**President U Thein Sein accepts Credentials of Finnish, Portuguese Ambassadors**

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Jan—Ms. Kirsti Westphalen, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Finland, and Mr Louis Manuel Barreira Da Souza, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Portugal, to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented their Credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Present on the occasions were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.—MNA

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**Promfret fishing becomes lucrative business for its marketability in foreign markets**

As Myanmar’s Promfret receives a good reputation for its marketability in the world markets, promfret fishing that makes lucrative profits has become popular among Myanmar fishermen in coastal regions. There also has been a business boom in the market for promfret fishing net.

Fishing net manufacturers said production of promfret fishing net is a lucrative business earning remarkable profits if there is no severe impact such as climate change, professional incompetence and ill luck on the business.

Promfret fishing has a large share of the country’s fisheries sector. A market area for Promfret fish is very large, stretching from Hainggyigyun to Pyapon in delta region. But, Pyapon is the top player in the promfret fish market because it can be accessible by road or water and it can be reached within two-hour drive from Dala located on the other side of Yangon. Buyers and sellers are doing a brisk trade in Pyapon promfret fish market.

With smooth and speedy flow of transport in delta region, Pyapon has become a centre of promfret market because it can be accessible by road or water and it can be reached within two-hour drive from Dala located on the other side of Yangon. Buyers and sellers are doing a brisk trade in Pyapon promfret fish market.

A viss of first-class promfret fish is priced at K 25,000 in the market.

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**Exchange of messages between FMs of Myanmar, Japan**

Yangon, 29 Jan—To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Japan, Foreign Ministers of the two countries exchanged messages on 27 January.

The messages were read by the Japanese Ambassador Mr Mikio Numa and by U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister of Myanmar at a reception to commemorate the opening event of the 60th anniversary ‘Myanmar-Japan Hip Hop Concert’.

For more information, please contact Information and Culture Section, Embassy of Japan, Yangon, Tel: 549644–8 between 9 am and 5 pm from Monday to Friday.

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**INSIDE**

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- NATO’s Rasmussen criticizes Russian pressure on Ukraine
- Thailand to deploy 10,000 police in capital to secure voting

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Byline: Min Thitsa Hlaing (Kadon Kani)

Kyemon: 25-1-2014 Trs: YM
Work committee for implementation of socio-economic development in Rakhine State meets

NAV PYI TAW, 29 Jan — A coordination meeting of the working committee for implementation of socio-economic development in Rakhine State took place at the Ministry of Industry, here, yesterday, with an address by Union Minister U Maung Myint, chairman of the working committee.

The Union minister called for suggestions on how to implement the action plan of the comprehensive development plan for achieving peace and stability in Rakhine State, focusing on provision of assistance to education and health requirements in relief camps. He stressed the need to review strength and weakness in the previous year’s undertakings. More efforts are needed to realize the action plan, he added.

Next, Deputy Minister U Thein Aung, the secretary of the committee, explained works to be done and those present presented their respective tasks.

While implementing the comprehensive plan through coordination and collaboration, distribution of paddy strains, construction of basic education schools and clinics, installation of landline and sharing low-priced mobile phones have been carried out in Yanbye, Gwa, Yathedaung and Buthitaung Townships so far.— MNA

Labour Affairs

Seven Myanmar workers handed over by Thailand

TACHILEK, 29 Jan — A ceremony to hand over Myanmar workers was held at Myanmar-Thai No. 1 Friendship Bridge in Tachilek of Shan State (East) on 28 January morning.

Immigration Officer of Thailand and party handed over five Myanmar men and two women to Tachilek Township Deputy Administrator U Win Aung, SIP Min Zaw of Anti-Human Trafficking Squad and departmental officials. Officials made interrogation against seven Myanmar workers at Maha Myat Muni Monastery in Makaocham Ward of Tachilek. In their confession, they illegally entered Thailand. Due to lack of stay permit and overdue of transborder permission, they were arrested by Thai authorities. They were not victims of human trafficking, it was learnt.

Under the arrangements of the Township Administrator, those workers were handed over to their parents and relatives in the afternoon.

From 19 November 2010 to 28 January 2014, Thailand has handed over 5021 men and 1731 women, totalling 6752 Myanmar workers to Myanmar authorities.—MMAL-Myint Mo (Tachilek)

HRD

Lectures given to ensure high pass rate in matric exam

MONYWA, 29 Jan — Faculty members of Monywa University gave lectures to 352 students of Basic Education High Schools from ChaungU and Khinnon Village and Ngalon Village on 27 January with the aim of ensuring high pass rate of matriculation examination in 2014 academic year.

Associate Professor U Kyaw Naing, Lecturer Dr Daw Khin Thi, Lecturer Daw Khin Mar Wai, Lecturer U Zaw Tun Oo and Assistant Lecturer Daw Mi Mi Latt provided intensive lectures to the students.—MMAL-Township (PIRD) (ChaungU)

LOCAL NEWS

Development of health infrastructure built in Kanma Township

KANMA, 29 Jan — The government is striving for development of health sector by opening hospitals, dispensaries and health centres in all corners of the nation so as to provide health care services to the people from rural and urban areas in full swing.

The Government has allotted K 350 million on construction of 16- bed station hospital in Kanma Township of Thayet District in Magway Region in 2013-14 fiscal year.

The construction comprises one main building, one operation theatre, one mortuary, one medical officers quarters and 3200 gallon capacity water tank and 160 gallon capacity water tank.

The station hospital is located beside Pathein-Monywa Road. On completion, the hospital will give health care services to about 20000 people from 22 villages of nine village-tracts of Mindon and Padaung Townships.

A local expressed his emotional feeling that the local people went to Okshitpin, 28 miles from Gyobin Village of Kanma Township to receive medical treatment and Kanma, 14 miles from the village. Now, the new hospital will be reliable for all of the local people.

At present, Kanma Hospital (25-bed) has completed water tank spending K7 million. So, the patients can consume water without any difficulty. In addition, Yenatha Station Hospital is also giving health care to the locals.

Thanks to the government and local authorities, concerted efforts of the local people and supportive committee officials, the health infrastructure in Kanma Township can be shaped gradually.

YAMETHIN, 29 Jan — The people in Kinmonchon Village of Okshitkon Village-tract of Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region who cultivate model flower plants can earn income for their families.

Most of the people are engaged in cultivation of paddy but some of the people grow the flower to be able fetch income for the families.

Model flowers are to be grown in cold season. The saplings are to be bought from PyinOoLwin and Lashio. After 60-70 days of cultivation, the plants bear buds and flowers.

In the wholesales, the flowers are to be sold at K 1000 per 25 branches. Each branch of flower can be sold at K 40.

About 1350 flowery plants can be placed on 100 feet by 2 feet nursery block. Those growers who cultivate about 5000 plants can fetch K 400,000 but they can spend K 40000 to K 50000 on all cost of cultivation.

Let’s grow model flower for family income

MMAL-Aung Hu Taw (Mhaing)
NATO’s Rasmussen criticizes Russian pressure on Ukraine

PARIS, 29 Jan — NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen criticized Russia on Wednesday for pressuring Kiev not to sign a free trade pact with the European Union, a move that triggered mass protests.

Rasmussen, caught in a tug-of-war for influence between Moscow and Brussels, has been rocked by protests since it walked away from the EU association deal two months ago. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov resigned and deputies rolled back anti-protest laws to try to defuse the crisis.

"An association pact with Ukraine would have been a major boost to Euro-Atlantic security, I truly regret that it could not be done," Rasmussen told the Figaro daily. "The reason is well-known: pressure that Russia exercised on Ukraine."

Rasmussen also condemned police violence against the protesters and pressed Ukraine’s leaders to assert their independence, urging closer ties with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the European Union.

"Noting that cooperation between NATO and Russia had improved in some ar- eas, he criticized Russia’s role in eastern Europe. "We cannot expect that Russia or anyone else will solve the complex problems and shut down political and economic challenges and conflicts in the region."

South Korea urges North to hasten reunions but vows to continue drills

SEOUL, 29 Jan — South Korea urged the North on Wednesday to speed efforts for reunions of families separated since the war that divided the two Koreas, and vowed to continue joint military drills with the United States, despite protests from Pyongyang.

Uncertainty remained whether the North would keep its pledge to hold the reunions ahead of the start of the drills, but the South said it would not use military exercises as a means to secure the family event.

The North proposed the family reunions last week in a move welcomed by both China, its sole ma- jor ally, and the United States. If they come about, the reunions would be the first such event in more than three years.

But the North has yet to respond to a call by the South for the event to be held over six days in Feb- ruary and for a meeting to hammer out location and logistics.

"(We) expressed re- gret that the North has been showing an uncertain and passive position on the reunions of separated families, despite having ac- cepted the proposal to hold them," a spokeswoman of South Korea’s Unification Ministry said.

North Korean media have instead trumpeted the country’s longstanding demand for a halt to the military drills, a frequent sticking point in the rivals’ effort to improve ties. The North calls the drills a prelude to war, despite the South’s denial and assur- ance that they are defen- sive exercises that have been held for decades with no major incident.

Glyn Davies, the US envoy on North Korea policy, met his South Ko- rean counterpart in Seoul on Tuesday. Both rebutted Pyongyang’s call to stop upcoming military drills.

Thailand to deploy 10,000 police in capital to secure voting

BANGKOK, 29 Jan — Thailand’s government will deploy 10,000 police in the capital for Sunday’s elec- tion, which protesters have promised to disrupt as part of their drawn-out attempt to topple Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The government de- cided on Tuesday to press ahead with the February 2 election, which the main opposition party plans to boycott and despite warnings that it could lead to more violence without re- solving the country’s in- creasingly bitter political divide.

"I ask Bangkok resi- dents to come out and vote," Labour Minister Chalerm Yoohamrung told reporters on Wednesday.

"The police will take care of security ... Those who are thinking of going to the streets in November in the latest eruption of a political con- thathwat Province, when two local villagers on their way to work were shot dead and another seriously injured, they said.

The case is under in- vestigation, with police not ruling out that the killings may have been motivated by personal issues.

The second incident oc- curred around 7:30 a.m. in Yala District of Yala Prov- ince, targeting a group of 14 paramilitary soldiers escorting a group of teachers to a school. A remote-con- trolled bomb hidden near the school gate exploded as the soldiers passed through it on foot, injuring three of them. —Kyodo News

4 killed in 3 separate attacks in southern Thailand

ATHWAT, 29 Jan — Four people were killed and another four injured on Wednesday in three sepa- rate attacks in Thailand’s restive southern Provinces of Yala and Narathiwat, po- lice said.

The first attack oc- curred around 4:30 a.m. in Reu Soh District of Narathiwat Province, when two local villagers on their way to work were shot dead and another seriously injured, they said.

The case is under in- vestigation, with police not ruling out that the killings may have been motivated by personal issues.

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NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen holds a news conference while taking part in a European Union leaders summit at the EU council headquarters in Brussels December 19, 2013. —Reuters

Riot police officers stand guard inside the compound of the Thai Royal Police club in Bangkok on 29 Jan, 2014. —Reuters

South Korea urges North to hasten reunions but vows to continue drills

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Uncertainty remained whether the North would keep its pledge to hold the reunions ahead of the start of the drills, but the South said it would not use the military exercises as a means to secure the family event.

The North proposed the family reunions last week in a move welcomed by both China, its sole ma- jor ally, and the United States. If they come about, the reunions would be the first such event in more than three years.

But the North has yet to respond to a call by the South for the event to be held over six days in Feb- ruary and for a meeting to hammer out location and logistics.

"(We) expressed re- gret that the North has been showing an uncertain and passive position on the reunions of separated families, despite having ac- cepted the proposal to hold them," a spokeswoman of South Korea’s Unification Ministry said.

North Korean media have instead trumpeted the country’s longstanding demand for a halt to the military drills, a frequent
Regional bloc’s chief hails CELAC as new “expression” of LatAm integration

HAVANA, 29 Jan — Regional blocs in Latin America have shown a spirit of solidarity and co-operation that represents a “new expression of integration,” the head of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) said on Tuesday.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which began a summit here earlier in the day, reinforces and extends ties between ALBA member countries and other mechanisms for regional cooperation, such as Petrocaribe, said ALBA Secretary-General Bernardo Alvarez. “The founding principle of ALBA, CELAC and Petrocaribe is the new institutional structure, the new expression of integration,” he said in an interview with Venezuela-based TV news network Telesur in Havana.

Alvarez, who also heads Petrocaribe, said Cuba and Venezuela were the driving forces behind the creation of CELAC, a regional bloc of 33 member countries founded in February 2010.

He also underscored the significance of Petrocaribe, a mechanism that supplies Venezuelan oil at preferential prices and on soft credit terms to countries in the region.

Without Petrocaribe, Alvarez said, “regional countries could hardly have overcome the impacts of capitalism’s economic crisis.”

UN chief hails new gov’t in Central African Republic

UNITED NATIONS, 29 Jan — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday welcomed the establishment of a new government in the Central African Republic (CAR), saying this “offers a fresh opportunity to move the political process forward” in the war-torn country.

Ban congratulated interim President Catherine Samba-Panza and Prime Minister Andre Nzapayele for their efforts to put the transition back on track, said a statement issued by Ban’s spokesman.

Meanwhile, Ban “remains deeply concerned about the ongoing sectarian violence in the country and the humanitarian crisis that affects more than half of the population.”

“He calls for determined national and international efforts to stop the violence and overcome the crisis,” added the statement.

The secretary-general reiterates the importance of ensuring the success of the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA), which is playing a critical role in providing security on the ground,” the statement said.—Xinhua

Cuban President Raul Castro (L) shakes hands with his counterpart of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro, during the opening of the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC, for its initials in Spanish), in the Cuban capital of Havana, on 28 Jan, 2014. The two-day summit will focus on the fight against hunger, poverty and inequality.—Xinhua

Manual Santos, Ecuador’s Rafael Correa and Mexico’s Enrique Pena Nieto, will mainly discuss the fight against hunger, poverty and inequality in the region.—Xinhua

Ecuador detains suspects over shooting of Japanese couple

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Jan — Ecuadorian prosecutors said on Tuesday they have detained eight more people on suspicion of their involvement in the shooting of a Japanese couple honorary in Guayaquil in December that left the man dead and the woman seriously injured.

The prosecutors searched 12 locations in the country’s largest metropolitan Tuesday morning in connection with the shooting of Tetsuo Hitomi, 30, and his wife Mariko, 27, and seized vehicles, motorcycles and three guns, they said.

Interior Minister Jose Serrano confirmed a seized gun was identified as the one used in the assailt, according to the Japanese Embassy in Quito.

The eight are not linked to the 10 people the authorities captured 15 Jan. The gun seized along with the 10 people’s detention did not match the evidence of the weapon used in the case, the authorities said, adding that they judged the 10 were unlikely to have been involved.

The interior minister said those detained this time are core members of a group who have been engaged in “express kidnapping” of tourists and other people for valuables and money.

The minister said an Ecuadorian official will visit Mariko and other family members of Tetsuo shortly to update them on the ongoing investigations and to offer an apology.

The couple flagged a taxi on a street on the night of 28 December to return to their lodging from a luxury hotel near an airport and was assaulted by a pair of men who got in the car on the way. Tetsuo was shot in the chest and died instantly, while Mariko sustained serious injuries in her abdomen and right leg, police said.

Investigators say that the taxi driver was also a potential suspect in the case.—Kyodo News

Mexico launches anti-kidnapping squad after abductions soar

MEXICO CITY, 29 Jan — Mexico’s government on Tuesday created an anti-kidnapping agency after abductions soared 20 percent last year despite President Enrique Pena Nieto’s vow to reduce the crime.

The new department will answer to the country’s interior ministry, where Pena Nieto has centered his anti-crime programmes after his predecessor, Felipe Calderon, launched a military offensive against drug cartels seven years ago.

Former federal prosecutor Renato Sales was named to lead the new force, establish common protocols for investigation, train agents and buy new equipment. Many families that are victims of kidnappings do not report abductions to authorities, and private groups have much higher statistics on the number of kidnappings.

Sales told reporters that the real number of kidnapings could be as much as 10 times what official data shows.

Victims are reluctant to report crimes due to concerns that kidnappers could find out. Active and former police officers are frequent part of kidnapping gangs that have been busted. —Reuters

Pedestrians pass by a countdown clock in Sochi, Russia, on 28 Jan, 2014. The clock shows 10 days left until the opening of the Winter Olympics.—Kyodo News

Work starts on using English terms on Hiroshima street signs

HIROSHIMA, 29 Jan— The Japanese government on Tuesday started work in Hiroshima to replace signs that bear Japanese names for streets in Roman letters with new ones with English equivalents, as part of its efforts to make signs across Japan easier to understand for foreign visitors. A signpost for “Rijo-dori” at the centre of the western Japan city read “Rijo-dori Ave.” Wednesday morning.

The Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry is also scheduled to change “Heiwa odori Ave.”, a main street in Hiroshima, into “Peace Boulevard.” A total of 58 signposts in Hiroshima Prefecture will be replaced by the end of March.

The ministry has been promoting the replacement of signposts throughout the country because Japanese names written in the Roman alphabet are hard for foreign visitors to understand.

In 2012, roughly 360,000 foreigners visited the city of Hiroshima, home of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, known as the Atomic Bomb Dome, and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, according to the Hiroshima prefectural government.

They have become symbolic of the city, testaments to the suffering caused by the US atomic bombing on 6 Aug. 1945.—Kyodo News

Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong (R) talks with Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam at the launch of an anti-kidnapping unit in Mexico, at the interior ministry in Mexico City on 28 Jan, 2014. —Reuters

The minister said an anti-kidnapping agency on Monday in a bid to pull the turmoil-torn country out of crisis and organize general elections by February 2015.

The secretary-general, which is currently in Cuba for a regional summit, reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to support CAR transitional authorities in their efforts to ensure the security and the welfare of the people, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Ban “remains deeply concerned about the ongoing sectarian violence in the country and the humanitarian crisis that affects more than half of the population.”

“He calls for determined national and international efforts to stop the violence and overcome the crisis,” added the statement.

“The secretary-general reiterates the importance of ensuring the success of the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA), which is playing a critical role in providing security on the ground,” the statement said.—Xinhua
Japanese chefs join gourmet festival in Switzerland

ST MORITZ, (Switzerland), 29 Jan — Two chefs from Kyoto on Tuesday became the first Japanese cooks to take part in an annual gourmet festival in the luxury ski resort of St Moritz, Switzerland, serving up traditional Japanese cuisine.

The cooks are Yoshihiro Takahashi, 5th-generation chef at Hyotei, which has been awarded three Michelin stars, and Takujii Takahashi, master chef at Kinobu.

Their invitation to the St Moritz Gourmet Festival came after “washoku, Japan’s traditional cuisine, was added to UNESCO’s Intangible Heritage list last year. “I fully realized that washoku has spread throughout the world,” said Kinobu’s Takujii Takahashi.

Three Japanese sake breweries, meanwhile, served their products at the festival to promote the beverage internationally.

Launched in 1994, the festival will be held through Friday, with renowned chefs from the United States, Germany, France and the Netherlands also taking part.—Kyodo News

Australia’s North Queensland residents warned to prepare for wild weather

BRISBANE, (Australia), 29 Jan — People in Australia’s North Queensland have been warned to prepare themselves for damaging winds of up to 120 km an hour as a tropical low pressure is moving closer to the coast, local media reported on Wednesday.

A cyclone warning remains in place for coastal and island communities from Port Douglas to Mackay. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) warns the system, about 590 km northeast of Townsville, is forecast to form into a cyclone before it makes landfall on Friday morning.

Winds are expected to increase further with damaging wind gusts up to 120 km an hour developing about the coast from Wednesday evening and extending inland during Thursday and Friday, according to the BOM. A king tide of up to 4.12 meters is forecast for Friday morning as the storm reaches land.

“Coastal residents between Port Douglas and Hamilton Island are specifically warned of the dangerous storm tide as the developing tropical low approaches the coast, particularly on the high tide on Thursday and Friday,” the forecaster said in a statement. “People living in areas likely to be affected by this flooding should take measures to protect their property as much as possible and be prepared to help their neighbors.”

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Lee Johnson urged people living in the zones to prepare their properties and listen to advice from authorities. “Whilst the advice from the bureau this time is that it will be a low category if it does form, we’re still going to get very, very strong winds, certainly flooding rains and on the coast damaging wave action,” he told reporters.—Xinhua

Gov’t panel recommends relaxing of Worker Dispatching Act

TOKYO, 29 Jan — A government panel on Wednesday compiled a report recommending that regulations on dispatching workers be relaxed to allow employers to offer the same temporary positions for more than three years. A bill based on the recommendation by the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry panel to revise the Worker Dispatching Act will be submitted to the current session of the Diet for enactment in April 2015.

The current regulation bans employers from keeping a temporary worker in the same position for more than three years so as to prevent replacing of permanent employees with temporary staff, with exceptions for such occupations as translators and personal secretaries. After hiring temporary workers for three years, employers need to either hire them permanently or eliminate those temporary positions. If passed, the revised law will allow companies to keep offering the same temporary positions indefinitely as long as they are filled by different people every three years.

Under the proposal, employers will be required to consult labor unions before replacing a temporary worker with another for the same position, even though labor unions have no power to reject employers’ decisions.—Kyodo News

President Xi visits border troops ahead of Lunar New Year

BEIJING, 29 Jan — President Xi Jinping visited soldiers stationed along the Chinese-Mongolian border ahead of the upcoming traditional Chinese New Year. Xi left Beijing early Sunday morning for the city of Arxan in Inner Mongolia by plane, which is about 1,000 km away from the Chinese capital.

From Arxan, Xi traveled to the Chinese-Mongolian border. His convoy drove through a vast and remote snowfield with outdoor temperatures of about minus 30 degrees Celsius. On his way to the border, the president exited his car to chat with a team of soldiers on a patrol mission, expressing his appreciation for them for struggling in the harsh weather to safeguard the country.

He then stopped at a hilltop border post and inspected thearrison of a border troop company. At the garrison, he joined officers and soldiers for lunch at their canteen.

“I am very proud of our border troops. With you guarding the country’s border, people feel safe and can concentrate on economic development, reform and opening-up,” Xi said. He stressed the great responsibility on border troops and urged them to exercise their duty through hard training and good operations.

As the border troops are stationed in an area inhabited by ethnic minorities, they should follow the country’s ethnic policies, promote ethnic harmony and contribute to economic development and social stability of the local community, he said. —Xinhua

7 killed, 14 injured in fire on bus in western India

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan — At least seven people were charred to death and over 14 others injured in a fire which broke out on a luxury bus after it collided with a diesel tanker in the western Indian state of Maharashtra in the early hours of Wednesday, a senior police official said.

“The incident happened in Kude village in the state’s Manor district when the bus was traveling from the city of Pune to Maharashtra to the neighboring state of Gujarat’s Ahmedabad city and the accident halted traffic on state highway, the official said. A probe has been ordered into the incident, he added.—Xinhua
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Qualcomm faces prospect of record anti-trust fines in China**

**BEIJING, 29 Jan —** Qualcomm Inc, the world’s biggest cellphone chip maker, is facing the prospect of a record fine exceeding $1 billion in a Chinese anti-trust probe, raising the specter of harsher scrutiny for foreign firms facing an increasingly aggressive regulator.

China’s National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) initiated an investigation into Qualcomm last year and is currently holding talks with the US company, which this month said it was still in the early stages of the basis of the scrutiny. The probe and the potential fine — the amount of which could hinge on negotiations — come as the NDRC zooms in on information technology providers, especially companies that license patent technology to mobile devices and networks.

Industry experts say the NDRC, the government’s new economic planning body, is trying to lower domestic costs as China rolls out its faster 4G mobile networks this year. “It is, in some ways, a game of chicken,” said Yew Wah Chin, a New York-based antitrust expert at law firm Ingram, Yuwak, Gainen, Carroll and Bertolotti. “While the (fine) money may be very attractive to the NDRC, they would also be happy if Qualcomm were to make to all sorts of commitments regarding its technology and the licensing of the technology,” she told Reuters.

San Diego-based Qualcomm, which is scheduled to report quarterly results later on Wednesday, is positioned to reap the vast majority of licensing fees for the chip sets used by handset makers in China, the world’s biggest smartphone market.

Chinese telecom firms may invest as much as $100 billion (US$16.4 billion) in equipment for 4G networks. Under Chinese anti-trust law, the NDRC can impose fines of between 1 and 10 percent of a company’s revenues for the previous year. Qualcomm earned $12.3 billion in China for its fiscal year ended on 29 September, or nearly half of its global sales.

Lawyers say the fine is likely to be extremely high if Qualcomm fails to make concessions in its talks with the NDRC. “We intend to continue cooperating fully with the NDRC,” Qualcomm spokeswoman Christine Trimble said when asked about the probe. In December, the head of the NDRC’s anti-price-fixing bureau told state media there was “substantial evidence” against Qualcomm in the antitrust probe. Details, however, remain sketchy.— Reuters

**Global smartphone shipments top one billion for first time in 2013**

**BEIJING, 29 Jan —** Global smartphone shipments topped 1 billion units for first time in 2013, climbing 38.4 percent from the previous year to 1.04 billion units, research firm IDC said.

Smartphones made up 55.1 percent of all mobile phone shipments last year from just over two-fifths in 2012, IDC said.

“Smartphones are eating the middle market,” said IDC analyst William Zhao. “Beijing on 17 Jan, 2014.— Reuters

**Breath test may help identify early lung cancer**

**WASHINGTON, 29 Jan —** Specific compounds found in exhaled breath may help diagnose lung cancer in its early stages, US researchers said on Tuesday. Researchers from the University of Louisville used a silicone microprocessor and a mass spectrometer to test exhaled breath for specific volatile organic compounds (VOCs) known as carcinobyls from patients with suspected lung cancer.

The compound compositions included aldehydes and ketones, which are organic compounds with a carbon double-bonded to oxygen.

These compounds are at very low concentrations and produced by the human body. After matching their findings with pathologic and clinical results, the researchers found that having elevated levels of the three compounds was predictive of lung cancer in 85 percent of patients and that the absence of elevated VOC levels “was predictive of a benign mass in one percentage point year-on-year to 31.3 percent to keep its place as the world’s biggest smartphone vendor, while second-place Apple Inc’s fell from 18.7 percent to 15.3 percent, according to IDC. Huawei Technologies Co, LG Electronics and Lenovo Group were third, fourth and fifth largest respectively, each with a market share of just under five percent in 2013.— Reuters

A man walks past a Qualcomm advertising logo at the Mobile World Congress at Barcelona, on 27 Feb, 2013. **Reuters**

Apple’s iPhone sales, revenue forecast fall short; shares slide

**SAN FRANCISCO, 29 Jan —** Lower-than-expected holiday iPhone sales and a weak revenue forecast by Apple Inc renewed fears about Chinese demand and a tepid global market, wiping 8 percent off company stock. This year was to have been Apple Inc’s watershed year — Lower-than-expected holiday iPhone sales and a weak revenue forecast by Apple Inc renewed fears about Chinese demand and a tepid global market, wiping 8 percent off company stock. This year was to have been Apple Inc’s watershed year.

Apple’s iPhone sales, revenue forecast fall short; shares slide

**San Francisco, 29 Jan —** Higher-than-expected holiday iPhone sales and a weak revenue forecast by Apple Inc. An American industrialist said he had renewed fears about Chinese demand and a tepid global market, wiping 8 percent off company stock. This year was to have been Apple Inc’s watershed year.
**New Zealand, US scientists to study fishing impact in South Pacific**

Wellington, 29 Jan — New Zealand and US scientists are set to survey one of the world's longest underwater mountain ranges near New Zealand intends to launch a 2-ton probe carrying a 300-kg orbiter, which will be followed, the practice catches on and spectrum and sell their airwaves as a way to clear up more airwaves, or winning numerous economic, engineering and political considerations, including a vocal push from smaller carriers for limits to how much spectrum their larger competitors will be allowed to acquire.

**Russia plans several Moon, Mars missions in near future**

Moscow, 29 Jan — Russia plans to launch several Moon and Mars missions in the next few years, according to Moscow. After 2020, the Lavochkin company envisages construction of a Venera-D probe for explorations of Venus. The probe should survive on the extremely hot planet's surface for about 24 hours, Khartov said. Last December, Lev Zelyony, director of the Russian Academy of Science’s Space Research Institute, said Russia has set its sights on testing how two television stations could share frequency channel. Khartov also revealed Russia is keen to boost the share of familiar TV content, including the push for sharing, the practice has been selling the device for three months,” said CK Lu, a Taipei-based analyst with Gartner.

**US wireless group proposes TV channel-sharing pilot**

Washington, 29 Jan — The US wireless industry lobby is proposing a pilot study to test how two television stations could share radio frequencies, hoping the practice catches on and broadcasters free up more of the valuable airwaves to be sold in an upcoming spectrum auction. The wireless association, CTIA, said on Tuesday it has found two stations in Los Angeles — KJLA and KLC5 — interested in testing how they could send their video through the same radio frequency channel. Known as channel sharing, the practice has been supported by the Federal Communications Commission as a way to clear up more airwaves, or spectrum, for the so-called incentive auction currently scheduled for 2015.

**Apple’s China moment still frustratingly out of reach**

Beijing / San Francisco, 29 Jan — Apple Inc may have to wait a little longer for its watershed moment in China. A disappointing March-quarter revenue forecast, coupled with surprisingly weak holiday iPhone sales, suggest pundits may have overestimated initial demand from China Mobile’s 700 million-plus subscribers, a key factor that has pushed its shares 18 percent higher in the fourth quarter. It raises doubt about the country’s appetite for its devices as well as broader concerns aboutflagging global demand for smartphones and tablets. Apple and China Mobile struck their deal in December, and iPhones went on sale in January. The China Mobile deal, which some analysts expected could boost iPhone sales by as much as 30 million units a year, won’t be the knight in shining armor that Apple needs to maintain high growth rates, if its own forecasts are anything to go by. Despite both companies trumping up the deal as a milestone, the iPhone’s lofty price tag — starting at $640, about a tenth of the average urban income of $7,600 — insufficient high-speed 4G wireless coverage, and persistently stiff competition from local players such as Huawei and Xiaomi may keep a lid on iPhone sales growth for now. Would-be iPhone buyers may also be waiting for the next iteration, which is widely rumored to adopt a larger screen that Samsung Electronics and other rivals have proved can be more popular with Asian buyers.

"I don’t really expect China Mobile is going to sell a lot of iPhones this generation. The other carriers have been selling the device for three months,” said CK Lu, a Taipei-based analyst with Gartner.

**Samsung sets new smartphone sales record in fourth quarter, widens lead over Apple**

Seoul, 29 Jan — Inc even after the US firm reached a new iPhone sales high, data from research firm Strategy Analytics showed. Samsung took 29.6 percent of the global smartphone market in the fourth quarter, ahead of Apple’s 17.5 percent, as strong local end market growth led by Chinese vendors continued to shake up the smartphone industry, the data showed. Apple sold a record 51 million iPhones in the year-end quarter although its market share slipped from the previous year’s 22 percent, according to the annual average urban income of $7,600 — insufficient high-speed 4G wireless coverage, and persistently stiff competition from local players such as Huawei and Xiaomi may keep a lid on iPhone sales growth for now. Would-be iPhone buyers may also be waiting for the next iteration, which is widely rumored to adopt a larger screen that Samsung Electronics and other rivals have proved can be more popular with Asian buyers.

"I don’t really expect China Mobile is going to sell a lot of iPhones this generation. The other carriers have been selling the device for three months,” said CK Lu, a Taipei-based analyst with Gartner.

**US President Barack Obama is seen on a network video distribution console while he talks about the economy in the White House Press Briefing Room in Washington, on 8 June, 2012. — Reuters**
When facts come along with fiction

In this age of advanced technology, information reaches almost every nook and cranny on this planet. We can extend the reach of information within a short time frame. But we could not broaden the horizons of the people living in even the very urbanized part of the world that easily.

We have ready-made information in our hands. This information includes not only facts but fictions. There are side effects of the manipulated information. Rumours can spread easily on social networking at a speed that no other modes of communication can bring. Fiction-flavoured information can destroy economies, can kill the people, and can do anything within a very blink.

Technology narrows spaces, widens coverage, and, most importantly, shortens the timeframe required for any activities. The greatest challenge of our time is defining what is fiction and what is fact out of information we are supplied. A photo or footage of a fire outbreak could become an arson attack. And a natural disaster victim could be labelled a person killed in attacks.

As proposed by many, regulating or blaming the sources of reports, especially the media, is not the answer. It will otherwise breach the freedom of information. All we need to do is to promote critical thinking among the people. It is not easy and will surely take time. But it is not only remedy, it rather will be the panacea for the woes of rumour.

Budget Department, ADB sign Loan Agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—The Budget Department under the Ministry of Finance and Asian Development Bank signed a Loan Agreement at the Ministry of Electric Power today.

In his speech, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe said that US$ 60 million from the loan agreement will be spent on installation of new transformer at sub-power stations in power supply system of Yangon, Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions, substitution of old power cables with new ones, installation of aerial bundled conductor (ABC) at 400 volt line, reducing of 4 per cent of technical and non technical loss and installment of digital metres.

Director-General U Maung Maung Win of Budget Department and ADB Resident Representative Mr. Patta Kanyayama signed the loan agreement. —MNA

Construction works of Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Deputy Construction Minister Dr. Aung Htike met with Laotian Deputy Minister of Public Works and Transport Dr Bouchan SINTHAVONG at Aurum Palace Hotel in Bagan yesterday for a day.

They discussed ongoing tasks for Myanmar-Laos friendship bridge project, situated in Kengtik sub-township of Tachileik, Shan State (East). As well, they focused on construction of border control facilities and related matters.

They then confirmed the design of logo for the project.

So far, Bridge Construction Special Group-9 of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction has completed 53.8% of the project. —MNA

The Latest Colossal Sagyin marble Buddha Image

A special rail lines were laid from the hill foot-side workshop to the lake side where a special jetty was made. On that special rail line, a big wagon with the load was pulled by a Buddha Image high power locomotive. It took few days to reach the jetty. Then the wagons with the load were transferred to a specially built water craft, strong enough to bear and convey over 500 tons Image plus special wagon nest- ing on the rail lines. Such was the religious fervor of Myanmar people that they wanted to hold ceremony of homage to the Image. The following is the list of its over night stops for puja celebrations.

(1) Mandalay Gawain Jetty 52-7-2000
(2) Myin Mu river side town 26-7-2000
(3) Pakokku river side town 27-7-2000
(4) Bagan NayangU river side town 28-7-2000
(5) Magway, river side town 29-7-2000
(6) Aunglan, river side town 30-7-2000
(7) Pyay, river side town 31-7-2000
(8) Myan UUng, river side town 1-8-2000
(9) Hnanzada, river side town 2-8-2000
(10) Danyubu, river side town 3-8-2000
(11) Maubin, river side town 4-8-2000
(12) Twantay, river side town 4-8-2000
(13) Insein, Kyo Kone jetty 5-8-2000

Along this Riverine journey and over night stops, religious rites were duly performed and pro-pititations to local nat-spirits were made, while Buddha cash and kind, monks and nuns giving then religious services, visitors, tourists and diplomats coming to admire and marvel at the superlative marble mono- lith being fashioned into a colossal Buddha Image. Today Loka Chan Thar Abbaya Labha Muni marble Image is a must for all visitors to Yangon. You not only marvel at the marble Buddha Image of Super size but also see other religious objects sculpted out of monolith Sagyin marble stones in the precincts such as (1) Sagyin marble alms bowl measuring 9 feet 10 inches high, 10 feet in diameter and 5 feet 8 inches in circumference, weigh in) over 30 tons. It is named Maha Anu Patta Nilam meaning the Great In-comparable marble Alms Bowl of sapphire colour. The colour and texture of this marble alms bowl are excellent and flawless and perfectly matching the qualities of the Image. This monolith was also quarried in the mines of U Taw Taw (2) Two attendants Arathab ornaments on either side of the Image, sculpted out of two monolith marble of extra fine quality (3) Two Bud- dha Foot Prints carved out of Sagyin marble mono- lithic housed just behind the temple. They are also U Taw Taw’s donations. U Taw Taw and many of those who participated in the tasks described above had passed away, but their religious deeds shall remain as long as the great Image lasts. —(Concluded)
Diplomats, Rakhine State Government ...

(from page 16)

He also stressed the importance of the rule of law and trust between the two communities to achieve success in rehabilitation and peaceful coexistence of the two communities.

EU Ambassador Mr Roland Kobia said they would provide assistance to both communities without bias. He also reaffirmed that they accepted the conflicts in Rakhine State as a matter of internal affairs of a country.

He also suggested the Rakhine State Government to carry out the tasks for the stability and development with transparency.— MNA

Fourth Myanmar-Laos ministerial meeting held in Yangon

Yangon, 29 Jan—The fourth Myanmar-Laos ministerial meeting on implementation of signing an MoU on cooperation in rule of law between the two countries was held at Se-dona Hotel, here, yesterday.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko and party and Dr. Thongbanh Seng A Phone, Laos Minister of Public Security and party discussed bilateral cooperation in security, peace and stability of the two countries, rule of law and safety of the two peoples, immigration, anti-drugs and anti-human trafficking operations, technical exchanges and control and management on overseas employees between Myanmar and Laos.

On 27 January, Police Brig-Gen Soe Myaing, Head of the Transnational Crime Department of Myanmar Police Force held talks with Director-General of the Ministry of Public Security Permanent Secretary Police Brig-Gen Phouny Vandixay at the same venue.

They also discussed cooperation in security, stability and rule of law in Myanmar and Laos and preparations for holding the fourth Myanmar-Laos ministerial meeting.— MNA

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko shares hands with Dr. Thongbanh Seng A Phone, Laos Minister of Public Security.— MNA

SWRR Ministry signs MoUs with INGOs

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Jan—The Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement signed MoUs with five INGOs at the ministry here yesterday.

SWRR Deputy Minister U Phone Swe gave an opening speech on the occasion.

The ministry signed an MoU with the Association for Aid and Relief (Japan) on implementing of vocational schools for people with disabilities and carrying out community-based rehabilitation tasks.

MoU on providing assistance to needy persons in Kayah State was signed with the Mercy Corps (MC), Myanmar.

Another three MoUs were signed with the Lutheran World Federation, OXFAM and Weltthun gherfe, to share knowledge on natural disasters and impact of climate change, child development and education and health care services, to assist in agriculture and breeding and carry out rehabilitation tasks and long-term projects for rural development.— MNA

Maungtaw Police Station investigates arson attacks

Sittway, 29 Jan—An arson investigation was opened after house fire broke out at Ducheer-tan (west) Village, Maungtaw Township, around 8.45 pm yesterday, according to local authorities.

While fire fighters and local authorities were fighting with the flames gutted the house of Abu Bweyar, 50, at the village, another fire broke out at house of Annawah Salam, 50, about 150 yards south of the first fire scene.

Firefighters and local authorities found about five Bangalis ran away from the house of second fire when they went there to put out the fire.

The two arson fires destroyed four houses and 12 small houses and there were no injuries nor death happened during the fires.

There is no village of Rakhine near the village where two fires out broke and local Bangalis set their houses on fire by themselves, local authorities said.

Rakhine State government has asked media personnel to contact the local authorities to get information related to the fires in attempts to prevent the exaggeration of the crime.

Rakhine State IPRD

Photo shows outbreak of arson fire in Ducheer-tan (west) Village, Maungtaw Township on 28 January.

IPRD

Unions FM receives Austrian, Finnish, and Portuguese Ambassadors

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Jan—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Austrian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Enno Droffenk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 2 pm today.

The Union Minister also met Finnish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Louis Manuel Barreira de Sousa at 4 pm at the same venue.— MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee reviews Printing and Publishing Bill

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Jan—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee reviewed 17 amendment points of Printing and Publishing Bill which is making differences between the two Hluttaw at the hall of the committee, here, this noon.

During the meeting, the Secretary of the Joint Bill Committee explained the purpose of the meeting, member of Work Committee for Legislative Cooperation, members of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee, MPs, a member of Myanmar Press Council (Interim) and officials participated in the discussions.

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Rakhine State IPRD

Photo shows outbreak of arson fire in Ducheer-tan (west) Village, Maungtaw Township on 28 January.

IPRD
Inter-ward road placed with gravel in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 29 Jan—Thukhita Road linking Yadana Manaung Ward and East Market Ward is being placed with gravel in Meiktila.

The Township Development Affairs Committee (Civil) is building not only inter-village roads but also inter-ward roads so as to make the town developed. The road construction started on 23 January, accounting for 60 per cent.

The road is 1900 feet long and 12 feet wide. Upon completion, the people from the wards will have the opportunity to pass the market, said an official.

Thukhita Road divides Aungzeya Ward on the east, railroad and Thiri Mingala Ward on the north, Yadana Manaung Ward on the south and East Market Ward on the west—MMAL-Chan Thar (Meiktila)

Using quality strain of rubber talked

LAUNGLON, 29 Jan—A talk on use of quality rubber strain was held at the rubber farm of U Pa Su in Pyinhtein Village of Launglon Township in Taninthayi Region on 26 January.

The talk was managed by Industrial Crops Development Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Staff Officer of Dawei District Industrial Crops Development Department Daw San San Tin explained cultivation of the farmers in line with the three duties of the ministry, distribution of quality rubber strain for systematic choosing quality strains and 17 points for high yield production of rubber strains.

Head of Township Department U Toe Lwin explained the applying good agriculture method for classifying the quality rubber strains boosting production of rubber.

Officials demonstrated grafting and cultivation of grafting and replied to queries raised by local farmers.

The talks were attended by 50 farmers—MMAL-Launglon IPRD

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

Treated mosquito nets distributed

MAHLAING, 29 Jan—The health knowledge talks was held in conjunction with the ceremony to provide treated mosquito nets in Yagyigon Village of Mahlaing Township on 23 January.

Township Medical Officer Dr Myat Mo Hsan and party and the head of Township Traditional Medicine Department gave talks on hygienic lifestyle, diabetes, breast cancer, TB and traditional medicines.

Mandalay Region government shared 100 treated mosquito nets to needy persons from 14 villages from five villages—MMAL-Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Clerical Course concludes at Rakhine State High Court

SITTWAY, 29 Jan—On behalf of the Chief Justice of Rakhine State High Court, Justice of the High Court U Thein Aung delivered a speech at the concluding of Clerical Course No 1/2014 at Rakhine State High Court in Sittway on 27 January afternoon.

It was attended by Justices of the Rakhine State High Court, the State Judicial Officer, law officers, justices of Sittway District and Township and trainees.

Officials presented prizes to the trainees.

Health care services provided to patients with traditional medicines

MAHLAING, 29 Jan—In commemoration of the 81st birthday of Sasana Weponla Laymyethna Sayadaw of Mahlaing, Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Association U Myo Myint and Head of Mandalay Region Traditional Medicine Department U Ohn Myint Swe led 40 traditional medicine practitioners to make field trips to grassroots level of Mahlaing Township.

They will give health care services to patients from Mahlaing Township with traditional medicines for various diseases on 2 and 3 February at Laymyathna Monastery from 8 am to 4 pm.

The treatment will be free of charge.

Those wishing to receive medical treatment may enlist at Laymyathna Sayadaw, Laymyathna Sayadaw, U Maung Maung Tin, U Than Tun Aung, Monbinlay, Dr Htay Maw (No 6) and U Maung Maung of Thiri Zeya Press—MMAL-Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Official and farmers observe thriving rubber plantation in Launglon Township.
Major paper firm committed to sustainable management of Indonesia's forest

JAKARTA, 29 Jan — A major pulp and paper firm operating in Indonesia’s Riau Province, Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL) made on Tuesday its commitment to upgrading its forest management, aiming to assure its woods raw material can be used on sustainable basis.

To fulfill its aim, APRIL set up a committee to monitor implementation of its efforts to address its commitment.

The committee consist of independent parties and stakeholders around its mills in Indonesia. Among the committee members was international conservancy organization World Wild Fund (WWF).

The committee would be allowed to appoint an independent auditor agency tasked to verify and make reports on the development of efforts carried out by APRIL regarding its commitment.

“This policy was beyond commitments that we already made before. The advisory committee joined by independent parties would ensure that the policies to be conducted properly and transparently,” APRIL President Praveen Singhavi told a press conference attended by Indonesian Forestry Minister Zulkifli Hasan and representatives of nature conservancy organizations.

In its latest commitment, APRIL pledged to undertake moratorium in developing plantations located in forests identified as High Conservation Value Forest (HCFV).

The firm also assured that development of its new plantation areas would finish on Dec. this year, saying that as of 2019 its wood raw material would be coming from its sustainable process.

Besides that, APRIL also promises to increase its forest restoration program twice wider to 40,000 hectares and was looking forward to expanding conservation area as wide as its plantation areas. Forestry Minister Zulkifli Hasan welcomed APRIL’s latest commitment, encouraging it to improve its partnership with related institutions and green community.

Xinhua

Over one million Chinese unable to access electricity

Official data showed the number of poor people in rural areas stood at 98.99 million at the end of 2012, down 23.39 million from 2011.

According to a NEA plan, China aims to achieve full electricity coverage by 2015. Despite China’s stellar economic performance in recent years, a considerable number of people still live in harsh conditions.

Xinhua

38 killed in clashes between separatists and army in S Philippines

MNLANZA, 29 Jan—Ongoing clashes between government soldiers and Muslim separatist rebels have killed at least 38 people since breaking out Sunday in the southern Philippines, a spokesman for the Philippine military said on Wednesday.

According to Army Col. Dickson Hermoso, one soldier was among those killed in Maguindanao Province, with the remaining 37 belonging to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, a breakaway group that refuses to hold peace talks with the government.

He said at least seven soldiers have been injured since Sunday.

Fighting erupted one day after the government and the country’s largest Muslim rebel group — the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from which the BIFF broke away — agreed on several points of a peace deal in a bid to end the Muslim insurgency that has plagued the southern Philippines since the 1970s.

In October 2012, the government and the MILF reached a framework agreement, outlining a roadmap to end the fighting. Both sides hope to sign a final peace agreement “not later than March” this year, according to a recent statement made by Philippines government chief negotiator Miriam Co-Romeil-Ferrer.

Xinhua

Kuala Lumpur, 29 Jan — Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim will contest a state assembly seat in Selangor in an upcoming by-election triggered by the resignation of an assemblyman from his party, Malaysia’s state news agency Bernama said on Tuesday.

The move has fueled speculation that it could pave the way for Anwar to become the chief minister of the crucially important industrial state of Selangor, while patching up a rift within his party in that state.

Anwar, leader of the People’s Justice Party, will contest the yet-to-be-announced by-election for the state seat, which was left vacant following the resignation of assemblyman Lee Chin Cheh on Monday.

Anwar’s move is also aimed apparently at resolving a feud between party officials in Selangor and the current Selangor chief minister, Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, on how he runs the state.

Anwar has fended off speculation that his candidacy is an attempt by his party to replace Abdul Khalid as the chief minister.

XeRed News

Women of Yao ethnic group make “ciba”, a special glutinous rice cake, in Luoshan Village, Liangshan Township, Fuchuan Yao Autonomous County, south China’s Guanghai Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 29 Jan, 2014. Yao people in Fuchuan have the tradition of making ciba for the Spring Festival and harvest celebration.—Xinhua

Nuclear reactor in S Korea halts operation

SEOUL, 29 Jan — One nuclear reactor in South Korea halted operation Wednesday morning due to estimated slight glitches.

The reactor, located 330 km southeast of Seoul in Uljin, stopped operation in July last year for the first time due to the slight technical glitches.

The official said that last year’s halt came from slight glitches, noting that the reactor’s air cooler, which serves to cool down steam from its turbine, failed to stay in a vacuum.

Xinhua
Israeli settlers archaeology tourism plans seen deepening roots

A boy rides his bicycle near an archaeological site in the Jewish settler neighbourhood of Tel Rumeida in the divided city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank on 19 January, 2014.—REUTERS

Hebron, 29 Jan— On an ancient hill dotted with 1,000-year-old olive trees, Israelis are busy excavating in search of the first palace of King David in the heart of the West Bank. The Jewish settlers who started the dig with the help of Israel’s Antiquities Authority say they want to turn it into an archaeological park to celebrate its historical significance.

But for Palestinians who hope the West Bank will someday form part of a Palestinian state, the move is a grab not only for land but also for their past - a ploy to cut them out of history and away from land they say is rightfully theirs.

“Every land in the West Bank is holy,” said Iyad Halaq, an 88-year-old Palestinian who remembers this land before 1948. “The area is the heart of the Jewish people.”

For Israeli settlers, the search for King David’s palace is a historical quest that could turn into a tourist attraction.

For Palestinians, it is a historical embarrassment.

“Every location in the West Bank is a location of Palestinian history,” said Youssef Haydar, a Palestinian lawyer who has written about the issue. “The only way for Israel to turn these locations into tourist attractions is to lie, because these places are ours.”

But the search for King David’s palace is also a political issue. Israeli leaders say finding the palace is a key step in establishing a two-state solution with Israel and a Palestinian state. Palestinians say finding the palace is a key step in establishing a two-state solution with Israel and a Palestinian state.

The territory is the focus of a dispute between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

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Lady Gaga’s meat dress named most controversial red carpet moment

LONDON, 29 Jan — Singer Lady Gaga’s meat-inspired dress has been voted the most controversial red carpet moment of all time, says a survey.

The research, conducted by hairstylist Charles Worthington, found that the dress sported by Gaga at the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards was the most controversial, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

It was followed by actress Elizabeth Hurley’s daring Versace safety pin dress, which she wore to the premiere of Four Weddings and a Funeral in 1994.

Actress Angelina Jolie’s thigh-high split black dress at the 2012 Oscars was the third most controversial.

Singer Geri Halliwell’s BRIT Awards Union Jack dress and Björk’s ’swan dress’ from the 2001 Oscars rounded out the top five most controversial red carpet moments of all time.

Madonna’s son styled her for Grammys’ red carpet

LOS ANGELES, 29 Jan — Pop star Madonna came to the 56th Annual Grammy Awards styled by her son David Banda, all of eight years old.

The 55-year-old walked the red carpet on Sunday with David, who she adopted in 2006 with former husband Guy Ritchie, in matching black Ralph Lauren suits, completing the look with wide-brimmed hats, reports contactmusic.com.

So, what with shooting for Happy New Year opposite Salman’s frenemy Shah Rukh and prepping for her new film with Ranbir, Deepika has zero dates for Salman.

That’s Deepika crossed off Salman’s list of possible heroines. Will he repeat a heroine now?

Why Deepika Padukone has no time for Salman Khan

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan — Deepika Padukone, most wanted in Bollywood for delivering four back-to-back blockbusters and scooping a slew of Best Actress awards, was rumoured to have been cast as actor Salman Khan’s heroine some time ago.

Salman Khan, reuniting with his Maine Pyar Kiya, Hum Aapke Hain Koun and Hum Saath Saath Hain director Sooraj Barjatya for 2015’s Bade Bhaiya, laughed off this rumour saying that for him to star with Deepika, she’d have to be re-launched - a reference to his recent habit of making films with debutantes like Dabangg’s Sonakshi Sinha and Hai Ho’s Daisy Shah.

However, might it be Deepika who has no time for Salman, rather than the other way round? While The Dimpled One has gone on record to say she’d love to work with Alpha Khan, she’s signed up Rockstar director Imtiaz Ali’s next film opposite ex-boyfriend Ranbir Kapoor with who she delivered the smash hit Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani.

Leonardo DiCaprio: Enjoyed filming wild scenes in The Wolf of Wall Street

LOS ANGELES, 29 Jan — Actor Leonardo DiCaprio enjoyed filming the raunchy and wild scenes in The Wolf of Wall Street.

The 39-year-old actor, who plays stockbroker Jordan Belfort in the drama, enjoyed depicting his wild ways on screen and didn’t even mind baring all on camera.

“Much of the film depended on creating a wild and reckless atmosphere. I didn’t hold anything back. There were no stunt doubles for me either — it’s all me. That’s all me flopping around naked,” contactmusic.com quoted him as saying.

“It was fun (filming the scenes). I didn’t think about the nudity much because I was trying to portray what this guy’s life was like and it all really happened,” he added.

Veena Malik: Won’t act in masala films

MUMBAI, 29 Jan — Pakistani actress Veena Malik said she is retiring from the commercial film industry but would continue to act in movies with religious and social messages.

Malik, 29, announced from Mecca after performing Umrah that she would no longer act in masala films. “As far as the entertainment industry is concerned, I will continue to engage in any project which aims for welfare or social development. But I will not be part of any new films from here on,” she said.

“Well-wishers from all over the globe, whether east or west, India or Pakistan, have been congratulating and blessing us with their prayers,” she added.

Malik, who married Dubai-based Pakistani businessman Asad Bashir Khan last year, performed Umrah with her husband and his family.

The actress recently appeared on a television show in which she announced that she had changed her lifestyle after coming into contact with Maulana Tariq Jameel.

Veena Malik wants to act only in movies with religious and social messages.

In bed now, feeling very restless,” read her tweet.

Adele won Grammy while in bed

LOS ANGELES, 29 Jan — Singer Adele found out that she had won a Grammy while she was in bed.

The 25-year-old won the best song written for a visual media award for her track Skyfall at the 56th Annual Grammy Awards Sunday night.

She tweeted her disappointment as she couldn’t continue to engage in any contact with Maulana Tariq Jameel.

“Wish I was there. Have a wonderful night I’m in bed now, feeling very restless,” read her tweet.

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Malik, 29, announced from Mecca after performing Umrah that she would no longer act in masala films. “As far as the entertainment industry is concerned, I will continue to engage in any project which aims for welfare or social development. But I will not be part of any new films from here on,” she said.

“Well-wishers from all over the globe, whether east or west, India or Pakistan, have been congratulating and blessing us with their prayers,” she added.

Malik, who married Dubai-based Pakistani businessman Asad Bashir Khan last year, performed Umrah with her husband and his family.

The actress recently appeared on a television show in which she announced that she had changed her lifestyle after coming into contact with Maulana Tariq Jameel.

Veena Malik wants to act only in movies with religious and social messages.

Adele won the best song written for visual media award

Adele won Grammy while in bed

LOS ANGELES, 29 Jan — Singer Adele found out that she had won a Grammy while she was in bed.

The 25-year-old won the best song written for visual media award for her track Skyfall at the 56th Annual Grammy Awards Sunday night.

She tweeted her disappointment as she couldn’t continue to engage in any contact with Maulana Tariq Jameel.

“Wish I was there. Thank you for the Grammy. Have a wonderful night I’m in bed now, feeling very restless,” read her tweet.

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Brazil outlines $2.3 billion in public spending for Olympics

Rio de Janeiro, 29 Jan — Brazil’s government on Tuesday presented its first estimate of public spending on projects related to Rio de Janeiro’s 2016 Olympic Games, though the 5.6 billion reais price tag is set to soar four points clear in the Premier League title race while Liverpool thrashed Everton and Manchester United beat Cardiff on Tuesday.

Arsene Wenger’s side started slowly and were caught out by Jose Fonte’s early goal and Adam Lallana’s second-half equaliser either side of strikes from Olivier Giroud and Santi Cazorla.

There was no sluggishness about Liverpool, whose 15-year home hoodoo over rivals Everton continued with Daniel Sturridge scoring twice in a 4-0 win, while Dutchman Robin van Persie came back with a bang as Manchester United eased past Cardiff 2-0.

Arsenal, who had Mathieu Flamini sent off 10 minutes from time, are two points ahead of Manchester City and three above Chelsea but could drop to third if their rivals win on Wednesday at Tottenham Hotspur and home to West Ham United respectively.

“They have difficult games as well and we took at least a point,” said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. “It’s not enough but, considering the situation at halftime (when Arsenal were losing 1-0), we have to be content with it.”

Wenger’s halftime team talk rallied his side and they were swiftly level after the restart with Giroud backheeling past Artur Boruc after turning on a Bacary Sagna cross before Cazorla buried a low shot to put them ahead four minutes later.

But they could not close the game out and Lallana turned in a Jay Rodriguez cross to level before French midfielder Flamini was given his marching orders for a rash challenge.

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard powered in a 21st minute header to open the scoring at Anfield but it was Sturridge who took the game away from their Merseyside rivals, showcasing his finishing talents before Luis Suarez completed the rout.

Sturridge struck twice in two minutes past the half-hour just as Everton seemed to be gaining a foothold in the match, yet both his goals would have left Everton manager Roberto Martinez scratching his head at his side’s shoddy defending.

Midfielder Philippe Coutinho sent Sturridge racing through unchecked to fire left-footed past Tim Howard for his first goal while the England forward’s second came from a hopeful long ball.

Sturridge looked disoriented when Kolo Toure’s punt upfield found its way through to him as Everton pushed up for offside, but he regained his bearings to swivel and lob a smart finish past the ad

Arsenal’s Sant Cazorla (2nd R) celebrates his goal with teammate Mesut Ozil after scoring against Southampton during their English Premier League soccer match at St Mary’s Stadium in Southampton, southern England on 28 Jan, 2014.—Reuters

Arsenal held at Saints, Liverpool thrash Everton

LONDON, 29 Jan — Arsenal’s wings were clipped in a 2-2 draw at Southampton as they missed a chance to soar four points clear in the Premier League title race while Liverpool thrashed Everton and Manchester United beat Cardiff on Tuesday.

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**DPRK agrees on resumption of six-party talks**

**Beijing, 29 Jan — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s (DPRK) Ambassador to China said here on Wednesday that the DPRK agrees on the resumption of six-party talks, calling on the United States to fulfill its related obligations.**

Chi Jae Ryong made the remarks at a press briefing at which he reiterated the DPRK’s recent peace call. On the issue of the stalled six-party talks, involving the DPRK, the Republic of Korea, the United States, China, Japan and Russia, Chi said the DPRK has already “taken a seat on the boat of the talks,” urging other concerned parties to come on board.

“The demarculation of the Korean peninsula is the continuous policy of our republic,” he added. However, Chi said the willingness does not mean that the DPRK should unilaterally abandon nuclear weapons and that as long as the nuclear threat from outside continues, we can not expect any resolution of the nuclear issue,” accordingly to the ambassador.

He said the reason why the 19 September Joint Statement was not implemented is that the United States has evaded its promises and obligations.

In the historic agreement, which was reached in 2005 at the six-party talks, the DPRK pledged to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in exchange for energy aid and security guarantees. “On 16 Jan, the DPRK’s National Defence Commission said in a three-point “important proposal” that inter-Korean relations could thaw if the two sides make concerted efforts to implement the proposal starting from 30 January.

In the proposal, the DPRK called for verbal and military provocations between the two sides of the Korean Peninsula to stop, and urged practical measures to be taken to prevent a “nuclear disaster.” —Xinhua

**Hamilton starts new F1 turbo era with a crash**

**Jerez, 29 Jan — Lewis Hamilton crashed his Mercedes, world champion Sebastian Vettel failed to complete a timed lap and McLaren’s car stayed in the garage as Formula One’s new turbo era endured a difficult, and strangely quiet, birth on Tuesday.

**Two black streaks of scorched tyre rubber marked the asphalt at the end of the Jerez pit straight where Hamilton locked up and careered into the tyre wall after a front wing fail\n
ure on the first day of pre-season testing.

The 2008 champion was unhurt in the crash, on his 18th lap after being first out of the pit lane following the unveiling of his sleek silver F1 W05 car, but it ended his team’s track activities for the day. “Apart from the ending, it’s been quite a positive day,” said Hamilton, who said it was way too early to give any assessment of the car. “Always when you crash it’s big, but it’s OK. I was able to walk away, no problems,” he told reporters.

Vettel’s work at the wheel had not even started at that point. Red Bull’s quadruple champion kicked his heels while the team fixed up the combo which had emerged overnight with their new RB10.

The German eventually emerged, after a brief squall of rain, for one installation lap. Fans who had paid for tickets got scant value for money, with only 93 laps completed by eight of the 10 teams present on a cold day in southern Spain. Kimi Raikkonen, returning to Ferrari after winning the championship with them in 2007, accounted for 31 laps after bringing out the first red flag of the day when he stopped on track early on.

That compared to a total of 657 laps run on the opening day of testing last year and 718 in 2012. “We want to do more laps but it’s pretty normal with such a big change,” the Finn told reporters. “It will take a little time before we can run 100 percent the whole time and be confident we don’t have any issues.”

Formula One has ditched the ear-splitting 2.4 litre V8 engines for a new turbocharged 1.6 litre V6 with complex energy recovery systems and more emphasis on fuel economy. Reliability is a major concern and times were therefore of no relevance as teams focused on trouble shooting rather than performance. Hamilton also had crashed last year in Jerez in his first test for Mercedes after moving from McLaren with similar troubles continued after a 2013 season to forget.

The Woking team, who had hoped to have Jenson Button on track, said reporters they had been hit by electrical issues that led to the dismantling, inspection and reinstallation of several major components. Tail-end...
No amendment required for recently-amended 1955 Government Housing (Expelling) Act

**Amyotha Hluttaw to discuss Bill amending National Drug Law**

**Diplomats, Rakhine State Government hold talks**

**ASEAN Library Development Forum 2014 on 3 Feb**

**C-in-C holds talks with Israeli, Pakistani Ambassadors**

**Ayeyawun, Yadana housing projects to be ready in mid-June, 2015, for about 80,000 people**

Ayeyawun and Yadana Housing projects comprising 19584 apartments in total in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township are expected to be finished in mid-June, 2015.

The development are being constructed by 37 companies in joint venture with Public Works of the Ministry of Construction and will contain more than 49 18-storey apartment blocks and community amenities, including business buildings, markets, schools, gardens, playgrounds, hotels and bus terminals.

Ayeyawun housing is being constructed on 120 acres of land while Yadana is on 100 acre.

Each building will be equipped with modern fire detective system and four elevators.

Work on construction of the project started in June, 2013.

“Precast system would be used to construct Ayeyawun and Yadana housings and that is different other housings,” said U Kyaw of Mongyai constituency.