President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Mr. Victor Daniel Ramirez Pena, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba 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 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 President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Mr. Victor Daniel Ramirez Pena, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. —MNA

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day

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

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Czech Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Mr. Vitezslav Grepl, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Czech Republic 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 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 President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with Mr. Vitezslav Grepl, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. —MNA

Secretary-General of United Nations sends felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—The following is message of felicitations from the Secretary-General of the United Nations sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Your Excellency,

It is my great pleasure to extend to you and to the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day.

As each country celebrates its individual culture, history and achievements, it is important to acknowledge the ties that bind us in our increasingly interconnected world. All Member States—regardless of size or wealth—have an essential role to play in forging a better tomorrow for people and the planet.

The United Nations is the principal arena for creating a more secure and sustainable future. We have achieved much in recent years, including the global mobilization in support of the Millennium Development Goals. Yet much needs to be done to meet the 2015 deadline, and much work will remain in the period after as we pursue a new set of sustainable development goals and a post-2015 development agenda.

Your country’s active engagement in the work of the Organization is crucial in advancing our common goals of peace, development and human rights for all.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Haka 0°C
Loilem 1°C
Putao 4°C

Significant night temperatures (29-1-2013)
Training Course for Executive Management of Myanmar Civil Service 2013 opened

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Training Course for Executive Management of Myanmar Civil Service – 2013 organized by the Union Civil Services Board (UCSBS) in collaboration with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan (SPF) was officially opened at Yadana Theingha Hotel yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of UCSB U Kyaw Thu.

The ceremony was attended by Members of UCSB U Khin Maung Aye, Dr Win Myint, Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay and U Soe Soe, directors-general, resource persons and participants from union level organizations and ministries.

A total of 15 participants from various union level organizations and ministries are currently attending the five-day training course where three main themes focusing on Organizational Management, Leadership, Economic Development and Overview of Globalization in Foreign Direct Investment will be discussed.—MNA

Research for arsenic levels in water resources discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung met Professor Dr Alexander Van Green of Columbia University from United States of America, Director-General U Tin Hlaing of Water Resources Utilization Department and party at region government office in Pathem of Ayeyawady Region on 9 January morning. The deputy medical superintendent of Pakokku General Hospital organized the midwifery Departments jointly.

Pakokku, 9 Jan—With the assistance of Pakokku Region Government, the District and Township General Administration Departments jointly organized the midwifery course (first batch) at the Pakokku General Hospital on 9 January morning. The deputy commissioner of the district and the medical superintendent made speeches. The deputy commissioner, Magway Region Hluttaw representative U Zaw Moe Thein and Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Htin awarded the first, second and third prize winners.

Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Thant of Sittway General Hospital together with 11 members of Clinical Supervisory Committee and 19 volunteers made a trip of medical treatment providing free of charge to Amonyikyun village and surrounding villages in Sittway Township from 9 am to 3 pm on 20 January. The medical team could give treatment to 630 patients, refer the emergency patients to Sittway General Hospital and lecture health knowledge to the local people.—Myanma Alinn

Midwifery course wraps up in Magway

PAKOOKU, 29 Jan—With the assistance of Magway Region Government, the District and Township General Administration Departments jointly organized the midwifery course (first batch) at the Pakooku General Hospital on 9 January morning. The deputy commissioner of the district and the medical superintendent made speeches. The deputy commissioner, Magway Region Hluttaw representative U Zaw Moe Thein and Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Htin awarded the first, second and third prize winners.

Medical Superintendent Dr Thin Thin Aye presented completion certificates to trainees and Matron Daw Tin Tin Hlaing medical equipment to a trainee. The Region Government spent K 7.5 million on the training course.

Sanitation carried out at Meiktila Lake

MEIKTILA, 29 Jan—Under the supervision of Meiktila District Deputy Commissioner U Tin Soe, Assistant Director U Khin Zaw of Irrigation Department, Executive Officer U Thantin Zin of Township Development Affairs Committee and officials and staff of Meiktila Correctional Department carried out sanitation at Meiktila Lake on 20 January.

They cleared debris from the lake and carried out weeding works. Local people participated in the sanitation tasks near the sides of Nandawgon Ward, four Myoma wards and East Market ward. A plan is set to carry out sanitation at the lake with the participation of departmental staff every Saturday and Sunday.—Myanma Alinn

Myanmar athletes leave for Thailand

YANGON, 29 Jan—The Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Phyo Zaw (Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry) left here by air on 24 January morning to take part in the first Phuket International Taekwondo Championship to be held in Thailand on 26 and 27 January.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the federation and relatives. The Taekwondo team comprised Chief Coach Mr YU Ung Cho (Korea), Coach Daw Soe Soe Thain (Engineering Department of Road and Bridge, Yangon City Development Committee), players Saw Tet Lu, Min Hein Khant, Lin Nyau Ngu, Min Hein Khant, Lin Nyau Ngu and the Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the Federation, here, on 23 January.

Both sides mainly focused on cooperation in economic development of Myanmar, Japanese investment opportunities in SMEs of Myanmar, drawing of rules and regulations for foreign investment law, development of special economic zones, talks on mutual interest between employer and employees and participation of UMFFCCI in peace-making process of the Government in order to develop businesses and uplift living standards of the people.—MNA

Turkish Red Crescent Society donates US$ 60,000 to quake-hit areas

Mandalay, 29 Jan—Turkish Red Crescent Society donated cash to quake-hit areas of Mandalay Region through Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee at the Mandalay Region Health Department on 23 January afternoon.

Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing made a speech.

Lender of the Turkish Red Crescent Society explained the purpose of donation and donated US$ 60,000 to the Chairman of Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee who returned the certificate of honour to donor.—Myanma Alinn

Thaungtiri River Water Pumping Station irrigates croplands

NYAUNGU, 29 Jan—Thaungtiri River Water Pumping Station is located eight miles east of NyaungU of Mandalay Region.

The station benefits over 500 acres of farmlands.

The station pumps water into eight ponds to be able to supply water to farmlands of the area.

Thanks to the station, the local people grow double cropping and vegetables as mixed cropping including 180 acres of cold season beans and pulses.—Myanma Alinn

Shwe Karuna Cetana Clinic gives free health care to people

SITTWAY, 29 Jan—Under the mobile health care programme of Shwe Karuna Cetana Clinic in Sittway, a medical team comprising 10 specialists, 10 assistant surgeons and 20 nurses led by Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Thant of Sittway General Hospital together with 11 members of Clinical Supervisory Committee and 19 volunteers made a trip of medical treatment providing free of charge to Amonyikyun village and surrounding villages in Sittway Township from 9 am to 3 pm on 20 January. The medical team could give treatment to 630 patients, refer the emergency patients to Sittway General Hospital and lecture health knowledge to the local people.—Myanma Alinn

Myanmar, Japan discuss economic development

YANGON, 29 Jan—Mr Masaharu NAKAGAWA, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan and Former Minister of State for Disaster Management and Mr Michihiro ISHIBASHI, House of Councillors of Japan met President U Win Aung and the Vice-President, the General Secretary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the Federation, here, on 23 January.

Both sides mainly focused on cooperation in economic development of Myanmar, Japanese investment opportunities in SMEs of Myanmar, drawing of rules and regulations for foreign investment law, development of special economic zones, talks on mutual interest between employer and employees and participation of UMFFCCI in peace-making process of the Government in order to develop businesses and uplift living standards of the people.—MNA
Russia to deploy new Su-34 bombers

MOSCOW, 29 Jan—Five Su-34 frontline bombers will be deployed in an air base near the city of Voronezh in southern Russia, a spokesperson with the Russian Western Military District said on Tuesday.

“Five Su-34 multipurpose frontline bombers have left Novosibirsk aircraft building plant to Voronezh, a distance of over 3,000 km,” Andrei Bobrun told reporters. This will be the second squadron composed of Su-34s. The first one has been established in 2011.

According to the authorities, Novosibirsk aircraft plant in southern Russia will deliver ten aircraft in total to Voronezh. Su-34 bomber is a warplane of a four-plus generation, with the operational range of 4,000 km and the maximum speed of 1,900 km per hour.

The Russian Defence Ministry said early this year that Sukhoi, Russia’s leading aircraft builder would build 92 frontline bombers for the Russian forces under a newly signed contract. By 2020, the Su-34s will replace Su-24s that are currently in service in a deal expected to amount to 100 billion rubles (3.3 billion US dollars), according to the ministry.

Heilongjiang train-bus crash kills nine, injures 36

Harbin, 29 Jan—A freight train collided with an overloaded passenger bus in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province early on Monday, killing nine people and injuring 36 others, one of them badly, according to local government sources.

The collision occurred at 7:36 am at a railway crossing in Heilongjiang province, as officials of the Heilongjiang municipal government said.

Five people died at the scene and another on the way to hospital. Three more died in hospital, sources with Heilongjiang province’s work safety watchdog said.

Electoral commissioner of the Harbin, the provincial capital, have dispatched a team to investigate the accident.

All of the victims were on board the bus, which belonged to a local public transport company, Wudalianchi Passenger Transport Company.

It is not immediately known whether the bus driver was killed or injured. The bus had a capacity of 35 people, but was apparently overloaded, judging from the casualties.

Further investigation is under way to determine how many passengers were on the bus at the time of the collision.

Bomb explodes in southern district of Lebanese capital

BEIRUT, 29 Jan—A bomb planted under a car exploded in a southern suburb of Beirut late on Monday, a Lebanese security source said, rocking a Shi’ite Muslim area that is a stronghold of the militant group Hezbollah.

The bomb destroyed the car and damaged buildings in the residential area of Hay al-Sellom but there were no casualties, the source said.

It was not immediately clear what the target of the bomb was but the car was parked near a office for Shi’ite Hezbollah-designated Amal political group.

Lubnan is still recovering from an October car bomb which killed Wissam al-Hassan, a security official who was leading an investigation that implicated Syria and Hezbollah in the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, a Sunni.

During the country’s 15-year civil war which ended in 1990, tit-for-tat assassinations of prominent political figures were common and many fear sensitivities around the war in neighbouring Syria could lead to further instability in Lebanon.—Reuter

Protestors opposing Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi throw a Molotov cocktail towards riot police during clashes along Qasr Al Nil bridge leading to Tahrir Square in Cairo on 28 Jan, 2013.— Reuters

Egyptian protesters defy curfew, attack police stations

CAIRO/ISSAIAH, 29 Jan—Egyptian protesters defied a overnight curfew in restive towns along the Suez Canal, attacking police stations and ignoring emergency rule imposed by Islamist President Mohamed Morsi to end days of clashes that have killed at least 52 people.

At least two men died in overnight fighting in the canal city of Port Said in the latest outbreak of violence unleashed last week on the eve of the anniversary of the 2011 revolt that brought down autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Political opponents spurred a call by Mursi for talks on Monday to try to end the violence.

Instead, huge crowds of protesters took to the streets in Cairo, Alexandria and in the three Suez Canal cities—Port Said, Ismailia and Suez—where Mursi imposed emergency rule and a curfew on Sunday.

“Down, down with Mohamed Mursi! Down, down with the state of emergency!” crowds shouted.

In Cairo, flames lit up the night sky as protesters set police vehicles ablaze.

In Port Said, men attacked police stations after dark. A security source said some police and troops were injured. A medical source said two men were killed and 12 injured in the clashes, including 10 with gunshot wounds.

“The people want to bring down the regime,” crowds chanted in Alexandria. “Leave means go, and don’t say no!”

Obama congratulates Israeli PM on election results

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan — US President Barack Obama on Monday called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, congratulating him on his party’s narrow winning in the elections, White House said in a statement.

Obama spoke with Netanyahu to congratulate him “on his party’s success in winning a plurality of Knesset seats in Israel’s recent election,” said the White House, adding the US president “indicated” that Washington looks forward to working with the next Israeli government.

Obama also reiterated his commitment to the “deep and enduring bonds” between the two countries, and pledged to work with Israel to pursue peace in the Middle East, said the White House.

The telephone call came days after Israel’s right-wing Likud-Beitenu union led by Netanyahu narrowly won over 3,000 km,” Andrei Bobrun told reporters. The decision appeared “It is with the greatest confidence that on 30 April of this year I will pass on the kingship to my son, the Prince of Orange. He and Princess Maxima are entirely ready for their roles.

The decision appeared popular with ordinary Dutch people.

Netherlands’ Queen Beatrix (R) and her son Prince Willem-Alexander are seen waving to well-wishers from the balcony of the Royal Noordeinde Palace after opening the new parliamentary year in The Hague on this 15 April, 2011 file photo.—Reuters

Dutch Queen abdicates, Willem-Alexander to succeed

AMSTERDAM, 29 Jan — Dutch Queen Beatrix, who turns 75 on Thursday, announced she was abdicating in favour of her son, Prince Willem-Alexander, telling her country it was time to hand the crown to the next generation after more than three decades on the throne.

Willem-Alexander, 45, who will be sworn in as king on 30 April, is married to Princess Maxima, who comes from Argentina, and has three young children.

Decades of grooming for the throne involved shaking off his image as a beer-drinking fraternity boy whose blunt comments upset the press and politicians and did not fit the image of the Netherlands’ low-key “bicycling monarch.”

Speaking calmly in a television broadcast, Beatrix, who once faced scandal over her father’s involvement in a bribery case and whose middle son lies in a coma after a skiing accident, said she was stepping down because she felt Willem-Alexander was now ready to take her place on the throne.

“I am not stepping down because the tasks of the function are too great, but out of the conviction that the responsibilities of our country should be passed on to a new generation,” she said.

“It is with the greatest confidence that on 30 April of this year I will pass on the kingship to my son, the Prince of Orange. He and Princess Maxima are entirely ready for their roles for the future tasks.”

The decision appeared popular with ordinary Dutch people.

Obama congratulates Israeli PM on election results
Iran launches monkey into space, showing missile progress

**Dubai, 29 Jan** — Iran said on Monday it had launched a live monkey into space, seeking to show off missile systems that have alarmed the West because the technology could potentially be used to deliver a nuclear warhead.

The Defence Ministry announced the launch as world powers sought to agree a date and venue with Iran for resuming talks to resolve a standoff with the West over Tehran’s contested nuclear program before it degenerates into a new Middle East war.

**Washington, 29 Jan**— All US coasts are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as sea-level rise, erosion storms, and flooding, according to a new report released on Monday. The report, Coastal Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerabilities, says that the most affected are the more populated low-lying parts of the US coast along the Gulf of Mexico, Mid-Atlantic, northern Alaska, Hawaii, and island territories. And the financial risks associated with both private and public assets are expected to increase dramatically.

**Digital advertising**

A still image from an undated video footage released on 28 Jan, 2013 by Iran’s state-run English language Press TV shows a monkey that was launched into space. — Reuters

RIM names multiple BlackBerry 10 music, video partners

**New York, 29 Jan** — Research In Motion Ltd has gathered a number of big-name music and video partners for its BlackBerry 10 storefron, ranging from Walt Disney Studios and Sony Pictures to Universal Music Group and Warner Music Group.

RIM announced the partners on Monday, ahead of Wednesday’s launch of its first phones based on its much-delayed BlackBerry 10 smartphone platform, which may be the company’s last chance to regain ground it has lost to Apple Inc’s iPhone.

Content partnerships are a crucial part of this effort as analysts have largely attributed the success of iPhone and devices running Google Inc’s Android software to the selection of applications and media content they offer. However, the company’s shares were down more than 4 percent in morning trading. Canaccord Genuity analyst Michael Walkley said the partnerships were not a surprise and that RIM shareholders were probably selling to take a profit ahead of the phone launch.

"Until we start to see the devices sell to consumers, the stock will remain quite volatile," Walkley said. RIM said its BlackBerry World content store would include an extensive catalog of songs, movies and television shows. Most movies will be available the same day they are released on DVD, with next-day availability for many TV series. RIM’s offerings will also include Matador Records, Rough Trade Records and Sony Music Entertainment music that will be initially be available in 18 countries. — Reuters

As world of gadgets grows, online industry tunes into video ads

**San Francisco, 29 Jan** — Internet video ads, long a sideshow in the online advertising market, are gaining in importance to marketers and Web publishers as they look to capitalize on consumers’ changing viewing habits and tap a $70 billion (44.5 billion pounds) television market.

The ever-expanding array of gadgets that display online video, from tablets to Internet-connected TVs and DVD players, along with technology such as social media that facilitates distribution, has spurred new interest.

The growing trend means websites like Google Inc’s YouTube, Yahoo, AOL and Hulu have a better shot at tapping the mother lode of television advertising budgets, though video ads have a long way to go before they become as dominant a part of the marketing landscape as TV ads.

Research firm eMarketer says video is the fastest growing form of online advertising, with spending increasing 46 percent last year, and outpacing popular formats such as search ads and display ads.

Google does not break out financial results for its YouTube business, but Chief Business Officer Nick Kesh Arora said on Tuesday that spending among YouTube’s top 100 advertisers increased by more than 50 percent in 2012 compared with the year before. There have been media reports that Facebook is developing a video ad service, and analysts will likely be looking for answers on that avenue when the social networking giant delivers its quarterly results on Wednesday.

At Yahoo, “one of our highest priorities was to create more online video experiences, because that’s where the demand is for advertising,” said Tim Morse, the former Yahoo finance chief who became CFO of video advertising technology company Adap.tv this month. — Reuters

Google pledges fight over government access to users’ email

**Washington, 29 Jan** — Google will lobby Washington in 2013 to make it harder for law enforcement authorities to gain access to emails and other digital messages. In a blog post on Monday, linked to Data Privacy Day, Google’s chief legal officer, David Drummond, said the tech giant, in coalition with many other powerful tech companies, will try to convince Congress to update a 1986 privacy protection law. He cited data showing that government requests for Google’s user data increased more than 70 percent since 2009.

In 2012, Google said, it received 16,407 requests for user data affecting 31,972 users or more than half of them accompanied by a subpoena. “We’re a law-abiding company, and we don’t want our services to be used in harmful ways. But it’s just as important that laws protect you against overly broad requests for your personal information,” Drummond said in the post. The US Electronic Communications Privacy Act, passed in the early days of the Internet, does not require government investigators to have a search warrant when requesting access to old emails and messages that are stored online, providing less protection for them than, say, letters stored in a desk drawer or even messages saved on a computer’s hard drive. The current system also makes complex distinctions, many quadrants in courts, between emails saved as drafts online, in transit, unopened or opened. — Reuters

Models present Pantech’s new LTE smartphone “VEGA No 6 Full HD” during the launching event in Seoul, South Korea, on 28 Jan, 2013. — Xinhua

A neon Google logo is seen as employees work at the new Google office in Toronto, on 13 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

**Dubai, 29 Jan** — Iran said on Monday it had launched a live monkey into space, seeking to show off missile systems that have alarmed the West because the technology could potentially be used to deliver a nuclear warhead.

The Defence Ministry announced the launch as world powers sought to agree a date and venue with Iran for resuming talks to resolve a standoff with the West over Tehran’s contested nuclear program before it degenerates into a new Middle East war.

Efforts to nail down a new meeting have failed repeatedly and the powers fear Iran is exploiting the diplomatic vacuum to hone the means to produce nuclear weapons.

The Islamic Republic denies seeking weapons capability and says it seeks only electricity from its uranium enrichment so it can export more of its considerable oil wealth.

The powers have proposed new talks in February.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (not seen) addresses a speech to the United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York, 28 Sept, 2012. — IRNA

*New Light of Myanmar*
China’s demographic dividend disappearing: expert

BEIJING, 29 Jan—Chi na’s demographic divi dend has been disappear ing since 2012, which will have significant impact on economic growth, the Pe ople’s Daily quoted an ex pert saying in a Monday report. “We should be psych ologically and politically prepared for the situation,” said Professor Cai Fang, a demographer and vice president of the Institute of Popula tion and Labour Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in an inter view with the People’s Daily, the flagship newspaper of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

His remarks came fol lowing the first decrease in the size of China’s labor force since the country’s re forma tion and opening up began in the late 1970s. Data released by the Na tional Bureau of Statistics showed that the number of labour ers between the ages of 15 and 59 decreased by 3.45 million year on year in 2012, marking the first “ab solute decrease” in China’s labour force. Ma Jiantang, director of the NBS, said at a recent press conference that the situation calls for much attention.

A chronic demographic divi dend is a window of oppor tunity in the development of a society or a nation that opens up as fertility rates, faster rates of economic growth and human development becoming possible when combined with effective policies and markets. A report from the China De velopment Research Foun dation also stated that the country’s labor force will decrease by about 29 mil lion over the current de cade.

US study finds cardiac disease linked to higher risk of mental impairment

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan — Cardiac disease is associ ated with increased risk of mild cognitive impairment such as problems with lan guage, thinking and judg ment—a particularly among women with heart disease, to replace BVO has been in the works for some time, according to a study published online Monday in JAMA Neurology. Known as non-annestic because it doesn’t include memory loss, this type of mild cognitive im pairment may be a precursor to vascular and other non-Alzheimer’s dementias, says researchers at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. They evaluated 2,719 people ages 70 to 89 at the beginning of the study and every 15 months after. Of the 1,450 without mild cognitive impairment at the beginning, 669 had heart disease and 59 (8.8 percent) developed nonannestic mild cognitive impairment in comparison 34 (4.4 per cent) of 781 who did not have heart disease developed monannestic mild cognitive impairment. The association varied by sex; cardiac disease and mild cognitive impairment appeared together more of ten among women than in men.

Mild cognitive impair ment is an important stage for early detection and intervention in dementia, says lead author Rosebud Roberts, a health sciences researcher at Mayo Clinic, adding that “prevention and management of cardiac dis ease and vascular risk fac tors are likely to reduce the risk.”

PepsiCo replacing Gatorade ingredient after online petition

NEW YORK, 29 Jan—PepsiCo Inc is removing a controversial chemical from its Gatorade drinks following concerns from consumers and an online petition by a Missouri teenager. Gatorade said the change was not a response to the petition, although the 15-year-old girl claimed victory.

The ingredient, bromi nated vegetable oil (BVO), is a chemical containing bro min, which is found in fire retardants. Small quantities of BVO are used legally in some citrus-flavored drinks in the United States to keep the flavor evenly distributed.

It was present in Gatorade Orange and Lemonade and other smaller flavours. Molly Carter, a spokeswoman for Gatorade, said BVO versions of those drinks will roll out across the United States in the next couple of months. She said the move to replace BVO has been in the works for some time, and was not a response to the petition by Sarah Kavanagh, the 15-year-old girl from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Kavanagh started a petition on Change.org, an online petition platform, to ask PepsiCo to remove BVO from Gatorade. It received more than 200,000 signatures, and on Friday, the teenager declared victory. “When I went to Change.org to start my petition, I thought it might get a lot of support because no one wants to gulp down flame retardant, especially from a drink they associate with being healthy,” the girl said via a statement on Change.org. “But with Gatorade being as big as they are, sometimes it was hard to know if we’d ever win.”

“This is so, so awesome,” she said. According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a food safety watchdog group, BVO is a “poorly tested and possibly dangerous food additive and there’s no reason to use it in Gatorade or other drinks.”

IMF suggests Hungary to change economic policy

BUDAPEST, 29 Jan—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday urged Hungary to adopt a “new policy course” on economy to boost the country’s economic growth. The IMF officials made a series of suggestions on Monday in a concluding statement after spending two weeks in Hungary as part of regular Article IV consultations.

“A new policy course is needed to deliver the required medium-term fiscal adjustment in a sus tainable way to support growth and sustainable public finan cing, repair the financial sector, and promote reforms to boost the potential of the Hun garian economy,” according to the statement. The statement said that Hungary was in its second recession in four years and that the outlook was difficult driven by falling con sumption and investment as well as stubbornly high unemployment rates.

Frequent and unpre dictable tax policy chang es, minimum wage hikes, mortgage relief schemes were among the measures that could improve the private sector investment was also to blame. The IMF predicted the general government deficit could reach 3.25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013, compared with the government’s 2.7 percent goal, and may exceed 3 percent in 2014 and 2015.

The headquarters of Yahoo Inc. is pictured in Sunnyvale, California in this file photo taken on 5 May, 2008.—Reuters

Yahoo sees revenue climb this year, but long road ahead

NEW YORK, 29 Jan—Yahoo Inc forecast a modest growth rate of 0.7 percent to the road to growth is certain, it will not be immediate,” said Mayer, a former Google Inc executive and Yahoo’s third full-time CEO since September 2011. Yahoo said that revenue, excluding fees it pays to partner websites, will range between $4.5 billion and $4.6 billion in 2013, implying an annual growth rate of 0.7 percent to 3 percent.

Finance Chief Ken Goldman also warned investors to expect “an investment phase” in the first half of the year, which he said would impact profit margins. “What was clear from the call is that this is a long-term turnaround story,” said Macquarie Research analyst Ben Schachter. “We shouldn’t expect anything to just snap back and correct itself.”

During the call, Yahoo’s net revenue increased 4 percent year-on-year to $1.22 billion, as search advertising sales offset a 10 percent decline in the number of display ads sold on Yahoo’s core properties.—Reuters

The IMF predicted the general government deficit could reach 3.25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013, compared with the government’s 2.7 percent goal, and may exceed 3 percent in 2014 and 2015.

As a result, the country’s public debt would continue to stay around 78 percent of GDP. 10 percent age points higher than the pre-crisis level, said the statement.—Xinhua

Yahoo warned it would be a long journey to revive the Internet company’s first family of websites but Chief Executive Marissa Mayer saw it as a job well done.

Mayer also warned that the company outlined a plan to trigger a “chain reaction of growth” by outsourcing a dozen of its online services to increase the amount of time users spent on its websites. It also pointed to strength in its search advertising business and progress made in improving its internal operations. Yahoo’s shares were 3 percent higher in after hours trade after the revenue projection was discovered during an analysts conference call, shedding some ground after earlier rising as much as 4.5 percent. But weakness in Yahoo’s display ad business, which accounts for roughly 40 percent of the company’s total revenue, came about as analysts by surprise. “While the road to growth is certain, it will not be immediate,” said Mayer, a former Google Inc executive and Yahoo’s third full-time CEO since September 2011.

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During the call, Yahoo’s net revenue increased 4 percent year-on-year to $1.22 billion, as search advertising sales offset a 10 percent decline in the number of display ads sold on Yahoo’s core properties.—Reuters

Researchers find genes behind aggressive endometrial cancer

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan—A team of US researchers have identified a number of new genes that are frequently mutated in uterine serous carcinoma (USC) — a rare and aggressive form of endometrial cancer, according to a study published online Monday on Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The team collected tumors from 57 women af fected with USC to try to determine the molecular ba sis of the tumor’s aggressive behavior. They sequenced all the genes from the tumors and identified mutations that are crucial for these tumors to grow. The team also sequenced the copy number varia tions — genes that are not mutated but are amplified in the tumors to give them a growth advantage over normal tissues.

The newly-identified cancer-related genes in cluded two — CHD4 and MBG3 — that are found in the same complex and play a role in remodeling the genome to allow certain regions to be turned on and off. The discovery of a third gene, TAF1, was a surprise to researchers because it is a core component of the ma chinery responsible for transcribing a large fraction of the protein coding genes in the human genome. —Reuters

It’s a new light of Myanmar

Wednesday, 30 January, 2013 5
Nightclub fire kills at least 231 in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Jan—A major fire in a crowded nightclub in southern Brazil killed at least 231 people and injured more than 200 others on early Sunday, local television reports said.

Reports quoted police sources as saying the death toll from the “Kiss” nightclub fire in Santa Maria could rise as an investigation of the blaze continues. Police believe there are about 20 bodies still inside the club.

Tokyo, 29 Jan—Nine films from Japan and abroad on the theme of capital punishment will be screened consecutively at a movie theater in Tokyo’s Shibuya district over a one-week period from 2 February, with a series of talks also scheduled.

Movies shown at Eurospace for its “Death Penalty Movie Week” include the screening of “Serial Killer,” a 1969 documentary film on Norio Nagayama, who was hanged in 1997 for fatally shooting four people when he was a teenager, and the 1958 French movie “Elevator to the Gallows.”

Films from Bolivia, China and South Korea will also be shown.

Nine killers by gunman in the Philippines

MANILA, 29 Jan—A police vehicle was attacked by an armed group and 9 people were killed on Negros Island in the Philippines on Sunday.

Police say the truck was ambushed by the armed group in La Castellana in Negros Occidental Province on early Sunday morning.

The vehicle was carrying police officers and private security guards who had worked at a festival held in a nearby village on Saturday.

Nine killed by gunmen in the Philippines—Reuters

People march in tribute to the victims of the Kiss nightclub fire in the southern city of Santa Maria, 187 miles (301 km) west of the state capital Porto Alegre, on 28 Jan, 2013. —Reuters

Films on death penalty to be screened in Tokyo

The screenings, of three to four movies a day, will be accompanied by talk sessions with guest speakers including Yoshiohiro Yasuda, a Tokyo-based lawyer leading the anti-death penalty campaign in Japan, and Shoji Sakurai, who was falsely accused in a high-profile 1967 murder case and acquitted more than 40 years later.

The event is organized by Forum 90, which has campaigned for terminating capital punishment since 1990, under the main title of “Crime, Punishment and Forgiveness.”

“Most people in Japan support the death penalty without knowing its realities, as information about capital punishment has not been fully disclosed in this country,” said Masakuni Ota, a member of Forum 90. “We expect this film festival to provide an opportunity to understand parts of the secret system.”

SANTA MARIA, 29 Jan—Brazilian police investigating a nightclub fire that killed 231 people detained on Monday the owners of the club and two band members whose pyrotechnics show authorities say triggered the blaze.

No charges were filed against the four men, but prosecutors said they could be held for up to five days as police press them for clues as to how the fire on early Sunday morning could have caused so many deaths.

Stunned residents in the southern city of Santa Maria attended a marathon of funerals beginning in the pre-dawn hours. After sunset, thousands joined a procession through the streets of the city, dressed in white and wearing black arm bands.

Some mourners demanded answers about the safety measures at the nightclub, where hundreds were trapped after the ceiling became engulfed in flames.

“Why the regulations? Why pay taxes? What is the government doing?” read a banner carried by university students who had lost friends in the fire.

The tragedy comes as Brazil prepares to host the 2014 World Cup soccer tournament and 2016 Olympics, putting its safety standards and emergency response capabilities in the international spotlight.

President Dilma Rousseff, who cut short a visit to Chile to fly to the scene of the disaster on Sunday, called for a minute of silence before addressing a meeting of newly elected mayors in the capital, Brasilia.—Reuters

Nightclub fire kills at least 231 in Brazil—Reuters

Shots fired at Israeli bus in West Bank

JERUSALEM, 29 Jan—Gunmen opened fire on Sunday evening at an Israeli civilian bus traveling near Anatot in the West Bank, the Israeli army said in a statement. The IDF spokes-

Seven dead in NE China train-bus collision

HARBIN, 29 Jan—Seven people died after a cargo train and a passenger bus collided on Monday morning in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, local government sources said.

The collision happened at 7:36 am in the city of Heibe. Six people died at the scene and another died on the way to hospital. All of the victims were passengers on the bus. The injured have been rushed to local hospitals. The train was operated by a local railway company in Heibe. The cause of the collision is being investigated.

A participant competes during the third International dog sled race held at the suburbs of Minsk, Belarus, on 27 Jan 2013. About 150 participants from Belarus and neighbouring Russia, Latvia and Lithuania took part in the competition.—Xinhua

A participant competes during the third International dog sled race held at the suburbs of Minsk, Belarus, on 27 Jan 2013. About 150 participants from Belarus and neighbouring Russia, Latvia and Lithuania took part in the competition.—Xinhua

Three dead in NE China train-bus collision

HARBIN, 29 Jan—About 150 people died after a train and a passenger bus collided near the coast of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province on Monday morning.

The accident occurred in the town of Heibe, which is near the Chinese border with Russia.”—Kyodo News

People detained on Monday morning at the nightclub where hundreds were trapped, according to prosecutors.

Three dead in NE China train-bus collision—Kyodo News

Films on death penalty to be screened in Tokyo Supplied photo shows a clip from the 1969 documentary film “Serial Killer,” which will be screened in “Death Penalty Movie Week” in Tokyo from Feb. 2, 2013. —Kyodo News

Xinhua

Seven dead in NE China train-bus collision—Kyodo News

Early Sunday, security forces arrested two Palestinians suspected of plotting to carry out a terror attack.

The men, detained at a checkpoint near the West Bank city of Nablus, were armed with improvised grenades, petrol bombs and knives. They carried a letter that said they intended to commit suicide.

Xinhua

Six people died in a subway train crash in the city of Tokyo on Sunday. The cause of the accident is being investigated.

The victims, including a two-year-old child, were among about 1,500 passengers on the train at around 3:00 am when it was stopped at a station in the prosperous metropolitan area.

The train had left the track near the Tonebashi station in Tokyo, city government officials said.

Subway train crash kills six in Tokyo—Kyodo News

Four of the victims died at the scene and another two were pronounced dead at a hospital, officials said. The others were being treated in local hospitals. The line was operating again by 6:00 am.

Xinhua

Xinhua
Top Chinese, Russian legislators vow to strengthen bilateral ties

**WORLD**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Wednesday, 30 January, 2013**

**Top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo and senior Russian parliamentarian Valentina Matviyenko, chairwoman of Russia’s Federation Council, on behalf of Russia’s President Vladimir Putin, in Vladivostok, Russia, on 28 Jan, 2013.** —Xinhua

**Florida man accused of fraud after name change in ‘act of love’**

**MAHSA, 29 Jan—** A newlywed South Flori- da man who opted to take his wife’s last name is fighting the state’s Department of Motor Vehicles after it suspended his driving license on grounds of fraud.

Real estate investor Lázaro Sopena offered to change his name following his 2011 marriage to Hanh Dinh in order to help his wife’s Vietnamese family perpetuate their family surname. Shortly after their marriage, Lázaro Dinh obtained a new passport and Social Security card and changed his bank account and credit cards before applying to update his drivers license. “It was an act of love. I have no particular emotional ties to my last name,” said Dinh, 40, who was born in Cuba and came to the United States at the age of 11 in 1984.

His wife, Hanh Dinh, 32, has four sisters and came to the US in 1990, after a family tragedy involving living in refugee camps and being separated from her father for 7 years.

Lázaro Dinh was initially issued a new license after presenting his marriage certificate at his local DMV office and paying a $20 fee, just as newly married women are required to do when they adopt their husband’s name. “It was easy. When the government issues you a new passport you figure you’re fine,” he said. More than a year later Dinh received a letter from Florida’s DMV last December accusing him of “obtaining a driving license by fraud,” and advising him that his license would be suspended at the end of the month. Ironically, it was addressed to Lázaro Dinh.

**South Africa police join hunt for 10,000 escaped crocodiles**

**JOHANNESBURG, 29 Jan—** South Africa has called out the police to join the hunt for as many as 10,000 croco- diles on the loose after escaping from a farm during floods and being washed into one of southern Africa’s biggest rivers, officials said on Friday.

Crocodile farmers, loc- als and police have trapped thousands of the reptiles, us- ing plastic bands to tie their legs behind their backs and then piling them into pick-up trucks.

The flood gates at the Rakwena Crocodile Farm close to the Botswana and Zimbabwe borders were opened on Sunday because it was feared that rising flood waters would crush the reptiles, releasing some 15,000 crocodiles into the Limpopo River. “At night time we have more success. It is much easier to see them,” Zane Langman, whose in- laws own the farm, told news channel ENCA.

Most of the crocodiles are less than two metres (78 inches) long. The area is home to several farms that supply crocodile skins to the fashion industry.

“We are working as a team with the stakeholders,” police spokesman Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi said on Friday. There have been no reports of injuries caused by the escaped reptiles.

Police in Zimbabwe, on the other side of the Limp- popo, also issued warnings to people to avoid going into the water because of the crocodile threat.

**Bodies of missing Mexican band members found in well**

**MONTERREY, 29 Jan—** Police found a dozen bodies inside a well in northern Mexico, some of them members of a band abducted last week by an armed group, a spokes- man for the state of Nuevo Leon, Jorge Domene, said on Monday. Authorities have identified four of the bodies, including that of a Colombian national. All were wearing jeans and T-shirts with the logo of the music group — “Po- deroso Komol Kolombia.” One band member who managed to escape told police that after he and the others were kid- napped, their armed men captors asked them if they belonged to an organized crime gang. They were shot when they refused to answer.

It was not clear how the surviving band member escaped or whether he was wounded. Domene said he had fled Mexico after report- ing the attack.

A total of 18 men, 12 musicians plus staff, were abducted on Thursday at a party in a bar near the in- dustrial city of Monterrey, Domene said. “Presumably there could be more bodies so we will extend the search as far as conditions allow it,” he told a Press confer- ence. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has vowed to reduce criminal violence that spiraled after his predecessor, Felipe Cal- deron, launched an assault on drug cartels in December 2006. Some 70,000 people have been killed in drug- related violence in Mexico since then.—Reuters
Avoid of contact with animals you don’t know

Rabies is a deadly viral infection that is mainly spread by infected animals, especially infected dogs. The actual time between infection and when you get sick ranges from ten days to seven years. The average period is 3-12 weeks. This is called incubation period.

Rabies is spread by infected saliva that enters the body through a bite or broken skin. The virus travels from the wound to the brain, where it causes swelling or inflammation. The infection leads to symptoms of the disease. Most rabies deaths occur in children. As bats or raccoons which are seen spontaneously in the houses may carry rabies virus, they are to be treated cautiously. If an animal bites you, try to gather as much information about the animal as possible. The doctor or nurse will examine you and look at the bite. If rabies is suspected, the animal will be watched for signs of rabies. If there is any risk of rabies, you will be given a series of a preventive vaccine. Immunization or treatment for possible exposure for rabies is recommended for at least 14 days. It is not possible to prevent rabies if immunization is given early after the bite.

As Myanmar has become renown to the rest of the world, it needs to keep towns and cities clean and pleasant. Towards this end, stray dogs roaming about downtown and chasing young children to maul them are to be culled. It is quite detrimental to health as rabies may spread through the canines. According to WHO, there is an annual average death of about 55,000 globally through the bite of infected dogs.

Meanwhile, the dog owners also need to have their dogs vaccinated to prevent them from being infected while putting leather straps on them. As dog bites are a common cause of rabies in Myanmar, avoidance of contact with infected animals is the best way to do away with rabies.

**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives UK and Ausi guests, Qatari Ambassador**

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Chairman of National Policy Committee of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and Myanmar-Korea Economic Exchange Association Mr Kim Jung-hoon at the Presidential Palace here this evening.

Present on the occasion were Union Ministers U Winna Maung Lwin, U Myint Hlaing, U Win Myint, U Zeyar Aung and departmental heads and Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae-Yong.

The discussion focused on investment and cooperation potential in deepsea ports, rail and air transportation, technology, promotion of trade volume by boosting rice and fruits exports and fellowship programmes for Myanmar.—MNA
**NATIONAL**

**Dy Minister proposes formulation of a legislation to facilitate e-Commerce**

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 January—U Thein Nyunt of Thingyan gyung Constituency submitted a bill revoking the Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Thaung Tin as regards the bill suggested formulating a legislation that encourages innovation and creativity of brilliant young Myanmar IT professionals contributing to e-commerce development appropriate to changing era and system and on a par with global countries.

The proposer U Thein Nyunt asked to document the deputy minister’s suggestion. As regards the question about prepared plans for promotion of gems transaction in Myitkyina, the major town of Kachin State, Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung said raw jade from Myitkyina put on sale at gems emporiums in Nay Pyi Taw were carried to Sagaing and Mandalay to be polished and the finished goods are exported via one-stop service center in Mandalay.

The Union Minister added that as jade and gems market is booming only in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and most of gems enterprises open their head offices and branches and workshops in those places, and the transportation costs are high, gems merchants do not usually do business in Myitkyina.

Though the Mines Ministry has issued orders and notifications on transportation of gems in line with gems law, a total of 18 cases of illegal transportation of gems could be exposed and the quantity was as high as over 163 tons.

**Work plans to be implemented in Delta region as national plan with participation of experts at home and abroad, ministries concerned, region government**

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 January—The 10th day of the sixth regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw was held today in line with 10 points of agenda. Three questions were answered, one bill submitted and one proposal discussed and approved at the Hluttaw session.

With regard to the proposal submitted by Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No 6 urging the Union government to implement the Rehabilitation and Modernization Project of Flood Protection Embankments, Drainages and Ancillary Structures for Ayeyawady Delta step by step, Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No 5 discussed that Kyangin, Myanmar, Inlapu, Laymyethna, Hinathada and Zaluon of Ayeyawady Region, especially in Nyaunggyo, Ingalu and Heintingu region of Laymyethna Township, eastern and northern parts of Hinthada Township are in dangers of floods annually. Therefore, it is important to repair Myanmar dam, sluice gates and drains in Nyaunggyo region.

Thus, the Irrigation Department should ask the maintenance cost and fund for improving the embankments, drains and sluice gates in the region for prevention against floods in Ayeyawady Region.

Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No 5 participates in discussion.—MNA

**Union Ministers attend World Economic Forum**

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 January—Union Minister at the President U Soe Thane attended Economic Leaders—Energy Architecture in Transition and Defining the Imperatives for 2013 held in Davos on 25 January morning attended New Asia Development Forum. In the afternoon, the Union Minister together with Director-General U Pe Zin Tun of the Energy Planning Department attended New Energy Architecture: Speeding up the Transition Forums exchanged views on the current reform process and challenges in the energy sector including should-do things with International Energy Ministers, high-ranking officers, CEOs and researchers, and then discussed supports for Myanmar energy sector’s reform process.

Union Minister U Than Hay held separate discussions on possibilities of making investments in Myanmar energy sector with Mr. Jin-Yong Cai, Vice-President & CEO, International Finance Corporation, Drs Harry Hendricks, Global Head, Royal Phillips Electronics, Netherland, Mr. Daniel Yargin, Chairman HIS Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Mr. Paolo Scaroni, CEO, ENI spa Energy Co Ltd, Italy, Mr. Roberto Bocca, Director, WEF Energy Team, U'/U Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung attended the Tourism Industry Forum held at Casanna meeting hall of the Congress Center on 25 January morning.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister together with Union Minister U Soe Thane took part in meeting six panels of Co-chair that are going to cooperate in holding World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 and the committee members of organizing the forum.

On 26 January morning, Union Minister U Htay Aung together with Union Minister U Soe Thane gave explanations about undertakings in the country and preparations for holding World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 at Asia Development Forum.
Moscow, 29 Jan—A Russian fishing vessel flipped over in the Sea of Japan off its far east Primorye Territory on Sunday, leaving 20 crewmembers missing, the Emergency Situations Ministry said.

The vessel Chance-101 was discovered 50 kilometers east of the town of Svetloye in the Sea of Japan at 3:20 pm (1120 GMT). “It was carrying a 30-member crew, among them 19 Russian nationals and 11 Indonesians,” the Interfax news agency quoted the ministry’s local branch as saying. A passing freight discovered a lifeboat carrying 10 crewmembers and saved them, the authorities said, adding 20 crewmembers, including 13 Russians and seven Indonesians, remained unaccounted for.

Four ships are searching for the missing crewmembers. Helicopters will join the rescue operation on Monday.

Xinhua

Russia set to start posthumous trial of whistleblower Magnitsky

Moscow, 29 Jan—Russia prepared to put whistleblowing lawyer Sergei Magnitsky on trial more than three years after his death, with a preliminary hearing set for Monday in a move relatives and rights groups called politically motivated and a travesty of justice.

Magnitsky’s death in a Moscow jail has harmed Russia’s image abroad and badly strained relations with the United States.

His mother and her lawyer said they refused to participate. “I think it is inhuman to try a dead man,” Magnitsky’s mother Natalya told Reuters by telephone. “This is not a court case but some kind of farce, and I will not take part in it.”

Magnitsky was 31 when he died after 358 days in jail on suspension of tax evasion and fraud, during which he said he was denied treatment as his health declined. The Kremlin’s own human rights council aired suspicions he was beaten to death. Russian authorities said the death of a heart attack, but his former employer, investment fund Hermitage Capital, says he was killed because he was investigating a $230 million theft by law enforcement and tax officials through fraudulent tax refunds.

Relatives and former colleagues including Hermitage owner William Browder, who also faces trial in absentia, say Magnitsky was investigated and jailed by some of the same mid-level officials he told authorities had defrauded the state.—Reuters

Israel using deadly force on unarmed protesters, watchdog says

Ramallah, 29 Jan—Israel is breaking its own rules of engagement by using deadly force to disperse unarmed Palestinian protesters in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli rights group B’Tselem reported on Monday.

Israeli forces have killed 56 people since 2005 in clashes with rock-throwing Palestinians, said B’Tselem, which accused the military of having “extensively and systematically violated” rules barring deadly retaliation for non-lethal assault.

“The Israeli military’s standing orders explicitly state that live ammunition may not be fired at stone-throwers,” it said.

In the past two weeks, Israeli forces have shot dead two Palestinians in unrest that Israeli officials said may foreshadow a third Palestinian uprising. Peace talks have been frozen since 2010 and Palestinian anger is running high against expanding Jewish settlement in the West Bank, captured along with East Jerusalem, Gaza and the Golan Heights in a 1967 war.

“The IDF does everything in its power to ensure that the use of riot dispersal means is done in accordance with the rules of engagement,” the IDF said in a written response sent to Reuters.—Reuters

85 medical research findings awarded in China

Beijing, 29 Jan—A total of 85 Chinese research findings in medical and health fields last year received by the country’s most authoritative scientific awards for their inventions in the field, Chinese Medical Association (CMA) announced on Sunday.

The Chinese Medical and Technology Award, approved by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2001 and set up by the CMA, was the highest annual award in the medical and health field.

Among the eight first prize winners was a minimally invasive treatment research and its clinical application for fracture, which will be qualified to pursue higher prizes such as the national awards for natural science or technological invention.

Twenty-five findings including the application of proteome in the treatment of some critical illness packed the second prize, with the rest being awarded the third prize.

Xinhua

New Light of Myanmar
Beijing probes restaurants in ancient temples

BEIJING, 29 Jan—Beijing authorities said on Tuesday they are investigating the legality of two high-class restaurants operating in two ancient temples in the capital.

The restaurants are houses in the Zhizhu and Songzhu temples of Beijing’s Dongcheng District. They have a history of 600 years and 300 years, respectively.

Zhao Jianming, a law enforcement official with the Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau, said investigations are ongoing into whether the commercial catering activities have been approved or not.

The two temples were included in Beijing’s list of cultural heritage protection sites in 1984. Under Chinese laws, such sites can not be used for businesses except with special approvals.

The bureau said recently that it plans to encourage non-government investment in the protection and restoration of the city’s historical architecture this year.

Nobel laureate Yamanaka gets Abe’s letter of appreciation for iPS research

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) holds the medal for the 2012 Nobel Prize in medicine won by Shinya Yamanaka (L) at the premier’s office in Tokyo on 13 Jan, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 29 Jan -- Prime Minister Shinzo Abe presented a letter of appreciation on Monday to Nobel laureate Shinya Yamanaka for his research on induced pluripotent stem cells, which has the potential to grow into any type of body tissue.

Handing the letter to Yamanaka, a Kyoto University professor and co-recipient of the 2012 Nobel Prize in medicine, at the premier’s office, Abe praised the scientist’s achievement as “national pride.”

The letter states that Yamanaka’s receiving the Nobel Prize is a great contribution to the development of science. It was issued after the government unveiled earlier this month a plan to spend 110 billion yen over the next decade to promote regenerative medicine using iPS cell technology. “It’s now our duty as researchers to (seriously) take this assistance and truly move forward (in iPS-related research),” Yamanaka told reporters after meeting the premier.

Ishiba responded, “We will do whatever we can,” during their meeting, which was partially open to the press.

Yamanaka received the 2012 Nobel Prize in medicine with Britain’s John Gurdon for discovering that mature cells can be reprogrammed into immature cells capable of turning into any kind of tissue of the body.—KYODO NEWS

Japan Airlines to start joint operations with Russia’s S7 Airlines

Vladivostok, 29 Jan — Russia, on 29 January Japan Airlines Co and Russia’s S7 Airlines will shortly start joint flight operations on routes linking Tokyo and two eastern Russian cities of Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, Russian sources said on Monday.

JAL will be selling seats on S7-operated flights on the routes operated from Wednesday, while S7 will be selling seats on five JAL-operated domestic flights from Narita International Airport, from 15 February. S7 uses Narita airport for its Tokyo services.

The two airlines are also planning “code-sharing” on JAL’s Tokyo-Moscow services as well as S7’s some other domestic flights in Russia, where the airlines sell seats on each other’s flights as their own by adding their own flight numbers.—KYODO NEWS

New Light of Myanmar

REGIONAL

Pakistan finds ancient Buddhist stupa in Khyber

ISLAMABAD, 29 Jan— Pakistani researchers have discovered a Buddhist stupa surrounded by statues in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Province dating back to the Gandhara civilization of 2,500 years ago, the provincial Department of Archaeology and Museums in Peshawar said on late Monday.

It said the stupa was discovered during excavations at Azz Dheri about 80 kilometres north of Islamabad which is already known as a major remnant of the Gandhara civilization that flourished along the Indus River. The site has been excavated intermittently since 1973, but only about 10 percent of the area has been worked on to date. The archeology department announced earlier this month that 400 statues of Buddha and around 2,000 coins from the Kushan period from 130 BC and the Greek period from about 336 BC have already been found at the site.

Special equipment accidents kill 292 in 2012

BEIJING, 29 Jan—Accidents involving special equipment, such as elevators and boilers, claimed 292 lives and injured 354 people in China last year, a government official said on Monday.

The death toll was down 2.67 percent from 2011, Fu Wenbiao, Deputy Director of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), said at a news briefing.

The country reported 228 cases of special equipment accidents last year, down 17.09 percent from 2011, Fu said. He attributed the causes to a lack of safety awareness, unspecified safety management responsibilities and illegal operations.

Fu added that AQSIQ has asked local authorities to strengthen checks over special equipment, including elevators, cable cars and entertainment facilities, to ensure public safety.—Xinhua

Abe to visit Okinawa possibly on Saturday for talks with Gov Nakaima

TOKYO, 29 Jan—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is planning to visit Okinawa possibly on Saturday for talks with Gov Hirokazu Nakaima on issues such as the stalled Japan-US plan to relocate a US Marine Corp’s Futenma Air Station within Okinawa before he travels to the United States in late February, the sources said.

The central government is considering applying for land reclamation in a coastal area in Okinawa Prefecture where the Futenma airfield is supposed to be relocated ahead of Abe’s US trip, now being arranged for 21 or 22 February, according to the sources.

However, Nakaima, whose permission is needed for reclamation in privately owned waters in the prefecture, remains cautious about giving his approval amid fierce debate among the people of Okinawa.

Abe and the governor are also expected to discuss the deployment of MV-22 Osprey transport aircraft at the Futenma base last October, which has sparked fresh opposition from local people due to its record of crashes.—KYODO NEWS

President Lee grants pardons to friend, close associates

President-elect Park Geun Hye raised objection to the pardons, saying through her spokesperson she is “negative about pardons at the end of the administration” and she is “strongly concerned” about pardoning those imprisoned for corruption.

Lee, who steps down after a five-year term, approved the pardons at a Cabinet meeting.

Park won last month’s presidential election and will become the country’s first female president.

S Korean President Lee grants pardons to friend, close associates

President Lee Myung Bak
**LDP to send junior lawmaker to “Takeshima Day” ceremony**

**Tokyo, 29 Jan**—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party plans to send a junior lawmaker to attend a ceremony next month commemorating the day the islands at the center of disputes with South Korea were incorporated as Japanese territory, an LDP executive said on Monday.

The South Korean-controlled pair of islands in the Sea of Japan are known in Japan as Dokdo and in South Korea as Takeshima. Japan's claims to the islets dates back to 1905, when the Senkaku Islands were declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel. Japan claims them Takeshima.

Shinjiro Koizumi, who is director of the LDP's Youth Division, had also attended last year’s event known as “Takeshima Day” on 22 February in the Shimane Prefecture city of Matsue.

Hiroyuki Hosoda, executive acting secretary general of the LDP who was elected from the Shimane No 1 constituency, is also considering attending the ceremony marking the incorporation of the rocky islands in the Sea of Japan on 22 February, 1905, the executive said. Japan’s claims to Shimane have control over the islands.

The LDP, headed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, promised in its campaign for the general election in December that the national government would host such a ceremony. —Kyodo News

**Execution of woman murderer to be first in US since 2010**

**Houston, 29 Jan**—A Texas woman convicted of killing and robbing her neighbor will be executed by lethal injection on Tuesday, the first woman to be put to death in the United States since 2010, local media reported on Monday.

A jury in Dallas, Texas, had found former nursing home therapist Kimberly McCarthy guilty of the gruesome killing of her 71-year-old neighbor, Dorothy Booth, on 21 July, 1997, according to the Houston Chronicle.

McCarthy, 51, allegedly entered Booth’s home in Lancaster, Texas, under the pretense of borrowing some sugar. She stabbed Booth five times, according to the Texas attorney general’s summary of the case. She also reportedly cut off Booth’s left ring finger in order to take her diamond ring, which was later pawned.

McCarthy was also believed to be responsible for two similar murders a decade earlier. In one murder, she used a meat tenderizer as a weapon and another used a claw hammer, according to the Attorney General’s summary. McCarthy’s execution would be the first since a Virginia inmate, Teresa Lewis, became the nation’s 12th woman put to death since capital punishment was reinstated by the Supreme Court in 1976. During the same period, 1,309 men have been executed, according to the report. —Xinhua

**Claims Day Notice MV Bangsrimuang VOY NO (113)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (113) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO. LTD.**

Phone No: 256916/256919

**Claims Day Notice MV Giang Hai II VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GIANG HAI II VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS RR SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**Claims Day Notice MV Modern Peak VOY NO (24)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MODERN PEAK VOY NO (24) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: NYK LINE**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Photo shows the base of a crane facility (R) under construction at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station that will be used to remove spent fuel from the pool of the No 4 reactor building (L) in Fukushima Prefecture on 28 Jan, 2013.—Kyodo News
Kung fu more than fighting: Tony Leung

LOS ANGELES, 29 Jan—Actor Tony Leung Chiu-Wai has told of his epiphany while preparing for his role in high-kicking new film “The Grandmaster” that kung fu is “more spiritual practice and way of life” than pure fighting. In the latest interview with Xinhua, Cannes award-winning Leung said he learned a lot about the spirit of kung fu and how to become a master of the martial art during years of preparation for this cinematic tale of Bruce Lee’s master, Yip Man.

“The greatest master is the one who understands life and who, after everything, stands here, still wearing a nice smile,” said Leung, who plays Yip, master of the martial art of Wing Chun. The movie, which debuted on the Chinese screen in early January, was directed by Hong Kong art-house director Wong Kar Wai, also Leung’s long-time collaborator. “As a child, I used to think only the police and evildoers learned martial arts. But when we really get to know it, it is an attitude and spirit that can guide us in dealing with people and affairs,” Leung said.

To ensure he got the best performance possible from his star, Wong Kar Wai invited Yip Man’s disciple Duncan Leung Siu Hung to not only train Tony Leung in Wing Chun but also tell him Yip Man’s stories. It requires more than reading the script to feel a master’s changing notions about martial arts, according to Leung — “It is important to practice kung fu myself to really become the character I am playing.”

Xinhua

Akshay Kumar to perform at Delhi-Punjab hockey match

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan — Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar will be present in the stands to watch Delhi-Punjab hockey match at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium.

According to sources, Akshay, who has already landed his support to the inaugural HIL, is likely to perform a small jig during the half time. Confirming the development, Hockey India secretary general and HIL chairman Narinder Batra said, “It is good that eminent personalities from varied fields are visiting stadiums across cities to watch the league in action.”

“The hockey has been sensational and informed Indian audiences have reacted positively. We have seen an upswing in stadium attendance across all five cities. We welcome Akshay Kumar with open arms. I am sure Delhiites will love to see him in action,” he said.

Akshay, an avid sport follower, is the latest celebrity to back the ongoing league, saying that the event has the potential to change the face of the sport. “I am a sportsperson by heart and it is good to see world class hockey action across cities in the country. I have seen some of the matches and loved what I saw,” he had said. “This league has the potential to change the face of hockey in the country. I will follow as many matches as I can and I think we will have here a recipe for a very successful property for years to come,” the actor added.

Meanwhile, according to information shared last week by official broadcaster STAR Sports, 1.46 crores viewers had tuned-in to watch first six matches of the five-team franchise-based event, making it the most successful league in hockey in the country till date. STAR Sports had already announced a promotional tie-up with Akshay for the first edition of HIL.

PTI

Katie Holmes heading to law school?

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan—Actress Katie Holmes reportedly wants to go to law school. The 34-year-old mother of one, who divorced husband Tom Cruise last year, is planning a career change away from acting, reported Showbiz Spy.

“Katie started acting when she was a teenager, and she’s grown tired of that world. She’s heard a keen interest in law while splitting from Tom Cruise, and now that the divorce is finalized, she has the time, the money and the opportunity to go to school. “More importantly, she wants to be a strong female role model for her daughter Suri. Katie’s father always wanted her to be a doctor, but he’s thrilled she’s decided to follow in his footsteps. They’re even considering going into practice together,” a source said.—PTI

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan—Abbas-Mustan’s Race 2 might have opened to mixed reviews, but the film seems to be minting money at the box office. The action thriller has managed to earn Rs 51.35 crore in its opening weekend. Made at Rs 60 crore, the film released across 3,200 screens. It went on to earn Rs 15.12 crore on Friday (25 Jan, 2013), Rs 20.72 crore on Saturday (26 Jan, 2013) and Rs 15.51 crore on Sunday (27 Jan, 2013). The movie is a sequel to the 2008 film Race. While Saif Ali Khan and Anil Kapoor reprise their roles, the new additions to the franchise are John Abraham, Deepika Padukone, Jacqueline Fernandez and Ameesha Patel.

PTI

Los Angeles, 29 Jan—Iran hostage drama “Argo” won its second big award in two days on Sunday, boosting its chances of winning a best picture Oscar next month in a race that had been considered wide open.

“As I can and I think we will follow as many match to make it the most successful league in hockey in the country. I will follow as many matches as I can and I think we have here a recipe for a very successful property for years to come,” the actor added.

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**MADRID, 29 Jan — Both FC Barcelona’s Leo Messi and Real Madrid’s Cristiano Ronaldo prepared for the Clasico on the Copa del Rey in the best possible style this weekend. Spain’s two historic rivals will play the first leg of their cup semi-final on Wednesday night in Madrid’s home ground. Ronaldo kicked off preparations on Sunday with a hat-trick as his side defeated Getafe 4-0 in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, while later in the day Messi went one better as he netted four goals in Barca’s 5-1 triumph at home to Osasuna.

Barca and Madrid have already met three times this season, with Madrid winning the SuperCup on away goals after losing 3-2 in the Camp Nou and winning 2-1 in the Bernabeu, while the side’s draw 2-2 in the Camp Nou earlier this season in the BBVA Primera Liga. Last season saw Barca knock Madrid out of the Cup and Ronaldo is clearly keen to beat Madrid’s bitter rivals. “It is a very important game for us and it is going to be very difficult,” he said in Monday’s edition of sports paper, Marca. “We are going to play against one of the toughest teams in the world, so it is going to be a great night. We are at home and we have a very good chance of winning, although we will have to play well, because we know Barca are a fantastic side.”

“I hope it will be a great night for us and we are all looking forward to playing our best,” he said. Expectation for the game is high among Real Madrid fans and with just 11,000 tickets remaining, the match will be a 78,000 sell out. Meanwhile Messi set a new record as he scored in his 11th consecutive league game: something nobody has done in Spain before. It is another record for the man who last year set a new record total of 91 goals in a calendar year, but Messi insists re-writing the record books is not his primary aim.

Xinhua

**WOODS triumphs by four shots at Torrey Pines**

**SAN DIEGO, 29 Jan — Tiger Woods withstood a late bogey, double-bogey, triple-bogey wobble in strengthening winds to end a week of dominant golf by clinching his 75th PGA Tour title by four shots at the Farmers Insurance Open on Monday. Six strokes in front overnight at 17 under with 11 holes to play in the fog-delayed final round, Woods kept his closest challengers at bay as he signed off with a level-par 72 on a cold, sun-splashed afternoon at Torrey Pines.**

The 14-times major champion briefly moved eight ahead before his unexpected stumble in increasingly difficult conditions over the four-hole stretch from the 14th but he parred the last to post a 14-under total of 274. Defending champion Brandt Snedeker dropped one shot in the five holes he had to complete on Monday, carding a 69 to tie for second with fellow American Josh Teater (69). “It got a little ugly toward the end,” Woods said greenside after removing his cap and raising both arms skywards to celebrate his seventh victory at the event.—Reuters

**US golfer Tiger Woods poses with a surfboard as one of his prices after winning the Farmers Insurance Open in San Diego, California on 28 Jan, 2013.—Reuters**

**FIFA warns Brazil against delays in World Cup preparations**

**BRASILIA, 29 Jan — With just 500 days to go until the 2014 World Cup kicks off in Brazil, soccer’s world governing body FIFA warned that the hosts cannot afford any further delays in getting their venues ready. The global soccer tournament, followed by the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro two years later, will test Brazil’s aspiration to become a developed nation. But delays in building stadiums and preparing hotels and airports to receive more than half a million soccer fans could turn the event into an embarrassment. In June Brazil will host the eight-nation Confederations Cup, a dress rehearsal for the World Cup.**

FIFA has twice agreed to push back the handover deadline of four of the six stadiums to be used in the Confederations Cup and FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke warned on Monday that there will be no further extension beyond the 15 April delivery date. “We cannot go beyond this date. There cannot be any further delays. All the stadiums must be ready by then,” Valcke said after inspecting work on the new Mane Garrincha stadium in Brasilia, where Japan play Brazil on 15 June in the opening game of the Confederations Cup.

Despite the warning, the giant Maracana stadium which will host the finals of both the Confederations Cup and the World Cup will not meet FIFA’s deadline as its owner, the state government of Rio, has already said it will not be ready until the end of May.

The Mane Garrincha stadium in Brasilia is 87 percent complete and builders are working round the clock to erect steel trestles that will hold up the roof covering 70,000 seats at the second largest of the 12 stadiums to be used in the World Cup.

The increase has United, England champions a record 19 times, comfortably ahead of the world’s second-most valuable sports team, the National Football League’s Dallas Cowboys, worth $2.1 billion.

Forbes put the surge in United shares down to brighter earnings prospects from new sponsorship deals and said the demand could continue given the team’s potential for lucrative payouts in the EPL and Champions League.—Reuters

**NEW ORLEANS, 29 Jan — San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick has dominated the headlines for getting his team to the Super Bowl but the 49ers chose outside linebacker Aldon Smith as their most valuable player. Head coach Jim Harbaugh revealed on Monday that second year Smith, who was second in the National Football League during the regular season with 19.5 sacks, was named most valuable player after a vote by the team’s players and coaches. There are so many great players on this team it really is an honour to get this award. To come here in my second year and get MVP, it means a lot to me,” Smith told reporters. Although Smith has not managed a sack in the last five games, Harbaugh said he remained a potent part of the team’s defense in many other ways. “Not having the sacks there — that low-hanging fruit that people see, they don’t always see the things Aldon’s doing so well. That’s why they voted him the most valuable player,” he said. Harbaugh highlighted Smith’s role in the comeback victory over the Atlanta Falcons in the NFC championship game as an example of his less noticeable work. “He got a game ball for his performance in the Falcons game, because he had a lot of pressures and hurried,” said Harbaugh.**

**Reuters**

**Man Utd world’s first team to top $3 billion in value: Forbes**

London, 29 Jan — English Premier League soccer club Manchester United are the world’s first professional sports team to be valued at more than $3 billion, according to Forbes Magazine. A recent surge in the club’s shares after a poor start when they were offered on the New York Stock Exchange last year has boosted Manchester United’s value to $3.3 billion, a report on Forbes’s website said on Monday.

Man United world’s first team to top $3 billion in value: Forbes

**San Francisco 49ers Aldon Smith arrives for the Inaugural National Football League Honours at Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis, Indiana, on 4 Feb, 2012.—Reuters**

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Twin car bombs kill 11 soldiers in south Yemen: officials

SANAA, 29 Jan.—At least 11 Yemeni soldiers were killed on Monday in two successive suicide car bomb attacks on the army in the southern city of Radda, local police officials said.
The suicide attacks came amid preparations by the Yemeni army to embark on a large ground offensive against a number of al-Qaeda strongholds in Radda city and neighbouring towns in the southeastern province of al-Bayda.

“The first suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into a military checkpoint near Aham military camp, killing at least five soldiers and injuring seven others,” according to an officer at al-Bayda’s security control operation room who spoke to Xinhua by phone on condition of anonymity.

“The second attack occurred a few minutes later and targeted another military checkpoint in the area of Dar Najd in Radda city, killing at least six soldiers and wounding nine others,” he said.

He also said that the attacks were carried out by “operatives of the al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).” The death toll could rise as many injured soldiers are in critical conditions and are receiving treatment now,” he said.

6.6-magnitude quake strikes eastern Kazakhstan

ASTANA, 29 Jan.—A 6.6-magnitude earthquake hit the southeastern region of Kazakhstan at 22:38 on Monday evening local time (16:38:53 GMT), according to the earthquake experimental group of the Scientific Committee of the country’s Education and Science Ministry.

There has been no report of casualties at press time. The epicentre was located 230 kilometres southeast of Kazakhstan’s largest city Almaty, with a depth of about 10 km. Residents in Almaty could feel buildings and windows shaking.

Some ran out to escape to the open area. After the first strong quake, there have been several smaller aftershocks. No casualties have been reported.

Earlier, the US Geological Survey measured the quake at 6.0 on the Richter scale. Almaty is located in a seismically active zone.—Xinhua

Afghan delegation discusses army training programme with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 29 Jan.—A six-member Afghan delegation led by Afghan Defence Minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi met on Monday with Pakistani officials.

The Afghan delegation was welcomed by Pakistan’s army chief, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, and discussed training of the Afghan National Army by Pakistan and other matters, a Press release by the Defence Ministry said.

“The two sides discussed matters of professional interest, with particular focus on enhancing mutual defence cooperation and measures that the Afghan army and the Pakistan army intend initiating for an enduring training relationship, it said.”

The Defence Ministry statement said that both sides also discussed a recently concluded border standing operation procedures aimed at improving existing security cooperation and intelligence sharing on both sides of the border. Pakistan had offered training to the Afghan army. However, the Afghan government had been reluctant to accept the offer because of Islamabad’s perceived close ties with Taliban.—Kyodo News

Hundreds stranded and three dead in Australia floods

CANBERRA, 29 Jan—Hundreds of people are stranded and at least 3 dead from floods in Australia’s northeastern state of Queensland.

A 27-year-old man was one of the fatalities. He was in his car when it was washed away.

Residents in the town of Bundaberg found more than 2,000 houses and buildings submerged. Firefighters in boats and helicopters rescued many people from rooftops.

Over 200,000 households and offices lost power. The state’s inhabitants experienced a cyclone bringing more than 500 millimeters of rainfall in the 24 hours leading up to Monday morning.

Rivers remained swollen from the heavy rain, raising concern about further flood damage.

Meteorologists have downgraded the south-moving cyclone to low-pressure status.

Australians are suffering drastic climate changes this summer. A recent heat wave this month brought temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius. Wildfires broke out across the country in more than 100 locations.—NHK

An Israeli army bulldozer uproots trees in the eastern Jerusalem’s Arab neighbourhood of Silwan on 28 Jan, 2013. Nine people were injured and seven arrested in Silwan after clashes broke out as Israeli forces demolished several structures on Monday.

Photo taken on 28 Jan, 2013, shows the Jit60SA, an experimental nuclear fusion device which the Japan Atomic Energy Agency and the European Union started assembling the same day, aiming at starting operation in 2019, at the agency’s research facility in Naka, Ibaraki Prefecture. Kyodo News
Vice-President
Dr Sai Mauk Kham
receives Thai NESAC Chairman

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Chairman of National Economic and Social Advisory Council of Thailand Mr Okas Teparakul and party at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this afternoon.

They frankly discussed strengthening of the existing friendship between the two countries, promotion of border trade, tourism and sharing of experiences of the existing friendship discussed strengthening this afternoon.

Credentials Hall of the Teparakul and party at Presidential Palace here of Thailand Mr Okas Teparakul and party at of Thailand Mr Okas Teparakul and party at.

Union Industry Minister visits manufacturing plant projects in Myingyan

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Union Industry Minister visits manufacturing plant projects in Myingyan, Mandalay Region. The plant is being equipped to manufacture steel billets and slabs, H beams and I beams, steel sheets ERW pipes, rails, angles and channels and galvanizing towers.

The Union Industry Minister visited No. 1 Steel Plant (Myingyan) near U Aye Myint visited No. 1 Steel Plant (Myingyan) near U Aye Myint near U Aye Myint near U Aye Myint.

The project being implemented by Heavy Industry No. 1 will provide different sizes of axles for all transportation vehicles with production capacity of 5000 sets of axles per year. The Union minister visited Industrial Training Center (Myingyan) under construction with the assistance of India also near Kokke Village. The training center accepts 200 trainees a year, offering eight engineering subjects.

Currently Industry Ministry has opened industrial training schools in Sinte, Mandalay, Thagara, Magway and Pakokku with the assistance of Germany, China, Korea, and India.—MNA

Vice-President
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Inlay Lake, candidate for World Heritage Parks

Natural scenic beauties are located in the waters and on the land of Myanmar. Inlay Lake is one of the plentiful natural beauties of the nation. As Inlay Lake is one of tourist destinations across the nation, conservation is being undertaken for natural beauties and environment. At present, efforts are being made to put the Inlay Lake in the list of World Heritage Parks.

“Inlay Lake is the list of World Heritage Parks. So, we are making arrangements to coordinate with the UNESCO so as to carry out technological works. We plan to achieve success in enlisting the lake,” said an official of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry recently.

A plan is underway to coordinate technological requirements with UNESCO and Norway-based Nordic World Heritage Foundation to be able to put the Inlay Lake in the list.

In addition, Forest Department and UN HABITAT prepare a plan for long-term existence of Inlay Lake. The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry adopted a plan to extend the term of conserving the lake in cooperation with UNDP.

Inlay Lake is situated at an altitude of above 2900 feet, in Nyaungshwe township of Taunggyi district in Shan State. The lake is 44.9 square miles deep in maximum. In the rainy season, the deepest area of the lake is 17 feet.

Especially, the lake is home to various species of biodiversities, over 20 species of snakes and nine endangered species of fish. Therefore, environmental conservation is being undertaken at the lake and its surrounding areas as rare species of plants grow there. As of 2000 year, a five year plan is being implemented for conservation of forests, water, soil and birds in 20-mile radius of Inlay Lake.

By Ayon Oo

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Bo Bo (Srixon), Yin Aung Latt (Srixon) and Aung Win (Srixon) were leading in the professional golfers division, with 69 each, followed by Kyaw Thiha (KM Golf Centre), Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon), Nay Bala Win (I Win Golf Academy) and Aung Min Win (I Win Golf Academy) with 68 each, Naing Naing Lin (Srixon), Nay Bala Win Myint (Srixon), Hla Myo (I Win Golf Academy) and Zaw Min Oo (I Win Golf Academy) in the third position with 71 each. In the amateur division, Hla Myo Aung stood first with 68, Chit Min Hsan second with 69 and Zin Min Thu third with 70.—NLM

IBTC Open Golf Championship kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Organized by Myanmar Golfers Federation and MyanmarPGA, the Myanmar Golf Tour-2013 IBTC Open Golf Championship, with sponsorship of IBTC Group of Companies was kicked off at Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club in Mingaladon Township today.

Patron of MGF Maj Gen Win Hlaing (Rtd), Vice-President U Aung Kyi of MGF, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar PGA, U Ko Ko Lay and Executive Director U Tin Oo of IBTC Group of Companies teed off the championship.

After the first round, Bo Bo (Srixon), Yin Aung Latt (Srixon) and Aung Win (Srixon) were leading in the professional golfers division, with 69 each, followed by Kyaw Thiha (KM Golf Centre), Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon), Nay Bala Win Myint (Srixon), Hla Myo (I Win Golf Academy) and Zaw Min Oo (I Win Golf Academy) in the third position with 71 each. In the amateur division, Hla Myo Aung stood first with 68, Chit Min Hsan second with 69 and Zin Min Thu third with 70.—NLM

Myanmar, American practitioners to meet on

YANGON, 29 Jan—Myanmar generalists and visiting American practitioners will hold talks over terminally ill patient and family, the Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) at 12.30 pm on 31 January, 2013.

The MMA has invited those who are interested in the topics to attend the talks.

The talks is organized by the General Practitioners’ Society of the MMA.—NLM

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