Accelerating Actions for Progress through Enhancing Inclusive Coordination

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 January—The 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum concluded today and the Joint Statement between the Government of Myanmar and Development Partners was issued. The full text of the joint statement is as follows:

Joint Statement by The Government of Myanmar and Development Partners

On 27-28 January 2014, Myanmar’s development stakeholders participated in the 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum under the theme of “Accelerating Actions for Progress through Enhancing Inclusive Coordination”.

Those present included the Government of Myanmar, Members of Parliament, international development partners, and representatives of civil society, the private sector and academia.

The Government of Myanmar and development partners welcome the MDCF as a key platform for in-depth policy dialogue and as a constructive mechanism to discuss Myanmar’s development successes, challenges and opportunities.

During the 2nd MDCF we discussed strategies for future progress, the peace process, Myanmar’s reform agenda and issues of aid effectiveness. The focus throughout was on the frank exchange of views and identification of lessons learned and next steps needed to better support Myanmar’s continued transition toward becoming an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and prosperous country. In coming together, those present recognised their strong, mutual will and collective vision to support Myanmar along this journey.

While Government and development partners acknowledged the significant progress that has been made since the 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum, continued success will require a renewed commitment by all. Development assistance in Myanmar will work most effectively when all citizens, including (See page 8)

WB to help develop agriculture sector

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Mr Paavo Eliste, Leader of Reference Mission from the World Bank held talks on the development agriculture in Myanmar at the ministry here this morning.

At the meeting, they had cordially discussion on WB’s assistance plans for ensuring development of agriculture sector and poverty alleviation in Myanmar, and formation of organizations to coordinate matters for the successful implementation of the work plans.—MNA

Cement bricks marketable in Saw Township

UN Security Council urges end to ransom payments to extremists

Kachin State, on right track of development with momentum

Bago Region Fisheries Department releases fingerlings to Wagadok Dam

German business morale hits top level in 2-1/2 years

SDF paramedics to be given greater treatment discretion in emergencies

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**Thanlyin, 28 Jan—** Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai handed over one fire truck to Namti Village-tract through officials.

In Langwa Village, he inspected water supply tasks being undertaken by Myinzutha Co funded by Rural Development Department.

On arrival at Mogaung, the Chief Minister met local people and attended to the needs of communications, education, health, livelihoods and farmlands matters.

He looked into progress of two-storey RC building and maintenance of Mogaung-Namti-Myitkyina Road.

In meeting with the local people at Namti BEHS and Mogaung Hall, the Chief Minister said that not only the state government but UN, INGOs, NGOs and wellwishers fulfilled the requirement of food, education, health and IDPs. At a time when the State restore peace and stability, the local people can enjoy fruits of development. Restoring peace is national concern.

In conclusion, the Chief Minister called on the people to point right way to their children to be free from narcotic drugs.

Kyemon-State IPRD

**Construction tasks in Thayetchaung Tsp inspected**

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Kyemon-State IPRD

**All round development of students encouraged**

Yangon, 28 Jan—Headmaster U Paw Oo and teachers together with School Board of Trustees and parents supervised all-round development of students at No. 11 Basic Education Primary School in Ward 12 of Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District.

Thanks to their tripartite concerted efforts and assistance of Basic Education Department, the school uturns out outstanding students yearly.

Teachers provide not only lessons but also general knowledge to the students.

Kyemon-Min Htet Paing

**Pensioners Association of Toungoo holds AGM**

Toungoo, 28 Jan—Toungoo Township’s Pensioners Association of Bago Region held the 65th annual general meeting at No. 2 Basic Education High School in Toungoo on 25 January.

Chairman of the association Major Ye Aung (Rtd) made a speech. Vice-Chairman-2 U Tin Oo read the executive committee report, Auditor U Tin Ngwe the audit report and Secretary U Soe Myint Kyaw financial report.

The meeting elected the new executive committee with Major Ye Aung (Rtd) as Chairman together with Vice-Chairman-1 U Saw Htay (retired Assistant Director of General Administration Department), Vice-Chairman-2 U Tin Oo (retired Manager of Beverages Trading), Secretary U Toe Win (retired Sgt), Joint Secretary U Soe Myint Kyaw (retired head of Cooperative Department) and Auditor U Tin Ngwe (retired supervisor of Public Works) totalling 28.

The meeting adopted the future tasks.

Kyemon-U Kyaw Hla (Toungoo)
UN Security Council urges end to ransom payments to extremists

United Nations, 28 Jan — The UN Security Council urged countries on Monday to stop the pay- ment of kidnap ransoms to extremist groups like al-Qaeda, which have earned hundreds of millions of dollars from such crimes. Although states are already required not to pay kidnap ransoms under an anti-ter- rorism resolution adopted in 2001, the British-drafted resolution was designed to increase political pressure on countries not to pay ran- soms. The resolution cre- ates no new legal obliga- tions.

“We estimate that in the last three and a half years, al-Qaeda-affiliated and other Islamist extrem- ist groups have collected at least $105 million,” British UN Ambassador Mark Ly- all Grant told reporters. “It is therefore imperative that we take steps to ensure that kidnap for ransom is no longer perceived as a lucrative business model and that we eliminate it as a source of terrorist financ- ing,” he said. “We need to break that cycle.”

The United States has estimated militant groups have received $120 mil- lion over the past decade, including ransoms paid to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. The United States and Britain do not pay ransoms, but some European governments do. “Hostage takers looking for ransoms distinguish be- tween those governments that pay ransoms and those that do not — and that they make a point of not taking hostages from those coun- tries that refuse to make concessions,” US Ambas- sador to the United Nations Samantha Power said in a statement.

Sudan’s president urges armed groups, parties to talk

KHARTOUM, 28 Jan — Sudan’s president called on armed groups and all political parties on Mon- day to meet and discuss ways of improving the country, but stopped short of promising a constitu- tional overhand that was forecast by a senior mem- ber of his party. President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has had to wrestle with a sharp drop in oil revenues, the main source of govern- ment income, and rising unemployment after losing the bulk of his active oilfields following the succession of dialogue on the constitu- tion, but did not go further.

“We call for a broad dialogue that includes all political parties and even holders of arms,” he told an audience that included the leaders of the country’s main opposition parties. Sudanese media had printed a series of articles in the past week, counting down to the speech, reporting govern- ment officials had said it would include significant reforms. The United States imposed sanctions on Su- dan in 1997 over alleged human rights violations.

Spielberg urges world to “confront” history on Holocaust Memorial Day

NEW YORK, 28 Jan — Hollywood film director Steven Spielberg spoke at the United Nations on Monday about the impor- tance of remembering the horrors of the past such as the Holocaust to pre- vent large-scale atrocities from taking root. At the annual International Holo- caust Memorial Day cer- emony, the Oscar award winner praised survivors of Nazi German concentration camps for their “undam- aged optimism” and their ability to transform “rage and grief into a wellspring of wisdom, progress and justice.”

“The survivors’ pow- erful determination to con- tribute to a future without genocides does not come from leaving the Holocaust behind, from escaping his- tory,” he said in the General Assembly hall addressing UN officials, diplomats and survivors. “Their deter- mined demand is that we engage fully with history, that the Holocaust remain with us in memory,” Since 2005, the United Nations has marked the day the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in Poland was liberated on 27 January, 1945 by paying tribute to the 6 million Jews as well as other victims who perished in the camps. Born a year after World War II ended, Spielberg recalled child- hood memories of learning to read numbers from the camp tattoos on the arms of Hungarian survivors who learned English from his grandmother.

The filmmaker was further influenced by meeting other survivors while on the set of “Schin- der’s List,” the true story of a German businessman who saved over 1,000 Jews from extermination by helping them work at his factory. After win- ning seven Oscars for the film in 1994, the director then formed the Survivors of the Shoah Visual His- tory Foundation as a way of permanently recording their testimonies.

Syria peace talks hit more trouble as rebel city ‘starves’

GENEVA, 28 Jan — The United Nations on Monday demanded that Syria allow aid into the “starving” city of Homs, as talks aimed at ending three years of civil war hit more trouble over the future of President Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian govern- ment said women and chil- dren should leave the sieged city and that rebels should hand over the names of the men who would re- main. A US State Depart- ment spokesman said an evacuation was not an al- ternative to immediate aid.

“We firmly believe that the Syrian regime must approve the convoys to deliver badly needed humanitarian assistance into the Old City of Homs now,” said spokesman Edi- gar Vasquez. “The situation is desperate and the people are starving.” He said the people of Homs must not be forced to leave their homes and split up their families before receiving aid.

After long months of fighting, much of Syria’s third biggest city has been reduced to rubble and peo- ple inside are under siege, cut off from supplies.

The city’s fate has turned into a test of whether- ever the first peace talks at- tended by both sides in the three-year war can achieve practical measures on the ground, while a broader political settlement seems as remote as ever. “Once again, I tell you we never expected any miracle, there are no miracles here. But we will continue and see if progress can be made and when,” said UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, the host of the talks.

Japan, US foreign ministers to discuss Obama’s Japan trip

TOKYO, 28 Jan — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida plans to hold talks with US Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington next week to pave the way for a planned visit to Japan in April by President Ba- rack Obama, a government source said on Tuesday.

Kishida is expected to reaffirm the Japanese gov- ernment’s position in the 7 February talks that it will steadily implement an ac- cord with the United States to relocate the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station within Okinawa Prefecture.

The government’s plan to relocate the base from the densely populated area of Ginowan to the city of Nago was dealt a blow on 19 Janu- ary when Susumu Inamine, an opponent of the planned relocation, was re-elected as Nago mayor.

To combat such lo- cal opposition, Kishida and Kerry are likely to agree to speed up working-level con- sultations on concluding a new accord for environ- mental conservation and research at US bases in Japan. The two are also likely to confirm cooperation in concluding Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade nego- tiations at an early date.

Kishida is also ex- pected to tell the US that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s contentious visit to the war-linked Yasukuni Shrine in December, which Washington said was dis- appointing, was meant to be a way of reiterating that Japan should never again wage war. Abe’s visit to the Tokyo shrine especially an- gered China and South Ko- rea, which regard the shrine as a symbol of Japanese militarism. —Kyodo News

The city would not be able to receive humanitarian assistance from the United Nations and other major aid organizations, it said.

“We need to break that cycle.”
**World**

*Cuba to host Latin American summit; US notably absent*

HAVANA, 28 Jan — Latin American and Caribbean leaders converge on Cuba this week to discuss trade, peace and human rights in a further sign of regional eagerness to challenge the dominance of the United States. The two-day summit is expected to take up issues such as Colombian peace talks, lingering poverty in Haiti and human rights.

Thirty-three countries from the region will participate, notably without the United States and Canada, which are not invited. While the visiting heads of state and government are likely to express solidarity with Cuba and perhaps seek an audience with former Cuban President Fidel Castro, Cuban dissidents who advocate greater human rights on the communist-ruled island also try to capture attention with so many leaders and journalists present. At previous international events hosted by Cuba, dissidents attempted to highlight human rights violations and a lack of democracy in the Western Hemisphere’s only one-party state.

Government opponents reported over the weekend they were warned by police against attending a “Forum on Democracy” in Havana on Tuesday and that a number of activists had been temporarily detained. Among those arrested was Jose Ferrer, leader of the Santiago de Cuba-based Patriotic Union of Cuba, one of the most active opposition groups. Police detained Ferrer on Friday in Havana and released him on Sunday, his group said.

*More preparation needed before next TPP ministerial talks: Amari*

Tokyo, 28 Jan — Japan’s minister in charge of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks said on Tuesday preparations for trade negotiations need to be accelerated further if the next ministerial meeting proposed by the United States for February is to be held.

The next ministerial talks should be held "with confidence that we can conclude the negotiations. It will end in failure if we are left with plenty of difficult issues," Amari said at a press conference, suggesting the 12 TPP members are still not ready to bring thorny issues to the ministerial level.

Washington, which leads the ambitious trade liberalization talks, has promised holding the next session in late February, hoping to see significant progress at an early date. The meeting has yet to be set.

 Asked about whether Tokyo and Washington made progress during talks between US Trade Representative Michael Froman and Japan’s trade minister Toshimitsu Motegi held Saturday on the fringes of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Amari said the two sides struggled to come up with solutions for controversial issues. Japan’s farm minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, who also met with Froman in Davos, said at a news conference on Tuesday that Japan and the United States are continuing talks at working level to find common ground on such issues as how to deal with tariffs Japan seeks to retain on sensitive farm products as well as auto trade issues.

Hayashi said Japanese Deputy Chief Negotiator Hiroshi Oe is currently visiting the United States. The 12 countries bordering the Pacific Ocean have struggled to break an impasse over thorny issues.

*Mexico says catches senior Knights Templar drug gang boss*

MEXICO CITY, 28 Jan — Mexico said on Monday it had captured a leader of the Knights Templar, a violent drug cartel that has created a major security problem for President Enrique Pena Nieto. The attorney general’s office said security forces arrested Dionisio Loya Plancarte, known as “El Tio” (‘The Uncle’), a top member of the Knights Templar, which has clashed with vigilante groups in the western state of Michoacan this year.

He is the most senior member of the gang to be arrested. The Knights Templar have split in another cartel in Michoacan known as La Familia and have controlled large swaths of the restive mountainous state in recent years, extorting farmers and local businesses and diversifying away from drug trafficking to activities such as mining.

Plancarte is suspected of being the gang’s go-between with corrupt security and justice officials, the attorney general’s office said.

Mexico’s government, which this month replaced top security officials in Michoacan, had offered a 30 million peso ($2.25 million) reward for information leading to Plancarte’s arrest.

“It is a success, we are seeing the government doing its job and we are happy,” Hipolito Mora, one of a clutch of vigilante leaders in Michoacan, told Milenio television. The Knights’ confrontations in January with heavily armed vigilantes in Michoacan have stirred concerns about Pena Nieto’s strategy to combat widespread lawlessness in Mexico.—Reuters
SDF paramedics to be given greater treatment discretion in emergencies

TOKYO, 28 Jan — The government is considering granting Self-Defense Forces paramedics more discretionary authority in treating the injured people if Japan is under attack from foreign military forces, a government source said on Monday. As the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is seeking more security roles for the SDF abroad as part of his drive to revitalize Japan’s security framework, it has determined it is necessary to establish more effective logistic support system, according to the source.

Under the new plan, the Defence Ministry will allow SDF paramedics within five years to perform such medical procedures as creating an airway by cutting into the trachea and inserting a needle into the chest to release air and fluid, according to the source. But they will not be allowed to treat injured civilians. The SDF paramedics are required to work in line with the Emergency Life-Saving Technician’s Act, which prohibits them from engaging in full-fledged medical operations, such as tracheotomy.

Japan is apparently trying to draw on US experience that the survival rate of US soldiers injured in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq has improved since some military medics were allowed to perform full-fledged medical procedures such as tracheotomy. The plan comes amid concern about a potential shortage of doctors in case of emergencies, as the SDF currently has around 800 staff qualified as doctors. The number of SDF paramedics stands at about 3,000. Some experts warn that the envisioned change could be taken as Japan preparing the legal framework for the SDF to engage in actual fights.

Japan’s Constitution forbids the use of force to settle international disputes, and the government has interpreted it to mean Japan cannot use the right of collective self-defence, or defending allies under armed attack. Abe is seen as making a final decision on whether Japan should be able to use the right, even as recent public opinion polls suggest the public remains divided, and the New Komeito party, the coalition partner of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party, is cautious about changing the constitutional interpretation. — Kyodo News

UN expresses sorrow for loss of human lives in explosion

KINSHASA, 28 Jan — The head of the UN Mission for Stabilization of Congo (MONUSCO), Martin Kobler, on Monday expressed his deep sorrow for the loss of human lives in a recent explosion.

Last Friday, lightning caused a blast at the military camp Nyongolo in Mbuji-Mayi, capital of Kasai Oriental Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo. “I extend my condolences to the families who have lost loved ones,” said Kobler in a statement, adding that “I asked our office in Mbuji-Mayi to help and support the local authorities to deal with this situation, and wish a speedy recovery to those injured.”

According to the UN document, more than 20 people were killed, 50 others injured and many houses destroyed during the havoc in the central town of Mbuji-Mayi. Contacted by Xinhua, local authorities reported that 21 victims of the explosion will be buried on Monday in the cemetery of Lubulungi. — Xinhua

Egypt’s Sisi poised to announce presidency bid

CAIRO, 28 Jan — Three years after the “Arab Spring” toppled Hosni Mubarak, a secretive field marshal with a cult-like following is expected to announce his candidacy for the presidency of Egypt ahead of elections which he is expected to win easily.

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has come under pressure to run from members of the public who reject the Islamist government he toppled last year, and from the armed forces who want a president who can face down growing political violence.

He has calculated that he can win the votes of those who backed Mohamed Mursi for president in 2012 simply because he represented change from the era of former air force commander Mubarak, ousted in the revolutions that swept the Arab world. But despite his present popularity, Sisi has no record as a democrat and has shown himself willing to use deadly force against those who disagree with him. Sisi has trodden a careful path to power since overthrowing Mursi, Egypt’s first freely elected president, last July.

It’s the kind of measured advance he has made all his life, from his childhood in the dirt lanes of Cairo’s Gamalia district, to the highest rank in one of the largest armies in the Middle East. On Monday, the presidency announced he was promoted to field marshal from general. Friends and family spoke of him as of a man of few words and decisive action.

“He loved to listen and carefully study what was said. After he heard many opinions then he would suddenly strike,” said his cousin Fahri al-Sisi, who runs a shop selling handicrafts.

“Abdel Fatah had one thing in mind: work, the military, rising to the top.” The world knew little of Sisi before he appeared on television on 3 July and announced the removal of Mursi after mass protests against the Islamist leader.

It was Mursi who appointed Sisi army chief of staff and defense minister in August 2012, perhaps his gravest mistake.

Supporters of Egypt’s army chief General Abdel Fatah al-Sisi hold a poster of Sisi in Tahrir square in Cairo, on the third anniversary of Egypt’s uprising, on 25 Jan, 2014. — Reuters

Mauritania is country of million opportunities

NOUAKCHOTT, 28 Jan — Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz said on Sunday that his country, which was initially referred to as the “country of a million dreamers,” can today be referred to as the “country of a million opportunities.”

The president justified this label by considering the country’s economic performance and its stable environment.

Abdel Aziz was speaking before participants at an investment forums in Mauri- tania, attended by delegations from Saudi Arabia and international financial institutions.

“We have worked tirelessly in the last four years to create an environment that is investment friendly.

In this regard, we first secured our borders and provided security across the entire national territory,” he said.

“We then consolidated macroeconomic stability, promoted transparency and reformed the judiciary.” He added, noting that “Mauritania had adopted an investment code that protects investors.”

“Today Mauritania protects investment and guarantees the rights of investors while ensuring they carry out their activities in better conditions,” he concluded.

The two-day meeting was equally attended by representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank. — Xinhua

US opens preliminary probe into Toyota cars over brake issue

NEW YORK, 28 Jan — US safety regulators have begun a preliminary probe into complaints of brake failures in Toyota Motor Corp’s Camry hybrid cars sold in the United States, regulatory and company officials said on Monday.

Subject to the investigation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are about 30,000 units of the 2007 and 2008 models of the Camry sedan, according to news reports.

The NHTSA has received 59 complaints including cases in which longer stopping distances were needed or more brake pedal pressure was required to stop the vehicles, the officials said. The complaints included two accidents, but no injuries have been reported so far. If the NHTSA concludes that there is a safety defect in the vehicles’ brake system, Toyota may be asked to recall them. Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc said it fully cooperates with the NHTSA.

Kyodo News
LG Electronics Q4 profit doubles on strong Black Friday TV sales

SEOUL, 28 Jan — LG Electronics Inc beat analyst estimates by doubling its fourth-quarter profit as heavy promotional activity lifted TV sales during the post-Thanksgiving holiday shopping kickoff known as Black Friday in the United States.

As the $120 billion TV industry has peaked, the world’s No.2 television manufacturer is now aggressively pushing to increase sales of high-end TV sets that boast curved and crispy screens with price tags of $7,000 to protect margins.

But earnings are set to be squeezed again this year as TV demand growth stagnates in the lucrative markets of advanced economies.

A slow recovery in its handset business will also continue to weigh on earnings growth, overshadowing a widely expected margin recovery at its bread-and-butter home appliances operation as it plans to launch new fridges and washers.

Operating profit totaled 238 billion won ($220 million) in October-December, the world’s second-biggest TV maker after Samsung Electronics Co Ltd. in a statement on Monday.

That compared with the 223 billion won estimate of 35 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters IBES, as well as the 117 billion won of a year earlier and 218 billion won of July-September.

Shares in LG Electronics dropped 1 percent after the earnings announcement, versus a 1.2 percent fall in the wider market. The stock dropped 6 percent over the past six months, lagging a 1.5 percent gain in the KOSPI. The South Korean manufacturer said operating profit at its TV business reached 174 billion won from just 80 million won a year prior.

Its mobile business, ranked No.3 by shipments after Samsung and Apple Inc, swung to an operating loss of 43 billion won from profit of 56 billion won a year earlier, as the company continued to spend more on marketing flagship products such as its G2 and G Pro smartphones.

The mobile loss came even after smartphone shipments grew to a record 13.2 million units, up 54 percent year on year.

“The positive impact of improved product mix was offset by higher marketing investments to strengthen LG’s brand equity and intensified price competitions,” the company said in a statement.—Reuters

Successful operation on Chinese girl’s duplicated organs

CHENGDU, 28 Jan — A 13-year-old Chinese girl who was born with duplicated, or “duplex,” organs has received kidney surgery in southwest China’s Sichuan Province, a local hospital said on Tuesday.

Born with duplex kidneys, two bladders, two ureters and four fallopian tubes, Lanlan (alias) was diagnosed with a rare condition of congenital malformation of multi-system and multi-organ duplication, according to Hu Xianliang, vice president of the Women and Children’s Centre Hospital in the provincial capital city of Chengdu.

Hu said both of Lanlan’s kidneys are duplex and fused to the other, each has a separate ureter, meaning that she has four kidneys and four ureters.

It is thought that the abnormality was caused during gestation. Doctors believe that Lanlan’s mother was carrying twins, the embryo of one of which failed to grow into a child and instead fused with the other.

Lanlan received surgery on her genital system and digestive system in 2004 in a hospital in the southern city of Guangzhou.

“The surgeries in 2004 have fixed some of her malfunctioning organs,” according to Hu, who operated the surgery.

His operation on her duplex kidneys on 21 January was also successful.

“The girl will be released soon and will return to an ordinary life,” he said. —Xinhua

Google to buy artificial intelligence company DeepMind

NEW YORK, 28 Jan — Google Inc said on Sunday it had agreed to acquire privately held artificial intelligence company DeepMind Technologies Ltd.

Technology news website Re/code, which reported news of the deal earlier, said the price was $400 million, without disclosing where it got the information.

A Google spokesman declined to comment on the price. DeepMind representatives could not be immediately reached for comment.

Founded in London in 2012 by Demis Hassabis, Shane Legg and Mustafa Suleyman, DeepMind uses general-purpose learning algorithms for applications such as simulations, e-commerce and games, according to its website.

Google, which is working on projects including self-driving cars and robots, has become increasingly focused on artificial intelligence in recent years.

In 2012, it hired Ray Kurzweil, considered one of the leading minds in the field, and in May it announced a partnership with NASA and several universities to launch the Quantum Artificial Intelligence Lab.

In 2013, it purchased SillyMirror, a startup that uses artificial intelligence to create hyper-realistic 3D objects. In August, it introduced Google Glass, a pair of glasses with an embedded computer, and in November it announced an agreement with NASA to use artificial intelligence in helping scientists analyze Mars data.

In 2014, it acquired Nest, a maker of thermostats and security systems.

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Incident in Rakhine State clarified to ambassadors, UN agency officials

YANGON, 28 Jan.—A press conference on incident in Rakhine State was held at the hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, this afternoon.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin made clarifications. He said:

We have organized a briefing on the incident that had occurred in Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State.

This incident was already mentioned in the State news papers of 23.1.2014, according to the on ground inspection and verified information.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also issued a press release on 24-1-2014 to give clear information and message.

However, some of the international medias and some groups had continued to produce unverified information and illogical opinions.

When International Organizations carry out their reportings it is very important that the information they used in the report be authentic and from reliable and credible sources.

In this regard, I would like to highlight some of the points prescribed in the UNGA resolution A/RES/66/81 A-B (9-12-2011) which stresses that the public information given by UN Agencies needs to be accurate objective and balanced in all four mass media.

It also reiterates UNGA’s request to ensure that all news-breaking stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of bias.

President U Thein Sein has instructed to form an independent investigation team to conduct an investigation on that incident.

Central Committee for Peace Stability and Development of Rakhine State will send a separate team to the Maungtaw district to investigate.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has proposed to make a field trip Maungtaw District in a few days.

Rakhine Conflict Investigation Commission will also send a separate investigation team to the affected area.

Since the international communities have interest in the reform process taking in Myanmar and expressing the recognition and support. Positive cooperations and assistance were rendered to Myanmar Government for that we would like to express our appreciations. At the same time we notice that there are concerns over the recent incidents in Rakhine State.

It is found that these concerns have originated from the unfound news and unverified information.

By Representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw of Buthidaung and Maungtaw constituencies, Dr. Bawsha Ahmad and Mr. ZawhinGir, and Ms. Babra Brista (UNOCHA) and Resident Coordinator of UNHCR Mr. Roka Kodo who had visited the areas and met with the villagers. In addition, representatives of the Rakhine Conflict Investigation Commission had also made an investigation regarding the incident.

Conclusion that this incident which took place on the night of 13 January 2014 was an isolated event and was not connected to any other incidents as alleged by some medias.

However in expressing concerns by some organizations and countries on the recent incident, they mentioned about death of people, injuries, damage to the village in the events which never took place.

I would like to stress that the Government of Myanmar is giving priority to the peace and stability of Rakhine State. It is important that communal peace and harmony be preserved in Rakhine State.

These Agencies and INGOs should communicate to the Rakhine State Government as well as to the focal ministries if they require any assistance. The government is ready to give verification on any news that they want to verify.

Comments or opinions based on uncertain information or news can be affected to the cooperation and confidence that have been built between friends and partners.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko made a clarification. He said:

Ducheer tantrage village is one of the villages that has been affected by terrorist attacks.

Ducheer tan village-tract in which Bengalis residing in it is home to the majority of Bengalis. According to statistics of Ducheer tan middle village where the incident occurred, the village which 1030 people and 140 households are residing in it is home to the majority of Bengalis.

Awhaung police post and No (13) police battalion take the responsibilities of ensuring security and the rule of law in cooperation with the village administrators, religious leaders and local people.

The statement of the Ministry of Home Affairs concerning the incident occurred on 13 January was reported in dailies issued on 23 January,

In search of missing Police Sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein by officials concerned, townswelders and search teams the following day, blood-stained pieces of Sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein’s torn-up uniform, parts of the sergeant’s police equipment, his jungle-boot and an empty M 22 magazine were found in the Arabic school and near the Ismai mosque situated in the vicinity of the village.

According to saying of witnesses, nine suspects on 15 January, six on 17 January and one on 18 January, totaling 16 were detained and investigations are underway after requesting the court to remand them in police custody for interrogation.

For a search and arrest of suspects, officials invited administrators of urban wards in Maungtaw and villages, townswelders, mawlawi and locals to hold a meeting at a primary school in the township on 19 January and called for their cooperation in the efforts for the arrest of suspects.

On 20 January, a clarification on the well-plotted terrorist act was made at a meeting attended by departmental officials, parliamentarians, townswelders, ward administrators, mawlawi and locals totaling 1600 at the hall of Maungtaw Township General Administration Department.

While the situation at Ducheer tan area was stable, false reports of some news agencies appeared. So, the Rakhine State chief minister, UNHCR and UNOCHA representatives and State Hluttaw representatives of Buthidaung and Maungtaw Townships made an inspection tour of Ducheer tan village-tract, enquiring of the situation, visiting the places where the incidents occurred and providing necessary assistance to villagers who re-

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin makes clarification.—MNA

On 23 January, a team of Sitway-based Investigation Commission on violence on Rakhine State investigated the Ducheer tan incident in order to probe the situation and to demonstrate transparancy.

Fleeing villages are returning their homes. A total of 431 people from 75 households have returned home up to date and they are being provided with emergency aid by officials. Police protected properties of villagers as there were looting during the time when villagers were away. Strict security measures were undertaken in order to avoid allegations made against the police by destructive elements who actually destroyed and set fire to houses.

According to investigations, the Police Sergeant and party conducted a regular police patrol together with local administrations.

According to information, eleven of those who committed the violence are now in the neighbouring country, seeking awards for the Ducheer tan incident from RSOS.

Some UN agencies and foreign news agencies issued reports based on unjustified
Fruits of cooperation

On the right track of political and economic reforms, Myanmar is increasingly cooperating with global nations including the United Nations and international organizations and this never-before cooperation is starting to bear fruits.

Myanmar people will be able to enjoy the fruits of the country’s worldwide cooperation soon. The second Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 27-28 January. During the forum, the World Bank and donor countries encouraged their commitments to development of Myanmar.

It is learnt that the World Bank will significantly increase its assistance to Myanmar in the years to come. The World Bank said that it would provide USD 2000 million to Myanmar for public and private long-term projects. The larger proportion of the World Bank’s contribution will go into agriculture, health and energy sectors, which are the priorities of Myanmar.

The World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said that the World Bank would spend USD 1 billion in the coming five years in expanding national grid in Myanmar where 70% of national population live without electricity.

Investment in electricity sector will improve the living standard of citizens while creating jobs and favourable business environment. Investment in health sector will benefit not only the citizens but also the country. Each dollar invested in health sector will make a profit of 9 to 20 dollars in any sector. The World Bank’s financial assistance will also go to agricultural sector of Myanmar. Though Myanmar has large acreage of farmland with access to irrigation water, the lack of technology has always limited the agricultural output, thereby reducing the potential of Myanmar’s agricultural economy.

The World Bank’s assistance will bring technology to farmers who constitute 70% of national population, enabling them to improve their livelihoods.

Other donor countries also promised a contribution of USD 800 million in coming three or four years on the occasion. This contribution will be allotted to socio-economic improvement of people and poverty alleviation scheme. No doubt this is the result of none other than the cooperation and unity of entire national people. This is what makes global nations take a different view of Myanmar. Therefore, the entire national people are to continue cooperating in unity and amnesty to be able to enjoy more fruits.

Union FM receives Norwegian delegation

YANGON, 28 Jan—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs received Mrs Ann Ollstad Norwegian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and party at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here this morning. The Norwegian delegation comprised of the Norwegian Ambassadors from the ASEAN Member States and Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries from Oslo.

The Union Minister briefed the Norwegian delegation on Myanmar’s preparations and prioritises set for her ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 as well as the political, economic and social reforms being undertaken in Myanmar.

The Union Minister also deliberated further on the Myanmar-Norway bilateral relations and their cooperation in the areas of sustainable management of natural resources and peace process in Myanmar.

The Royal Norwegian Government acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) during the 46th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 1 July 2013. ASEAN and Norway have been accelerating to enhance partnership and cooperation.

Wife of Bangladeshi Chief of Air Staff visits MMICWA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—A goodwill delegation led by wife of Bangladeshi Chief of Air Staff Mrs Mary Enam accepts gift from an official of MMICWA.—MNA

Accelerating Actions for Progress through...

(from page 1)

the most vulnerable, can benefit from and be involved in shaping Myanmar’s transition.

We hereby commit ourselves to:

1. Finalise the Nay Pyi Taw Accord Action Plan to ensure the continued implementation of the Accord.
2. Ensure continued support for Myanmar’s Framework for Economic and Social Reforms and the National Comprehensive Development Plan.
3. Strengthen Government capacity to lead Myanmar’s development efforts and engage with public and private actors in the planning and implementation processes.

We will monitor these commitments and the implementation of other lessons learned at the Forum with integrity and report on progress at a mid-term review meeting later in 2014 and again at the 3rd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in 2015. We hereby reconfirm our will to work in partnership as we enter this new phase of Myanmar’s development.
Technical error happens to Air KBZ plane

YANGON, 28 Jan—A technical error happened to an Air KBZ plane while readying for takeoff on the runway of Yangon International Airport this morning.

The Airline said that there were no injuries to crew and 65 passengers on board and they were evacuated shortly after smoke started to rise from its overheated wheels on its return to parking due to the error. Crew were able to handle the situation and all passengers were transferred to another plane of Air KBZ.

“Safety is the priority of Air KBZ and we always follow all instructions given by the Ministry of Transport”, said U Myat Thu of Air KBZ.—Nay Lin

Incident in... (from page 7)

sources that about eight Bengalis were killed in the vicinity of Ducheertan area on 9 December, 2013 and there occurred deaths of 40 people on 13 January, 2014.

In order to probe the situation, the Rakhine State chief minister, state Hluttaw representatives and UN officials and investigation commission members made a field trip, interviewing villagers who returned the village. According to information collected on the ground, it is found that they are false reports.

Actions will be taken against any convicted individuals or any organizations who were convicted of the any crimes by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The police sergeant is still missing with his arm and amputation. Cooperation is invited to inform the police with firm evidences concerning the incident. Investigation will be continued.

There are two points. One is that an act of attacking against law enforcement organizations is a terrorist act. No country and no government accepted such act that injures the rule of law.

Second point is that organizations needs to release reports based on reliable sources. As the situation could be complicated by false reporting that could jeopardize the rule of law, take notice of what local people would not forgive when the truth appeared.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn said that the government has already spent K 26.79 billion on rehabilitation in Rakhine State and implemented the Rakhine Response Plan as of July, 2012. It is needed to fund US$ 109.3 million to the plan and so far US $ 85.9 million have already collected.

Afterwards, Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Hein Lin said they arrived at Ducheertan Village within hours after the conflict happened and they found that only many evidences for killing of Police Sgt Aung Kyaw Thein, and no buildings nor killings of villagers were happened in the conflict.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, state MPs and representatives from UNHCR and UN-OCHA had already met with local villagers.

During the meeting, villagers told them that no villagers were killed in the conflict and some villagers fled the village as they are afraid of being detained by the police.

As from 24 January, villagers from the village of Ducheertan have come back to the village and so far 331 villagers from 75 households have already been settled at the village.

Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, Secretary of Rakhine Conflict Investigation Commission said from 22 to 26 January, the commission had launched the investigation into the allegations made by international organizations and foreign news agencies and interrogated 70 villagers.

They found only evidences for killing of Police Sgt Aung Kyaw Thein and there was no people who were said to be killed living at the village and villagers near the Ducheertan village.

A villager who was killed in the conflict according to a villager during the investigation is found that he was detained by the police.

There was also no evidences of recently burial at the burial ground and the allegation that Bengalis who were killed in the conflict were buried there is totally wrong and the commission found only burial ground covered with bushes.

C-in-C (Air) and wife host dinner to Bangladeshi delegation

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife Daw Aye Aye Than greet Chief of Air Staff of Bangladesh Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, ndu, psc, and wife.—MNA

Director-General Dr Myo Thein Gyi of Myanmar Education Research Bureau. MNA

The commission would release their statement in the near future, Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing said.

He also asked the international organizations to give firm evidences if they found and called on INGOs to cooperate with the commission and authority concerned as the situation in Rakhine State is fragile.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin said the government would release its investigation report, assuring that the investigation would be in transparency.

The government would arrange a trip to the area for the diplomats and a team led by the EU Ambassador would go to the area in the near future, he added. MNA

Successful holding forums is promotion of Myanmar’s image in international arena

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife Daw Aye Aye Than hosted a dinner to Chief of Air Staff of Bangladesh Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, ndu, psc, and wife at Aureum Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

Before and during the dinner, Myawady music band presented songs of both countries.

After the dinner, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife exchanged gifts with the Chief of Air Staff of Bangladesh and wife, and they presented flower baskets to performers of the music band.

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2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — The second Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum concluded here today, pledges to continue to support the economic and social reforms framework and national development plan of Myanmar.

During the final day of the forum, experts made recommendations and suggestions for the eight sectors in Myanmar.

Regarding the Improving and Capacity of Myanmar’s Human Resources, they recommended to focus on nutrition, early childhood care and development, access to basic education, quality of education, capacity of private sector, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), decentralization, equity and inclusion and communications.

They also suggested advices to overcome the challenges that Myanmar would face in the Enhancing Public Administration Reform and Development sector.

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NATIONAL

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Wednesday, 29 January, 2014

Chief of Air Force (Air) U Thet Maung and wife host dinner to the ambassadors and delegates. MNA

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Bago Region Fisheries Department releases fingerlings to Wagadok Dam

Head of Region Fisheries Department U Kyaw Min explained purpose of releasing fish, formation of fishermen organization and techniques for breeding fish in net cage to the rural fishermen. The ceremony was aimed at conserving fish resources and boosting production of fish so as to develop the rural region and alleviate poverty of the local people.

Donation

Charity fair in Mayangon Township

Yangon, 28 Jan—The 18th lucky draw programme and Maha Duk meal offering ceremony was held in Ward 1 of Mayangon Township on 26 January. A total of 950 households from the ward participated in the charity fair.

At the ceremony, the wellwishers distributed over 29000 cards to the residences to enjoy foods and materials to be eaten as they like.

At the Maha Duk meals offering ceremony, a total of 3115 members of the Sangha from 70 monasteries from various townships have been supplicated by the residences to accept the donations such as cash and materials.

The donation ceremony will be offered meals and donations on 2 February morning.

Cement bricks marketable in Saw Township

Saw, 28 Jan—Relying on sand of Saw Creek that flows through Saw of Magway Region, a cement brick industry emerged near the town as of December last year.

The cement brick is produced with the use of cement and sand. Cement brick does not need in production process without fire and one bag of cement can be used in production of over 300 cement bricks.

The producer sells K 65 per brick. Each industry can produce over 700 pieces of cement bricks. Production of cement brick can prevent deforestation and minimize loss and waste.

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

HRD

Toungoo Township Education Network holds coord meeting

During six months period of its establishment, the network has donated 216 desks, five tables, 40 sets of school uniforms, over 400 dozens of exercise books, pencils and rulers to 20 needy Basic Education Primary Schools, Post-Primary Schools and Monastic Education Schools.

Moreover, the network donated K 13.7 million for minor repairs of buildings at Basic Education Primary Schools.

Myanmar’s trade deficit US$ 828.43 million during April-December in 2013-14 FY

So, Myanmar’s total trade surplus in December was US$ 406.53 million.


Therefore, Myanmar’s total trade deficit was US$ 828.43 million during the period from April to December in 2013-14 financial year.
Landslide in Indonesia kills 6, leaves 7 missing

JAKARTA, 28 Jan — At least six people are dead and at least seven others missing after a landslide hit a hamlet in Indonesia’s East Java Province early Tuesday, according to a local official.

The landslide caused by torrential rains buried five houses in the hamlet of Kopen, in Jombang Regency, about 740 kilometers east of Jakarta, said Nurhuda, an official of the East Java Disaster Mitigation Agency.

He said it killed six members of the same family, while rescuers are still searching for at least seven people whose houses were buried by the landslide.

Meanwhile, the Jakarta-based National Disaster Mitigation Agency said 30 people who went missing Saturday after a flash flood in North Sulawesi Province have still not been found. They were on a riverboat in the village of Nameng when the flashflood hit.

In Jakarta, 23 people have been killed in the past two weeks due to floods, the agency’s spokesman Suntopo Purwo Nugroho said. Floods and landslides frequently occur in Indonesia during rainy season that usually takes place from October to March.

Kyodo News

Shots fired as Thai PM meets, election body warns of chaos

BANGKOK, 28 Jan — Shots were fired at a Thai army facility where the prime minister was meeting on Tuesday and two people were hurt, an anti-government protest leader said. Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is holding a cabinet meeting in Bangkok on 28 Jan, 2014.

Reuters

Anti-graft party to field dozens of candidates in India general election

NEW DELHI, 28 Jan — The young anti-graft party that stormed to power in India’s capital last month plans to field at least 73 candidates in national elections due by May to stand against politicians accused of crimes, its founder said on Monday. Following its strong performance in Delhi, interest in the year-old Aam Aadmi — Common Man — Party has surged.

Since an announcement earlier this month that it would contest the general election, its membership has passed 10 million. Until now the party had not said how many of the 540 lower house parliamentary seats it might contest in an election pitting the centre-left governing coalition against former runner-up candidates Narendra Modi.

While polls suggest the debutant party is unlikely to win more than a dozen or so seats, its success in Delhi has shaken up the national race, with Modi’s Bhartiya Janata Party and the ruling Congress party both arguing Aam Aadmi’s anti-elite, anti-corruption language. Even a small clutch of seats for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) could be enough to deny Modi a chance at forming a government, and give AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal a say in national policy. The AAP will put up candidates in constituencies of 73 members of parliament who face serious criminal charges. Candidates will also stand for the seats of central government ministries which the party believes are corrupt, Kejriwal said in an interview with Reuters.

“The most important thing is there are a large number of cabinet ministers who have indulged in corruption, they need to be defeated,” Kejriwal said. “There are nearly 162 people in Lok Sabha who have criminal charges against them and there are 73 out of them who have serious charges against them.”

Reuters
Gunmen kill 22 in Nigeria church attack

YOLA, (Nigeria), 28 Jan — Attackers armed with guns and explosives killed 22 people at a busy church service in a north-east Nigerian village, witnesses said on Monday, in a region where Islamist sect Boko Haram is resisting a military crackdown.

They set off bombs and fired into the congregation in the Catholic church in Waga Chakawa village in Adamawa state on Sunday morning, before burning houses and taking residents hostage during a four-hour siege, witnesses said.

President Goodluck Jonathan is struggling to contain Boko Haram in remote rural regions in the country’s northeastern corner, where the sect first launched an uprising in 2009.

The shabby sect, which wants to impose sharia law on a country split roughly equally between Christians and Muslims, has killed thousands over the past four and a half years and is considered the biggest security risk in Africa’s top oil exporter and second-largest economy after South Africa.

Its fighters’ favorite targets have traditionally been security forces, politicians who oppose them and Christian minorities in the largely Muslim north.

The spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Yola, Reverend Father Raymond Danbouye, confirmed 22 people killed in the attack were buried at a funeral on Monday. The military and police did not respond to requests for comment but one army source confirmed the attack, asking not to be named because he wasn’t authorized to speak to the media.

Waga Chakawa is near the border with Borno state, in which there was a separate assault on Monday by suspected members of the shabby sect in Kawuri village, witnesses said.

Reuters

They are Engaged

Zarni Htoo (a) Peter Desmond Htoo
Son of (U Winton Mac Htoo) & Daw Francine Khin Myint Aye residing at No. 149, Thu Kha Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon

and

Zinmar Nyunt (a) Winsome Francis Nyunt
Daughter of (U Teza Nyunt) & Daw Helga Ngai Ngai Nyunt, residing at No. 51, Waik Zar Road, Mayangone Township, Yangon.

Have been engaged on 28th January 2014 at Panda Restaurant, Yangon.

Kerry says working towards “true partnership” with Pakistan

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday that he has been working toward a “true partnership” with Pakistan since taking office a year ago.

The top American envoy made the remarks as he reopened the US-Pakistan strategic dialogue at the State Department with Sartaj Aziz, the adviser to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on national security and foreign affairs.

“I all know there’ve been occasional hiccups and challenges, but we really believe that there are fundamental interests that we need to unite around, and particularly in economic and security spheres,’’ Kerry said.

The dialogue was initiated in 2010 and three sessions were held in quick succession in March, July and October that year, but had been held off since over disputes including a unilateral US military raid that killed al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden inside Pakistan in 2011.

“I think many of you know this, but building stronger ties with the people of Pakistan — I emphasize, with the people of Pakistan broadly writ — has been a personal commitment of mine for some period of time,’’ Kerry said.

Particularly since I was nominated by President (Barack) Obama to serve as secretary of state, I’ve been pleased to work to elevate this relationship to a true partnership,’’ he added.

Washington-Islamabad ties have warmed since Sharif took over the premiership in May 2013, and Kerry made a trip to the South Asian nation in August.

Sharif met with Obama at the White House in October that year over counterterrorism, Afghanistan and trade ties, making him the first Pakistani premier to visit the United States in five years.

Kerry lauded the reform efforts by Sharif and his cabinet, saying, “The United States has no doubt that Prime Minister Sharif’s policies will put Pakistan on a path towards a more prosperous future, and we fully support his goal of making Pakistan’s marketplace a tiger economy for the 21st century."

New Light of Myanmar
Beatles, mass wedding attract big TV audience to Grammys

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan — Beatles, robots and a mass wedding drew 28.5 million viewers to the Grammy awards television broadcast on Sunday night, the show’s second-largest audience in two decades, CBS Corp’s broadcast network CBS said on Monday.

French electronic-music duo Daft Punk, known for their robot-inspired outfits, took home four awards including album and record of the year, and New Zealand’s 17-year-old newcomer Lorde won two, including song of the year.

The 2012 show attracted 39.9 million viewers, the second-largest audience for the Grammy telecast since 1993.

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Cory Monteith’s name misspelt at 56th Grammys tribute

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan — Late actor Cory Monteith’s name was included in this year’s Grammys In Memoriam montage, but unfortunately his last name was misspelt.

When the Glee star’s photo flashed on the stage, when alt-rock group Imagine Dragons and rapper Kendrick Lamar came together for a high-octane mash-up of their songs, garnering more than 172,000 Tweets per minute.

Cory’s name was included in this year’s Grammys In Memoriam montage.

Justin Bieber relaxing in Panama after Florida scrape

PANAMA CITY, 28 Jan — Pop star Justin Bieber is relaxing at the beach in Panama after being charged in Florida with driving under the influence.

Panamanian radio and television host Eddy Vasquez was filming a show at the Pacific Coast resort in Punta Chame when he spotted Bieber and his entourage walking on the beach. He and his crew took pictures of the singer and his companions, got on their tuc-tuc and led to a nearby island.

Police in Miami Beach said they arrested Bieber smelling of alcohol after officers saw him drag-racing before dawn Thursday, with his yellow Lamborghini traveling at nearly twice the speed limit.—PTI

Jai Ho won’t break box office records: Trade analyst

NEW DELHI, 28 Jan — It stars superstar Salman Khan and has masala aplenty — but Jai Ho could manage to garner barely over Rs 17 crore on its opening day at the domestic box office.

Trade experts say in comparison to the star’s previous films, this won’t create any fireworks in terms of records.

Reportedly made on a budget of Rs 75 crore, Jai Ho hit about 4,500 screens in India. It collected Rs 17.55 crore in the country on Friday, according to an official statement.

“As per my knowledge, it’s less that Rs 17 crore. The figure is quite low,” Rajesh Thadani from Multimedia Combines told IANS.

“When Ek Tha Tiger released in 2012, it collected around Rs 30 crore on its opening day,” he added.

Directed by Salman’s brother Sohail, the movie, which also stars newcomers Daisy Shah along with Tabu and Danny Denzongpa, is a political thriller with a heavy dose of action sequences featuring Salman. Coincidentally, Salman’s super hits Wanted, Dabangg, Dabangg 2 and Ek Tha Tiger were all action-packed dramas. And Jai Ho too belongs to the same genre. Puneet Sahay of Spice Cinemas says audiences are not so excited about the film because of the same genre.—PTI

Heal well Shah Rukh, says Farah Khan

MUMBAI, 28 Jan — Happy New Year director Farah Khan is taking a break from the sets as Shah Rukh Khan, who essays a key role in the movie, is injured. She has wished him a speedy recovery.

“So (I) have an off today, not that I’m enjoying though...heal well Shah Rukh,” Farah posted on Twitter on Saturday.

While shooting for the movie on 23 January, Shah Rukh had got injured and was rushed to a city hospital, where he was given immediate medical aid. He has been advised rest for two to three weeks. The film, which also stars Ahsan Khan, Deepika Padukone, Sonu Sood, Boman Irani and Vivek Anand, will release this year around Diwali.—PTI
Arsenal say manager Wenger to stay at club

LONDON, 28 Jan — Manager Arsene Wenger is set to sign a new contract to extend his 18-year stay with the English Premier League leaders, the club’s chief executive said on Monday.

Wenger will have more money to spend on players this summer after the club signed a new kit supply deal with German company Puma that begins on 1 July.

Chief Executive Ivan Gazidis said the clearest indication yet that Frenchman Wenger would remain at Arsenal, indicating that finalising a new contract was just a matter of time.

“We’ve always supported Arsene, the board has always been completely behind him as has (owner) Stan Kroenke,” Gazidis told a news conference when asked about the future of the manager whose contract runs out at the end of the season.

“We are comfortable in the position, relaxed about it. As I’ve said before, Arsene will be extending with us and at the right time we’ll make that announcement,” he added.

Wenger has been Arsenal manager since 1996 and has led the club to three Premier League titles and four FA Cups. However, the trophies have dried up since 2005 although Arsenal have continued to qualify for the Champions League.

The Puma deal, worth around 30 million pounds a season, will help Arsenal to compete with the top clubs in Europe in the transfer market. “One of our long-term goals has been to increase our commercial revenues and there is a football reason for that, it’s to be able to invest that in our squad,” Gazidis said.

“So this is a very important step in terms of our progression on the pitch and as we look from this summer onwards, that money will be available to the manager,” he added.

Wenger has outshone Nike as the kit supplier to Arsenal in a deal that starts on 1 July. Helped by an enhanced sponsorship deal with airline Emirates, the north London club spent a club record 42.5 million pounds on German Mesut Ozil at the start of this season.— Reuters

Rafael Nadal of Spain receives treatment during his men’s singles final match against Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland at the Australian Open 2014 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 26 Jan, 2014. Reuters

Nadal should recover quickly, says coach

Madrid, 28 Jan — Rafa Nadal should recover from the back problem that wrecked his Australian Open final after a few days rest, his uncle and coach Toni told Spanish radio on Monday.

The ailing world number one lost to Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka in Sunday’s final, preventing the Spaniard drawing level on 14 grand slam singles titles with American Pete Sampras.

Nadal needed lengthy treatment at the start of the second set, hit back to win the third but Wawrinka eventually captured his de-but slam with a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 success.

His uncle told Cadena Ser’s El Larguero show his nephew planned to return to his native Mallorca from Melbourne before heading to Argentina where he is due to take part in a clay event in Buenos Aires starting on 10 February.

“The doctor said it’s a tightening of the muscles and a few days rest should be enough,” said Toni.

He went into the match after feeling twinges during the week but very minor ones that normally do not affect you at all.

When the second game of the second set he felt a pinch. When I asked him after treatment what was happening he said ‘it’s over’.— Reuters

South Korea’s Lee banned for missing dope tests

Seoul, 28 Jan — South Korea’s Olympic badminton gold medallist Lee Yong-dae has been hit with a one-year ban for missing doping tests, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old won mixed doubles gold at the 2008 Games in Beijing and a bronze medal in the men’s doubles in London four years later. Another Korean player, Kim Ki-jung, was also banned for one year.

The ban was effective until 23 January, 2015, the federation said in a statement, meaning the players would miss the Asian Games in Incheon later this year.

“Korean badminton players Kim Ki-jung and Lee Yong-dae have each received a one-year sanc-
tion for violating the requirements relating to filing whereabouts information and resulting missed tests under the BWF Anti-Doping Regulations,” the BWF said.

“Kim and Lee were required to provide whereabouts information for the BWF to conduct out-of-competition testing. In 2013, both athletes accumulated three whereabouts failures in connection with this administrative process.”

The BWF said it chose not to dish out the maximum two-year ban “due to the Badminton Korea Association’s failure … to make diligent efforts to keep the BWF informed about the players’ whereabouts.”

A doping hearing panel recommended that the Korean association should be fined and the BWF said it would determine whether additional sanctions were appropriate.

Both players have the right to appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the statement said. South Korea’s badminton association is scheduled to hold a news conference in Seoul later on Tuesday.— Reuters

South Korea’s Lee Yong-dae (L) and his teammate Chung Jae-sung during a badminton match at the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Wembley Arena on 4 Aug, 2012.— Reuters

South Korea sign French striker Ngog

London, 28 Jan — South Korea have completed the signing of French striker David Ngog from Bolton Wanderers, the Premier League club said on Monday. The former Paris St Germain and Liverpool forward has joined Swans-
sea for an undisclosed fee until the end of the season.

“It’s a delight for me,” Ngog told the Swansea website. “I think Swansea are a very good club. They have shown over the last couple of years that they are a good Premier League side. “Swansea are a team who like to keep the ball and play good football. The manager (Michael La-
adrup) was obviously a top player and as a manager he has proven he is very good as well. It will be re-
ally interesting to work with him.”

Swansea have slipped to 15th in the Premier League table and have been short of attacking op-
tions since losing last sea-
son’s leading scorer Michu to injury last month.

Ngog could make his debut in the home league game against fellow strugg-
gers Fulham on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old Ngog, who scored 19 goals in 94 games during his three years at Liverpool, joined Championship club Bol-
ton for 4.0 million pounds ($6.63 million) in 2011.— Reuters

Marussia sign French striker Ngog

Jerez, 28 Jan — Marussia will miss the start of Formula One’s pre-season testing on Tuesday after a problem with their new car delayed its ar-
ival in Spain.

“A spokeswoman said the car had yet to leave the factory in Banbury in central England, due to what team principal John Booth called “a small and frustrating teething problem.”

“It makes sense to address this while we still have all of the equipment and technical personnel in one place,” added the Briton.

Marussia, who have switched to Ferrari en-
gines this season and have Britain’s Max Chilton and Frenchman Jules Bianchi as drivers, have their trucks set up in the Jerez paddock along with nine of the other 11 teams.

Lotus are not attending what will be the first test of the new V6 turbocharged en-
gines and their complex en-
ergy recovery systems. “Our aim is to settle this issue as soon as possible and send the MR03 on its way to Jerez,” said Booth, whose team fin-
ished 10th overall last year without scoring a point.— Reuters

Marussia Formula One driver Max Chilton of Britain drives during the second practice session of the Korean F1 Grand Prix at the Korea International Circuit in Yeongam on 4 Oct, 2013.— Reuters

Bolton Wanderers’ David Ngog (L)
Indian oil tanker explodes in China, four dead

HANGZHOU, 28 Jan — Four people have been killed and three others are missing after an Indian oil tanker anchored at the coast of east China’s Zhejiang Province exploded and caught fire on Tuesday. The explosion happened on Tuesday morning when seven workers were repairing the tanker off Daishan County in the city of Zhoushan, said a spokesman with the city government.

As of noon time, the fire had been put out and rescuers were still searching for the three missing people, said the spokesman. The identities of the victims are not available yet. The cause of the accident is under investigation.—Xinhua

More chemical weapons materials leave Syria: joint inspection mission

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Jan — The second batch of chemical weapons materials was loaded onto ships on Monday and transported out of Syria for destruction following the first consignment on 7 January, a UN spokesman said, quoting a report by the joint mission of the chemical weapons watchdog and the United Nations.

“The Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations says that a further shipment of chemical weapons materials from Syria has taken place today,” acting UN deputy spokesman, Farhan Haq, said at a daily news briefing here. “The chemical weapons were verified by Joint Mission personnel before being loaded in Latakia port onto Danish and Norwegian cargo vessels for onward transportation,” he said.

However, the joint mission did not say how much of the chemical weapons materials was loaded onto the vessels. “The vessels were accompanied by a naval escort provided by the People’s Republic of China, Denmark, Norway and the Russian Federation,” he said.—Xinhua

Germany’s Puma ousts Nike as Arsenal kit supplier

LONDON, 28 Jan — German sportswear company Puma will become the kit supplier to English football club Arsenal from next season in a deal worth more than 30 million pounds a year to the Premier League leaders. Puma has ousted US group Nike which has provided Arsenal’s red and white shirts for the past two decades.

The deal with Arsenal shows Puma’s determination to re-establish itself as a core sports brand under new CEO Bjorn Gulden after moving more into lifestyle and fashion.

“Arsenal represents a major commercial and marketing opportunity to reinforce Puma’s credibility as a global sports brand,” Gulden said.

Puma, which supplies kit to German football club Borussia Dortmund and national teams including Italy, said it was aiming to establish itself as the clear number-three football brand behind market leaders Adidas and Nike.

Puma, majority owned by French luxury goods company Kering, warned in November that 2013 net profit would fall far below the 70 million euro figure in 2012. Gulden denied that Puma had overspent to win the Arsenal deal.

“Our analysis shows this is a good deal for us,” he told Reuters. “We are convinced that this is the best deal that we could do. It’s the team that fits us, it’s a good commercial deal and will bring a lot for our

Arsenal’s celebrate a goal by Santti Cazorla (obscured) against Fulham during their English Premier League soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London January 18, 2014.—Reuters

not disclosed but Puma said the deal was the biggest ever for both itself and Arsenal. In 2012, Arsenal signed a contract renewal with airlines Emirates for shirt and stadium sponsorship worth 150 million pounds over five years.

“Puma are a substantial company with the kind of scale that a club like Arsenal needs as we reach out to our global fan base,” he told Reuters.

Arsenal were also impressed by Puma’s focus on the club rather than just using several big name partners. “We’ll be one of their

primary partners,” Gazidis said. He also told the news conference that the club expected manager Arsene Wenger to stay on at the club.

The Arsenal deal is no surprise after news of it leaked on social media late last year. However, Arsenal fans are likely to press the club to spend heavily before the player transfer window closes at the end of the month to boost the team’s prospects for a first trophy since 2005.

Nike remain the kit suppliers to Manchester United and Manchester City. The Nike deal was worth 38 million pounds for United in 2012-13, including the club’s share of profits from merchandise sales. United and Nike are in negotiations on a new deal.—Reuters

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Japan’s 63.2 billion yen loan to Myanmar for projects

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Jan—Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein talked about a loan of 63.2 billion yen from Japan for implementation of four projects—upgrade of Yangon-Mandalay railroad, water supply project in Yangon, infrastructure development in Thilawa Port and development of irrigation facilities in the western Bago—in the country at the today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session. Next, the ministries concerned explained their respective projects to be implemented with the use of loans.

Then, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin sought the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for signing of Myanmar-Bangladesh Naaf River Boundary Additional Agreement 2007 sent by the President to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved it. Likewise, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the exchange of notes to become effective the Myanmar-India joint demarcation works by the deputy minister.

The seventh day session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 30 January.

Min Aung Hlaing and British guest exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary photo.