7th ASEAN Para Games in Myanmar concludes in great success

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Jan—Today is a proud day for the host Myanmar as the seventh ASEAN Para Games held from 15 to 20 January concluded in a great success today.

The closing ceremony of the 7th ASEAN Para Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Sport Complex this evening, attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the Union ministers, parliamentarians, members of the leadership committee for holding the Games, the ASEAN ambassadors, the president of ASEAN Para Sports Federation and officials, managers, coaches and athletes, media persons, Liaison Officers and Volunteer Officers and guests.

Before the closing ceremony, entertainment programs were presented. Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 7th ASEAN Para Games Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan gave an account of the Games. Next, the Vice-President expressed his delight for witnessing the self-respect, self-confidence and self-reliance of over 1500 athletes during the games. The disabled athletes showed their diligence, spirit and meaning of the essence of life individually and the capabilities had brought the amazing days to audience including him, the Vice-President said.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun announced the closing of the 7th ASEAN Para Games. The flame at the main torch was extinguished shortly after firework displays marked the closing ceremony. Then, the ceremony proceeded with lowering the flags of the State and ASEAN Para Sports Federation and raising the flag of Singapore that will host the 8th ASEAN Para Games in 2015.

The Union sports minister handed over the federation flag to the representative of Singapore. The closing ceremony came to an end with a dance performed by more than 2000 entertainers and performances of vocalists and movie stars.

Press conference on IEE and EIA reports and EMP drawing on 25 Jan

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Jan—The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has arranged to hold a press conference on initial environmental evaluation (IEE) and environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports and environmental management plan (EMP) drawing related to investment sectors and business firms, at the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (Head Office) on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township, Yangon from 9 am to 12 pm on 25 January.

Any one may attend the conference.—MNA

HMAS CHILDERS calls at MITT Port

Yangon, 20 Jan—War vessel HMAS CHILDERS from Australian Navy arrived at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa-MITT Jetty of Thanlyin, here, this morning.

Acting Commander of No.1 Major War Vessel Group Cdr Aye Min Htwe, Australian Defence Attaché Captain DUDLEYT RAN and servicemen from Defence Services (Navy) welcomed the war vessel. Three officers led by Commanding Officer LCDR C. Brought, RAN and 24 other ranks of the war vessel on boarded.

The war vessel will be there till 24 January. The calls of war vessels from neighbouring countries frequently can promote bilateral ties, mutual trust and cooperation between the countries.

MNA
K 40 million donated to fund for construction of religious buildings

WUNDWIN, 20 Jan—A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for renovation of ancient monastery, ancient pagodas, refectory and meditation buildings was held at Layhtet monastery in Naypyidaw Model Village of Wundwin Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Region on 19 January.

Wellwisher U Han Tha-Daw Myint Myint Kyi (Retired Assistant Director of Ministry of Culture) of Pyitthaungtaung Saw Mill of Paunglaung Ward of Pyinmana donated K 40 million to the fund through members of the monastery board of trustees.

Abbot Bhaddanta

Literary Day in Tatkon

TATKON, 20 Jan—To commemorate the 69th Literary Day, literary awarding ceremony and literary talks took place at Sasana Beikmantawgyi in Tatkon on 17 January.

Secretary writer Nyan Linn of Township Writers Association read out a signboard of anti-human trafficking was held in front of Mongphyat Basic Education High School on 16 January. Eye patients from 20 wards of the township received free eye care services from specialists. Head of Township Health Department Dr Ohmma Myint and staff and members of social level officials viewed the health care services. Among 264 patients who received medical treatment, 23 patients were referred to Eye Specialist Hospital.—MMAL-Aung Than (Myakaungmyan) Tatkon

Traffic Police Corps, World Vision (Myanmar) and Law Office of Tachilek Township gave lectures on anti-human trafficking in villages of the township and explained human trafficking, human smuggling, sexual exploitation, rights of child, traffic rules and criminal cases.

MMAL-Myint Mo (Tachilek)

Suspect arrested for loss of jewellery in Nay Pyi Taw

NAI PYI TAW, 20 Jan—A suspect in jewellery burglary worth K 12.22 million was arrested within a day in Bawgathikdi Ward, Zabuthiri Township, here, yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police of Zabuthiri Police Station No.3 arrested the suspect Thein Pe Myint, 29, of Nyaunglebin Township together with the evidences in his motorbike yesterday afternoon.

The suspect is a helper of the complainant and he burglarized the jewellery in the house.

Kyaw Thu (Nay Pyi Taw)
UN chief invites Iran to Geneva 2, Syria opposition threat draws in case

CAIRO, 20 Jan — A South Korean trade official was kidnapped in an Islamist attack on a hotel in the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

The South Korean trade official had been invited by the Libyan government to attend talks in support of the UN-backed political process.

The attack took place during a five-day visit to Libya by a delegation from South Korea.

The South Korean embassy in Tripoli confirmed that the official, who had been invited to attend the meeting, was kidnapped.

The embassy said it was working with Libyan authorities to ensure the safety of the official and the other South Koreans in the country.

S Korea trade official kidnapped in Libya

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Islamist group claims Volgograd attacks, threatens Olympics

MOSCOW, 20 Jan — An Islamic militant group said in a video posted online that it was behind two suicide bombings that killed at least 34 people last month in the Russian city of Volgograd, and threatened to attack the Sochi Winter Olympics. In a warning to President Vladimir Putin over next month’s Games, a man says in Russian to the video: “If you hold the Olympics you will receive a present from us … for you and all those tourists who will come over.”

“Will be for all the Muslim blood that is shed every day around the world – be it in Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria, all around the world. This will be our revenge,” he says. The video says two men called Salehman and Abdurakhman carried out the Volgograd attacks on behalf of a group known as Vilayat Dagestan and linked to an Iraqi faction called Ansar al-Sunnah. Dagestan is in Russia’s North Caucasus, where militants are waging an insurgency to create an Islamic state. Doku Umarov, a militant leader, has urged the insurgents to attack the Games in Sochi, which lies on the western edge of the Caucasus mountains.

Reuters

13 killed as suicide bomber hits in Rawalpindi, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 20 Jan — At least 13 people were killed and over 20 others injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up near a police check post jointly owned by police and Pakistan army on Monday morning, officials said.

Haroon Joya, Superintendent police, said that a teenager suicide bomber riding a bicycle blew himself up near the middle of Royal Artillery Bazar, located around 500 meters away from the General Headquarters of Pakistan army in Rawalpindi, the sister city of Pakistan’s capital Islamabad. He said that six security personnel and seven civilians including a woman and two school kids were among the killed, while the injured included security personnel and school kids who were passing by the blast site.

Police said that they found leg of the suicide bomber with a black shoe from the blast site. According to initial reports the bomber was carrying an estimated 5-8 kg of explosives which were used in the blast. The injured have been shifted to District Hospital and Military Hospital where several of them were said to be in critical condition.

Shortly after the blast, Shahid Ulah Shahid, spokesperson of Pakistan Talibain, claimed responsibility for the blast saying that they would keep on targeting security forces in the future. He said they are targeting and would target forces in response to the ongoing operation in the country’s tribal areas, and killing of their leader Wali ur Rehman.

This is the second attack on the security forces over the last 24 hours, earlier on Sunday morning, 23 troops were killed and over 30 others injured when a suicide bomber hit an army convoy in northwest Pakistan.

Following the blast, both Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Mamnoon Hussain condemned the blast and directed hospital administration to provide best possible medical facilities to the injured people.

—Xinhua

Islamist rebels reject ‘hollow’ Syria peace talks

BEIRUT, 20 Jan — A powerful alliance of Syrian Islamist rebels rejected upcoming peace talks on Sunday, meaning that even if the talks reach an unlikely agreement, it would be hard to implement it on the ground.

Syria’s main political opposition group in exile, the National Coalition, agreed on Saturday to attend the talks beginning on Wednesday in Geneva, setting the first meeting between President Bashar al-Assad’s government and its foes.

But the Islamic Front, an alliance of several Islamist fighting forces that represents a large portion of the rebels on the ground, said on Sunday it rejected the talks.

Syria’s future would be “formulated here on the ground of heroism, and signed with blood on the front lines, not in hollow conferences attended by those who don’t even represent themselves,” Abu Omar, a leading member of the Islamic Front, said on his Twitter account.

Some 130,000 people have been killed and a quartet of Syrians driven from their homes in the civil war, which began with peaceful protests against 40 years of Assad family rule and has descended into a sectarian conflict, with the opposing sides armed and funded by Sunni Arab states and Shi’ite Iran.

In what appeared to be a symbolic conciliatory move ahead of the talks, Syria permitted some aid to reach a besieged suburb of Damascus on Saturday and Sunday, state media said.

Saturday’s shipment included only 200 food parcels for Yarmouk, a camp of Palestinian refugees where 15 people have died of malnutrition so far under a seven-month siege. UN Relief Works Agency spokesman Chris Gunness said it would feed just 330 of the camp’s 18,000 residents for a month. It was not immediately clear how much aid made it through on Sunday.

—Reuters

New exam-free policy attracts HK students to mainland

BEIJING, 20 Jan — Hong Kong student Huen Chak-wing never imagined his interest in traditional Chinese medicine could develop into a career until he received an admissions letter from Beijing University of Chinese Medicine last summer.

If I had stayed in Hong Kong, I probably would have had to change my major to medicine because there are few universities offering classes in Chinese medicine, and opportunities for clinical practice are also rare,” Huen said on Friday after finishing his first semester at the university.

Thanks to the exam-free policy, adopted by the Ministry of Education in 2012, Huen and 25 other Hong Kong secondary school graduates enrolled at the university without taking the Joint Entrance Examination, previously mandatory for students from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao.

The exam-free admissions policy has made universities on the Chinese mainland attractive destinations for Hong Kong students. Hong Kong students interested in enrolling in college on the mainland can apply directly to as many as 75 universities using their results from the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination.

The policy was inspired by then vice-premier Li Keqiang’s call to boost academic exchanges between Hong Kong and the mainland, a proposal Li made during his visit to the University of Hong Kong in August 2011.

The policy will attract more students to the mainland while relieving the admission pressure in Hong Kong, said Zheng Meng, deputy director of the Education Ministry’s office of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

Of the 73,000-plus final-year students who took the HKDSE in 2013, only about 26,000 scored high enough for Hong Kong university admission, according to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Wu Wai-yun, who was admitted to China University of Political Science and Law last year through the new policy, said subjects like math in the previous JEE exam, based on the mainland’s high school curriculum, were much more difficult for Hong Kong students.

However, mainland universities still require Hong Kong students’ HKDSE results to meet minimum standards, and officials arrange admission interviews to assess students’ academic backgrounds and their ability to adapt to a new environment.

—Xinhua
Canada PM on debut visit to Israel eyeing closer ties

Jerusalem, 20 Jan — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper landed in Israel on Sunday afternoon for a four-day visit to the country to meet with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Air Force Authority’s spokesperson confirmed to Xinhua.

Harper and his wife as well as a large entourage of cabinet ministers including a senator and three Canadian business executives were welcomed in the Tel Aviv Airport by the Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and Canada’s ambassador to Israel Vivian Bercovici.

According to an announcement by the Canadian cabinet spokesperson Jason MacDonald, Harper’s first trip to Israel will focus on cooperation in various fields between the two countries, especially economic cooperation, and the status of the peace talks with the Palestinians.

Harper will be given an official welcome ceremony at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office on Sunday evening, and Netanyahu and his wife will later host a dinner for the Canadian prime minister at the Prime Minister's official residence in Jerusalem.

On Monday, he will speak in front of the Israeli parliament (Knesset) and on Tuesday he plans to meet with Israeli President Shimon Peres. Later in the day a joint meeting of Canadian and Israeli ministers will take place in Jerusalem.

Reports indicate that Harper plans to meet with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and will still visit neighboring Jordan and meet with Jordanian King Abdullah II.

Xinhua

European court ruling belongs to legal arena

Sarajevo, 20 Jan — The European Human Rights Court ruling should be dealt with by legal experts, instead of politicians of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), said two appellants on Sunday whose action led to the ruling.

Dato Sejdic and Jakob Finci, the two appellants, said the ruling is “a simply” legal issue which should not be moved to political arena, reported Fena, the Federal News Agency of BiH. The two launched an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights on the basis that BiH’s Constitution violates the European Convention on Human Rights.

Under the Constitution of BiH, the presidency, which consists of three members, can only come from three constituent peoples: one Bosniak and one Croat elected from the Federation of BiH and one Serb elected from RS.

The European Court of Human Rights passed a ruling in favor of Sejdic and Finci in September, reported Fena. The European Union has made the adoption of the ruling as a precondition for BiH to join the bloc.

The issue should be solved long ago by legal experts, according to Sejdic and Finci.

Xinhua

White House threatens sanctions against Ukraine

Washington, 20 Jan — The White House threatened on Sunday to slap sanctions on Ukraine “in response to its use of violence” against protesters.

“The US will continue to consider additional steps — including sanctions — in response to the use of violence,” National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement. “We are deeply concerned by the violence taking place today on the streets of Kiev and urge all sides to immediately de-escalate the situation,” she added.

According to Ukraine’s media reports, the demonstrators have tried to overturn one police car and torched another interior forces vehicle, which met with strong resistance from the police.

No casualties in the clashes have been officially confirmed so far. Ukrainian police has opened a criminal case into the incident. The latest wave of protests came after the Ukrainian parliament approved a legislation on Thursday, banning some type of demonstrations. The bill is widely seen as “anti-protests law” and has sparked public criticism.

“The increasing tension in Ukraine is a direct consequence of the government failing to acknowledge the legitimate grievances of its people,” Hayden said, urging the government to repeal the bill, withdraw the riot police from Kiev, and start a dialogue with the opposition.

In his first response to the violence, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych said on his website late Sunday that he has tasked a working group, headed by national security council chief Andriy Klyuyev to “consider the issues regarding the settlement of political crisis.” — Xinhua

FAO to boost efforts to improve food security in Somalia

NAIROBI, 20 Jan — The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will spend approximately 120 million US dollars in Somalia in 2014 in order to improve the nation’s food security, the UN food agency’s local representative told Xinhua. Speaking to Xinhua late Saturday, Luca Alinovi said the funds will be used to support the livestock, fisheries and agricultural sectors of the Horn of Africa nation.

“We want to ensure that Somalia is resilient so that if it can prevent the re-occurrence of famine,” Alinovi said on the sidelines of a Somali investment conference. The one-day event brought the private sector, government, donor officials to examine opportunities in the private sector in Somalia. He said Somalia has one of the largest livestock sectors in Africa, despite decades of civil strife.

“It has a stock of between 15 to 20 million livestock consisting mainly of goats, sheep and camel,” he said. Somalis exports approximately five million live animals to the Gulf nations annually, “the country representative said. Somalia is also a major importer of wheat, sugar, maize, potato and sorghum.

The Horn of Africa nation has massive marine resources but the country’s fishing industry remains largely underdeveloped and its fisheries unexploited. This is partly due to decades of conflict and piracy on the high seas, and partly because fish does not form part of the traditional Somali diet. Consecutive droughts have affected the country in the last few years while the ongoing conflict has made it extremely difficult for aid agencies to operate and access communities in the south.

The combination of the massive scale-up in humanitarian assistance and an exceptional harvest has helped to improve the humanitarian situation in Somalia where famine conditions are no longer present. But any significant interruption to assistance would reverse the gains made since famine was declared in July 2011.

The country is still emerging from a food security crisis following the drought and famine of 2011 that left many thousands dead. Alinovi said his organization is currently constructing slaughterhouses in Somalia. He noted that Somalia’s domestic livestock market has not been fully exploited. “We want to encourage producers to develop the local market,” he said. The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)’s Poverty Reduction and Environmental Protection (PREP) Programme Manager in Somalia Jonathan Brooks said that private sector development is crucial in order to stimulate livelihoods in Somalia.

Xinhua

British Queen likely to gradually “shift” royal duties to heirs

London, 20 Jan — British Queen Elizabeth II is said to begin sharing some of the monarch’s duties with her son Prince Charles, as the latter is set to stand in for his mother in a growing number of official activities, a British newspaper reported on Sunday. The 66-year-old Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, will accompany the 88-year-old Queen to France to commemorate the “70th anniversary of the Allies’ landings in Normandy in 1944, and attend some of the ‘key engagements’ in place of his mother, according to a front-page report by the Sunday Times.

The move shows the two will “move towards what is in effect a job-share,” the report said. The press offices of the Queen and Prince Charles are to be merged, with the new office to be run by the Prince’s staff, further signaling Prince Charles will assume more royal responsibility, according to the report. Last year, Prince Charles accompanied the Queen to attend the state opening of British parliament in May and represented his mother at the 60th anniversary of the Queen’s Coronation. He also took the lead at a meeting of Government meeting in Colombo of Sri Lanka in November.

Xinhua

Migrant workers from east China’s Jiangxi Province start their homeward motorcycle journey, on 19 Jan, 2014. Many migrant workers in the province choose motorcycle as the means of transport when they return to their hometowns for family reunion during the Spring Festival. — Xinhua

A resident takes part during the Citizen’s Fair in the framework of the 7th anniversary of the government of Ecuador’s President Rafael Correa, in Sucua, Morona Santiago Province, Ecuador, on 15 Jan, 2014. The Ecuadorian government implemented the citizen’s fairs to inform the public in a practical way on various services offered by the ministries of the State. —Xinhua

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**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Consortium upgrading Panama Canal says won’t immediately halt work**

**PANAMA CITY/MADRID**—20 Jan.—A consortium of construction companies, led by Spain’s Sacyr SCM, backed down on Sunday from a threat to immediately halt work expanding the Panama Canal in a dispute over cost overruns, but said it could still do so at a later date. The consortium, known as Grupo Unidos por el Canal (GUPC), had threatened to suspend work by Monday, 20 January unless the Panama Canal Authority (PCA) paid $1.6 billion in cost overruns. The authority has rejected that demand and asked GUPC to withdraw the threat of suspension. But with neither side backing down, and with Monday’s deadline looming, it had seemed a fait accompli in one of the world’s largest construction projects was inevitable, until the consortium clarified its position on Sunday. “GUPC does not necessarily have to make any change in the status of the project tomorrow,” the consortium said in a statement. However, the threat that construction could stop has not yet dissipated, with the consortium adding that a letter sent on December 30 demanding payment for cost overruns gave it the right to suspend work at any time from January 21 onwards. The consortium is set to meet with the PCA and insurers Zurich North America on Tuesday to discuss the status of the work, including its $600 million bond on the $3.12 billion locks project, the most difficult part of the expansion. Canal Administrator Jorge Quijano has said the PCA is already in discussions with other third-party contractors in case it cannot resolve its dispute with the GUPC. He estimated the remaining work would cost about $1.5 billion. GUPC—which also includes Italy’s Salini Impregilo SPA (SALLMI), Belgium’s Jan De Nul and Constructora Urbana from Panama—won the contract to build a third set of locks for the century-old canal in 2009. The canal authority has said it is willing to consider detailed claims for the overruns through arbitration. Sacyr’s chairman, Manuel Manrique, said at a press conference last week in Madrid that the dispute will not have a significant impact on the company’s earnings and is not putting its solvency at risk. The canal is one of the world’s most important shipping routes. The entire project was due to cost about $5.25 billion, but the overruns could bump that up to nearly $7.5 billion.

**SFO granted extra funds to probe Rolls-Royce corruption case**

**BANGALORE, 20 Jan.—**The Serious Fraud Office has received additional funding from the UK Treasury in its probe of alleged bribery and corruption by defense group Rolls-Royce (RRL) in China and Indonesia, the Financial Times reported, citing sources. The Serious Fraud Office and the UK Treasury declined a comment on the story. The Treasury has agreed to so-called blockbuster funding “in the low millions” of pounds for the SFO’s probe, people familiar with the matter told the newspaper on Sunday. The Financial Times said that the secret funding could explain why the SFO made the surprise announcement before Christmas that it was re-opening its interest in Rolls-Royce to an official criminal probe. Rolls Royce, the world’s second-largest maker of aircraft, in December last year confirmed SFO’s investigation in the matter. Tommy Safari, the youngest son of Indonesia’s late president, in November 2013 denied allegations that he received any bribes from Rolls-Royce. Allegations of corruption are a new defense and aerospace industry, in which companies commonly use individuals or companies as intermediaries in countries where they do not have a large presence. BAE Systems (BAES.L), Europe’s biggest defense company, was fined $450 million by the United States and Britain in 2010, following long-running corruption investigations at home and abroad into defense deals in Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Hungary. —Reuters

**Warburg Pincus buys stake in European ETF provider**

**NEW YORK, 20 Jan.—**US private equity firm Warburg Pincus has bought a majority stake in a European exchange traded fund provider, in a deal that will give the asset manager new funds to expand offerings and grow through acquisitions, the Financial Times reported on Sunday. Warburg Pincus purchased the stake in Source Global Advisors from a group of banks that included Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs, according to the report that valued the investment at about $300 million.—Reuters

**Biocon to start selling breast cancer drug in India in February**

**MUMBAI, 20 Jan.—**Biocon Ltd said its generic version of Roche’s Herceptin breast cancer treatment would be available to patients in India from the first week of February. Bangalore-based Biocon jointly developed bi-similar trastuzumab, which received the Indian drug regulator’s marketing approval in November, with US-based Mylan Inc. About 150,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer every year in India, of which 25 percent are eligible for treatment with trastuzumab, Biocon said. Roche decided not to pursue a patent application for its breast cancer drug Herceptin in India, paving the way for generic drugmakers to produce cheaper copies, known as biosimilars because they are not identical to the original drug. Global sales for Herceptin were valued at about $6.4 billion in 2012, including about $21 million in India, Biocon said.—Reuters

**A consumer (R) consults with a sales rep from a real estate company in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 30 Sept, 2013. XINHUA**

**China’s GDP up 7.7 pct in 2013**

**BEIJING, 20 Jan.—**China’s economy grew 7.7 percent year on year in 2013, the same as 2012 and beating the government’s target of 7.5 percent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday. Last year, gross domestic product (GDP) reached $6.88 trillion yuan (931 trillion US dollars). The economy’s fourth-quarter growth also stood at 7.7 percent. “China’s economic performance stabilized in 2013,” said Ma Jianzhang, director of the NBS at a press conference, citing encouraging GDP and job data as well as subdued inflation. The Chinese government defined the “upper and lower limits” of the reasonable range of economic performance in 2013 at 7.5 percent. With a GDP growth rate of 7.5 percent, the “lower limit” is intended to ensure steady expansion and employment, and with the consumer price index at around 3.5 percent, the “upper limit” is meant to prevent inflation. Figures showed that China created more than 10 million new jobs in 2013 and inflation came in at 2.6 percent for the whole year. Xinhua
Closing ceremony of 7th ASEAN Para Games in progress.—MNA
The fastest way to physical fitness

Many people know that running or jogging is a good exercise as renowned health societies even suggest that jogging and other types of aerobic exercise can reduce the risk of lung, colon, breast, and prostate cancers, among others. While running on a treadmill will provide health benefits such as cancer prevention, and aid in weight loss, a study of an international health organization reports that jogging outdoors can have the additional benefits of increased energy and concentration. Jogging outdoors is a better way to improve energy levels and advance mood than using a treadmill at the gym.

Moreover, outdoor running will also provide an excellent variety of scenery, routes, and terrain, but will cause added strain on our knees and hips (the very front part of our lower legs). But how do we start this excellent exercise. First we need a pair of running shoes. And if necessary, we should visit a store that specializes in running equipment for advice.

Any store that carries proper running shoes will also carry proper running attire. We must know the level of commitment that we are comfortable with and the amount of time and energy we want to use for running.

No matter what our goal is we need to start small, slow, and build up. Moreover, it will be more enjoyable if we can find a friend who also wants to get in shape, and start jogging together. So, running can be a great way to get in shape and stay fit. It is by far one of the simplest (and cheapest) sports available, can be done anytime of the day, any day of the year, and is the fastest way to physical fitness.

Myanmar, Norway to cooperate in environmental conservation

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Norwegian Ambassador Ms Ann Ollestad at his office today.

Their discussions focused on cooperation in environmental conservation, development of forestry sector, protection of biodiversity, especially in development of Inlay Lake and betterment of social economy of national people residing around the lake, conservation of water resources, development of ecotourism industry and enhancement of technology, expertise and human resources between Myanmar and Norway.—MNA

Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

In accordance with the prescribed terms of the Sangha Organizations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders is to be held at the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) on Sri Mangala Kaba Aye Hilllock, Yangon, Myanmar from 20 to 21 January 2014. The meeting will be attended by 300 members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and 111 members of the State Sangha Ovadaçaṭiyara (Patrons) representing all member Sanghas throughout the country.

The main objectives of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are to deepen even more efforts for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of Theravada Buddhist Sasana throughout the world. It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders have already been made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and authorities concerned.

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are heartily pleased and honoured for successfully holding the Sixth Great Buddhist Council in the Buddhist world.

It was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able to unite and implement the noble task of purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able to unite and implement the noble task of purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. In reality, all members of the Sangha and devotees want the everlasting unity of the Sangha of All Orders. They firmly believe that it only becomes possible to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha, Himself urged the members of the Sangha to unite in order to carry out His teachings.

In fact, the main objectives of holding the First Great Buddhist Council (Synod) through the Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) were to purify, perpetuate, propagate and preserve the Buddha Sasana. Although altogether Six Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held, it was found that different schools and sects still appeared. They were not united and they parted from each other. Because of different schools and sects, many unwise views (Adhammavadas) were which then were inscribed on stone slabs. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) was also successfully held at the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) on Sri Mangala Kaba Aye Hilllock, Yangon, Myanmar in 1954 (2498 Buddhist Era), and it was attended by 2500 venerable elders (Mahatheras) from the Five Theravada Buddhist Nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar led by the most Venerable Bhaddanta Revata of Myanmar, and they confirmed to rectify and verify the sacred scriptures which were later put into print. The Buddhist peoples from those Theravada Buddhist Nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar were heartily pleased and honoured for successfully holding the Sixth Great Buddhist Council in the Buddhist world.

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Enactment of anti-money laundering ...

(from page 16)

A proposal urging the Union government to carry out a long-term national plan for formation of a national level organization consists of ministries, NGOs, INGOs and scholars to respond impact of climate change, fund designation and exchange of information in coordination with international organizations for the interest of the State and people, and that two Hluttaw representatives seconded the proposal. Regarding the proposal, Deputy Minister for Transport U Zin Yaw replied that National Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, National Natural Disaster Preparedness Management Work Committee and eleven subcommittees had already been formed. K 100 billion were allowed in Union Budget Allocation Law for 2013-2014 fiscal year for natural disasters and other emergency issues in Myanmar.

Being a member of ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, Myanmar is carrying out exchange of information and data in collaboration with NGOs and INGOs in ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management and United Nations Environment Programme.

Hluttaw announced not to approve the proposal as a majority was not in favour of the proposal.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives lecturer of Oxford University

NAV PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received Stipendiary Lecturer in Faculty of Law from Oxford University Mr Andrew McLeod and party at the Hluttaw Building, here, today. They cordially discussed process of 2008 constitution review committee, suggestions of social organizations and in persons, assistance of Oxford University for development of library, academic and research of Law Department at Yangon University.

1st International Health Partner & Steering Committee meet in Geneva

NAV PYI TAW, 20 Jan—The 1st International Health Partner & Steering Committee Meeting was held in Geneva of Switzerland on 15-16 January.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung chaired the meeting. He made clarification on progress of Myanmar reforms in administrative machinery, economic and social sectors, providing public health care services, uplifting hospitals, promotion of traditional medicine, supervision of food and drug products, follow-up plans of the Ministry of Health and cooperation with international organizations.

Including international organizations and UN, WHO and World Bank led the committee in 2007 with a view to ensuring development of health care services in developing countries. Myanmar joined the committee in 2014. The Committee has thirty-five member countries to cooperate in developing health sector.

Training course for executive management of Myanmar civil service-2014 starts

UCSB Chairman U Kyaw Thu extends greetings at training course.

MYANNA ALINN

NAV PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Organized by the Union Civil Services Board in collaboration with Sakawaka Peace Foundation of Japan (SPF), a training course for executive management of Myanmar civil service-2014 was opened at Nga Laik Kan Tha Garden & Resort here this morning. UCSB Chairman U Kyaw Thu extended greetings. A total of 15 senior officers are taking the course that runs up during 20-24 January.—Myanma Alinn

7th ASEAN Para Games ...

(from page 1)

Host Myanmar stood fifth at the medal tally of the Games, winning 34 gold, 26 silver and 36 bronze medals while Indonesia was at the top, grabbing 96 gold, 82 silver and 70 bronze medals, followed by Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint and party attending the closing of the 7th ASEAN Para Games.—MNA

Coordination with experts ...

(from page 16)

16 villages in Pindaya and Ywangan Townships will be implemented through JICA ODA loans in 2014-2015 FY. He confirmed that most of the points stated in the 24-point agreement signed by rural electrification committees will be erased and amendments acceptable to all made as soon as possible.

Next, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin submitted Ambassadors’ Bill to the Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee member read out the report on the Bill.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win poses for documentary photo with General Saravach Butwong, Director of Neighbouring Countries Coordinating Center from Royal Thai Armed Forces.(News on page 16)—MNA

7th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders Meeting held

YANGON, 20 Jan—Meeting of 7th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Mandalay Bhimo Monastery Sayadaw Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Ratthika Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhdanda Kumarabhivamsa presided over the meeting.

The Sayadaws supplicatd on purpose of holding fifth all orders Sangha meeting, date and numbers of the Sayadaws for fifth all orders Sangha meeting, duty assignment for organizing committee for holding meeting, amendment of basic principles for Sangha organizations and duty assignment for amendment committee. The meeting was attended by the Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint, Deputy Minister U Soe Win and departmental officials.—MNA

A total of 34 gold, 26 silver and 36 bronze medals were won by Myanmar. Malaysia with 24 gold, 33 silver and 29 bronze medals won second, Indonesia third with 20 gold, 30 silver and 28 bronze medals, followed by Thailand with 10 gold, 16 silver and 22 bronze medals. Myanmar ranked fifth among the 10 countries with medals and points received.

By means of JICA ODA loans, a total of $ 19 million will be provided to the Myanmar government for the reconstruction of electricity networks and power plants in 16 villages in Pindaya and Ywangan Townships. The loans will be implemented in 2014-2015 FY.

Immediately following the 7th ASEAN Para Games, the 7th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders Meeting was held in Mandalay Bhamo today.

Eighth ASEAN Para Games were held in Pindaya and Ywangan during 14-18 September and 31 October to 4 November, respectively.

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Vice-Senior General Soe Win poses for documentary photo with General Saravach Butwong, Director of Neighbouring Countries Coordinating Center from Royal Thai Armed Forces.(News on page 16)—MNA
33rd Lahu national New Year Festival observed in Kengtung

KENGUTNG, 20 Jan.—The office of Lahu literature and cultural troupe was held in conjunction with the Lahu National New Year Festival in Hwekha Village of Mongzin Village-tract in Kengtung Township on 18 January.

Transformer moved before cutting out of 66 KV national grid

Yezagyo, 20 Jan.—With a view to ensuring maintenance of 66 KV national grid linking Kyunchaung sub-power station along Kyunchaung-Pakokku-Pakhangyi line, the 500 KVA transformer in the compound of Township Electrical Engineer Office was moved to the load centre area by electricians supervised by Township Electrical Engineer U Hla Myo on 18 January.

The move of the transformer is aimed at supplying electricity to the local people at full capacity when the power grid is being cut off.

MMAL-Pe Tun Zaw

National Objectives of 67th Anniversary Union Day 2014

- For all the national races to cultivate the Union Spirit to perpetuate the Union
- 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

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

White Heart Blood Donor Association gives Hepatitis B vaccine

LAYMYETHNA, 20 Jan.—White Heart Blood Donor Association donated Hepatitis B vaccine at the hall of Basic Education High School in Laymyethna of Ayeyawady Region on 18 January.

Chairman and responsible persons of the association, township level officials and townselders totalling over 300 attended the ceremony.

The chairman of the association explained the purpose of donation and aim of giving vaccination to members of Myat Karuna blood donors association. They vaccinated 209 blood donors. It was sponsored by U Nay Win-Daw Khin Thin Lwin and family (Yangon).

MMAL-Thiha (Laymyethna)

Traffic Police distribute pamphlets on traffic rules

Nyaunglebin, 20 Jan.—SIP San Yu of Nyaunglebin Township Traffic Police Corps No 3 and local policemen distributed pamphlets on traffic rules for vehicles and pedestrians in Nyaunglebin of Bago Region on 19 January morning.

They gave talks on traffic rules and wearing of helmets for motorcycle riders.

Traffic police presented pamphlets to the local people.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

TRAFFIC KNOWLEDGE

Meeting held to spend K 100 million fund

BHAMO, 20 Jan.—K 100 million was allotted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to carrying out regional development tasks in Bhamo Township of Kachin State.

The Township Development Committee meeting was held at the hall of the town on 18 January.

Vice-chairman of the Township Development Work Committee U Tun Shin made a speech, and Secretary U Kyaw Swe explained 56 tasks of rural development in wards and villages of the township. The chairman of Township Development Supportive Committee, secretary and officials present took part in the meeting.

The fund will be spent on 20 water supply tasks, two water tank construction tasks, 18 rural bridge construction tasks, two education buildings, nine school desk construction tasks, one toilet construction, construction of four health buildings tasks totalling 56.

The meeting decided to implement the projects of construction and maintenance tasks as of 20 January.—MMAL-Hsimeekhon Nan Yi

Developmen

Electricians in works to move transformer to load centre of the township.
Gov’t downplays re-election of mayor against US base relocation

Tokyo, 20 Jan — Cabinet ministers expressed confidence on Monday about making progress on the stalled relocation of a US Marine base in Okinawa Prefecture, despite Sunday’s reelection of a mayor opposed to transferring the base to his city.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga described the outcome of the election as “very disappointing,” but said Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine can do little to block the construction of a replacement facility for the base after the required local approval was given by Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima.

Although Nago residents delivered an effective “no” vote to the plan to move the Futenma Air Station to their city’s coast, Suga said, “The central and local governments are on the same page that the plan is the only solution to removing the danger of keeping the Futenma base (in its current location in a densely populated area) while maintaining deterrence.”

“We will continue to seek local support,” the top government spokesman said at a press conference.

In Sunday’s election, a de facto local referendum on the Japan-US base transfer plan, Inamine secured a second term, defeating pro-relocation candidate Bunshin Suematsu. The defeat of Suematsu, who was endorsed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party, poses a potential setback for the plan, which has been stalled for more than a decade due to strong local opposition in Okinawa.

Under a 1996 bilateral agreement, the US Marines’ Futenma Air Station will be relocated from Ginowan to an offshore airstrip to be built in Nago.

“We hope to make steady progress on the relocation plan in order to eliminate risks posed by Futenma,” Defence Minister Itsuno Onderea told reporters. In Nago, however, Inamine vowed to fight the relocation plan, saying that voters rejected the use of “intimidation” by the Abe government.

“I will follow through on my pledge to resist any attempts to build a military base in the sea or on land in Nago,” Inamine said. He also criticized Gov. Nakaima for saying shortly before the re-election that the mayor cannot do anything about it.

On Sunday night, the governor said, “Nothing can be done (to block the construction) because (the required) approval has already been given” last month by Nakaima himself.


Thailand considers state of emergency after weekend violence

Bangkok, 20 Jan — Thai authorities are “very seriously” considering a state of emergency after a weekend of violence in the capital where protesters have been trying for more than two months to bring down the government, the security chief said on Monday. Though the size of the demonstrations has declined, protesters have managed to shut down some government offices.

“We’re prepared to use the emergency decree... Everyone involved including the police, the military and the government is considering this option very seriously but has not yet come to an agreement,” National Security Council chief Parndon Wittayarat told Reuters after a meeting with Yingluck.

“The protesters have said they will close various government offices. So far their closures have been symbolic, they go to government offices and then they leave. But if their tactics change and they close banks or government offices permanently then the chance for unrest increases and we will have to invoke this law,” he said.

The emergency decree gives security agencies broader powers to impose curfews, detain suspects without charge, censor media, ban political gatherings of more than five people and declare parts of the country off limits. One man was killed and dozens of people were wounded, some seriously, when grenades were thrown at anti-government protesters in the city centre on Friday and Sunday.

“I think these attacks have been designed to provoke an army reaction,” said Paul Chambers, director of research at the Institute of Southeast Asian Affairs in Chiang Mai, predicting a measured increase in the violence. That in turn could prompt the Election Commission to refuse to oversee the February 2 election called by Yingluck and which the main opposition has said it will boycott, he said.


Tropical depression Agaton claims 40 lives in southern Philippines

Manila, 20 Jan — Tropical depression Agaton, which inflicted southern and central Philippines, has killed 40 people, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) disclosed on Sunday. Five were reported missing, three in southern Province of Compostela Valley and one each from Zamboanga del Norte and Davao Oriental. Also 65 were injured from the calamity, said NDRRMC Executive Director and concurrent Office of Civil Defence Administrator Eduardo del Rosario. A mong the 40 fatalities, nine died in Davao Oriental Province, eight were killed in neighboring Compostela Valley province, Del Rosario said. The Province of Dinagat Islands had seven deaths, Agusan del Sur had five, Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Norte tallied three fatalities apiece, Misamis Occidental had two deaths, while Davao del Norte, Zamboanga del Norte, and Misamis Oriental had one each.

More than 587,115 persons have been affected, the NDRRMC said.

“Tropical depression Agaton was classified as a tropical storm last night, and stronger than the one that hit the Philippines on 7 December,” said Del Rosario.

“Almost 190,000 households were left in need of assistance, and nearly 1,000 schools have been closed,” he said.

The initial cost of damage in 436 evacuation centres was estimated at 28 billion pesos (6.97 million US dollars) in Naga, while Davao del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Caraga alone, he said.

According to Basuki Rahmat, head of management section at the Jakarta disaster agency office, “The number of those displaced is 63,956 people so far, they take shelters at 297 spots,” Rahmat told Xinhua by phone. Though the water began to recede slightly on Monday, heavy downpours was still on and off and the authorities have warned the residents to keep in vigilant as heavier rain is foreseen to keep deluging the city in days to come, he said.

“Please have warned the people, particularly those in shelters to be on alert as the meteorology agency forecasts more heavier rain to come down this week,” said Rahmat.

He said that eight people have so far died from drowning and being electrocuted. Jakarta has been suffering from the floods since 14 January, which put the city under murky and brown waters since then.

Officials said that the floods are yet to rise as strong as that of on 17 Jan, 2013, the highest in five years and paralyzed the government and business sectors.

8 killed, evacuees reach 60,000 as floods persist in Jakarta, Indonesia

Jakarta, 20 Jan — Widespread flooding affecting Indonesian capital of Jakarta killed eight people and forced over 60,000 others to escape the waters as of Monday, as heavy downpours keep deluging the city, official said.

The heavy rain overnight pushed more residents to wade through flooded streets, clutching their belongings, some other used rubber dinghies to make their way to safer evacuation camps that are mainly housed in office buildings, school buildings, erected tents, and mosques, according to Basuki Rahmat, head of management section at the Jakarta disaster agency office. “The number of those displaced is 63,956 people so far, they take shelters at 297 spots,” Rahmat told Xinhua by phone. Though the water began to recede slightly on Monday, heavy downpours was still on and off and the authorities have warned the residents to keep in vigilant as heavier rain is foreseen to keep deluging the city in days to come, he said.

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A total of 22 Chinese teachers will be sent to schools in several Indian cities such as New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, etc. for teaching Chinese and to improve the educational exchanges between India and China. — Reuters

Xinhua

Tourists pose for photos by the side of Yamzho Yumco Lake in Shannan Prefecture, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, Jan. 19, 2014. Yamzho Yumco Lake, considered as one of the three sacred lakes in Tibet, is a good choice of travel destination in winter.— Xinhua

Antigovernment protesters sleep in front of a coffee shop in central Bangkok on 20 Jan, 2014. — Reuters

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during the ruling Liberal Democratic Party’s convention in Tokyo on 19 Jan, 2014. — Kyodo News

New Light of Myanmar REGIOnAL

Tuesday, 21 January, 2014

11

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Cholera outbreak in Nigeria’s northern state under control

LAGOS, 20 Jan — Nigeria’s northwest Kano state government on Sunday said cholera outbreak, which killed at least 71 people in the state, has been under control.

The outbreak of the disease was completely under control with drastic reduction of victims across the state, said the Commissioner for Health, Abubakar Labaran.

Labaran stressed the commitment of the state government to enlighten the populace on the importance of healthy growth of children under the age of five.

According to him, all was now set for the commencement of polio immunization and other child diseases in the state.

He told reporters that enough vaccines had already been distributed across the 44 local governments of the state.

The commissioner stressed the need for parents, religious leaders and other health providers to redouble efforts towards public enlightenment on the importance of oral polio vaccine to children under five years old. An official from Nigeria’s Centre for Disease Control has said that more than 2,000 cases had been recorded in the affected areas in the past two months.

Cholera is an acute intestinal infection that causes severe vomiting and diarrhea, which can lead to serious dehydration and prove fatal if not properly treated.

Greek stores open on Sunday for first time in winter sales

ATHENS, 20 Jan — Greek retail stores opened on Sunday for the first time during winter sales to boost consumption, but only with tepid signs for revenues.

People poured into main shopping streets in central Athens and other major cities, peered window displays, but few were shopping despite 50 and 60 percent discounts.

For decades, stores in Greece remained closed on Sundays, except for the two working Sundays before Christmas and New Year holidays.

In November, the government introduced a pilot program to boost competitiveness and spur consumer spending in the recession-hit economy. Now Greeks are able to shop at stores seven Sundays during the year. “It is very pleasant to see so many people out in the streets having fun and shopping,” said a shop owner of a fashion boutique at coffee shops.

“I think shop owners will also be content with the outcome, since there is traffic in their stores,” said Elisavet Lazarotou, who was enjoying Sunday shopping with her husband in Ermou street near the parliament.

Anna Kotzampasi, an owner of a fashion boutique near Syntagma square, believes this programme will help the market.

“If this happens once a month, for me it is not an issue. It is good for my profit. But, no more than that, as it is very tiring,” she told Xinhua.

“My opinion, this is an option for the people who cannot go shopping all the other days. In addition, on Sundays they hang out at coffee shops and eateries anyway, why not combine their shopping also?” she added.

But according to first estimates, the numbers were not as expected and customers were quite reserved with their purchases during the premiere of Sunday shopping for 2014.

“For another time, Sunday revenue did not make an impression, as it didn’t make a difference from the previous days. For their personal purchases, customers wait to get paid first from their work or get their pension at the end of the month and then shop,” Vassilis Korkidis, President of the National Confederation of Hellenic Commerce (EEE), said.

The first week of winter sales, which began on Monday and last until the end of February, was at the same level as last year with encouraging signs of improvement. Although it’s very soon to make conclusions, Korkidis added.
De Niro casts spotlight on works of his artist father at Sundance

Park City, (Utah), 20 Jan — Robert De Niro may be best known as an Oscar-winning actor, but in a new documentary he takes on the role of a devoted son as he spotlights his own artist father, Robert Sr, for his influential but not well-known works in the New York City abstract expressionist art movement.

De Niro, 70, who won Oscars for his lead role in “Raging Bull” and his supporting turn in “The Godfather: Part II”, attended the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on Sunday to premiere “Remembering the Artist Robert De Niro, Sr.”, a HBO documentary about his father, who emerged alongside contemporaries including Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning.

Robert Sr grew up in a conservative Italian-American family in New York and married fellow artist Virginia Admiral, with whom he had one child, De Niro. The marriage did not last very long and the couple made an amicable split.

Abstract expressionism came about in post—World War II and was the first notable American artistic movement to define a stylistic era. While Robert Sr’s works emerged during that time period, his style was not described as abstract expressionist but instead as figurist, often depicting still life “in simple set-ups with no pretension,” as described in the half-hour documentary.

Robert Sr strived to achieve the success of some of his contemporaries throughout his career and worked hard to hone his own craft and style.

He became increasingly disconnected from the abstract expressionist movement, inspired more by early 20th century French artists such as George Roux, Pierre Bonnard and Henri Matisse. Robert Sr’s works was another thing that wasn’t enough for him, and his own style as you see was always the same. It varied some but not a lot,” he added.

Alia Bhatt: Will become a singer if I fail as an actress

Mumbai, 20 Jan — Alia Bhatt, who has lent her voice to a song in her upcoming film Highway, says if she fails as an actress, she will turn to singing.

When director Imtiaz Ali asked her to croon a number in Highway, she jumped at the idea. “I am not a singer, I think I am capable of doing it,” she said. “If I was asked to sing when I was excited and thought of trying it (singing) out. A R Rahman sir was very patient with me. If I fail as an actress, I will become a singer,” Alia told reporters here last night at the film’s promotional event.

When the team of Highway was travelling since it is a road movie, Alia would often sing Rahman’s song Jiya Re Jiya. That’s when Imtiaz thought of exploring her singing talent.

Music maestro A R Rahman told her to practice and if she learned singing for two years, she could have her album. According to Alia has crooned a song for Highway.

Emma Watson not concerned about boyfriend’s reputation

Los Angeles, 20 Jan — Harry Potter star Emma Watson is reportedly not worried about her new boyfriend Matthew Janney’s reputation as a ladies man.

The 23-year-old actress started dating the rugby-playing British hunk since splitting with long term boyfriend Will Adamowicz, and is ignoring her friends’ warnings that he is could break her heart.

Bruce Springsteen grabs top spot in Britain’s album chart

London, 20 Jan — US singer Bruce Springsteen snatched top spot in Britain’s album chart on Sunday for the 10th time with “High Hopes”, pushing British singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding’s “Halycon” into second place, the Official Charts Company said.

“High Hopes” is a follow-up to his 2012 album “Wrecking Ball”, which also debuted at number one, and sees Rage Against The Machine guitarist Tom Morello join the Boss’s regular backing group, the E Street Band.

In the singles chart, US singer-songwriter Pharrell Williams took top spot for a third week with “Happy”, which has notched up more than half a million sales since its release in November.

The track, which features in the soundtrack to the animated film “Despicable Me 2”, achieved sales of nearly 118,000 copies in the past week, the Official Charts Company said, its best weekly performance to date.

Elyar Fox, an 18-year-old Londoner, went straight into the chart at number five with “Do It All Over Again”.

The song was the first Top 40 hit from a singer who has been dubbed Britain’s answer to Justin Bieber, the Official Charts Company said.
It was the first hat-trick from the 32-year-old since he moved to England last year from Russia’s Anzhi Makhachkala where he was the world’s highest paid player, according to media reports.

Mourinho, who has previously expressed frustration at the shortage of goals from Chelsea’s strikers, said Spain international Fernando Torres faced “weeks” on the sidelines after hurting a knee ligament shortly after replacing Eto’o as a late substitute.

The Portuguese coach, who recorded his 100th Premier League win, said he selected Eto’o over Torres, who scored in both of Chelsea’s previous two league games, because he felt the Cameroonian was more suited to the kind of tight game that United would play.—Reuters

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Mansfield United manager David Moyes said United started as the underdogs but were in the first 20 or 25 minutes and be losing,” the Scot said.

“It’s a massive challenge. I’d hoped we would be in a better position but we’re not,” Moyes told reporters.

“So the challenge is there for me. But I think that if you’re a football person, it’s a great one to have. I’m really looking forward to it.”

Although United are 14 points adrift of leaders Arsenal after 22 matches, Moyes was not giving up hope of retaining the title.

“We won’t do is throw the towel in until we can’t get there. The job is to try and finish first,” he said, batting aside suggestions that United are in crisis lying seventh in the table.

“There’s no clever answers except trying to win the next game,” he said.

Moyes lamented his team’s poor finishing after they wasted early chances and the careless defending that allowed Chelsea striker Samuel Eto’o to score a hat-trick. Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho sympathised with his opposite number, saying United started as the stronger side.

“It’s hard for them to try and finish first,” he said.

“Of course I love it when one of my players becomes a special player in the match,” Mourinho told reporters after Chelsea’s 3-1 win left the London side just two points behind leaders Arsenal and United 14 points adrift of the top spot. “It’s a fantastic moment for Samuel. He scored a hat-trick and against Manchester United.”

Eto’o boosted his overall goal tally to eight for the season so far with two strikes in the first half and a third in the second, showing the kind of lethal finishing that United sorely lacked despite creating a string of chances.

“I watched that match, it was a great match for Ana, but this was a little bit of a different story,” Cibulkova said in a court-side interview.

“The most important thing was that I went on the court and I was 100 percent sure I could win this match. I wasn’t doubting myself.”

Cibulkova was doing exactly the right things,” Cibulkova added. “The most important thing is to believe in yourself.”

The Belarusian appeared to ignore Stephens’ apology and repaid the American with a similar shot shortly afterwards. Azarenka then controlled the match from the baseline and waited for the 20-year-old to make errors, wrapping up the win in 91 minutes.—Reuters
US envoy Kennedy expresses concern about Japanese dolphin hunt

Tokyo, 20 Jan — US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy has expressed concern on Twitter about dolphin hunting at a town in western Japan.

“Deeply concerned by inhumaneness of drive hunt dolphin killing. USG (the US government) opposes dolphin killing. USG runs, was all at sea as the visitors beheld their lovely league position by racing into a 2-0 lead by swiftly countering Liverpool through the middle of the park. Gerrard was switched back to a more attacking role with the introduction of defensive midfielder Lucas at halftime and secured a draw from the penalty spot in the second half after striker Luis Suarez was brought down in the area. “I think because of the change, I expect people to talk about it,” the skipper told the club’s official website (www.liverpoolfc.com). “I’ve played attacking midfield for more than 10 years, so for me to drop back and become more of a controlling player, people are naturally going to talk about it.” “It didn’t work today. I hope that doesn’t mean it won’t work moving forward in future fixtures. We’ll have to wait and see what the manager decides to do.” Rodgers remained steadfast in his belief that Gerrard could play the role, even though the failed experiment resulted in his side dropping eight points behind leaders Arsenal. “Probably across the board we were not very good,” the Liverpool manager was quoted as saying by British media on Monday, “Myself included.” “We never got the control in midfield against their diamond and could not build our play, so the need had to change the structure of the team.” “But there is absolutely no question Steven can play the role and I don’t regard it as a setback, not at all. “It is a mark of his identity as a player that he could influence the game in that offensive area. It just shows his importance to the team, his value and his influence in the game. “In other words, we have not been able to control and dominate games and at times this season we have had to be flexible and adaptable in our play. You have to give credit to the players in that they did that and got something from the game.” “The player that arguably had the greatest influence was Lucas, the only defensive midfielder in the squad, but his match was reduced to a 20 minute cameo after he went off injured with a knee problem. “The Brazilian left Anfield on crutches, according to British media, meaning Gerrard is likely to continue in the role unless Rodgers can get reinforcements in the January transfer window. “Liverpool face second-tier Bournemouth in FA Cup fourth round action on Saturday before they host Everton in an eagerly anticipated Merseyside derby on 28 January. “Everton’s possession game is likely to cause Liverpool problems if they persist with just Gerrard as the sole deep-lying midfielder. “I, personally, struggled in there for 45 minutes,” the skipper said.
Coordination with experts ongoing to ensure effective taxation system promoting taxpayers’ willingness to pay

**NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan**—Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung responded to the question raised by U Myint Soe of Pyaywawse constituency that coordination with experts is being undertaken to ensure an effective taxation system promoting the willingness of taxpayers to pay tax at the today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session. Amendment and enactment of the laws, bylaws and regulations are high priorities and arrangements are being made to establish a data centre at Internal Revenue Department and to initiate a taxpayer identification numbering system used internationally, he added.

While answering the two questions regarding rural electrification, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Tha Htwe called for coordination between the Department for Water Resources Utilization and consumers to scrutinize whether there is a balance between production and consumption of electricity and to address the problem of financial losses in sub-power stations. It is required to hold separate talks between the region government and the departments concerned for supply of electricity to villages within a two-mile radius of the power lines, he added. He continued that rural electrification project for (See page 9)

Enactment of anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism bills urgently needed in Myanmar

**NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan**—Although no immediate plan to provide allowances to respectable members of respective election subcommittees arrangement is being made to coordinate with Hluttaw committees and departments concerned to enact a law for provision of decent allowances to them, said Member of Union Election Commission U Myint Naing in his response to question from them whether there is a plan or not to provide decent salary or allowance to respectable members of respective election subcommittees raised by MP U Sai San Min of Shan State Constituency No (3) at Amyotha Hluttaw session today.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun submitted Anti-Terrorism Bill, saying that Myanmar needs to enact a law to safeguard the interest of the State and people. He also stressed the importance of effective control, pragmatic implementation and transparency on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism. He continued enactment of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism bills before February 2014 is urgently needed in Myanmar.

U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constitution No (6) submitted (See page 9)

Meeting on Development of ASEAN Library Conference-2014 held

**NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan**—A meeting on development of ASEAN Library Conference-2014 took place at National Library (Nay Pyi Taw), here, on 17 January, attended by Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu.

The Union Minister said that three topics—professional development towards digital library environment, preservation of library materials and community-based library activities—will be discussed at the Development of ASEAN Library Conference-2014 in Mingalai Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 and 4 February. The conference will be held in accord with the theme: “Libraries for Society.”

Those interested are invited to attend the Development of ASEAN Library Conference-2014. Registration form and schedule for the conference are available at National Libraries (Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon).

Registration forms are to be sent back to the libraries not later than 21 January. For further information, dial 01-662470 (National Library in Yangon) and 067-408384 (Historical Research Department and National Library in Nay Pyi Taw) or email: libraryforum2014@gmail.com.

**Press Conference held in Dekkhinathiri Tsp**

**NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan**—A Press Conference on 7th ASEAN Para Games took place at Zabuthiri Hotel in Dekkhinathiri Township, here, today.

President of the Myanmar Paralympics Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin and President of ASEAN Para Sports Federation Dato Zainal Abu Zain explained Para Games of ASEAN and Myanmar and replied to questions of media men. With the theme of “Friendship, Equality, Unity”, Malaysia held the 1st ASEAN Para Games in 2001. At 7th ASEAN Para Games in Myanmar, Indonesia stood first, Thailand second, Malaysia third, Vietnam fourth and Myanmar fifth.—MNA

Officials exchange gifts at Press Conference on 7th ASEAN Para Games. —KYAW THURA (NAY PYI TAW)

Myanmar, Thai soldiers meet

**NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan**—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received General Suravach Butrwong, Director of Neighbouring Countries Coordination Centre from Royal Thai Armed Forces and party at Zeyathiri Beikman here at 10 am today.

The meeting focused on further strengthening relations between the two armed forces.

It was also attended by senior military officers of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army). The delegation was accompanied by military officers of Royal Thai Armed Forces and Defence and Army Attaché Colonel Salawin Uttarak—Myawaddy

**2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum-MDCF on 27, 28 Jan**

**NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan**—Leading Committee for holding 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum-MDCF held its second meeting at Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here today.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Soe Than stressed the need for discussing not only for the country but also for the region.

Union Minister U Hla Tun called for collaborative efforts for development of the country as it lagged behind other countries in terms of capital and technology. Participants of the meeting discussed the preparations for the 2nd conference. The 2nd conference will be held on 27 and 28 January at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2.

Development partner countries, non-governmental organizations, social organizations and UN agencies will participate in the conference.

The theme of the conference is “Accelerating Actions for Progress Through Enhancing Inclusive Coordination”.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office (Order No. 2/2014)

5th Waning of Pyatho, 1375 ME (20 January 2014)

Appointment of member of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union

Under Sections 327 and 332 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Dr Thida Oo has been appointed as member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.

Sd’/Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum-MDCF in progress at National Planning and Economic Development Ministry.—MNA

2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum-MDCF in progress at National Planning and Economic Development Ministry.—MNA