President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Qatari Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—Mr Jabr Ali Hussain Al-Hawashla Al-Dosari, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Qatar to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, here at 10.30 am today. Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Thurein Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Irish Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—Mr Damien Cole, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, here at 11.00 am today. Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Thurein Thant Zin of the Protocol Department. —MNA

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Press Release on Myanmar’s debts owed to the World Bank

Since 1973, Myanmar had taken out loans from the World Bank to fund development programmes in the country. At present, the government is taking steps to settle the remaining debt in coordination with the World Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). In doing so, Myanmar has taken out USD 430 million from Japan Bank for International Cooperation on 25 January, 2013 and paid back the World Bank. Myanmar could then finally settle the debt by paying off the bridge loan to JBIC on the same day it obtained a loan of USD 430 million from the World Bank.

As Myanmar could clear the debt, it would be recognized as a responsible nation in international community. Besides, it would have access to more low-interest-rate development loan programmes.

The World Bank will support Myanmar with USD 80 million in carrying out National Community-Driven Development Project for infrastructural development in agricultural sector, roads, health centers and schools of 640 villages across the country. In addition, the World Bank will resume social and economic assistance to help Myanmar build strong foundation for her poverty alleviation scheme and positive reform process.

Untimely rainfall warning

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan— According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, under the influence of moving from Easterly Wave, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States due to the whirlwinds speeding up in the east within next 3 days commencing evening today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. —MNA
NYAUNGU, 28 Jan — The Buddha Puja Janti Festival of Ananda Pagoda is annually held on a grand scale for the Pagoda. Ananda Pagoda is built by King Kyanzittha is a kind of temple with a hallow vaulted base. It is a popular tourist destination in Bagan because foreign visitors come in flocks to see art works of Bagan era there.

16 Myanmar runners seal victories in first Yangon International Marathon

Aye, Wai Lwin Tun and Soe Hlaing of Myanmar. The first prize went to Mr. Kiplkorir of Kenya won first prize, Mr. Kiplkorir won first prize, Aung Hlaing Oo second, Maung Kauk third, Pyi Min Soe fourth and Ye Win Naing fifth respectively. Pyu Moet stood first at 10 kilo women’s event, followed by Khin Mar Se, Saw Marlar Nwe, Kyi Pya and Hnin Yu Soe. Responsible persons of the sponsor companies presented prizes to winners of professional and amateur level events of the marathon.

A total of 16 Myanmar marathon runners competed at 42 kilos and 10 kilos events of the first International Marathon contest.——Kyemon

Regional development undertakings of Kawthoung Township inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Tanimthayar Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko met with departmental personnel and entrepreneurs at Hantha-wady Hall of General Administration Department in Kawthoung on 20 January and inspected road works of Kawthoung-Champham road. After meeting with local people and departmental personnel at Champham village primary school, the chief minister left instructions on matters related to student/teacher and student/classroom ratios.

Next, he fulfilled the requirements of health staff at village dispensary.

More traffic police to lessen gridlock in Yangon

KYEMON

More traffic police to lessen gridlock in Yangon

YANGON, 28 Jan — Police Major Tha Huey of Traffic Police Corps said that has been deployed at seven gridlocked areas in Yangon.

The operation started on 22 January with the strength of 248 traffic police members at Chaw dining and Bayintnaung junction in Mayangon Township, Shwegondine intersection and U Hlaung Bor junction in Bahan Township. Hledan junction and Hlanhawady traffic circle in Kayan Township and Myenigon

Underground drains built in Dagon Myothit (North)

YANGON, 28 Jan — Unusual high tide and heavy rainfall had caused floods in remote parts of Yangon region last year. Flood water swamped the roads and farmlands and houses and school buildings were inundated in satellite towns of the region. In order to avoid similar incidents in upcoming rainy season, dredging of drains and creeks for proper flow of water was carried out by assistant head of Yangon East District Engineering Department (road/bridge) U Zaw Maung Htwe and staff at the junction between Padaung and Bayintnaung roads in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 20 January.

“Flood water inundates the low-lying area, especially in the compound of BEHS No. 3, as the main flow of water from the Bayintnaung Road diverts to the wards. After winding its way through the wards, the water flow into the river. So we are building underground drains for the proper flow of water from the road into the river”, he continued. Upon completion, No. (32), (35) and (36) wards and BEHS No. (3) could be free from inundations, he said.
WASHINGTON, 28 Jan— President Barack Obama said he has been wrestling with the question whether a US military intervention in a region of old civil war would help resolve the bloody conflict after a dozen years of war.

"Could it trigger even worse violence or the use of chemical weapons that offers the best prospect of a stable post-Aсад regime?" Obama said in an interview with The New Republic published on the magazine’s website.

"Obama said he has to weigh the benefit of a military intervention with the ability of the hard-pressed Pentagon to support troops still in Afghanistan, where the United States is withdrawing combat forces after a dozen years of war.

"It's somebody else's situation?" Obama said in an interview with The New Republic published on the magazine’s website.

"Obama said he has to weigh the benefit of a military intervention with the ability of the hard-pressed Pentagon to support troops still in Afghanistan, where the United States is withdrawing combat forces after a dozen years of war.

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Japan to start 4K TV broadcast in July 2014

Tokyo, 28 Jan — The Japanese government is set to launch the world’s first 4K TV broadcast in July 2014, roughly two years ahead of schedule, to help stir demand for ultra high-definition televisions, the Asahi newspaper reported on Sunday without citing sources. The service will begin from communications satellites, followed by satellite broadcasting and ground digital broadcasting, the report said.

The 4K TVs, which boast four times the resolution of current high-definition TVs, are now on sale by Japanese makers including Sony Corp (6758.T), Panasonic 16752.T and Sharp Corp (6753.T). Other manufacturers include South Korea’s LG Electronics (066570.KS).

Japan’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications had aimed to kick-start the 4K TV service in 2016. That has been brought forward to July 2014, when the final match of the 2014 football World Cup is set to take place in Brazil, the Asahi reported.

In Japan, the development of super high-definition 8K TV’s is in progress, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications plans to launch the test 8K TV broadcast in 2016, two years ahead of schedule, it said. — Reuters

Neanderthal cloning chatter highlights scientific illiteracy

Harvard geneticist George Church speaks to Reuters reporters about cloning during an interview in Boston, Massachusetts on 23 Jan, 2013. — Reuters

BOSTON, 28 Jan — After spending the weekend reading blog posts claiming that he was seeking an “extremely adventurous female human” to bear a cloned Neanderthal baby — which was news to him — Harvard geneticist George Church said it may be time for society to give some thought to scientific literacy. Church became the subject of dozens of posts and tabloid newspaper articles calling him a “mad scientist” after giving an interview to the German magazine Der Spiegel.

In the interview, Church discussed the technical challenges scientists would face if they tried to clone a Neanderthal, even though neither he nor the Der Spiegel article, which was presented as a question and answer exchange, said he intended to do so. “Harvard professor seeks mother for cloned cave baby,” ran one headline, on the website of London’s Daily Mail. But Church explained on Wednesday that he was simply theorizing.

Still, the readiness of bloggers, journalists and readers to believe he was preparing an attempt to clone a Neanderthal, a species closely related to modern humans that went extinct some 30,000 years ago, led Church to ponder scientific literacy. “The public should be able to detect cases where things seem implausible,” Church said in an interview at his office at Harvard Medical School in Boston. “Everybody’s tib detector should have been going off. They should have said, ‘What? Who would believe this?’ … This really indicates that we should have scientific literacy.” — Reuters

Apple’s share of mobile devices in Singapore — iPad and iPhone — declined sharply last year. From a peak of 72 percent in January 2012, its share fell to 50 percent this month, while Android devices now account for 43 percent of the market, up from 20 percent in the same month last year.

In Hong Kong, devices running Apple’s iOS now account for about 30 percent of the total, down from about 45 percent a year ago. An android accounts for nearly two-thirds. “Apple is still viewed as a prestigious brand, but there are just so many other cool smartphones out there now that the competition is just much stiffer,” said Tom Clayton, chief executive of Singapore-based Bubble Motion, which develops a popular regional social media app called Bubbly. Where Hong Kong and

China’s BeiDou system is not a threat to Russia’s GLONASS: expert

MOSCOW, 28 Jan — China’s rapid-developing BeiDou navigation system is not a threat to Russia’s GLONASS, but a potential ally to it, the Interfax news agency quoted a Russian expert as saying on Sunday.

“The world is moving to multisystem navigation equipment both on the market of professional equipment and on the consumer market,” technical director of M2M Telematics holding group Alexei Kutsenko said, adding consumers do not care how many navigational systems their navigation devices support.

“The more systems that their equipment support, regardless of the producing place, the more interest it will attract,” Kutsenko said.

China is strengthening its ability to mobilize troops and military supplies in an attempt to build up its maritime rights and interests to support its economic development.

Chinese media reports say the successful test flight is a significant step in the modernization of the country’s military capabilities. — NHK

Andean glaciers melting at “unprecedented” rates

LIMA, 28 Jan — Climate change has shrunk Andean glaciers between 30 and 50 percent since the 1970s and counting, with many of them away altogether in coming years, according to a study published on Tuesday in the journal The Cryosphere. An Andean glacier, 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 (1.26 degrees Fahrenheit) over the past 70 years. “Glacier retreat in the tropical Andes over the last three decades is unprecedented,” said Antoine Raebert, 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. — Reuters
Car commuters gain more weight

NEW YORK, 28 Jan—People driving to work every day are packing on more pounds than their colleagues on trains, buses and bikes, according to a new study from Australia.

"Even if you are efficiently active during leisure time, if you use a car for commuting daily then that has an impact on weight gain," lead author Takanori Sugiyama of the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne told Reuters.

Researchers followed 101, 804 participants in Australia for 13 years, on average. During this time, they lost control of their body weight, and 22 percent of them were obese.

The study showed that people who rode public transportation gained an average of four pounds over four years — the same amount was gained by people who drove to work, according to results published in the Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Among people in the study who got at least an hour a day of physical activity, those who rode public transportation gained 3.6 pounds, on average, whereas those who drove to work gained about 3.7 pounds.

The results are consistent with other studies that found the same thing about weight gain in people who drove to work.

The researchers also found that the effect of commuting on weight gain was independent of the amount of physical activity people did during leisure time.

A man walks into the Nexen building in downtown Calgary, Alberta, on 23 July, 2012.— Reuters

Nexen, CNOOC extend closing date by 30 days

NEW YORK, 28 Jan—Nexen Inc (NXY.TO) and China’s CNOOC Ltd (0883.HK) said they have mutually agreed to extend the closing date of CNOOC’s takeover of the Canadian oil and gas producer by 30 days to 2 March, 2013.

Nexen said in a statement that it would also postpone the release of its 2012 fourth quarter financial results. It did not give a date for the release of the results.

CNOOC Ltd said in late December that it expected its $15.1 billion takeover of Nexen to close in the first quarter of 2013 at the earliest, a move that could be related to giving US regulators more time to approve a sensitive aspect of the deal.

The company is still awaiting US approval over its purchase of Nexen assets in the Gulf of Mexico after Canadian officials approved the deal last year.— Reuters

France investigates Diane-35 acne drug after deaths

PARIS, 28 Jan—France’s health regulator has opened an inquiry into acne drug Diane-35, which is also used as a contraceptive, after four deaths linked to the drug in the past 25 years.

Health regulator ANSM said on Sunday that Diane-35, produced by German drugmaker Bayer, is authorized in 135 countries and sold in more than 116.

Last year about 325,000 women in France used the drug, ANSM said, adding it would publish its report next week.

ANSM said the four deaths were due to thrombosis linked to the use of Diane-35. Three other deaths possibly connected to the drug, reported by the media, were linked to other health issues, the agency said.

Diane-35, also sold as Dianeette in some countries, reduces acne for women by regulating hormones, according to several medical websites. The drug is also used as a contraceptive.

Earlier this month, ANSM said it was studying the possibility of limiting the use of third- and fourth-generation contraceptive pills after a woman sued Bayer over alleged side-effects such as embolism, or blood clots.— Reuters

Lauvergeon takes centre-stage in EADS board shake-up

PARIS, 28 Jan—French oil major Total SA is set to test efforts to wrest the European aerospace group away from political influence.

A veteran of France’s defence industry, Aireault said that her government strongly supported Lauvergeon, a former aide of late President Francois Mitterrand and France’s most high-profile female business leader.

EADS is carrying out the biggest reorganization in its 12-year history after France and Germany agreed on a new shareholder structure designed to secure their vital interests while freeing the company from day-to-day interference.

Company watchers say the composition of the board will test the spirit of the accords and determine whether Chief Executive Tom Enders is free to run the company as he claims, or will be forced to rely on building alliances. EADS shares are up 18 percent this year on hopes of a fresh start after years of political infighting.

"The government is very supportive (of Lauvergeon)," the French prime minister’s adviser said. "As shareholder, we think she has all the qualities required to be the non-executive chairwoman of EADS."

EADS declined comment. Under a new ownership structure agreed late last year, France and Germany will own 12 percent each of EADS (EAD.PA), the parent company of Toulouse-based planemaker Airbus, but their powers to veto nomination and strategy are curtailed. Lauvergeon, ex-head of reactor maker Areva is one of two personalities linied up to represent France’s interests at the Airbus parent group alongside ex-central banker Jean-Claude Trichet, but the choice of chairman is meant to be independent.

Echoing a newspaper report, another French government source said German Chancellor Angela Merkel had backed Lauvergeon in a meeting with French President Francois Hollande last week.— Reuters

Bank of America begins moving $50 billion of derivatives to UK: FT

LONDON, 28 Jan—Bank of America (BAC.N) has begun moving $50 billion of derivatives out of its Irish-based operations into its British subsidiary, The Financial Times reported on its website on Sunday, citing people close to the operation.

The move will allow the world’s number 10 bank by assets to benefit from tax breaks stemming from accumulated losses in its UK business, the FT said. According to the Financial Times, bankers said Irish officials were uncomfortable with the scale of the business which posed a theoretical risk to Irish taxpayers.

UK regulators were also keen to have closer control of the European operations of the bank which has its operational management based in London, said the FT. A large chunk of Bank of America’s European business, including cash management, corporate lending and derivatives, is traditionally routed through the Dublin subsidiary, said the FT. Bank of America was unavailable for immediate comment.— Reuters

A woman walks past as customers use ATMs at a Bank of America banking centre in New York’s financial district on 17 Jan, 2013.— Reuters

High doses of folic acid don’t raise cancer risk: study

Reuters

The United States and Canada have required flour to be fortified with folic acid since 1998, after deficiencies of it in pregnant women were tied to brain and spinal cord birth defects in their babies.

But fortification isn’t required in Western Europe, for example, partly out of concern that the extra folic acid might slightly increase people’s risk of cancer due to its role in cell growth. Cells, including cancer cells, need folate — the natural form of folic acid — to grow and divide.

"Folic acid supplementation does not substantially increase or decrease incident of site-specific cancer during the first 5 years of treatment," researchers wrote in The Lancet.

Fortification of flour and other cereal products involves doses of folic acid that are, on average, an order of magnitude smaller than the doses used in these trials.

For the analysis, the researchers combined data from 13 separate trials that randomly assigned participants to daily folic acid or a vitamin-free placebo and recorded who went on to develop cancer. The studies included a total of close to 50,000 volunteers who were followed for just over five years, on average.— Reuters

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If doctors want to serve interest of own region and local people, it is possible even a GP to serve interest of community, region and society with goodwill while sitting examination of UCSB

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 Thein Khin are as follows:-

The second question is from U Ha Shein Bwe from Chin State Constituency No (8). He said national people in remote regions of poor transportation fall sick and have to go to Union Civil Service Board, the former Civil Servants Selection and Training Board and asked the plan to address this problem.

The Section 7 (a) of UCSB Bylaws states the appointment of outsiders to official positions in respective civil service organizations if there are not enough qualified candidates, is subject to the Union Civil Service Board. The Section 8 also prescribes civil service organizations if require to appoint outsiders to official positions are to propose to the Union Civil Service Board describing the specific position and specific number of appointees. So, except Ministry of Defence, any ministry including Health Ministry has to propose to the UCSB for appointment of official positions.

When the organizational structures were expanded dramatically in the years after 1989, vacancies for medics have increased enormously and it had become compulsory that those graduated medics were unable to work as public servants in people’s hospitals for three years. And there was a specific period of time during which we could appoint the entire batch who pass the final year exam. So we coordinated with the UCSB not to organize the examinations for the students in the academic side were assigned duties together with members of the UCSB to interview the candidates. The written test was organized by the UCSB that conduct interviews in cooperation with the ministry. MBBS degrees are being conferred on those who had passed the final part-2 exam and completed house surgeon service and SaMa cards are also granted to them, instead of completion of three-years period in service.

To say the second point, competition is required in accord with democratic practices. Quality is not only determined by respect that calls for quality drive and international standard. So ensuring self-fulfillment is up to candidates. Who dare take responsible for the health threat to local people caused by a disqualified medic who was appointed without being scrutinized? The Ministry of Health will be in trouble to resolve this problem meeting the satisfaction of the victims.

As the Speaker knows, the universities will be opened the present programme, new students who are eligible to take the course in medicine. If they want to serve the interest of their region and local people, it is possible even a General Practitioner to serve the interest of his community, region and society with goodwill while sitting examination of the UCSB.

When I was young and when we were taking medical course, only 50 candidates were appointed every three years. The majority had to serve their region as private clinics and hospitals and INGO- and NGO-run-health care organizations.

So, regarding the health security for local people, no system is perfect. Measures are for minimizing the occurrence of disadvantages are under consideration, spending much time and efforts. As the MP says, it is very much to be avoided. So as the Speaker knows, the University of Medicine will be built in Taunggyi, Mrauk-U, Mawlamyine and Mawgaw. We would do our best to avoid giving priority to medicine recently. On the other hand, we are nurturing 2000 graduates each year.

As regards the numbers of graduates, there are a number of criticisms that number of graduates is larger than the job vacancies and there are unbalanced student/school and student/teacher ratios. Under the current programme, only 1200 students were allowed to take the course in medicine. It is not for long term. In fact, we need to allow 2000 students in order to improve the country’s doctor/patient ratio like SEA N countries. If we produce 2000 graduates from 10 universities, if necessary, from 20, it would be enough to meet the proper ratio.

Looking at the international universities and medical universities, they produce 100 or 120 per year and 200 in maximum while we accept 2400 students and 300 graduates of medicine from four universities. As a result, there are unbalanced teacher/students ratio and student/classroom ratios. Although it is possible to make proper doctor/patient ratio. It is difficult to urge patient to be admitted to the hospital.

As the Speaker knows, the University of Medicine will be built in Taunggyi, Mrauk-U, Mawlamyine and Mawgaw. It would be okay if we appointed all graduates as the government has relaxed the 2/3 policy. I would like to request the favour of the MP and the Parliamentarians of fur-flung areas on behalf of the medical staff that transportation is poor, life is difficult and language is a barrier. These situations make them difficult to survive.

It is apparent that they would face similar difficulties as everyone in their face. If locals could not take care of them, they, as usual, would leave there. So I would like to urge the locals through the MPs that they should take care of and provide them as much as they can.

We used to fire those who refuse to go there after taking actions against them under DE and PE and confiscate their SaMa licenses. The real sufferers were those medics and their family members and local people. It was the loss of the ministry and loss of the country. As our carrot and stick approach was unfruitful and did not make a win-win situation, we reported it to the President and first asked for triple increase in their incomes as incentive. If the ministry, the Na-Ta-La and local region bear the cost on equal basis for them, it will be possible for them to work there.

Now they are given necessary marks to be selected for post-graduate course. Moreover, if they complete their tour of duty, they will be allowed to receive postings they wanted. If it is impossible to meet their first choices, it will be okay for their second choices. We have opened the door. These situations make them attract the people to remote areas. Recently, the plan of getting paid double is still successful. They did not get paid the salary from the region due to the situation of the region. Let me thank you.
Myanmar to meet with Philippines, Malaysia in U-23 in tune-up matches

Myanmar Football Federation plans to give opportunity to Myanmar national team to be able to play tune-up matches in the international competitions before the qualifier. On 6 February, Myanmar will meet with the Philippines. On 22 February, Myanmar will play against Malaysian U-23 team at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna of Yangon.

In recent Suzuki Cup, the Philippines beat Myanmar 2-0. In the AFC Challenge Cup qualifier, Myanmar played a 1-1 draw with the Philippines.

As Malaysian youth team is making preparation for the SEA Games, the tune-up match will be beneficial to Myanmar.—Myanma Alinn

Pyinnya Parami Association emerges in Hsipaw

HSPAW, 28 Jan—A ceremony to set up Pyinnya Parami Association was held in Hsipaw Township in Shan State (North) on 20 January.

It was attended by Dr Shwe Nyan of Township Health Department, Chairman of Township Writers Association U Hla Maung Latt (Hsipaw Ko Latt), Namlan Village-tract Administrator U Sai Thein Win, members of social organizations, village elders and local people.

At first, Chairman of the association U Sai Aung Kyar explained the purpose of association for providing assistance to needy students. Secretary of the association U Sai Lu Mon read the list of donors who contributed much to the association for its establishment.

Headmistress Daw Phyu Phyu Aye of Namlan Basic Education High School and those present gave suggestions. The ceremony approved to collect the list of needy children for attending the school.

Myanma Alinn

Specialists in field trip of health care services

THONGWA, 28 Jan—Under the supervision of Yangon Region Health Committee, a medical team comprising 32 specialists in various subjects from 10 groups led by Deputy Head of Yangon Region Health Department (South District) Dr Zaw Lin gave free health care service to the patients and donated medicines to them free of charge.

Dr Zaw Lin and five doctors of Ward 5 gave health care services free of charge and opens libraries in its future plans, said Secretary of the association U Thaung Myint.

There are 31 social organizations in Pathein participating in the funeral services and blood donation.

On 12 December last year, Ayeyawady Region Government donated K 50,000 each to all associations in the region. Myanma Alinn

Medicines donated to patients in Pathein

PATEHIN, 28 Jan—Drma Yadanar social association in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region held a ceremony to donate medicines to the patients with diabetes and hypertension with the assistance of Servier Company on Maha Zedi Road in Ward 5 of Pathein on 20 January.

Dr Sit Tin and five doctors of Ward 5 gave health care services to the patients and donated medicines to them free of charge.

Drma Yadanar social association gives funeral services to the needy persons, provides health care service and blood donation.

On 12 December last year, Ayeyawady Region Government donated K 50,000 each to all associations in the region. Myanma Alinn

Self-reliant power supply launched in Wuntho Township

WUNTHO, 28 Jan—A ceremony to launch supply of electricity was held in Paygon-Aungchantha Village in Paygon Village-tract of Wuntho Township in Sagaing Region on 16 January morning.

District Electrical Engineer U Kyaw Kyaw of Wuntho Township People’s Hospital on 19 January. A total of 352 patients received medical treatments in the free health care.

In the incident, Ma Mee Nge was injured near right eye, lower lip and right shoulder and Ma Pan Ei Phyu at forehead and upper lip. The younger sister is under treatment at Toungoo Hospital. Toungoo Police Station No. 1 opened a file of lawsuit against reckless driver Saw Myo Naing.

Myanma Alinn

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day

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

Two literati, two academy award winners honoured

Mandalay, 28 Jan—Under the arrangement of Mandalay literati, the ceremony to honour those who secured National Literary Awards and Academy Awards was held at Oriental House at the corner of 27th Street and 64th Street on 21 January.

Chairman of the organizing committee Thaik Tun Thet made a speech.

After that, U Kyaw Win Myint and U Soe Naing (Mandalay University) gave advices.

Next, Nyi Say Min presented gifts to National Literary Award winner Natmauk Tun Shein and Soe Naing (Mandalay University) to National Literary Award winner Nay Win Myint.

Hsu Hinget awarded Naung Naung who secured the Academy Award and Dr Aung Myint, U Zaw Myint who won the Academy Award. The literary and academy award winners spoke words of thanks.

Myanma Alinn

Stimulant tablets seized in Loleim

LOILEM, 28 Jan—Recently, BBWY brand orange stimulant tablets were seized from Aik Kham, 30, on Yepyu Road in Ward 5 of M onggun, Loleim Township. According to the information that Aik Kham on Yepyu Road in Ward 5 of M onggun himself abused stimulant tablets and sold them to other users, a combined team comprising IP Tin Soe of Loleim Police Station, SIP Than Soe of M onggun Police Station and local authorities searched the house of Aik Kham.

They seized 88 stimulant tablets weighing 8.5 grams worth K 176,000 and K 3500 assumed to be proceeds.

M onggun Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Aik Kham under the law.

Myanma Alinn

English proficiency course kicks off

YANGON, 28 Jan—With the aim of uplifting capability of the government service and raising English language skills, Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation opened the English proficiency course No. 1/2013 at the training hall of the bank head office on Pansodan Street, here, on 23 January afternoon.

General Manager U Win Han of the bank spoke on the occasion.

Altogether 27 officers and 14 staff are attending the six-week course.

Myanma Alinn
E D U C A T I O N  P R O M O T I O N

Promotion of education is like making investments for the future. But the education system we are promoting must support the new economic system the State has adopted. The new system depends on technology and not on raw materials as in the past.

Currently, we are in the process of reforming the higher education sector while carrying out the task of education promotion for the practical utilization of vocational subjects. At the same time we have introduced student-centred approach for transforming the basic education sector comprehensively through inclusive negotiations. Legal changes have been made in the opening of many private schools in the country as a way of encouraging the participation of the private sector in education industry. Prospects are now brighter than ever for all children to complete primary education.

A new political culture has been introduced for sustainable development, ensuring justice and democracy. However, we still need to train our people to have higher capability so that these practices will become traditions and customs.

However, current situation shows that capacity building is a requisite in every sector of the country. Nation building and capacity building should be in harmony as improvements need to be made in different sectors such as the media, economic system, market-oriented mechanisms and civic organizations apart from the three main pillars — legislations, executive and judiciary.

Together with political, economic and social reforms, the efficiency of the people and international aids play a vital role in carrying out task for national integration and development. So, the objectives of education promotion campaign must meet the needs of national development plans. And the role and future of younger generation of national races in the process of national integration must also be taken into account.


Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets visiting group led by Pro Rector Dr Nu Nu Yi of Mandalay University.— MNA

N A Y  P Y I  T A W, 28 J a n — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met with trainees of Diploma in International Law (1/2012) led by Pro Rector Dr Nu Nu Yi of Mandalay University who visited Hluttaw building to observe the Pyithu Hluttaw session today.

In meeting with local people at Pariyat Sasana, Beikman in Pyu Township of Toungoo District in Bago Region yesterday, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann called on elected representatives to strive for development of the nation and their own regions, making field trips and listening to the voices of the people, so that public interest and rights will be protected.

He highlighted the importance of the role of ward/village administrators who are dealing with the public, urging them to serve the inerstest of their own officials concerned, the region chief minister and local people to make great strides in translating the regional development undertakings into a success as the region is lagged behind in development.

M N A

U N I O N  F M  r e c e i v e s  A m b a s s a d o r s  o f  Q a t a r,  I r l a n d

N A Y  P Y I  T A W, 28 J a n— Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr. Jabr Ali Hussain Al-Hawashia Al-Dosari, Ambassador of State of Qatar to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr. Damien Cole, Ambassador of Ireland at 12:00 hr at his office, here today separately.— MNA
**Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Stadium inaugurated as Tatmadaw sports competition kicks off**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 January—Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) sports competition 2013 kicked off along with inauguration of Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Stadium this evening, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present on the occasion were Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Soe and Ma Mone Gyi Maung, 30, son of U Ohn Myint. They managed to bring the fire under control at about 3 pm.

**Press Release**

**Agreement on Myanmar’s debts owed to Paris Club reaches**

NAY PYI TAW, 28January—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein who was in Paris to clear the debts owed to Paris Club creditor countries attended the plenary session chaired by chairman of the Paris Club Mr. Ramon Fernandez on 24 January.

The Union minister and delegation member Dr Zaw Oo made clarifications and officials of IMF, World Bank and ADB gave account of their views.

After the marathon round of face-to-face negotiation, the agreement had reached, recommending that the creditors deliver an exceptional treatment providing a cancellation of 50% of the total arrears due to Paris Club creditors and the remaining amount will be rescheduled over 15 years, including a seven-year grace period. Besides, Norway has granted a full outright cancellation of US$ 534 million while Japan is carrying out a provision to provide a cancellation of 60% of total debt. The meeting produced a favourable debt relief of around US$ 6 billion over 60% of total debt.

Myanmar will conduct Staff Monitored Programme (SMP) in cooperation with IMF from January to December 2013. So far debts owed to WB, ADB and Paris Club creditor countries by Myanmar have been cleared. Union Minister U Win Shein arrived back in Myanmar yesterday.

**KIA group sets fire Yadana Taungdan company in Phakant**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 January—Members of KIA group set fire Yadana Taungdan Company near Pharpyin village of Phakant Township at about 1.30 pm today, reducing one two-storey staff building to ashes. Local people and security members managed to bring the fire under control at about 3 pm.

**KIA mine blast hurts two civilians**

NAY PYI TAW, 28January—A mine planted by KIA group exploded when a motorbike driving from Saijarbom Village to Phakant stepped on it yesterday morning. The incident left the two motorcyclists seriously injured.

The injured are Lonkhin Villager Soe Naing (a) Kan Gyi Maung, 30, son of U Khin Soe and Ma Mone. Villager Maung Wumma, 21, son of U Ohn Myint. They were sent to the Phakant People’s Hospital for medical treatment.—MNA
British woman dies in Tanzania when riding across Africa

DAR ES SALAAM, 28 Jan—A British female tourist—was among three people who died after being hit by a bus in an accident that involved three vehicles and horse riders, a doctor said on Sunday. About 25 others were seriously injured, most of them on-lookers attracted by the British and South African horse riders passing through Isala village in Shinyanga region on Saturday morning.

Frederick M Ilekwa, the doctor in charge at Shinyanga hospital, named the British citizen as Christine Hemchi, 29, and the two Tanzanian victims as Charles Mmugha, 60, and Willy Masanja, 55, who were being residents of Samuye village. He said Hemchi died in the accident, which occurred when she was riding horse with her fiancé, William Arthur, 43, a South African national, who was critically wounded.

According to M Ilekwa, the tourists were on a tour across the continent that started in Tunisia on the southward bound to South Africa. Before the accident, the couple had already traveled in nine African countries.

The residents killed and severely injured were cheering on the passing team of horse riders from Britain and South Africa who were on an Across-Africa mission on horsebacks. Most of them were absorbed in the riders when the three-vehicle collision occurred and took away the lives of three persons.

Until late Saturday, according to M Ilekwa, the body of the tourist was still at Shinyanga Hospital’s mortuary waiting for her relatives to decide where and when to conduct burial.

Braziliain president visits improvised morgue for fire victims, condolences flow in

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 Jan—Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff on Sunday visited an improvised morgue for victims of a nightclub fire in southern Brazil as condolences flow in over the tragic incident.

A fire at the deadly Kiss nightclub caused by a band member performing on stage fires, arranged for identification, and shed tears as she tried to console some of the relatives of the deceased.

She remained at the site for some 15 minutes, accompanied by state Governor Tarso Genro and other officials, then left without making any statements to the Press.

More than 230 people died in the small hours of Sunday when the fire broke out in the Kiss nightclub in Santa Maria, a major university city at the southern tip of Brazil near the borders with Argentina and Uruguay. It was reportedly caused by a band member performing on stage fireworks.

Officials said there were around 500 people then in the nightclub, a popular hanging-out spot among local youths and college students.

The president told Brazilian reporters earlier in Santiago, “I would like to say to the people of our country and of Santa Maria, that how united we are at this sad time and we will necessarily overcome, preserving the sorrow.” The federal government will do everything necessary to aid the families of the victims, she said.—Xinhua
Hundreds in HK protest against chief executive Leung

**KYOIO NEWS**

Protesters march in Hong Kong on 27 Jan, 2013, calling for Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying to step down and criticizing his main policy address for failing to tackle poverty and housing problems.

About 800 people in Hong Kong marched on Sunday, demanding the immediate resignation of the city’s leader and the dissolution of his administration.

Leung Chun-ying’s main policy address, calling for him to step down. “Leung Chun-ying! Step down!” the protesters chanted, referring to the Chief Executive Leung as a cheat. “No to ‘Cheat’ Executive! Universal suffrage now!”

Chief Secretary for Administration, Lieu-tenant General, Mrs. Carrie Lam, addressed the protesters, saying that the administration was working hard to address their concerns.

In September, the administration had promised to release a report on the housing situation, but the protesters said that nothing had been done.

They also demanded the release of the chief executive’s policy address, saying that it was a “cheat”.

The protest was the second time that Hong Kong has seen large-scale demonstrations in recent months. The last protest, in September, was led by the Umbrella Movement, which demanded universal suffrage.

The government has been criticized for not moving quickly enough to address the protesters’ demands.

Japan voters split on revisionist pacificist constitution: poll

**REUTERS**

Tokyo, 28 Jan—Japanese voters are divided over Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s goal of revising the post-World War Two pacifist constitution to ease limits on the military, although nearly 90 percent of lower house lawmakers back the change, an opinion poll showed.

Abe, who returned to the premiership after his conservative Liberal Democratic Party’s election victory last month, has made clear he wants to loosen the constitution. The survey by the Asahi newspaper and a University of Tokyo research team showed that 50 percent of voters were in favor of revising the constitution, up from 41 percent in 2011 but far below the 89 percent of members of parliament elected in December’s lower house election who want to alter the charter.

Forty-five percent of voters were in favor of allowing Japan to exercise its right to collective self-defense, or coming to the aid of an ally under attack. That was up from 37 percent in 2009, but well below the 79 percent of MPs who back the change in interpretation of the constitution.

Poll questions were mailed to 3,000 voters last month, of whom 1,889 responded.

The lawmakers were surveyed before December’s election.

Pakistan to announce election schedule in 10 days: minister

**XINHUA**

Islamabad, 28 Jan—Pakistan will announce dates for elections and dissolution of assemblies within ten days, Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Sunday.

The announcement came after a government delegation held talks with a religious leader, Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri in Lahore on Saturday. Qadri led a long-march on Islamabad and later staged a sit-in outside parliament earlier this month to press the government for electoral reforms.

The meeting in Lahore was part of a deal reached with Qadri to persuade him to call off his sit-in outside parliament that paralysed the centre of Islamabad two weeks ago. "We will try our best to announce a date for dissolution of national and provincial assemblies and holding of elections within 7-10 days," Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira told a joint Press conference with Qadri.

Kaira said a consensus would be developed between the coalition government and Dr Qadri’s party ‘Aamti Tehreek’ or peoples movement on names of the caretaker prime minister and chief ministers. However, consensus on the issue of dissolution of the Election Commission could not be evolved in the dialogue.

Qadri had ended his protest after four days when a government team assured him that the elections will be held on time and that scrutiny of all candidates will be carried out to stop corrupt elements reaching the parliament.—Xinhua

Philippines wants to probe US Navy personnel of stuck minesweeper in Tubbataha Reef

**REUTERS**

Manila, 28 Jan—The Philippine government will ask the United States to allow Filipino authorities to have access to the duty personnel of the stuck USS Guardian to determine why the vessel ran aground in Tubbataha Reef in Sulu Sea, a senior government official said on Sunday.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya said that his office is coordinating closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on how Filipino investigators could talk with the US Navy personnel manning the stranded minesweeper.

"We are conducting our investigation. It has been done since Day 1 and, necessarily, to have a thorough and complete investigation if we should have access to the duty personnel, the duty officer, and even the commanding officer to at least get a chance to hear them out on what actually happened," he told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal II while waiting for President Benigno S Aquino III’s arrival from Davos, Switzerland.

Abaya said that the government could not just go directly with the US Navy personnel and get every statement. "We’re coordinating closely with the DFA and I have mentioned again to Secretary (Ab)ert del Rosario that is an essential ingredient of the investigation," he added.

Abaya said that degliing of the USS Guardian has been accomplished already in preparation for lifting of the ship out from the World Heritage-listed coral.

"The decision in order to minimize damage to the reef is really to lift the vessel and eventually board this on another vessel," the official said. Two Singaporean ships will arrive by Wednesday for the salvage operations of the stuck vessel.—Xinhua

China carries out land-based mid-course missile interception test

Beijing, 28 Jan—China again carried out a land-based mid-course missile interception test within its territory on Sunday.

Xinhua learned the news from the Information Bureau of China’s Defence Ministry. "The test has reached the preset goal," an official with the bureau said. "The test is defensive in nature and targets no other country," he said. It has been the second time that China announced such kind of missile test.—Xinhua

Japan, US Mull Summit on 21 or 22 February

**REUTERS**

Tokyo, 28 Jan—Japan and the United States are closer to agreeing to hold a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Barack Obama on 21 or 22 February, Japanese government sources said on Monday.

Abe, who took office in December and has expressed a strong intention to strengthen ties with the US government, is now expected to leave for Washington on 19 February. They are likely to discuss issues including a plan for relocating a US military base within Okinawa Prefecture amid fierce local protests as well as Japan’s potential participation in US-led free trade talks for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is drawing opposition from Japanese farmers.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida visited Washington earlier this month for talks with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. They agreed to hold a summit in the week starting 17 February, according to the sources.

Tokyo had initially tried to arrange Abe’s visit in January but gave up on it given the tight schedule of Obama, who was inaugurated for his second term this month.

Kyodo News

Customers select craftworks for the upcoming Spring Festival at a shopping mall in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 Jan, 2013.—Xinhua

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Kyodo News
Building fire claims nine lives in Moscow

A major fire in a building in southwestern Moscow has claimed nine lives, the Emergency Situations Ministry said Saturday, adding that inappropriate use of electrical facilities might have caused the incident.—Xinhua

Moscow, 28 Jan—A major fire in a building in southwestern Moscow has claimed nine lives, the Emergency Situations Ministry said on Saturday, adding that inappropriate use of electrical facilities might have caused the incident.

Syrian opposition to start investigations into war crimes in Syria

The two-day gathering aimed to pave the way for seeking justice on behalf of the victims of the Syrian unrest.

"It is, of course, a main priority to open an investigation and hold accountable those who committed war crimes and crimes against humanity," said Radwan Zaideh, Director of the Transitional Justice in the Arab World Mission.

Cartoon balloons take off at the 35th International Balloon Festival in Chateau-d’Oex, Switzerland, on 26 Jan, 2013. The 9-day balloon festival kicked off here on Saturday with the participation of over 80 balloons from 15 countries and regions.—Xinhua

Drive Safely
Jeremy Renner starer “Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters” opens as No 1 in North America

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan — Actor Jeremy Renner has proven that his star power is still a draw to the moviegoers in North America, despite the fact that a big snowstorm that hit a major part of the United States has kept droves of fans from venturing out when "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters" debuted on Friday.

The Paramount and MGM’s R-rated 3-D action-horror pic, also featuring “Quantum of Solace” and “Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time” star Gemma Arterton, finished as the top grossing film over the weekend, as it is projected to rake up 19 million US dollars in ticket sales, less than what the executives in distributor Paramount had expected — about 25 million dollars. The debut is far from exciting, especially considering much of the talk to build the franchise was make up of 3-D premium. Opening on Friday in 3,372 locations in the US and Canada, the fair tale film grossed 6.03 million dollars as a major snowstorm swept the Northeast, which had a negative impact on the business. From Saturday on, the Jeremy Renner vehicle picked up steam, and led the chart during the Friday-Sunday period. The film, which costs 50 million dollars to make, is an adaptation of the German folk fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" which follows a brother-and-sister duo of witch hunters who are bent to seek out and kill a deadly leader of evil witches. — Xinhua

Drew Barrymore took advice of Steven Spielberg?

NEW DELHI, 28 Jan — Drew Barrymore turned to Steven Spielberg for advice to protect her daughter from the paparazzi. The 37-year-old actress—who gave birth to her first child Olive last September — is struggling to deal with the attention she has had since becoming a mum and she said her famous movie director godfather and husband Will Kopelman have given her excellent advice to deal with photographers.

She said: “Unless I was to move underground with no windows, there is no way to avoid this, so I thought about the people that I look up to... People who have grace and they seem happy and they give us an example of how to behave. I talked to my husband... He’s someone I think about when I think about that kind of person: I talk to his family, who I love. I talk to my godfather Steven Spielberg.”

The star — who has been in the spotlight since appearing in “E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial” when she was just seven-years-old — believes there should be stricter laws about photographing children and she said she’s determined to protect her daughter from the attention she endured as a kid. She told US chat show The View: “If I’ve been crying for two months about having to take my daughter outside into this very tumultuous world that has no protection for people, I agree with other countries when they won’t allow the kids to be photographed. "I think there has to be a limit and we teach our children boundaries, and yet the world doesn’t have any boundaries to our children and that is an anomaly that I do not support.” — PTI

Yale invites Ranbir Kapoor to speak, one year after Shah Rukh Khan

NEW DELHI, 28 Jan — Ranbir Kapoor will be the second Bollywood actor to speak at Yale University in the US, a year after Shah Rukh Khan addressed a packed house at the prestigious Ivy League school.

Ranbir, who is shooting for Abhinav Kashyap’s Besharam currently, has been invited by Yale to be guest lecturer in April and is juggling his dates and shoot schedule to fit in the trip. Ranbir, considered one of Bollywood’s finest young actors, has had praise and awards heaped on him for his last two film performances in Rockstar and Barfi!

Last year, Shah Rukh Khan was named a Chubb Fellow by Yale but his visit to the US began on a controversial note when he was detained and questioned for an hour and a half by immigration authorities at a New York airport. — PTI

PTI

Dutch dance duo Bingo Players hit jackpot at top of UK pop chart

LONDON, 28 Jan — Dutch dance duo Bingo Players secured their first British No 1 single on Sunday with the club hit “Get Up (Rattle),” a collaboration with hip-hop group Far East Movement. They edged last week’s No 1 “Scream & Shout,” by US rapper and producer will.i.am and singer Britney Spears, into second place, the Official Charts Company said. The

Chinese audiences chew on China-flavored Bond movie

movie could have been set in any other country, but I am glad the director chose China. It made me feel close to Bond,” said the 20-year-old college girl. “Skyfall” hit cinemas in the Chinese mainland on 21 January. This Hollywood blockbuster, the first in its series to be cooked up with Chinese characters, has won cheer from movie-goers.

“Is it a rare thing for an international action movie to depict China in a fashionable way,” a 27-year-old media worker surnamed Huang said. “Skyfall” shows a magnificent side of Shanghai that even the natives may never have seen.” Wu Qi from east China’s Shan- dong Province considered “Skyfall” “fabulously un-der-performed in comparison with the previous Bond movies.” — Xinhua

PTI

PTI

PTI

PTI

PTI
Markov’s OT goal lifts streaking Canadiens over Devils

_Los Angeles_, 28 Jan—The Montreal Canadiens handed the New Jersey Devils their first loss of the season when a red-hot Andrei Markov scored late in overtime to secure a 4-3 win on Sunday.

Montreal squandered a 3-1 third-period lead but Markov, who has a team-leading four goals, scored with 38 seconds left in overtime as the host Canadiens (3-1-0) extended their win streak to three games.

For New Jersey (3-0-1), who made an inspired late run and got 28 saves from goalie Martin Brodeur, the loss was the first blemish to their record after Aleksei Emelin of Russia was sent off due their second yellow card in the first half of an overtime match.

Montreal Canadiens’ Andrei Markov (1) celebrates his game-winning goal with teammate Erik Cole (72) during overtime NHL hockey action against New Jersey Devils in Montreal, on 27 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Woods in full command at Torrey Pines

_SAN DIEGO_, 28 Jan—Tiger Woods closed in on his 75th PGA Tour victory by stretching his lead to a commanding six shots with 11 holes remaining in the final round of the fog-delayed Farmers Insurance Open on Sunday.

The former world number one, a six-times winner for second career, was tied for second, eight holes with defending champion Brandt Snedeker, who had completed 13.

Burly Canadian Brad Fritsch, a PGA Tour rookie at the age of 35, was further two strokes back at nine under after seven holes. However, Woods was in full command at one of his favourite venues in the US his bid to win a third different PGA Tour event for a seventh time. He has already recorded seven victories apiece at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational and the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

“I played well today,” a smiling Woods told reporters. “Overall, I’m very pleased that I was able to build on my lead. As of right now, I’ve got a six-shot lead, so that’s a positive.”

“Then I’ve got to continue with executing my game plan. That’s the idea. I’ve got 11 holes to play, and I’ve got to go out there and play them well.”

Four for Messi as Barca’s lead opens to 11 points once again

_MADRID_, 28 Jan—Leo Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo continued their particular head-to-head rivalry in the Spanish BBVA Primera Liga just three days before their respective sides meet in the first leg of the Spanish Copa del Rey on Wednesday night.

Messi scored four goals as Barcelona claimed all three points in the 27 minutes of the game with 15 of 17 in the first half at the top of the table reopened to 11 points as second place Atletico Madrid crashed to a 3-0 defeat away to Athletic Club Bilbao, who looked to be finding form after a poor start to the season.

All the goals came in the second half of an entertaining game with Mikael San Jose putting Athletic ahead with a header from a corner, before Markel Susaeta latched onto a through ball to beat Atleti’s excellent goalkeeper, Thibaut Courtois, with a shot from goalie Martin Brodeur, the loss was the first blemish to their record after Aleksei Emelin of Russia was sent off due their second yellow card in the first half of an overtime match.

Montreal Canadiens’ Andrei Markov (1) celebrates his game-winning goal with teammate Erik Cole (72) during overtime NHL hockey action against New Jersey Devils in Montreal, on 27 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Bayern and Hamburg triumphant at German Bundesliga

_BERLIN_, 28 Jan — Bayern Munich increased their point gap atop the standings owing to their 2-0 win over Stuttgart at the Southern derby while Hamburg came from behind to seal a 3-2 victory against Bremen at the Northern derby to close 19th round on Sunday.

Front-runners Bayern Munich tightened first position as they increase their point cushion to 11 points thanks to the goals by Mario Mandzukic and Thomas Mueller at Stuttgart. The German record champions nearly broke the deadlock five minutes into the second half as Mario Mandzukic intercepted Christian Molinaro’s backpass to beat Stuttgart’s goalkeeper Sven Ulreich from close distance.

Bavarians were not done with the scoring as Thomas Mueller found Mandzukic’s cross to seal the deal at the 72nd minute. Stuttgart finished the encounter with ten men as Martin Harnik was sent off for his second bookable offence.

Bremen followed a seventh time. He has already recorded seven victories apiece at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational and the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

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At the Northern derby Hamburg defeated nine men 1-1 while Bremen had to finish the match with nine men as Clemens Fritz and Marko Arnautovic were sent off due their second yellow card. Hamburg stay on ninth position with 28 points meanwhile Bremen remain on 12th position with 22 points.

Inside the penalty area, Hamburg responded with the equalizer at the 22nd minute as Heung Min Song dribbled his way into the box to beat Bremen’s helpless goalkeeper Sebastian Mielitz, who seemed surprised by Son’s precision. After the break Hamburg turned things around when Dennis Aogo had set up into the path of Artjoms Rudnevs, who had no problems to slot home from goal area.

Bremen was only able to reduce the lead by Hamburg 3-2 as Sokratis Pastakopoulos effort found the back of the net following an assist by Theo Gebre Selassie at the 54th minute. Bremen had to finish the match with nine men as Clemens Fritz and Marko Arnautovic were sent off due their second yellow card. Hamburg stay on ninth position with 28 points meanwhile Bremen remain on 12th position with 22 points.
Migrant workers honoured for rescue work in Beijing storm

BEIJING, 28 Jan—A group of migrant workers were awarded the title of “righteous people of 2012,” according to a selection result released on Sunday.

In a massive downpour that battered Beijing on 21 July last year, about 150 migrant workers used life buoys and hemp ropes to conduct emergent rescue for endangered people who were stranded in a flooded highway in the northwest city.

The torrential rain left at least 79 people dead and caused significant damage. Late bus driver Wu Bin, who sacrificed his own life to save 24 of his passengers and middle school teacher Zhang Lili, who lost her legs in the act of saving two students from an onrushing bus, also received the honour.

The selection of “righteous people” started in 2009, and was organized by news media including Procuratorial Daily, which is under the operation of the Supreme People’s Procuratorate. —Xinhua

Cambodian court charges 6 bank thieves with aggravating violence

PINOM PENS, 28 Jan—Kampot Cham Provincial Court on Sunday charged six suspects in a local Acela Bank robbery with aggravating circumstances (violation), which could see them up to 10 years in prison, a court’s deputy prosecutor Riel Sophin said.

The suspects including five bank staff and an outsider were arrested on Wednesday night in a robbery at a Acela Bank’s branch in Stung Trang district of eastern Kampot Cham province after 16-hour operations.

During the robbery, the alleged robbers had fabricated the hostage situation by arranging some of them to act as drug-addicted kidnappers armed with a pistol and some as hostages. “After 3-day inquiries on the suspects, Investigating Judge Oum Chanthul decided to charge them with aggravating face and violence and issued a detention verdict this Sunday afternoon,” Riel Sophin said by telephone on Sunday. He said one of the suspects ex-banker Sin Kimthut, who masterminded the robbery plot, was additionally charged with organizing an armed group. The hearing date for the case is unknown yet. In Channy, President and Chief Executive Officer of Acela Bank, which is the kingdom’s largest bank, said on Sunday that the bank lost 55,000 US dollars in the robbery. —Xinhua

All stars defend Pro Bowl credibility after NFC thrash

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan—Despite the players’ best efforts to give the event a more competitive edge, the NFC cruised to a Pro Bowl victory over the AFC on 23 January, about 150 migrant workers used life buoys and hemp ropes to conduct emergent rescue for endangered people who were stranded in a flooded highway in the northwest city. The torrential rain left at least 79 people dead and caused significant damage. Late bus driver Wu Bin, who sacrificed his own life to save 24 of his passengers and middle school teacher Zhang Lili, who lost her legs in the act of saving two students from an onrushing bus, also received the honour. The selection of “righteous people” started in 2009, and was organized by news media including Procuratorial Daily, which is under the operation of the Supreme People’s Procuratorate. —Xinhua

NFC tight end Kyle Rudolph rose to the occasion with 122 receiving yards and a touchdown to grab MVP honours, while NFC quarterback Russell Wilson tossed three scoring passes in a performance he hopes will help secure the game’s future. “I think everyone really played hard,” Wilson told reporters. “Just being around (quarterbacks) Drew Brees, and the Eli and Peyton Mannings of the world is (once in a lifetime). That’s why I hope they keep the Pro Bowl. It’s special and means something.”

The Pro Bowl offers a welcome trip to Hawaii after a gruelling season but the players were clearly concerned with its reputation and tenuous status. AFC defensive tackle J.—Reuters

Commander Khin Aung (Rtd) BN-1046 (Darthmouth 2nd Batch) Aged (83) years

Commander Khin Aung (Rtd) BN-1046, son of (U Ohn Kyi and Daw Sein Yin), beloved son of Khin Yu Ya Aung (Pinky), Karolline passed away at 09:00 am on 24-01-2013 at 09:00 am at M ST Mawlamyine.

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Contempt of Court Bill passed for freedom of jurisdiction and public trust in judiciary

Representatives at Pyithu Hluttaw session in progress. —MNA

Plan underway to sell mobile phones at cheaper price soon

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Jan—

Ninth day of the eighth regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw was today held with nine agendas and four questions.

Dr Maung Maung Lwin, Director of the Myanmar Tatmadaw, read out the report on population and housing census. The new budget covers two days’ work and is scheduled for completion on time.

Cabinet approves Amyotha Hluttaw Bill

The Union government approved the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill, which addresses issues such as how to provide assistance for the neediest people in the country.

Corrigendum

Please read ‘duly addressed’ instead of ‘dully addressed’ in Para 8 of Press Release on Page 16 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that appeared in this newspaper on 26-1-2013. —NLM

Significant night temperatures (28-1-2013)

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