48 in Bago, 25 in Magway, 50 in Mandalay, eight in Mon, three in Rakhine, 20 in Yangon Region, six in Shan State and 28 in Ayeyawady Region, totaling 240 in 2011. As M R Parliamentarian said before, a total of 55,000 around the world died of rabies.Victims in Asia and Africa constitute 95 percent of that figure. The disease could also be transmitted by other animals apart from dogs. But 97 percent was transmitted by dogs. Our figures 20X or 240 are under reporting in medical terms. It is most common and unreported in countryside. The death toll of 240 would be the least figure as the actual figure would be larger.

Why do we not know the actual figure? Most common symptoms—photophobia, hydrophobia and regurgitation. Scientists have pinned hopes on them. Despite various attempts, they did not pass the UCSB exam. The fact that these rare local health graduates were not assigned to the posts denied by the mainland doctors extensively poor transport fail several times the exam of Union Civil Services Board.

Therefore, if there is no incubation period which takes years. A victim would take from a week or two years, ancient people did not approve the marriage of their daughters by defeated dog. Therefore, the victims need to be vaccinated. I would like to suggest the officials concerned to consider it mildly and would also like to ask via Mr Speaker how many times the amount of Anti-rabies vaccines should be resolved in coming budget year. Thank you, all.

Answer: Dr Pe Thet K Chin University of Medicine in Kyaukme

I bestow all the blessings on you. Representing the Union Health Ministry, I would first like to answer the question of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker.

Although the SaMa holders national youths graduated in these areas with poor transport fail several times the exam of Union Civil Services Board.

The SaMa holders national youths from these areas with poor transport fail several times the exam of Union Civil Services Board.

Tuberculosis is a disease. Once infected with tuberculosis, the patient is quite unlikely to die. We call it post-exposure prophylaxis. Precautionary rabies injections are highly effective in preventing the disease. Once infected with rabies, the sufferer is entirely likely to die. There was one recorded survivor of rabies in US in 2006. But, still it was challenged by scholars. So, it is an unheard and one of the fatal diseases. So, as regards who and when and what kind of dogs should be injected with rabies vaccine in Myanmar, the WHO says it should be vaccinated for whatever dog bite. Because in South-East Asia, Africa, Asia, Africa, North America are endemic regions. You can’t take it for granted you are safe because your pet dog is vaccinated. Even if one is bitten by vaccinated dog, he must undergo precautionary rabies injections. Vaccine manufactured by MFF can be safe only as a means of prevention. If the symptoms arise, immune globulin must be injected. It costs three hundred thousand to four hundred thousand kyats. But, even immune globulin can’t guarantee the sufferer’s survival.

So, when the dog is not known whether infected with rabies virus or not, it is no problem to use vaccines. But, if it is found to be the bite from infected dog, immune globulin must be injected in addition to rabies vaccines. A noble important point is, the Burma Health Ministry is known as vaccine tissue virus no developed from sheep brain.

Today, cell culture vaccines known as CPEV has been in use and it is more effective than nerve tissue vaccine but with less side effects. Though the possibility is low, nerve tissue vaccine itself can cause severe nervous breakdown. So, we are gradually phasing out it. Cell culture vaccines such as PDEV and PCEC developed from tissues of chickens and ducks or eggs. Other countries in East Asia, only two countries including Myanmar vaccine developed from sheep brain. Other countries have been using cell culture vaccines. The Health Ministry will phase sheep brain vaccine out and try to use only cell culture vaccines. People need to join their efforts that time.

In the US, transmission from dogs is now rare thanks to vaccination programme of pet dogs, but it still sees rabies from bat bites. Likewise, rabies virus can be infected from cat scratch. But, at present we could not afford to provide vaccines to everyone bitten by dog. So, elimination of stray dogs is a good way to prevent rabies. However, as Myanmar is kind-hearted people, once they hear the municipal sanitation division is going to feed poisoned meatballs to the stray dogs, they keep them in monasteries and dog survive because of this.

However, many people who haven't been rabies sufferers die from dog bite tend to save the dogs that are going to be fed poison meatballs. They seem to lack knowledge about rabies. Therefore, we including MPs, Health Ministry, social-class organizations and social organizations need to organize anti-rabies vaccination campaign educating them. Let me conclude my first answer here.

(To be continued)
A lasting peace through dialogue

Even though the government is doing its best for restoring eternal peace, the signing of peace agreements and handshakes by leaders alone will not guarantee the successful completion of a long-term peace process. So, the government keeps away from devising and delivering short-term plans in solving ethnic problems.

It prefers only the means that ensures lasting peace in the whole country. Accordingly, there must be a scheme that guarantees equal rights for all ethnic groups as per the non-segregation principles of the Union.

Concerning the clashes in the Kachin State, the government has been in the mission of seeking a peaceful solution since the very start of the disagreement. It has called for a ceasefire with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) with the eventual aim of seeing peace in the whole Union.

Here, we need the participation of general public in the peace-building task. We are also paving the way for the participation of civil society organizations or CSOs in the peace process as their position is vital in disseminating information about agreements and understandings reached among leaders. Accordingly, the Myanmar Peace Center is now facilitating the harmonious participation of all relevant civil society partners in the peace process.

Since the very beginning of its term, the government has committed itself to nationwide ceasefire desired by the entire country. Because its ultimate aim is the genuine and perpetual peace. The result is that, we have reached ceasefire agreements with 10 major ethnic armed groups.

As it has witnessed the international events, the government knows that peace-building is a process which needs time, patience, concessions and compromises for a win-win answer for all stakeholders. The situation of conflicts can change during the peace talks. In spite of such condition, we must not deviate from our commitment to achieve a lasting peace through dialogue.

KIA mine blast kills one

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Jan—Three motorcycle riders stepped on a mine planted by KIA on their way from Myitkyina to Putao in Kachin State around 10.30 am yesterday, and Ko Kyaw Soe, 25, from Aungmyinttha Village, Myitkyina was killed in the mine blast.—MNA

1050 runners participate in Yoma Yadana Marathon

Yangon, 27 Jan—Jointly organized by Yangon City Development Committee and First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Yoma Yangon International Marathon kicked off in front of People’s Park this morning. At 1.15 pm, the delegation arrived at Downtown Yangon this afternoon. At the Yangon International Airport, the Vice-President and the members of the delegation were welcomed by Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, Counselor Mrs Corinne Hencz, Planu of Swiss Embassy to Myanmar and other relevant officials.

1050 runners—550 from Myanmar and 500 from Thailand—took part in the different events. The marathon includes three events—42 kilometers, 10 kilometers and three kilometers. A total of 1050 runners—550 from international countries and 500 from Myanmar—took part in the different events. The marathon was opened on Thanbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township at 10 am. It was attended by Minister Region Development Affairs U Thaung Thaung, Deputy Minister for Energy U Than Htay, region ministers, personnel from YCDC and FMI.

Talks on danger of drugs shared

Yangon, 27 Jan—A talks on disadvantages of drug abuse was given at the hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Hline Township on 23 January. Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Htut gave talks on danger of drug abuse.

Township level departmental officials and responsible persons of Yango (West) Anti-Drug Special Squad disseminated knowledge about danger on abuse of drugs. Myanmar Alinn
Myanmar workers in Malaysia can now remit money home  
**Taunggyi,** 27 Jan—Myanmar workers from Malaysia may remit their money to Yoma Economic Banks in all parts of Myanmar through May Bank in Malaysia and its representatives, said District Manager U Win Naing of Yoma Economic Bank in Taunggyi.

The money remitted from May Bank in Malaysia will be issued immediately to receivers after seeking approvals from the head office of MEB as the receiver replies code number to the officials. Thanks to cooperation among the banks, the customer people can enjoy convenient relations to the banking services.—Myanma Alinn

**Broken weighing bar from Waw Bridge removed**

The weighing bar was broken with the use of two cranes from Shwe Than Lwin, but mission failed.

Due to traffic congestion, 3.5 miles long queue of vehicles appeared on road side on the bank of Mawlamyine.

The weighing bar was removed with the use of two cranes from Shwe Than Lwin, but mission failed. Fortunately, the weighing bar was removed from the bridge with the use of two 60-ton cranes by 30 skilled workers under supervision of Heavy Machinery Chief Engineer U Aung M Ya Oo of Nay Pyi Taw, Senior Engineer U Myo Win and officials of Bridge Road Special Group. They removed the vehicle under the weighing bar. Therefore, the bridge is in clear of traffic jam as of 2 am on 22 January.

Waw police station opened a file of lawsuit against driver Than Htwe, 45, of Taunggyi under the law. Myanma Alinn

**Mobile library displays various books at school**

**Kyunhla,** 27 Jan—With a view to creating opportunity for students to have easy access to reading, Kyunhla Township Information and Public Relations Department in Sagaing Region launched the mobile library programme at Basic Education Middle School (Thityamyaing) on 21 January morning.

The mobile library issued the membership cards to the students and displayed 250 copies of books on various subjects to be lent to the students.

The chairman of the organizing committee for the contest explained purpose of the contest and tasks.

A total of 22 contestants from wards and Pyay, Pyay Education College and Pyay Nursing Training School participated in the contest. Likewise, altogether 10 body-builders from Pyay Township Body-building and Weightlifting Association took part in the contest.

Officials presented prizes to the winners from the first to fifth positions. The first prize went to Maung Soe San.

In the Miss Contest, Ma Zin Mar Thet won the first prize. Officials awarded five winners.—Myanma Alinn

**National Tennis Championship 5-9 Feb**

**Yangon,** 27 Jan—Myanmar Tennis Federation will organize the 2013 National Tennis Championship from 5 to 9 February at Thienbyu Tennis Court in M Ingala Taungyunt Township of Yangon Region. The championship will be categorized as the men’s open singles event and doubles event, women’s open singles and doubles events, men’s and women’s mixed doubles event, men’s above 35 singles, doubles, above 45 singles and doubles, above 55 singles and doubles and above 60 singles and doubles events.

Those wishing to take part in the championship are to enroll at the tennis court of the federation, not later than 11 am on 4 February.—Myanma Alinn

**Mr and Miss Contest held in Pyay**

**Pyay,** 27 Jan—In commemoration of 66th Anniversary Union Day, the Mr and Miss Contest was held at Gingawady Hall on Strand Road in Pyay at 1 pm on 20 January.

At first, the Pyay Township Administrator spoke on the occasion.

The programmes on the concert to the audience.

The concert was attended by over 7000 people. The concert may be a tool to disseminate knowledge on human trafficking to the people. The programmes on the concert will be broadcast to the people through Channel 7 from 7 pm to 9 pm on 2 February.—Myanma Alinn

**Legal affairs talked**

**Sagaing,** 27 Jan—A talks on human trafficking and legal affairs was given at Dhammayone in Maungtaung Village of Sagaing Town on 21 January.


Myanma Alinn

**Pension salary issued through e-pension card system**

**Kyaukpadaung,** 27 Jan—Myanmar Economic Banks under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue make arrangements for enabling pensioners to draw their salaries from the banks through e-pension card system.

Myanma Alinn

**Monastic education school in Hsatainggan Village of Magway**

**Magway,** 27 Jan—Abbot Bhaddanta Rajinda of Yaydwin Monastery in Hsatainggan Village of Magway Township manages the monastic education school for enabling the needy students to pursue basic education primary education free of charge with the assistance of School Board of Trustees. Since 2003, the school has been opened free of charge for needy students. The school had admitted 80 students from KG to fourth standard from those residing in Hsatainggan and its surrounding villages.

In 2005, the school admitted the students up to seventh standard. At present, a total of 223 students are attending the school under teaching of six teachers.

The school provided cash assistance to five needy students to be able to learn matriculation education at Maung Agyaw Basic Education High School No.1. Moreover, food and school uniforms are being provided to 41 students. Although the abbot wishes to fulfill the requirements of the students, the school faces difficulties in various costs.

Thus, those wishing to make cash and kind donations to the school may contact Abbot Bhaddanta Rajinda of Yaydwin Monastery, Tel: 09-44025478.—Myanma Alinn
More camps needed by Syrian refugees in Jordan

Beijing, 27 Jan—The UN has announced it is working with Jordan to build additional camps for Syrian refugees who are fleeing across the border. It follows a call on Friday by Jordan’s ruler, King Abdullah, for more international assistance. CCTV’s Special Affairs correspondent Roven Rutterberg has more from Northern Jordan.

In the last days, thousands of refugees have arrived here at the Zaatarie Camp—the largest in Jordan. The pace of their arrival has really picked up steam — topping 30,000 for January. That’s double the amount who came in December, according to official figures. And it’s partially a reflection of the fighting that’s intensified, according to the people here, in the southern Syrian city of Dara’a, just 30 kilometres behind me.

Many of the families that are arriving are being led by women...their husbands unable to come.

The Assad government in Syria has called on the people to return home... and several hundreds are doing so, albeit on their own. But the UN says it’s already built are filled to capacity, and that it needs to build more. But it’s asking for help. The economy here has been hurting, and Jordan says it can’t bear the financial burden alone. Jordan is now hosting more than 320,000 Syrian refugees. That’s nearly half of all the Syrian refugees in the region. The UNHCR — the UN’s Refugee Agency — says it has begun building a new camp with Jordan which it hopes will be ready by the end of this month... But with the end-of-fighting nowhere in sight, and the number of refugees increasing by the hour, surely they can keep going... for now. It comes at a price, even they admit: that might not be enough...
Bangladesh garment factory fire kills six

DHAKA, 27 Jan—A fire at a garment factory in Dha ka, the capital of Bangla desh, has killed at least six women workers and injured five others. Police and fire authori ties said the blaze on Saturday also destroyed sewing machines and garments. The fire was brought under control in two hours. The cause of the fire is not known yet but one of the men workers who escaped from the building said a bundle of wires sud denly flared up. In November, a fire at a garment factory outside Dhaka killed 112 workers. Safety management of the industry is under question. Foreign apparel makers, which are attracted by the low labor cost, have fac tories in Bangladesh. More than 4,000 garment factories are operating in Bangladesh. Clothing ac counts for about 80 percent of the value of the country’s exports.—NHK

Chinese anti-corruption drive nets Politburo member

The Hong Kong-based Ming Pao newspaper however reported that Li had checked into a Beijing mili tary hospital due to “psychological stress” from the investigation. A call to the National People’s Congress news department was not answered on Sunday.

If charges do result, Li would be the highest-rank ing official snagged in an anti-corruption drive launched by the new party leadership. Earlier this month, the new head of China’s ruling commu nist party, Xi Jinping, said anti-corruption efforts should target low-ranking “flies” as well as powerful “tigers”. Not all corruption in vestigations result in charges, and officials rumored to be under investigation often reappear in public in a sign that their case has been cleared. Li, who is not a widely known political figure, was formerly secre tary to Li Ruihuan, a pow erful official throughout the 1990s. He is considered close to the Communist Youth League, the power base for outgoing Chinese president Hu Jintao, and was only named to the Politburo in November.

Spring Festival travel rush kicks off across China

BEIJING, 27 Jan—Chinese authorities added extra travel contingencies to ensure the smooth kick-off on Saturday of the world’s largest annual migration that starts before the Lu nar New Year. Railway authorities arranged 358 more passenger trains on Saturday to start handling the estimated 5.2 million daily trips over the next 40 days’ peak travel season. A record 3.41 billion trips are expected to be made over this year’s Lunar New Year travel rush, as Chinese who have worked away from home see the holiday as the most impor tant occasion for family reunion. The country’s rail network is expected to handle 225 million trips, while long-distance buses will see up to 3.1 billion passengers, which combine to account for 99 percent of the overall national capacity, according to the National Development and Reform Commission. Chinese have traditionally favoured road and rail transportation, whose fares are cheaper, for their home tours. On Saturday, signs of the holiday travel rush being com menced could be seen in many bus and train stations, where more staff and volun teers had been mobilized to maintain order. In a square in front of the Guangzhou Railway Station, located in the capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, hun dreds of passengers slowly streamed into the station under broadcasted instruc tions.—Xinhua

Singapore opposition party wins by-election with surprising margin

SINGAPORE, 27 Jan—Singapore’s opposition Workers’ Party won the by-election for the Punggol East single member constituency on Saturday with a surprising margin. The victory of the op position candidate Lee Li Lian brought the number of elected seats held by the Workers’ Party to seven, out of a total of 87 elected seats in the parliament. Lee won 16,038, or 54.52 percent of the valid votes cast on Saturday. The by-election has been widely regarded as a test for the People’s Action Party, which has been the ruling party in the city state since 1959. It now still has 80 of the 87 elected seats in the parliament. The constituencies in Singapore include two categories, namely, the single member constituencies and the group representation constituencies, which were introduced in 1991 to en sure that the minority com munities of the Malay and the Indian are represented. In a group representation constituency, all the candi dates must either be mem bers of the same political party or independent can didates standing as a group, and at least one of the can didates may be a person belonging to the minority community.—Xinhua

H2A marks 16th successful launch

NHK

Tokyo, 27 Jan—Japan launched an intelligence-gathering satellite on an H-2A rocket. The launch took place at 1:40 PM, local time, on Sunday at Tanegashima Space Centre in southern Japan. The satellite has gone into orbit around the earth. The launch marks the 16th consecutive successful liftoff of an H-2A rocket. The satellite is equipped with a radar system which can take images at night and in bad weather. The satellite reportedly can take images of objects as small as one meter on the earth from several hundred kilometres in space. Japan launched its first two intelligence-gathering satellites in March 2003 in reaction to North Korea’s missile test in 1998. Japan has one radar sat ellite and three optical ones in operation. Japan origi nally planned to introduce a reconnaissance system consisting of two radar satellites and two optical satellites to cover every part of the globe once a day. A successful deployment of the radar satellites will complete the program. Some people have pointed out issues in opera tion and usage of the system. —NHK

Regional

Four killed, 20 missing in landslide in West Sumatra, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 Jan—Rescuers have found the bodies of four people who died in a landslide in Agam district of West Sumatra, Indonesia, on Sunday morning, which also left three people injured and 18 others missing, an official said.

“The injured persons were immediately rushed to hospital and rescuers are still searching for the 18 missing persons,” spokesman of the Disaster Management Agency in West Sumatra, Poli toto Purwo Nugroho told Reuters over the phone.

The natural disaster took place at 06:45 am on Sunda day and has hit 15 houses. “As many as 20 people are trapped under the debris of the houses,” said Ade Edward, spokes man of the disaster manage ment and mitigation agency in West Sumatra.

Policemen, soldiers and people in local communiti es are on the site for evacuation with the help of heavy machinery equip ment, said Edward.

Heavy rains since Fri day have triggered floods and landslides in some ar eas of the district. —Xinhua

N Korean media say Kim is ready for strong action

PONYANG, 27 Jan—North Korean media reported that the country’s leader Kim Jong Un has instructed top defence officials and diplomats to take action of national impor tance. This suggests that the country may hold a third nuclear test. State-run Korea n Central News Agency re ported on Sunday, that Kim summoned the officials af ter the UN Security Council adopted a resolution on last Tuesday to tighten sanc tions due to last month’s missile launch.

Top military official Choe Ryong Hae, the chief of the munitions division of the Korean Workers’ Party, Pak To Chun, and First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kyu Gwan were among those in attendance. The agency says Kim expressed his firm resolve to take a strong measure of national importance and laid out tasks in detail. The agency did not explain what the measure is. However, the country’s National Defence Commis sion said on Thursday that it will carry out a high-level nuclear test with the United States in mind.

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New Light of Myanmar

REGIONAL

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Open recruitment more common in China's public institutions

BEIJING, 27 Jan—Open recruitment has been carried out in most Chinese public institutions as a method of filling posts, a government spokesman said on Friday.

The process of boosting open recruitment in government-sponsored institutions began in 2006, said Yin Chengji, spokesman for the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

Public institutions, including schools, research institutions, hospitals and publishing houses, are the backbone of China's public service system.

Yin said the ministry has also been working to standardize the way posts are managed, with 145 out of 157 public institutions under the central government having standardized such management.

The ministry will make more efforts to enhance and standardize open recruitment this year, as well as inspect recruitment efforts in public institutions in cooperation with the Organization Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Yin said.

In addition, the ministry is considering creating regulations to encourage open recruitment in different sectors.

AL-Qaeda-linked Taleban leader killed in E Afghan operation

KABUL, 27 Jan—The NATO-led coalition forces on Friday said that an Afghan-coalition security force has eliminated an Al-Qaeda-linked Taleban leader in an operation in the country's eastern province of Kunar.


Wali was a Taleban leader and Al-Qaeda facilitator who coordinated activities between the Taleban and Al-Qaeda within the province 185 km east of capital Kabul, and organized attacks against Afghan and coalition forces in Dangam District. He also oversaw the movement of weapons and suicide vest components, the release reads.

Quake-hit Yushu to complete reconstruction in 2013

XINING, 27 Jan—Reconstruction work in a quake-hit plateau region in northwest China's Qinghai province will be completed this year, local authorities said on Friday.

"By the end of 2012, a total of 1,224 reconstruction projects had been launched in Yushu prefecture with an investment of about 38 billion yuan ($6.1 billion US dollars)," said Kuang Yong, chief of the provincial housing and construction bureau.

Nearly all of the area's homes have been rebuilt, Kuang said, adding that 71 schools and 48 health facilities have also been completed.

The restoration of local cultural relics is nearly finished, although 47 religious sites are still being repaired, Kuang said.

Yushu was hit by a magnitude-7.1 earthquake on 14 April, 2010. More than 2,698 people were killed and the entire town of Gyegu, located near the quake's epicenter, was leveled.

Mozambican police hunt Muputo bank robbery

MAPUTO, 27 Jan—The Mozambican police said on Friday that they are hunting two armed men who on Tuesday afternoon raided a central Muputo branch of the Nigerian United Bank for Africa (UBA) and stole 2.8 million meticais (about 100,000 US dollars).

A maid police spokesperson for Muputo city police command, told Xinhua that a manhunt was launched on Thursday to trace the suspects at large with the cash.

"We have organized ourselves for the tracing of the suspects, we believe they are at large in the city and its surroundings," he said.

The robbery took place in broad daylight, at about 14:30 on Tuesday, when the two thieves, pretending to be clients, entered the bank and claimed they wanted to open a foreign currency account.

According to Chefo, one of the so called clients asked the branch manager about the requirements for opening such an account.

He then pulled out a pistol and demanded that the manager open the bank for the two thieves, who grabbed 2.8 million meticais, 4,800 euros and 14,300 South African rands.

Nepal, China to join hands for Chinese language promotion

KATHMANDU, 27 Jan—Nepal and China on Friday stressed the need for promoting the Chinese language in Nepal for bilateral tourism prosperity.

In a discussion programme organized by the Nepal China Language & Cultural Exchange Academy and China Radio International (CRI) Confucius Classroom Nepal at Nepal Tourism Board in Kathmandu on Friday, the two sides agreed to narrow down the linguistic differences between the two neighbours.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Yang Houlan said the tourism industry has become a platform for Nepal-China friendship and language serves as a bridge of communication between the two neighbours.

"Understanding each other's language provides better guarantee for travel, hence, the work of CRI and other institutions to teach the Chinese language in Nepal is commendable," Houlan said.

Chief Secretary of the Nepalese government Lila Mani Poudel said that Nepal could learn a lot from China and language play an important role to understand the prosperous Chinese economy.

Noting arrival of Chinese tourists to Nepal increased by 10 folds in the past one year, Poudel underscored that Nepal's economy could grow faster with more Chinese tourist arrivals.

He said that he would lobby concerned Nepalese authorities to provide better visa facilities for Chinese nationals who want to visit Nepal to study the Nepalese language.

"A rising China can boost Nepal's economy, hence, learning the Chinese language can help boost the national economy. Nepal should respect China's sentiments and grow along for a better future," Poudel said.

Veteran lawmaker Ichiro Ozawa (C) and his party colleagues pump their fists during the inaugural convening of the People's Life Party in Tokyo on 25 Jan, 2013. Ozawa was selected head of the small opposition party. KYODO NEWS

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Legendary Japanese filmmakers to be honoured by Hollywood

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan—Legendary Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa and three of his compatriots will be honoured by the Writers Guild of America (WGA) next month for their lifetime of work on movies that organizers said have “given us all a taste of the sublime.”

The WGA’s West branch, which represents the US West Coast writers of TV, radio and Internet programming, said that the late Kurosawa and his collaborators Ryuzo Kikushima, Hideo Oguni and Shinobu Hashimoto, will receive the Guild’s 2013 Jean Renoir Award for Screenwriting Achievement on 17 February in Los Angeles.

The 94-year-old Hashimoto is the lone surviving member of the group. He is not expected to attend the ceremony. The annual award honours “those non-US writers whose work has raised the bar for all of us,” said Writers Guild of America West Vice President Howard Rodman.

“These four men, working in loose collaboration, are responsible for writing many, many masterpieces — films that reflect the Japanese culture, and have given all of us a taste of the sublime,” Rodman added in a statement. Kurosawa, who received an honourary Oscar in 1990 and died in 1998, found success in many films by collaborating with Kikushima, Hashimoto and Oguni on screenplays.

With Kikushima, the duo co-wrote such classics as “Stray Dog” (1949) and “Yojimbo” (1961). Hashimoto worked with Kurosawa on the seminal 1950 film “Rashomon.” Oguni, Hashimoto and Kurosawa came together on 1952’s “Ikiru” and 1954’s “Seven Samurai.”

The entire quartet wrote 1957’s “Throne of Blood” and 1958’s “The Hidden Fortress.”

Paramount Pictures signs deal with China’s BesTV

SHANGHAI, 27 Jan—US film giant Paramount Pictures has signed a copyright deal with BesTV New Media, a subsidiary of Shanghai Media Group, offering top movies to the Chinese audience.

According to the deal, BesTV will have the copyrights of Paramount films, including the Academy Award-winning film "Hugo," as well as new releases. It will broadcast them via its Internet TV and IPTV Premieres service. Established in 1912, Paramount has produced many blockbuster movies. The first batch of films to be shown by BesTV are Paramount series — “Mission Impossible,” “Transformers” and “Star Trek.”

It’s a “Mini-Buble” for singer Michael Bublé and wife

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan—Canadian jazz singer Michael Bublé and his Argentinian actress wife, Luisana Lopilato, are expecting their first baby together, Lopilato said in a video posted to YouTube on Thursday.

The video shows what appears to be an ultrasound of a fetus with the words “Mini Buble !!!” attached to the image. Here, a written statement that also is part of the 21-second video says: “We’re having a baby Buble!!!”

Bublé, 37, is a three-time Grammy Award winner known for such songs as “Haven’t Met You Yet,” “Home” and “Save the Last Dance for Me.” He and Lopilato, 25, were married in 2011. She has starred in such Spanish-language television series as “Chiquititas, la historia” and “Rebelde Way” and has also worked as a model.

“Fruitvale,” “Blood Brothers” win top awards at Sundance

Park City, 27 Jan—Drama film “Fruitvale” and documentary “Blood Brothers” won the top awards at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday, giving them a big boost to reach independent movie audiences this year. “Fruitvale,” starring Octavia Spencer and Michael B Jordan and directed by 26-year-old, first-time filmmaker Ryan Coogler, picked up the US drama jury and audience awards for its “moral and social urgency.”

The film is based on the true story of 22-year-old Oscar Grant, who was killed by police in Oakland, California, on New Year’s Eve in 2008 and whose death sparked riots against police brutality. Movie studio The Weinstein Company purchased distribution rights for the film. “This film had a profound impact on the audience that saw it ... this film goes out to my home in the Bay Area where Oscar Grant breathed, slept, loved, had fun and survived for 22 years,” Coogler said in his acceptance speech.

Oscar-winning documentary Davis Guggenheim awarded the US documentary jury prize to “Blood Brothers,” saying it shocked the voting panel to their core. The documentary follows an American man who moves to Africa and works with children suffering from HIV at an orphanage, and through his work, the children gain a voice. “It is so encouraging for the kids ... their lives are so encouraging,” and they die and no one remembers their name ... To take their story so that everyone sees it, it’s so awesome,” director Steve Hoover said.

Young actress Shailene Woodley, praised for her performance in “The Descendants’ last year, and her co-star Miles Teller won the Special Jury acting prize in “The Spectacular Now,” Actress Lake Bell, who made her directorial debut in the US drama category with quirky comedy “In A World,” picked up the drama screenwriting award.

Hosted by actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt, who premiered his raunchy directorial debut “Don Jon’s Addiction” this year, the Sundance Film Festival Awards pick winners at the top gathering for independent films made outside of Hollywood’s major studios.
**Alpine skiing: Italy’s Paris wins Hahnenkamm downhill**

KIRCHBUEHL, 27 Jan —
Dominik Paris became only the second Italian to win the most prestigious downhill on the World Cup circuit, on Kitzbuehel’s Hahnenkamm mountain, on Saturday. Joint winner of the Bormio classic earlier this season, the 23-year-old Paris outshone the favorites in one minute 57.36 seconds to emulate compatriot Kristian Ghedina, crowned in 1998. “Who wouldn’t dream of winning Kitzbuehel,” said the skier from Miano, in the South Tyrol.

“Abandoning the course at 5:30 am local by seven shots, arrived at 7:40 am, and left at around 4 p.m. without hitting a single competitive stroke after only five minutes of third-round action was possible. Weather permitting, play will resume on Sunday at the picturesque Torrey Pines venue where the $6.1 million PGA Tour event is heading for a rare on Monday finish.

“Thanks for your support,” Snedeker told Reuters after spending a couple of hours chatting with his fellow players, caddies and officials on the practice putting green. “Everyone wants to play. I feel like on this golf course it would have been a lot of fun today. Here’s a great leader line up and a lot of fun to this morning so you’re a little tired and you want to get out there and play as much as you can.” Asked how he had managed to while away the time as a blanket of thick fog lingered at the coastal venue, Snedeker replied with a broad grin: “You tell a lot of stories. I’ve been catching up with some guys I haven’t seen in a while. “You eat a lot of food. You try to pass the time as best as possible.”

“You don’t want to think too much about the golf course. You want to keep your mind fresh.” — Reuters

**Asarenka keeps her eye on the prize to retain title**

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan —
Sloane Stephens has stunned Australia’s Ashle Carey to win through to the semi-final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 26 Jan, 2013.

While Carey was the favourite, Stephens was the outsider. But the American beat her countrywoman to win through to the semi-finals. Carey had beaten Stephens in their only previous meeting, in the quarter-finals of the US Open in September.

“I’ve been here since early this morning so you’re a little tired and you want to get out there and play as much as you can,” said Carey, who was out of the tournament after only five minutes of third-round action was possible. Weather permitting, play will resume on Sunday at the picturesque Torrey Pines venue where the $6.1 million PGA Tour event is heading for a rare on Monday finish.

“Tell a lot of stories. I’ve been catching up with some guys I haven’t seen in a while. “You eat a lot of food. You try to pass the time as best as possible.”

“You don’t want to think too much about the golf course. You want to keep your mind fresh.” — Reuters

**Bryan twins break record for grand slam doubles titles**

MELBOURNE, 27 Jan —
American twins Bob and Mike Bryan became the most successful men’s pair in grand-slam history when they won their 13th doubles title together at the Australian Open.

The 34-year-olds beat the Dutch pairing of Robin Haase and Igor Sijsling 6-3, 6-4 to break the record of 12 grand slams they had shared with Australians John Newcombe and Tony Roche. “Obviously it feels really good to have that record and to be a part of history feels really special,” Mike Bryan said. “We weren’t thinking much about it on court but once we look back on our careers it will be fun to see what we have done. It’s a big record.”

The left-handed Bob Bryan served out for victory to seal their sixth Australian Open title together. It was the brothers’ 84th career title and their second consecutive grand-slam triumph, after their win at the US Open in September.

**Marleau’s double ties record as Sharks beat Avs**

SALVO, 27 Jan —
San Jose’s Patrick Marleau became just the second player in NHL history to score multiple goals in the first four games of the season, leading the unbeaten Sharks to a 4-0 victory over visiting Colorado on Saturday. Marleau netted two first-period power play goals to become the first player to achieve the feat since the Ottawa Senators’ Cy Denneny in the NHL’s inaugural 1917-18 season, the league said on its website: www.nhl.com.

Already the league leader in goals, Marleau struck twice in 80 seconds against the Avalanche to take his total to eight in the first four games. He also picked up an assist on Joe Thornton’s second-period power play goal to give him 11 points this season. “I don’t know if he can keep scoring two goals every night, but he can keep his play up the way it’s been,” Sharks coach Todd McLellan told reporters.

**Okafor sparks big win for Wizards over Bulls**

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan —
Washington’s Emeka Okafor dominated inside as the improving Wizards stunned the Chicago Bulls 86-73 to record their fifth straight home win on Saturday.

At 11-31 Washington have the second worst record in the NBA, ahead of only Charlotte (11-32), but turned the tables on joint Central Division leaders Chicago (26-17) behind Okafor’s 15 points and 16 rebounds.

**Waiting game for Snedeker in Torrey Pines fog**

SAN DIEGO, 27 Jan —
Defending champion Brandt Snedeker had to endure a marathon day of putting practice and waiting around at the Farmers Insurance Open on Saturday before play was finally abandoned because of thick fog.

The fast-talking American, who trails tournament leader Tiger Woods by seven shots, arrived at the course at 5:30 am local for a scheduled tee time at 7:40 am, and left at around 4 p.m. without hitting a single competitive stroke after only five minutes of third-round action was possible. Weather permitting, play will resume on Sunday at the picturesque Torrey Pines venue where the $6.1 million PGA Tour event is heading for a rare on Monday finish.

“It’s frustrating,” Snedeker told Reuters after spending a couple of hours chatting with his fellow players, caddies and officials on the practice putting green. “Everyone wants to play. I feel like on this golf course it would have been a lot of fun today. Here’s a great leader line up and a lot of fun to this morning so you’re a little tired and you want to get out there and play as much as you can.” Asked how he had managed to while away the time as a blanket of thick fog lingered at the coastal venue, Snedeker replied with a broad grin: “You tell a lot of stories. I’ve been catching up with some guys I haven’t seen in a while. “You eat a lot of food. You try to pass the time as best as possible.”

“You don’t want to think too much about the golf course. You want to keep your mind fresh.” — Reuters

**Victoria Azarenka of Belarus (L) poses with her trophy after defeating Li Na of China in their women’s singles final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 26 Jan, 2013.**

**U.S golfer Brandt Snedeker.**
Refreshments donated to students

Township fed refreshment to 550 schoolchildren at Khitayê Basic Education Middle School (Branch) on 22 January. The Abbot has been donating potable to the school for consumption of teachers and students for over 10 years. The Abbot plans to donate refreshments to the schools in Myaingyi, Intha and Chaungphyaa villages.

Ex-Aum member on death row may testify in trial

In 2009, the Supreme Court confirmed the death penalty for his roles in a number of Aum crimes, including the 1995 sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system. A trial is expected to begin later this year for former Aum member Makoto Hirata who is accused of abducting and confining a chief clerk at a notary office in Tokyo in 1995. Hirata was arrested on New Year Day last year after 17 years on the run. Inoue’s lawyer says his client is prepared to testify in the trial if he is asked by the Tokyo District Court. Inoue and Inoue are alleged to have been at the site of abduction.

Floods in southern Africa kill more than 40

Cape Town, 27 Jan – Floods have killed more than 40 people in Mozambique and South Africa. Rivers overflowed in southern Mozambique, mainly in Gaza Province, due to heavy rain since the middle of this month. The United Nations says 36 people have died in floods as of Friday. In Gaza’s provincial capital, many houses were inundated. Some residents fled to rooftops. The military has used boats to rescue them. In all, 70,000 people have been forced to evacuate.

The United Nations and non-governmental organizations are providing food and other emergency supplies to the evacuees.

Rio de Janeiro, 27Jan – Brazil international midfielder Paulo Henrique Ganso scored his first goal since his September move to Sao Paulo on Saturday to help his team to a 2-1 victory over Atletico Sorocaba in the Campeonato Paulista. Ganso’s 30-minute header was followed by a 78-minute strike from Argentine Marcelo Cané before Fabio Sanches scored a late goal for the visitors at Morumbi Stadium. In Rio de Janeiro’s Campeonato, Caicóra, Bernardo scored twice as Vasco da Gama moved to the top of the standings with a 4-2 victory.

Musicians perform bagpipes as they take part in a parade to mark the National Day in Melbourne, Australia, on 26 Jan, 2013. — Xinhua

Rescuers find wreckage of aircraft in Antarctica

Wellington, 27 Jan – The wreckage of the plane carrying three Canadian men missing in Antarctica since Wednesday has been found on Saturday, and rescuers said the crash would have been unsurvivable. Rescuers said the plane crashed close to the summit of Mount Elizabeth and there are no signs of activity in the area surrounding the site and the aircraft appears to have made a direct impact that was not survivable.

No details are available on the cause of the crash. The site of the crash is at a height of 3,900 meters at the northern end of the Queen Alexandra Range, within New Zealand’s Search and Rescue Region – halfway between the South Pole and McMurdo Station (approximately 680 km or 370 nautical miles in each direction). Two helicopters, including a Southern Lakes helicopter on contract to Scott Base, reached the site around 7:30 PM (NZ time), having traveled from McMurdo Base on Saturday afternoon to a forward base at Beardmore Glacier, about 50 km from the crash site.

A landing was not possible though they were able to survey the site briefly before returning to the Beardmore Glacier site. The next of kin of the three men have been informed.

Juventus to sign Anelka

Milán, 27 Jan – Former French international Nicolas Anelka has arrived in Milán to sign a five-month contract with Juventus, the Italian Serie A champions club general manager Beppe Marotta confirmed on Saturday. “Anelka? In July we made some targeted investments, but now we are in an emergency situation in attack, so we moved to fix those issues, even if it is not official yet,” Marotta said. “It can be a good move for the short-term, then at the end of the season we’ll evaluate what must be done. He is filling a hole. It is a five-month contract with an option for the second season, if things go well.”

“A new arrival rules out any other transfers, because in this stage of the transfer window there are no other opportunities. “He will put himself at the disposal of the squad and it’ll be up to Antonio Conte to decide how to use him. After all, he is not in great physical condition considering he hasn’t played for a month,” he said. — Xinhua

Brazil International midfielder Paulo Henrique Ganso

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun arrives back after attending World Economic Forum

The Vice-President, accompanied by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Permanent Representative/ Ambassador of Myanmar U Maung Wai, met with Mr Didier Burkhalter, Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Council and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, at Room ME23 in Congress Centre. At the meeting, they discussed matters relating to friendship and cooperation between the two countries, development aid from Switzerland.

The Vice-President participated in “Business Interaction Group on Myanmar” held at 2:30 pm in Inerhorn Club, Congress Centre. At the discussion, the Vice-President gave an opening remark on economic reforms taken by Myanmar.

Then, the Vice-President, Union Minister U Soe Thane and Deputy Minister U Hset Aung responded to the queries on foreign direct investment in Myanmar raised by the participants. The discussion was participated by CEOs and senior officials of multinational corporations.

The Vice-President accompanied by the Deputy Foreign Minister and the Permanent Representative/ Ambassador of Myanmar, met with Mr Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, at 3:35 pm at Room ME 23 of Congress Centre. During the discussion, they focused on promotion of relationship and cooperation between the two countries. The Vice-President invited Dutch companies through the Prime Minister of the Netherlands to invest in Myanmar.

The Vice-President together with Deputy Prime Minister of Laos PDR Mr Somsavat Lengsavad, Prime Minister of Malaysia Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak, President of the Philippines Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III, and Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and former Prime Minister of Malaysia Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak, participated as panelists in Interactive Session entitled “Resilience in Diversity”. At this session, Ms Ellana Lee of CNN served as moderator. The discussion focused on fostering economic integration, and strengthening security cooperation. The Vice-President briefed the participants on the reform process in Myanmar, high potential of Myanmar to play a key role in the regional food security. The Vice-President also extended his appreciation to the members of ASEAN on their support on Myanmar and encouraged to continue to do so.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of Malaysia Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak, the Vice-President and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun being welcomed back by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Counselor Mrs Corinne Henschz Pianani from Swiss Embassy. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan— A Myanmar delegation headed by U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, arrived back from Switzerland this morning by air via Bangkok after participating in the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2013 held in Davos from 23-26 January.

The Vice-President and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

The Vice-President, accompanied by members of the Delegation met Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman and Founder of the World Economic Forum at his office in the Congress Centre, Davos. At the meeting, both sides friendly discussed issues pertaining to developments in Myanmar and the World Economic Forum on East Asia to be held in June 2013 in Yangon.

The Myanmar delegation headed by the Vice-President left Yangon for Bangkok in the evening of 23 January and arrived at Suvarnabhumi International Airport. At the airport, the Myanmar delegation was welcomed by U Tin Win, a member of the delegation and the officials of the Embassy.

Then, the Myanmar region ministers, Counselor Mrs Corinne Henschz Pianani from Swiss Embassy and departmental officials.

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