President’s Scholarship Award for outstanding Myanmar students to study at international universities established

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—The following is the full text of the speech delivered by President U Thein Sein through radio programmes to the entire people on 1 February.

My fellow citizens,

In this month’s radio address, I would like to update you on the work of my government in January. The difficulties, challenges and constraints we have encountered during this process of political and economic reforms, and peace building are not uncommon for a country that has recently embarked on this process. We have yet to achieve tangible results in some areas because of these difficulties. To address issues in these areas, we have set clear goals, and will proceed with determination to achieve tangible results.

Fulfilling the long-standing needs of our society is easy to talk about but much more difficult to achieve in practice. The difficulty of the work we must undertake on political reforms can be likened to swimming upstream. Despite the challenges, my administration will try its utmost to achieve our goals.

We are determined to achieve peace and national unity. Because of the cooperation of the government, parliament, political organizations related to health would be formed to be able to promote the coordination between Ministry of Health and other ministries and region and state governments. The committee would take four steps and it will have to carry out the health system performance evaluation based on the framework for economic and social reforms in the first step as part of efforts for economic and social reforms.

As a second step, the committee will have to form an advisory body comprising experts and to seek advice from health organizations from foreign countries and at home and to report realistic reforms that need to be done. (See page 8)

Health care reforms to be stepped up to uplift health standard

President U Thein Sein cordially greets participants at workshop on health sector development.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes from 1 to 3 February. Myanma Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham calls for quality health care as medical expense abroad is high

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes from 1 to 3 February. Myanma Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaking at workshop on health sector development. —MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that today’s workshop here today, the President said a committee led by a Union minister at the President’s Office, comprising representatives of ministries concerned and organizations related to health would be formed to be able to promote the coordination between Ministry of Health and other ministries and region and state governments. The committee would take four steps and it will have to carry out the health system performance evaluation based on the framework for economic and social reforms in the first step as part of efforts for economic and social reforms.

As a second step, the committee will have to form an advisory body comprising experts and to seek advice from health organizations from foreign countries and at home and to report realistic reforms that need to be done. (See page 8)
Durability of libraries disseminated to local people

TATKON, 31 Jan—A talk on durability of self-reliant library was held in Alegyun Model Village in Tatkon Township Ottara District of Kachin State election subcommission, political parties meet

Chairman of Kachin State Election Subcommission U Nyunt Shwe called on the political parties to join hands with the election sub-commissions in systematic collection of votes at the free and fair elections in 2015.

Next, he answered the queries raised by the political parties.

The meeting focused on making preparations to hold the 2015 elections in Mohnyin.—NLM-001

KYaUKE, 31 Jan—Under the arrangement of Ministry of Cooperatives, a ceremony to hand over K 766.3310 million for agricultural loans to local people on 29 January.

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Loan K 7600 million disbursed to cooperative societies in Kyaukse Tsp

Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Department U Zaw Myo Oo explained disbursement of loans. Chairman of Township Development Committee U Aye Tun explained development tasks for cooperative societies and handed over the loans to cooperative chairman.

The Cooperative Department disbursed K 694.4210 million to 7413 members of 128 agricultural and general service cooperative societies and K 71.91 million to 1598 members of 56 cooperative societies.

Staff of the department in six groups will present loans to borrowers within six days. The department gets K 1.5 per cent interest through the loans for development of cooperative societies in Kyaukse Township.

Successes were achieved from reducing poverty alleviation and rural development in the township.

MMAL-Tun Tun Naung (Kyaukse)

JETLI Foundation to donate parks, new school buildings in Thabeikkyin, Kyaukmyaung

Foundation officials donated equipment for the parks and 12 sports gear worth K 24 million as initial donations.

Experts from the foundation will install the equipment for the parks on 17 and 18 February.

The parks and school buildings will be built in Thabeikkyin and Kyaukmyaung at the same time.

MMAL-Win Maung

Facts about taking census disseminated in Yedashe Tsp

Yedashe, 31 Jan—Yedashe Township census taking committee jointly conducted an educative talks on taking census ward/Village-tract census taking committee on making preparations to take the census at Ngakhonmachaung, Dhammayon in Thagara of Yedashe Township on 28 January.

The Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department made clarification on the points of questions for taking census process in 2014 and its advantages and the Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department explained the duties of the collectors.

They also disseminated knowledge on taking census in Swa, Yeni and Yedashe townships from 28 to 30 January.

MMAL-Gar Phay (IPRD)

Transportation

Driving licences issued in Haka

HAKA, 31 Jan—Haka Township Directorate of Road Administration held talks on traffic rules before issuance of the driving licence to the people at the hall of Township Information and Public Relations Department in Haka on 29 January.

Acting Head of Chin State Directorate of Road Administration Daw Htalar Min explained traffic rules.

Next, the candidates set the record with over 80 youths of the township.

MMAL-Win Maung

Cold season chick pea thriving in Yezagyo

YEZAOGYO, 31 Jan—The people in Yezagyo Township are engaged in cultivation of cold season chick pea. This year, officials set the records with over 24000 acres of farmlands that will be put under the chick pea. The peaplants were grown on the land fed with inputs and moisture that had been used in cultivation of monsoon paddy. Thus chick pea plantations are covered with cultivation of chick pea.

Except from pesticides, the plants no need to the
Libya sets 20 February for constitution assembly vote

Tripoli, 31 Jan — Libya will elect an assembly on 20 February to draft a constitution intended to advance transition to democracy and break political stalemate more than two years after a NATO-backed uprising toppled Muammar Gaddafi. The North African country is caught up in chaos with its Congress deadlocked between Islamists and a leading nationalist party, and its nascent army struggling to assert itself against unruly former rebels, tribal groups and militants.

Just hours before the congress decision, gunmen kidnapped the son of Libya’s special forces commander in Benghazi, later calling the colonel to demand he withdraw troops in return for his son’s release, state news agency LANA said. At least one soldier was killed, medical and security sources said, after troops clashed with gunmen in the eastern city. Militants from the hardline Islamist Ansar al-Sharia group have been fighting troops there.

Setting the date for the vote was a small step in a transition that has frustrated Libyans since the fall of Gaddafi with the fragile government often at the mercy of rival bands of former rebels who refuse to accept Tripoli’s authority.

“We want all Libyan people and groups to reconcile and support these elections,” Nouri Abusahmain, president of the General National Congress, said after announcing the date of the vote on Thursday.

Once the 60-member constitutional assembly is elected, it will have 120 days to draft a new charter, which would then be submitted to a popular referendum. If the document is approved, an election for a proper parliament would be held in late 2014.

But that drafting process is likely to be complicated by the demands of tribal, regional and ethnic interest groups already vy ing for influence over Tripoli’s government.

Britain and France set to clash over EU reform at summit

London, 31 Jan — British Prime Minister David Cameron is set to clash with France’s President Francois Hollande over how to reform the European Union on Friday, souring an Anglo-French summit aimed at deepening defence and energy cooperation.

The first Anglo-French summit since Hollande won power in May 2012 will announce joint investment in the latest phase of a combat drone scheme, cooperation on civil nuclear power trade bloc more efficient — an agenda he hopes will both persuade euro-skeptics to back him at a 2015 election and quell dissent within his party. He has promised a referendum on Britain’s EU membership by 2017.

“I am sure that part of those discussions around EU reform over lunch, certainly the prime minister will be making the points he has around the importance of a more flexible, more competitive European Union,” a British government official said.

But sources close to Hollande said this week that he was strongly against the treaty and energy agreements, the leaders retire to a country pub close to Cameron’s family home near Oxford in central England to air their differences over EU reforms.

Cameron wants to reopen European Union treaties to try to secure sweeping reforms to make the research and an agreement on space and satellite technology.

But the real discussion begins later when, after the formal signing of defence and energy agreements, the leaders retire to a country pub close to Cameron’s family home near Oxford in central England to air their differences over EU reforms.

Cameron wants to reopen European Union treaties to try to secure sweeping reforms to make the

Thai polling stations might have to close if trouble on election day

Bangkok, 31 Jan — Thai authorities might close polling booths if violence erupts during Sunday’s disputed election which could further undermine the credibility of a vote that is deemed incapable of restoring stability in the polarized country.

The government has vowed to push ahead with the general election despite threats by anti-government protesters, camped out at major intersections in Bangkok, that they will disrupt the polls in an attempt to stop Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra’s Puea Thai Party from returning to power.

The main opposition Democrat party, which backs the anti-government protests, is boycotting the election, which Yingluck’s party is bound to win but without enough members to achieve a quorum in parliament. The prospect of polling stations having to close early because of trouble on the streets will only add to doubts about the vote’s legitimacy.

Puchong Nutrawong, secretary-general of the Election Commission, said it was concentrating on security in Bangkok and the south, where the opposition is strong, and hundreds of thousands of people were prevented from casting their ballot during early voting last Sunday when protesters obstructed polling venues.

“We’re focusing our security efforts in Bangkok and in the south. I’ve asked commission officials to call polling venues in southern Thailand today to ensure we are as prepared as we can be,” Puchong told Reuters.

“If any polling station faces a security threat it could shut down,” Puchong said.

World’s Prime Minister David Cameron holds a news conference during a European Union leaders summit, in Brussels on 14 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Next TPP ministerial likely in late February

Tokyo, 31 Jan — Japan’s minister in charge of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks said on Friday the next TPP ministerial meeting will likely be held in late February as proposed by the United States.

There is a strong chance (the next gathering) will take place later in February. It has yet to be confirmed officially, but we are making rapid arrangements toward that,” Akira Amari said at a Press conference.

Noting that the next round of negotiations will be convened “at any time” before November’s mid-term election in the United States, Amari said all 12 TPP members need “determination to conclude the negotiations.”

The 12 countries, which also include Australia, Canada, Chile and New Zealand, are mulling convening the next meeting for four days through 25 February, to be preceded by a chief negotiators’ meeting from 17 February, according to sources familiar with the plan.

Europe

England bomb control-detonated in western Germany

Berlin, 31 Jan — Bomb disposal experts successfully control-detонated a 250 kg World War II bomb in western Germany’s Cologne city after about 5,000 people were evacuated late Thursday evening, a city spokesman said. The bomb was found on Thursday during construction work near the Uni-Centre, a 45-storey apartment building housing about 2,000 people.

Because of the tricky construction of the fuse, bomb disposal experts had to opt for a controlled detonation of the bomb, and residents within a radius of 300 metres of the detonation site were evacuated. Local media said another World War II bomb was successfully defused almost at the same time in Neuss, about 40 km north-west of Cologne. More than 1,800 people were evacuated.

Nearly 69 years after the end of World War II, thousands of unexploded bombs are still believed buried in Germany. On 3 January, a construction worker manning a digger was killed when he accidentally struck a bomb during excavation work in Euskirchen in Germany’s western state of North Rhine-Westphalia.
Kerry to hold talks with Ukraine’s opposition in Germany

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — US Secretary of State John Kerry will meet key Ukrainian opposition figures on Friday on the sidelines of a security conference in Munich, a senior US official said on Thursday, his first meeting with some of the leaders of an anti-government uprising against President Viktor Yanukovych. Washington has hedged talks in recent days between Yanukovych and the opposition groups to end two months of protests that began when Yanukovych rejected an EU trade deal in favor of closer ties and a financial bailout with Russia.

Among those among those attending the meeting with Kerry is Arseniy Yatsenyuk, a former economy minister and co-founder of the party of jailed former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko; former boxing champion-turned-politician Vitaly Klitschko, who leads the Udar (Punch) party; Petro Poroshenko, a member of parliament; and Ukrainian pop star Ruslana Lyzhchko.

Japan, US to hold 1st working-level talks on cyber security

Tokyo, 31 Jan — Japanese and US officials will meet for their first two-day working level talks on cyber security at the beginning of next week, Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said on Friday. “We’d like to improve our technological levels through cooperation with the United States, which has the most advanced technology and human resources,” Onodera said at a Press conference. Ro Manabe, deputy director general of the Bureau of Defence Policy, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence John Davis will co-chair the meeting, joined by Japanese Self-Defence Forces and US military personnel, to discuss how to share information and train experts. Japan’s Defence Ministry said.

In October, Defence Minister Onodera and US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel agreed to establish a framework for officials at the vice-ministerial level to meet twice a year to coordinate efforts to counter cyber-attacks. — Kyodo News

Over 13,000 South Sudanese refugees cross into Kenya

NAIROBI, 31 Jan — A Kenyan humanitarian agency said on Thursday it has registered over 13,064 South Sudanese refugees at the Kakuma refugee camp with about 100 new daily arrivals.

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) said that the number of new arrivals has dropped a bit compared to last week due to the fuel shortage in South Sudan.

“At the moment Malakal and Juba reception centers have been closed down temporarily. They will be re-opened if there is an influx once again,” it said. The conflict in South Sudan has displaced more than 700,000 people across the country and caused another 123,000 fleeing to neighboring countries in over six weeks.

There are hopes that the cessation of hostilities agreement signed in Ethiopia last week by representatives of President Salva Kiir and former deputy president Riek Machar will lead to an end to the fighting and help alleviate the plight of civilians in need.

The KRCS said it has continued to offer free mobile phone calls to the refugees in Kakuma camp to support family restoration links and for the new arrivals to convey their safe arrival in Kenya. It said its partners have been having weekly meetings every Wednesday, noting that KRCS was given the responsibility of registering the unaccompanied minors for tracing purposes.

Anti-establishment party accuses Italian president of “attacking Constitution”

ROME, 31 Jan — The anti-establishment Five-Star Movement (M5S), Italy’s biggest opposition group in parliament, on Thursday made a formal petition for the impeachment of Italian President Giorgio Napolitano.

The M5S accused Napolitano of “attacking the Constitution,” according to a statement published on the internet-based movement’s website.

Napolitano allegedly failed in his role of being an independent arbiter of Italy’s politics, the M5S said, favouring the established parties and avoiding his intervention over unfair decrees.

The M5S, which is led by comedian-turned-politician Beppe Grillo, also complained that the 88-year-old president abused his pardon power and interfered in a trial into alleged negotiations between the state and the mafia some 20 years ago.

Napolitano, a member of the former Italian Communist Party who gained a reputation for impartiality, last year became the first president in the Italian history elected for a second mandate to end a political deadlock.

The M5S’s move came after the ruling center-left Democratic Party (PD) and the center-right Forza Italia (FI) led by former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi reached a controversial agreement on a new electoral law.

On Thursday, several lawmakers of the M5S blocked the exits of the parliament’s constitutional affairs committee due to approve the bill for the new election law.

Three Cambodian children die in old mortar round explosion

PINOY PENH, 31 Jan — A 60 mm mortar shell exploded in northern Cambodia on Thursday afternoon, claiming the lives of two boys and a girl, the local police said.

The victims were aged between seven and 13 years old, said Pheng Lan, police chief of the rural Por commune, where the accident took place.

The victims found the mortar shell while they tended cattle at rice fields, and they used rocks to beat it, triggering the explosion, he said, adding that two of the victims were siblings.

The mortar round was left during the war time, he said.

Landmines and unexploded ordnance killed 22 people and injured 89 others in 2013, according to a report of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre released early this week.

The Southeast Asian nation is one of the world’s worst countries suffering from landmines and unexploded ordnance. An estimated 4 million to 6 million landmines and other munitions were left over from three decades of war and internal conflicts that ended in 1998.

Heng Ratana, director general of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, said that more than 3 million landmines and unexploded ordnance have been removed and destroyed, and the country is seeking about 50 million US dollars a year until 2020 to entirely get rid of all types of anti-personnel mines. — Xinhua
Ukraine’s Yanukovich goes on sick leave in midst of political crisis

KIEV, 31 Jan — Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich went on sick leave on Thursday after a bruising session of parliament, leaving a political vacuum in a country threatened with bankruptcy and destabilized by anti-government protests. The 63-year-old president appears increasingly isolated in a crisis born of a tug-of-war between the West and Ukraine’s former Soviet overlord Russia. A former president said this week the violence between demonstrators and police had brought the country to the brink of civil war. Shortly after his office announced he had developed a high temperature and acute respiratory ailment, Yanukovich defended his record in handling the crisis and accused the opposition, which is demanding his resignation, of provoking the unrest.

“Tutu-led insurgency is the current and main objective of our enemies. We have fulfilled all the obligations and unraveled a Prisoners’ Exchange with serious contributions,” Gasana told the Security Council. However, the opposition continues to whip up the situation, calling on people to stand in the cold for the sake of the political ambitions of a few leaders. ”

Congo has everything. How can I say the country. Congo is rich. The Congolese troops and UN peacekeepers defeated the Tutsi-led insurgency. Millions of people have died from violence, disease and hunger in Congo since the 1990s as armed groups have fought for control of the country’s vast deposits of gold, diamonds, copper, cobalt and uranium.

The top UN official in Congo, Martin Kobler, has said there were credible reports that the M23 rebels appeared to be regrouping just two months after Congolese troops and UN peacekeepers defeated the massacre of the Tutsi-led insurgency.UNS experts, who monitor violations of UN sanctions on Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo have long accused Rwanda of backing M23, which ended its 20-month rebellion in November, a claim that Kigali has fiercely rejected.

Rwanda and the UN experts have accused Congolese troops of collaborating with the FDLR, which includes Hutus who fled Rwanda after the genocide of 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutus. Kinshasa denies the claim.

“Rwanda is the only country to be overthrown in the hands of its enemies.”

The two soldiers were killed in a blast on Thursday in restive southern Thailand where hundreds of such bomb attacks occur each year.

The latest attack happened as the two soldiers were on duty at a local school in Yaring District, Pattani Province. One of them died at the scene, while the other died in hospital. Police said an explosive device hidden under a bench on which the soldiers sat during their break time was detonated by remote control.

The attack came a day after two paramilitary soldiers were killed in a blast in Pattani Prov ince while on patrol, while a separate blast injured three paramilitary soldiers as they were escorting a group of teachers to a school in the same province.

Since violence started in 2004, around 6,000 people have been killed in the four affected provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala and Songkhla.

Two soldiers killed in bomb blast in southern Thailand

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Since violence started in 2004, around 6,000 people have been killed in the four affected provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala and Songkhla.

Three soldiers killed in bomb blast in Pattani, southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 31 Jan — Three paramilitary soldiers were killed and another wounded in a blast in Pattani province on Thursday.

The blast occurred at the army’s 101st battalion base in Yaring district, Pattani province, near the border with Malaysia.

The explosion, near a petrol station at a military camp, killed three soldiers and wounded two, the Pattani police chief said.

The blast came a day after two paramilitary soldiers were killed in a blast in Pattani.

Since violence started in 2004, around 6,000 people have been killed in the four affected provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala and Songkhla.

New commander takes charge of New Zealand military

WELLINGTON, 31 Jan — The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) came under a new commander on Friday, with Lieutenant General Tim Keating taking over from Lieutenant General Tim Phinn, who retired last year.

Keating, who has been deployed to Afghanistan and served as the commanding officer of the 35-year-old force in the NZDF.

“Keating has overseen the withdrawal of the NZDF’s commitments in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands, and responded to a range of humanitarian assistance operations, including the Christchurch Earthquakes and events in the South Pacific,” Coleman said in a statement. Keating was already a strong, credible leader with 32 years of military experience, he said.

Keating has joined the Army in 1982 and held various command positions. He has been deployed to Afghanistan as the Commander of the 35-year-old force in the NZDF.

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Scientists hail breakthrough in embryonic-like stem cells

London, 31 Jan — In experiments that could open a new era in stem cell biology, scientists have found a simple way to reprogramme mature animal cells back into an embryonic-like state that allows them to generate many types of tissue.

The researchers, described as ‘game-changing by experts in the field, suggests human cells could in future be reprogrammed by the same technique, offering a simpler way to replace damaged cells or grow new organs for sick and injured people.

Chris Mason, chair of regenerative medicine bioprocessing at University College London, who was not involved in the work, said its approach in mice was “the most simple, lowest-cost and quickest method” to generate so-called pluripotent cells — able to develop into many different cell types — from mature cells. “If it works in man, this could be the game changer that ultimately makes a wide range of cell therapies available using the patient’s own cells as starting material - the age of personalized medicine would have finally arrived,” he said.

The experiments, reported in two papers in the journal Nature on Wednesday, involved scientists from the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in Japan and Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in the United States. The researchers took skin and blood cells, let them multiply, then subjected them to stress “al-most to the point of death”, they explained, by exposing them to various events including trauma, low oxygen levels and acidic environments. One of these “stressful” situations was simply to bathe the cells in a weak acid solution for around 30 minutes.

Within days, the scientists found that the cells had not only survived but had also recovered naturally by reprogramming into a state similar to that of an embryonic stem cell. These stem cells — dubbed Stimulus-Triggered Acquisition of Pluripotency, or STAP, cells — were then able to differentiate and mature into different types of cells and tissue, depending on the environments they were put in. — Reuters

4,000-year-old tablet reveals details of ark before Noah

London, 31 Jan — A 4,000-year-old clay tablet from ancient Mesopotamia revealing details of the ark before Noah was on Thursday displayed at the British Museum in London. Dr Irving Finkel, an expert on ancient Mesopotamian and cuneiform script with the British Museum, said the clay tablet was “one of the most important human documents ever discovered.” Finkel recently deciphered the tablet which is light in brown color and about the size of a smartphone.

According to the language on the tablet, the boat was a round vessel, and the surface area would have been 3,600 square meters, with walls six meters high. The walls would then have been coated with bitumen.

“It was gigantic, it works out at about two thirds of a football pitch,” said Finkel. “It would have been ideal, it would never have sunk and it would be a light boat to save all the animals,” he added.

This was a giant version of a craft which the Babylonians knew very well, Finkel pointed out, in daily use up to the late 20th century to transport people and animals across rivers. Finkel said he was “107 percent certain” that the ark described in the tablet had never been built. He said the cuneiform text was written in about 1750 BC, and is part of a much longer Babylonian story about a flood and what led up to it, also known from the Book of Genesis in the Bible which was written much later. — Reuters

Israeli President rides the Google Bike

By AvigayilKadash

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By AvigayilKadash

Science & Technology

New Light of Myanmar

Saturday, 1 February, 2014

Science & Technology

All 300 Google Israel employees en- tered Google’s Tel Aviv digs to show President Shimon Peres the latest cool technologies, such as Code Lab.

President Shimo-

n Peres may be 90 years old, but that did not keep him from spontaneously pedalling a bike across a Google Street View map when he visited the world- wide company’s Tel Aviv offices in late August 2013. Peres was in town to welcome senior de- velopers from Google’s Android Games team at California’s Silicon Val- ley, who had just landed in Israel for the launch of Code Lab—a brainstorm- ing workshop with Israeli game developers to create sophisticated new mobile fun with the aid of Google products.

At Google Israel’s multi-floor headquarters in the iconic Electra Tower, Peres also learned of the latest innovations created by entrepreneurs at Campus TLV, a shared startup space hosted by Google for Entrepreneurs. Among them were de- velopers of UpSense, an intuitive touch keyboard for the blind; small robots con- trolled by Android smartphones; Action Painter, an Android virtual painting app; and Veed.Me, an online platform connecting businesses with a screened community of video-graphers.

Meir Brand, managing director of Google Israel, Greece and Sub-Saharan Africa, and Yossi Matias, managing director of Google’s R&D Centre in Israel, told Peres about the new Google Campus for Moms, an eight-session “baby-friendly” tech entre- preneurship course led by Google and Yazamyon, an Israeli women’s entrepre- neurship organization. The idea is to create a local hub of female leaders and pro- vide the content and space for learning and networking with anyone from nine-year-olds to senior citizens, Arabs and Jews alike, with great ideas. “Usually we work with them for a week to 10 days,” Matias said.

“Making entrepreneurs better” Introducing Code Lab, Google Israel Developer Relations Programme Man- ager Amir Shevat said the goal of bringing in corpo- rate experts from Android and YouTube divisions is “to make mobile games and video products more suc- cessful by bringing our ex- pertise and our technology to empower the [Israeli] entrepreneurs who come with the ideas and the innovation.”

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52nd C-in-C Cup Football Tournament concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoyed the final match of the 52nd Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services’ Trophy (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament at Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Sports Ground here today.

In the final match, Yangon Command team beat Nay Pyi Taw Command team 5-4 in the penalty decision. The senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Hla Win presented awards to prize winners and winning teams. Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win awarded individual medals, Championship Trophy, duplicate cup and cash awards to No. 77 LID team in B-level match.

Next, the Senior General awarded the Championship Trophy, duplicate cup and cash award to Yangon Command team in A-level match.—MNA

EU Ambassador and party meet town’s elders of both communities in Maungtaw

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—A delegation led by EU Ambassador Mr Roland Kobia separately met with town’s elders of the both communities, Rakhine national parties and religious leaders at Sittway Hotel in Sittway Township, Rakhine on 29 January.

During the meeting, the delegation heard the reports sent by the both communities and reviewed the ways to solve the problems. Similarly, the EU delegation and Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and party met with the internally displaced persons at the relief camps in Thetkaybyin and Thechaung villages.

They also met with the officials of Ducheertan (Middle) village at Basic Education Primary School in the village and viewed the maps of incidents and documentary photos. They met the local people and asked their needs.

Afterwards, the delegation had a discussion with the administrators from townships and district, officials of Maungtaw District Police Force, town’s elders and officials of UN agencies and social organizations. Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko clarified matters related to violent attacks against Police Sgt Aung Kyaw Thein and party on his patrol at Ducheertan (middle) village in Maungtaw Township on 13 January. Town’s elders of the two communities explained the relations between the both communities.

In MraukU, the delegation also met the town’s elders and members of UN agencies and social organizations. Town’s elders explained that the people of both communities do not prefer and accept incorrect news released by some local and foreign media. It is necessary to build mutual trust between the both communities for ensuring peaceful co-existence.

The officials from international organizations also reported on their activities and the EU Ambassador and party gave necessary advice. Later, the EU Ambassador and party visited the ancient pagodas in MraukU.—MNA

Compensation, allowance to be provided to farmers in Letpadaung Project Area

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Chairman of Committee for Implementation of the Report of Investigation Commission on Letpadaung Copper Mining Project Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun and party looked round maintenance of water supply canal of Nyaungbingyi river and proposed to people of the area for 2012-2013 academic year. In his conclusions, he said that it will achieve success through collaborative efforts of the locals in implementing the project in accord with report of the investigation commission. He pledged to sustainably conserve the project area, calling the locals to join hands with the government harmoniously for the interest of the State and people through constructive cooperation.

They inspected construction of RC type two-storey building of BEMS in Phaungkata Village and met with the locals at the hall of No.6 Garment Factory (Salinjy).

Union Minister U Hla Tun said that the committee is making work progresses of the project public known in a transparent manner by holding a meeting with locals every month. With regard to land confiscation, although some farmer has already taken out land compensation for confiscated farmlands and the commission is to take out as of 3 February 2014. The committee chairman and officials presented K 25.4 million cash assistance to the students from the project and nearby areas for 2012-2013 academic year. In his concluding remarks, the committee chairman pointed out that it will achieve success through collaborative efforts of the locals in implementing the project in accord with report of the investigation commission. He pledged to sustainably conserve the project area, calling the locals to join hands with the government harmoniously for the interest of the State and people through constructive cooperation.

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Low-priced SIM cards allotted to workers in Dekkhinathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Nay Pyi Taw Council is implementing eight-point rural development and poverty alleviation in its area. A total of 50 low-priced SIM cards was allotted to workers of Myanmar Construction Co at the company office in Dekkhinathiri Township to enable them to get easy access to better telecommunications.

On 30 January afternoon, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt and officials looked into issuance of SIM cards to the workers through draw lot system.—Tun Tun Win (Pyinmana)
Child labour

Child labourers are fairly common in tea-shops mostly in urban areas in our country. But, it would be wrong to define them as “being exploited” because they are often the secondary earners of their families. Who else would earn for their family members when they were labelled as child labour and pulled out of the work?

In poverty-stricken families, a child, mostly of the eldest one’s own needs are often subjugated to the needs of his/her family. The eldest children just take it as a family duty and will not go to school even if the schooling is free or easily accessible because there is only one option—work or starve. Under such circumstance, boys will choose of their own volition to work in farming in rural areas and at tea-shops and eateries in urban places.

Unfortunately, girls from poverty-stricken families do not appear to be as lucky as their male counterparts and often become either paid family workers or child labourers. Basically employers is often beyond our imagination. Male counterparts and often become either paid family workers or child labourers. Basic employers is often beyond our imagination. Female counterparts and often become either paid family workers or child labourers. Basic employers is often beyond our imagination.

Boys working at teashops and beer stations are also vulnerable to physical violence of the owners, but it is rather rare in comparison with girl domestic workers whose sad stories are often unknown. Child domestic work is not recognized as a form of child labour in many countries because of the blurred relationship between the employing families and child labourers. Basically uneducated and being timid with police and courts, domestic helpers rarely file lawsuit against abusive employers, which in turn prolong their troubles.

From the point of view of human rights, the government should take a central role in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour through adopting and enforcing national legislation against child labour. In addition, public awareness should be raised systematically apart from putting effective enforcement and monitoring mechanism in place.
Health care reforms...

(From page 1)

be carried out to the govern-
ment.

As a third step, the com-
mitee will have to discuss the legisla-
tion regulation or other policy measures for
health sector reforms and
put forward them to the
Hluttaw through the gov-
ernment. In the fourth step,
health care services would
be implemented in coopera-
tion with local people in re-
egions and states.

Life expectancy for a
man has improved from 56
in 1990 to 65 in 2011 while

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw...

(From page 16)

U Myint Soe of
Pyawbwe Constituency said
the organizations to be man-
geared to beneficially use these
loans in the projects. The Hluttaw decided to approve
acceptance of ODA loan,

Japanese Yen 63.2 bil-
lion of ODA will be spent by
Ministry of Rail Transporta-
tion, Yangon City Develop-
ment Committee, Ministry of
Construction and Ministry of
Agriculture and Irrigation.

With regard to basic
principles of National Plan-
ning Bill for 2014-2015 FY,

130 in 100,000 children as
part of efforts for meeting
the United Nations Millen-
nium Development Goals.

He also called for mak-
ing efforts for fighting the
HIV and TB in the country.

Regarding the reforms
of the health sector, the
President has urged to ex-
pand the organizational set-
up and to encourage skills
and performance of staff, to
ensure transparency in reforms,
to establish the health
insurance system and to for-
mulate necessary rules and
regulations for the food
safety in the country.

He also urged the staff
of the Ministry of Health
to make efforts for turning
the people’s hospitals into
reliable health care facili-
ties for the poor people as
the government has already
the Hluttaw representatives
discussed Hluttaw affairs,
education, health, rail trans-
portation, judiciary, social
welfare and financial mat-

committee to achieving that
goal. President U Thein
Sein also stressed the need
for reviewing the Myan-
mor Health Vision 2030
and to draft the national
health development plan
and regional health plan
in line with the Myanmar
Comprehensive Develop-
ment Plan.— MNA

Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU)
holds 1/2014 meeting

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 Jan—
Myanmar Parliamentary
Union (MPU) held 1/2014
meeting at Zabuthiri Hall
of the Hluttaw Complex
yesterday, with an address
by Chairman of MPU and
Speaker of Pyidaungsu
Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw
Thura U Shwe Mann.

The Pyidaungsu Hlut-
taw speaker said that MPU
was formed since three
years ago with approval of
the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
to deal with parliamentary
affairs. The report of Joint
Committee for Reviewing
the Constitution will submit
to today’s Pyidaungsu Hlut-
taw session and the meeting
purpose is to know ongoing
work programmes of the
Hluttaw, he added.

Vice-Chairman of MPU
U Khin Aung Myint said
that international com-
munity is monitoring the
Hluttaws and a group in
Myanmar also starts moni-
toring on the Hluttaw.
They conduct researches
on rural development, min-
eral resource, forestry and
livestock breeding sectors
of the country, he said.

The MPU has prepared to up-
grade laws on Pyidaungsu
Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw
and Amyotha Hluttaw. The
researchers have also target
monitor not only central level
but also region and state level.
He expressed his wish for actively tak-
ning part in MPU meetings
by the region/state Hluttaw
speakers through all col-
laborative efforts.

In his concluding re-
marks, Pyidaungsu Hlutt-
taw Speaker Thura U Shwe
Mann said that the Hluttaws
are to overcome the obstacles
in accord with the law and
people’s wishes, saying de-
v elopment fund needs to be
beneficial to the people.
The undertakings of the
Hluttaws are to be carried out through
media to make the public
known, he added.

MPA

Union Attorney-General receives
guests of UN Resident Coordinator’s
Office

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 Jan— Attorney-Gen-
eral of the Union Dr Tun Shin
met a delegation led by Ms
Dessalinen from UN Resi-
dent Coordinator’s Office
at his office here yesterday.

Press conference of Ministry of Information in progress.— MNA

Information Ministry holds press conference

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 Jan—Ministry of Information
has released the allegation
that the ministry has been
publishing three state-run
dailies at a loss as it is seek-
ing K 36.566 billion kyat
for the 2014-15 FY.

The ministry has
sought the budget alloca-
tion of 36.566 billion kyat
for the 2014-15 FY for
six departments under the
ministry and the Union In-
f ormation Minister clari-
fied the budget in detail at
the parliament, said U Win
Zaw Htay, Director of the
News and Periodicals En-
terprise at the press confer-
ence here today.

Out of 36 billion kyat
of state-owned investment
in Ministry of Information
in the 2012-13 FY, 3,337
billion kyat were invested
in the News and Periodicals
Enterprise, and the NPE
earned 14.19 billion kyat
and its expenditure reached
11.75 billion kyat in the
2012-13 FY, gaining a
profit of 2.44 billion kyat,
he said.

Besides, the NPE has
seen its profits in the 2013-
2014 FY as it has earned
13.92 billion kyat and its
expenditure reached 10.04
billion kyat so far till De-
cember, 2013, according
to the statistics.

“The allegation on the
media that the News and
Periodicals Enterprise is
publishing its three dailies
at a loss is totally contrary
to the ethics of the journal-
ism,” Director U Win Zaw
Htay said.

During the press con-
ference, U Kyaw Oo, Di-
rector of the Information
and Public Relations De-
partment of the ministry
also reaffirmed the minis-
try’s notice to publishers of
the print media to express
imprint in their respective
publications.

Regarding the
2004-agreement between
Ministry of Information
and the Forever Group
Company Ltd, U Win Kyin,
Director of the Myanmar
Radio and Television, said
the two sides renewed the
agreement in 2006 and the
two sides are also preparing
to ink the new agreement
to be able to cope with the
current changes.

The ministry is also
preparing to renew the agree-
ment with the Shwe
Than Lwin Media Compa-
nany Ltd, he added.

He has also warned
that actions would be taken
against those who import
and use receivers illegally
under the Communication
Law which was enacted on
8 October, 2013.

During the press con-
ference, journalists raised
questions about applying
licenses for publishing print
media, illegal import and
using of receivers and pros-
pects for running two state-
r un Myanmar languages in
joint venture with private
companies and services for
national people, sales of Set
Top Box, media equipment
used by Ministry of Infor-
mation during 27th SEA
Games and loss and profits
of the New Light of Myan-
mar daily.— MNA

Press conference of Ministry of Information in progress.— MNA

Information Ministry holds press conference
MMCWA responsible persons supervise training courses

Meiktila brokerage helps develop trading

Meiktila, 31 Jan—Meiktila Brokerage established in September 2013 was initially formed with eight merchants. Now, the brokerage has 20 executives and 160 members.

Before establishment of the brokerage, local merchants faced lower prices in trading all goods. At present, Meiktila brokerage connects with borkerages in other regions to ensure prices of goods.

Now, the brokerage manages sales of pigeon pea at K 19000 per bag. Thanks to high price, farmers from Mahlaing and Kyauk-padaung townships flow into Meiktila market.

However, pigeon pea cannot be exported. So, current price is under control of merchants. Farmers should hold their goods till they get good price.

Nowadays, Meiktila brokerage is busy with trading of goods as much as they can.

Over K 250 million loans go to agricultural cooperative

Haka, 31 Jan—A ceremony to disburse loans to agricultural cooperative societies was held at the hall of Chin State Cooperative Department on 29 January.

Deputy Director U Aung Min of State Department and Chairman of Chin State Cooperative Syndicate Ltd U Kham Kyon explained disbursement matters.

Officials presented K 45.735 million loan to Thantlang Township Ltd and K 21.075 million to Haka Township Ltd.

The State Department has disbursed K 253.353 million to 3908 members from 108 cooperative syndicates of nine townships in the state.—MMAL-Haka District 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

Invitational volleyball tournament wraps up

Mandalay, 31 Jan—The final match of the Aungthamadi Mandalay Invitational Volleyball Tournament 2014 was held at the volleyball ground of Aungthamadi gold and jewellery and gold refinery plant in Aungmyethazan Township on 25 January.

Inwakhit (A) beat MCDC Vehicle Department 3-1 in the final.

Chairman of the organizing committee U Maw Maw presented prizes to the winning teams in respective positions.

Patron of the committee U Aung Aung gave K 500,000 to first prize winning Inwakhit team and K 300,000 to MCDC Vehicle Department.

In addition, Aungthamadi Mandalay Organizing Committee will hold the Moe Auk Myebyin invitational volleyball tournament at Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay in March.

The committee will award K 2 million to the first prize winning team and K 1 million to the second with the aim of turning out outstanding volleyball players in the region.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)
China issues alert for heavy fog

BEIJING, 31 Jan — China’s meteorological authority issued a yellow alert for foggy weather as heavy fog will continue to shroud central and eastern China on Friday.

Heavy fog will persist this morning in Anhui, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Zhejiang, and parts of Shandong, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou, Guangxi and Guangdong due to inactive cold air and possible smog created by firecrackers as Chinese celebrate the lunar new year with visibility in some regions reduced to less than 200 meters.

The NMC advised people in the middle regions along the Yellow River and Huai River and the mid and lower reaches of Yangtze River to reduce setting off fireworks.

China’s meteorological alerts are categorized as blue, yellow, orange and red as the severity ascends.

Utilities lobbying LDP lawmakers to support new nuclear plants

Tokyo, 31 Jan — The Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan is lobbying lawmakers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to support new nuclear power plant construction, sources close to the matter said on Friday.

The lobbying comes as the ruling party polls its lawmakers in the run-up to working out a new national energy plan, with no nuclear reactors currently online in Japan in the wake of the March 2011 Fukushima Daiichi plant accident.

In a written leaflet distributed to LDP lawmakers, the federation provides model answers to poll questions in support of nuclear energy, the sources said.

“Lawmakers are independently responding to the poll,” LDP Secretary General Shigeru Ishiba told a press conference Friday. “The party is not involved in providing the model answers.”

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has already said that he has no plans for building new nuclear power plants. In the leaflet, the federation says Japan should build new nuclear plants to maintain and develop the highest level of safety standards and technologies, the sources said.

Kyodo News

Cambodian PM sends greetings on Chinese New Year

PHNOM PENH, 31 Jan — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen sent his greetings to overseas Chinese in Cambodia on the Spring Festival, blessing them with good luck, fortune and happiness in the New Year.

“On the occasion of the Chinese traditional New Year — the Year of Horse, in the status of the prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I’d like to join in the celebration and extend my brotherly Chinese people who have always lived and shared difficult and happy times together for decades,” the prime minister said in a message sent to the Chinese Association in Cambodia on Thursday, which was released to the media on Friday.

“May the New Year bring luck, fortune and prosperity to all brotherly people,” he said.

Chinese New Year is the most important festival in China, which marks the end of winter and the start of spring.

It is not a public holiday in Cambodia, but commonly celebrated, said Samrang Kansam, a secretary of state in the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

“Chinese New Year is the second largest new year celebration in Cambodia after the Khmer New Year,” he told Xinhua. “Nearly all of the Cambodian people celebrate the Chinese New Year.”

Xinhua

Indonesia’s population projected to reach 305 million in 2035

JAKARTA, 31 Jan — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Thursday that the country’s population was foreseen to soar to 305 million in 2035 from 238 million at present.

With the growth of the middle class, the president said the demand for food could jump by 40 percent in 2035 compared with the 25 percent growth in population.

“Certainly, the huge population should be productive, but if it isn’t, it is going to be a weakness,” said Yudhoyono.

With three fourths of the country’s territory covered by water, the president said that the plentiful sea reserves would be potential source of food in the years to come.

Xinhua

Nepal’s 99-year-old “caveman” gets new house

MAKWANPUR, (Nepal), 31 Jan — After living for almost a century as a hermit in a cave, 99-year-old Jaya- pati Chepang is now ready to join mainstream society after the Nepalese government on Tuesday turned over to him a solidly-built house.

Most people think that cave dwellers were found only during prehistoric times, but Jayapati spent most of his worldly existence in a cave with two cooking pots as his only belongings.

Jayapati is a member of one of Nepal’s most marginalized communities and living in a cave was more a matter of necessity than choice.

“I had not expected a home from the government. I am really happy to have a new home,” Jayapati Chepang, whose surname is derived from the name of the indigenous tribe where he belongs, told local media.

Nepal’s government built the house under its Civilian Residence program at a cost of 162,000 Nepali rupees (around 1,600 US dollars).

The Chepangs are one of Nepal’s most disadvantaged indigenous groups and are classified under the “highly marginalized” category.

Although no longer a nomadic tribe, they are struggling to maintain their traditional way of living in a rapidly changing Nepali society.

The Chepangs used to survive through hunting, fishing and collecting edible roots from local forests. But most of the arable land for the marginalized community is now off-limits to them, according to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator’s Office (UN RCHCO) in Nepal.

“We do not own land because we lack citizenship certificates required for land ownership,” local Chepang in Makwanpur said.

The remoteness of Chepang settlements has been pinpointed as one of the main reasons behind the low literacy rates and high unemployment among the members of the tribe.

The Nepal Chepang Association (NCA) reported that more than three quarters of all Chepangs are illiterate and that only 1 percent of Chepang women know how to read and write, compared to Nepal’s national average of around 50 percent.

The crisis that Chepangs are currently undergoing finds its roots in an overall socio-economic, cultural and political marginalization and discrimination.—Xinhua

New Light of Myanmar

REGINAL

Utsunomiya city officials and “gyozas” dumpling restaurant managers shout banzai at the city hall on 31 Jan, 2014. After central government data listed the Tochigi prefectural capital as having the nation’s highest average household spending on the food item in 2013, Kyodo News

Utsunomiya, north of Tokyo, had billed itself as the No 1 dumpling city to attract tourists with the spending data remaining at the top of Japan’s major cities for 15 straight years until 2010. The city government was thus shocked when the Shizuoka Prefecture city surpassed it in expenditures in 2011 and again in 2012. In an effort to urge citizens to spend more on dumplings, a dumpling song was used in promotional events.

Kyodo News

The Mie prefectural government shows on 20 Jan, 2014, a fossilized turtle shell (left) and tooth of what is believed to be a newly discovered species of elephant that has been found in Suzuki in the central Japan prefecture. Archeologists say the elephant existed about 2.4 million years ago.—Kyodo News

People visit the temple fair in Ditan Park in Beijing, capital of China, on 30 Jan, 2014. The 29th Ditan Park temple fair open to the public on Thursday. Xinhua

The The Mie prefectural government shows on 20 Jan, 2014, a fossilized turtle shell (left) and tooth of what is believed to be a newly discovered species of elephant that has been found in Suzuki in the central Japan prefecture. Archeologists say the elephant existed about 2.4 million years ago.—Kyodo News

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Open tenders are invited for the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-177(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Natural Gas Engine</td>
<td>1 (set)</td>
<td>US$</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-178(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Electrical Parts for HDD Rig</td>
<td>23 (items)</td>
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<td>(5)</td>
<td>IFB-180(2013-2014)</td>
<td>1/2”x1 1/4”x5 7/8” Tong Dies</td>
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<td>(7)</td>
<td>DMP/L-054(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Compressor and Water Transfer Pump</td>
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<td>Electrical Spares for HDD Rig</td>
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<td>US$</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Tender Closing Date & Time -
26-2-2014, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 29th January, 2014, at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

More uninsured Americans plan to get coverage through Obamacare

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — The number of Americans who plan to get insurance through a healthcare exchange - the centerpiece of the new healthcare law - has increased, a Gallup poll released Thursday has found. The poll found that 56 percent of uninsured Americans planning to get insurance said they will do so through a government healthcare exchange - the centerpiece of US President Barack Obama’s healthcare overhaul, or Obamacare — with that figure steadily swinging up since Gallup began tracking uninsured Americans in October.

The poll came amid worries that too few Americans will sign up for insurance through healthcare.gov, which has seen myriad technical glitches since its 1 October launch, and has been bailed by experts as easy pickings for hackers. Indeed, many visitors to the site, which provides healthcare plans for those who sign up, have been prevented from completing enrollment due to technical problems, although the Obama administration said those issues are being worked out.

One possible reason for the exchange’s growing popularity is improvements to the site to correct numerous technical problems. Another reason may be that some Americans now may have fewer choices as to where they can purchase insurance, Gallup said.

Indeed, insurance providers, according to US media, have dropped at least 4 million Americans in recent months as their plans did not meet Obamacare’s stringent requirements.

For Obamacare to work, insurance providers said they need an adequate number of young, healthy enrollees to offset the costs of older, sicker individuals who may use medical services more frequently and for more serious illnesses.

Gallup said a small but notable drop in January in the percentage of uninsured Americans is a positive sign that Obamacare is making progress toward its goal of getting more people healthcare coverage. Still, the trend represents only a marginal improvement, and it may be difficult to convince the remaining population of uninsured Americans to get covered in the months ahead, Gallup said.

UN chief names deputy envoy for Libya

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Jan — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday appointed a national from Mauritania as his new deputy special representative and deputy head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

Ismael Ould Cheikh Ahmed will also serve as the resident coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme’s resident representative, UN officials said.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed succeeds Georg Charpentier of Finland who has served as deputy special representative since October 2011.

The secretary-general is grateful for Charpentier’s dedicated service during his tenure in Libya and for his contribution to the coordination of the United Nations system in that country, said a statement from Ban’s spokesman.

“I congratulate Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed brings with him more than 27 years of experience with the United Nations in development and humanitarian assistance in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe,” the spokesman said.

Most recently, he served as the United Nations resident coordinator, humanitarian coordinator and United Nations Development Programme resident representative in Syria (2008-2012) and Yemen (2012-2014). He also served in several positions with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) including as director of Change Management in New York, deputy regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa in Nairobi and representative in Georgia. Ould Cheikh Ahmed holds a Masters Degree in Human Resources Development from the University of Manchester (United Kingdom), a Bachelors Degree in Economics from the University of Montpellier (France) and an Advanced Certificate in Economics and Social Policy Analysis from Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (The Netherlands). —Xinhua
Oscars organizers revoke ‘Alone Yet Not Alone’ song nomination

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan — The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences has revoked a nomination in the best original song category for “Alone Yet Not Alone,” after the songwriter violated Oscar rules and emailed voters about submitting the song for consideration.

Musician Bruce Broughton, a former Academy governor and executive committee member in its music branch, composed the title song from the independent Christian faith movie “Alone Yet Not Alone.”

Broughton had used his position within the organization to contact voters about his own submission of the song, which was “inconsistent” with the Academy’s rules on Oscar nominations campaigning.

“Nothing more well-intentioned the communication, using one’s position as a former governor and current executive committee member to personally promote one’s own Oscar submission creates the appearance of an unfair advantage,” Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Academy president, said in a statement.

Broughton said in a statement that he was “devastated” at the Academy’s decision.

“I indulged in the simplest grassroots campaign and it went against me when the song started getting attention. I got taken down by competition that had months of promotion and advertising behind them. I simply asked people to find the song and consider it,” the musician said.

The remaining contenders in the category are Pharrell Williams’ “Happy” from “Despicable Me 2,” “Let It Go” from Disney film “Frozen,” “The Moon Song” from “Her,” and “Ordinary Love” from “Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom.”

After the Oscar nominations were announced on 16 January, The Hollywood Reporter said numerous contenders in the original songs long-list questioned how Broughton’s little-known composition from an equally little-known film had beaten out songs by more popular artists on bigger films.

The original song and score categories of the Oscars are voted for by the 240 members of the Academy’s music branch, who are sent DVD copies of song clips with the film and song title only, the Academy said. The voters are not given the name of the composer or lyricist. Each member is asked to vote for no more than five nominees in each category. The film industry’s star-studded Oscars ceremony will be held on 2 March in Hollywood.—Reuters

Oscars 2014 to celebrate 75th anniversary of The Wizard of Oz

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan — The 75th anniversary of the 1939 classic The Wizard of Oz, starring Judy Garland, will be celebrated at the upcoming Oscars, show producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron announced today.

The film, which was a best picture nominee, is based on 1900 novel The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by author L. Frank Baum.

“We are delighted to celebrate the birthday of one of the most beloved movies of all time at this year’s Oscars,” said Zadan and Meron.

The Wizard of Oz received six Oscar nominations, winning two for Original Score and Song. The Oscar ceremony will take place on 2 March at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Centre.

Charges to be framed against Justin Bieber on Valentine’s Day

MIAMI, 31 Jan — Singer Justin Bieber has a Valentine’s Day date with a South Florida judge on charges of driving under the influence, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

A Miami-Dade County judge today set a 14 Feb arraignment date for the 19-year-old star, in an arrangement, prosecutors formally file charges and a plea is entered, although a defendant’s lawyer can enter the plea in writing. Justin Bieber might not be required to attend. Justin Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharief were arrested last week in Miami Beach during what police described as an illegal street drag race between a Lamborghini and a Ferrari.

Neither has been charged with drag racing. Police say Justin Bieber admitted to smoking marijuana, drinking and taking a prescription medication.—PTI

Lambert, McGraw score seven nods at Academy of Country Music Awards

LAS VEGAS, 31 Jan — Country singers Miranda Lambert and Tim McGraw led the nominations for the Academy of Country Music Awards on Wednesday with seven nods apiece, and Australian singer Keith Urban followed with six nominations. Lambert joins her husband Blake Shelton, George Strait, country-pop stalwart Taylor Swift and last year’s winner Luke Bryan for the entertainer of the year award, the most coveted honour at the annual ACM ceremony, scheduled to be held this year on 6 April in Las Vegas.

Strait, 61, who has said he will retire from touring after this year, won the entertainer of the year prize at the Country Music Association (CMA) awards in November. He released his 27th album, “Love Is Everything,” last year. The Academy of Country Music, which honors the genre’s big stars as well as small market radio DJs and concert promoters, telecasts its eight top awards along with the fan-voted new artist of the year honor. Final nominees for the newcomer award will be announced after voting ends on 4 February.

McGraw’s song “Highway Don’t Care” featuring Swift and Urban earned nods for single of the year, video of the year, vocal event of the year. He earned two nominations in the single, vocal event and best album categories each, which honour both producers and artists.

Lambert, 30, also earned nominations for top female vocalist, while her hit “ Mama’s Broken Heart,” penned in part by newcomer Kacey Musgraves, picked up nods for single of the year, songwriter’s award song of the year and best music video.—Reuters

One Direction takes new record industry award as top band of 2013

LONDON, 31 Jan — Boy band One Direction was named the most popular recording artist of 2013 as CD sales and downloads. Streaming music has soared in popularity in recent years and Spotify boasts 24 million active users around the world.

“Streaming has become so much more mainstream within the music industry worldwide over the last couple of years we thought it was time we integrated the streams-on services such as Deezer and Spotify and YouTube as well,” IFPI communications manager Alex Jacob said. US rapper Eminem released his eighth album in 2013, “The Marshall Mathers LP 2,” while Justin Timberlake had a number of hits last year, such as “Mirrors” and “Take Back the Night.”

Other artists who made it to the IFPI top 10 were Rihanna, French electronic duo Daft Punk — who recently took home the film and song title for “Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom,” and Katy Perry.—Reuters

British boy band One Direction arrives at the Cannes festival palace to attend the NRJ Music Awards in Cannes on 14 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

A still from The Wizard of Oz
**New Light of Myanmar**

**Saturday, 1 February, 2014**

**SPORTS**

14 New Light of Myanmar

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**New captain Carlos Moya plotting Spain victory in Germany**

Madrid, 31 Jan — When Carlos Moya was climbing to the top of the world rankings he was used to having an entourage of coaches, physios and practice partners tending to his every need.

Top tennis players are among the most indulged sportsmen and women but, as Spain’s latest Davis Cup captain, Moya is now seeing life from the other side of the fence.

The 37-year-old takes charge of his first Davis Cup tie this weekend, trying to plot Spain’s path through a testing World Group first-round tie against Germany in Frankfurt.

Even without world number one and fellow Mallorcan Rafa Nadal and Spanish number two David Ferrer, Moya still has an enviable array of talent at his disposal and selecting the best combinations has been a new challenge. Not to mention organising the practice, warm-ups, tactics, meal times and various other unseen duties.

“It’s different definitely, you have a team of 15 guys around you that you have to manage every one, trying to put all the pieces together,” Moya said in a TV interview.

“That then being to go out on to court to play, that’s different too although I’m already getting used to it.”

The role of a captain often goes unnoticed when things go well but it is from that perspective of a manager that Moya considers a breach of the conduct contract against experienced Philipp Kohlschreiber is a bold one.

Bautista Agut, 25, is the third highest ranked singles player in the Spain squad, behind Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco, but his victory over world number four Juan Martin del Potro at the Australian Open this month prompted Moya to throw him in.

“I trust Roberto,” said Moya, winner of the Davis Cup with Spain in 2004. “I’m happy with how the draw went and him playing first because if you play second you tend to be nervous waiting for your match.

“I will tell him don’t worry about the crowd. They are going to try and bother you, don’t worry about the opponent, he’s good but so are you.

“I’ll remind him the pressure is on Philipp, he’s a higher ranked player, he is playing at home, you have nothing to lose. Play it like any tour match.”

Moya, the 1998 French Open champion, retired in 2010 after a persistent foot injury and follows a long line of former players into the Davis Cup hot seat.

Alex Corretja followed Albert Costa, who won the team event in 2000 and 2011, and now Moya gets his turn as Spain seek a sixth title since 2000.

“I’m looking forward to it and I think it’s going to be very exciting for all of us,” Moya said.

“The week has been great so far and a great experience for me being around them. I’m very happy the way they’ve been practising and I think it’s going to be a great tie.

“I’m trying to pass on my experiences from the past and the pressure away from them,” added Moya.

“One thing I’ve learned in Davis Cup is that rankings don’t matter. It’s about how they handle the situation and their experience.”

One player who has plenty of experience in the team event is Germany’s Tommy Haas although not in recent years.

Haas, an old sparring partner of Moya’s, returns for only his second Davis Cup tie in seven years but the world number 12 is only set to play in Saturday’s doubles because of a shoulder injury.

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**Johnson red card revoked but Remy three-match ban stands**

London, 31 Jan — Norwich City midfielder Bradley Johnson’s appeal for wrongful dismissal against Newcastle United in the English Premier League has been successful and his suspension revoked, the Football Association said on Thursday.

Newcastle’s French international striker Loic Remy, sent off with Johnson for violent conduct in an off-the-ball clash between the two during Tuesday’s 0-0 draw at Carrow Road, failed in his appeal and will serve a three-match ban.

“The claim involving Loic Remy was dismissed his three-match suspension is withdrawn,” said the FA on its website.

“The claim involving Bradley Johnson was upheld meaning his three-match suspension remains with immediate effect.”

The players were shown straight red cards in the 82nd minute.

Johnson will be available for Norwich’s match at Cardiff City on Saturday while Remy will miss the north-east derby at home to Sunderland and two more games.

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**Leeds owners seek new investors after takeover collapses**

London, 31 Jan — The Middle East-based owners of Leeds United said they were talking to other potential investors after a takeover led by the club’s managing director collapsed on Thursday.

The latest ownership twist will enrage fans of the former English champions, now playing in the second tier. Supporters had hoped that new owners would be in place in time to buy players in the January transfer window and fund a promotion challenge.

“Our aim has always been to attract investment partners and we are currently speaking to a number of parties regarding the acquisition of shares,” owners GFH Capital said in a statement.

GFH bought the club from former Chelsea owner Ken Bates in December 2012 but had planned to cut their stake to only 10 percent by selling out to British investors led by Leeds managing director David Haigh. Haigh, who joined the club after the GFH takeover, said his partners had failed to put up the money they had pledged.

“Some of the consortium’s backers ultimately didn’t feel able to deliver the financial backing we had hoped was agreed to take the club forward,” Haigh said in a statement.

British media reports suggest Italian Massimo Cellino, owner of Serie A club Cagliari, has emerged as a potential bidder for Leeds who are 12th in the 24-team Championship.
Syria peace talks take a break as rivals dig in

**MYANMAR TV**

| 12:00 pm | Documentary |
| 2:00 pm | Business News |
| 4:00 pm | Business News |
| 6:00 pm | News/Weather Report |
| 8:00 pm | News/International News |
| 10:00 pm | News/Weather Report |
| 12:00 am | News/Weather Report |

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

| 2:25 pm | Business News |
| 4:25 pm | Business News |
| 6:25 pm | Business News |

**General**

Three killed in rear-end crash in Texas

Houston, 31 Jan — Three people were killed as a passenger van slammed into the back of a school bus early Thursday morning in Corpus Christi in Texas, local media reported.

Three of seven people in the van, including the driver, died on the scene.

Three others were sent to hospitals. Their conditions were not immediately known, local TV KRIS reported. There were 12 children on the school bus. Seven were taken to hospitals with unknown injuries.

The rest were transported safely to school, according to the report.

Local News

Yang and Watson set pace, Mickelson seven back

Scottsdale, Arizona, 31 Jan — South Korean Yang, Yong-eun birdied six of his last nine holes to surge into a share of the lead in the Phoenix Open first round while Phil Mickelson launched his title defense with a level-par 71 in Scottsdale, Arizona on Thursday.

Yang, who became Asia’s first male major winner with his victory at the 2009 PGA Championship where he overpowered Tiger Woods in the final round, mixed eight birdies with a lone bogey to fire a seven-under-par 64 in dazzling desert sunshine.

The 42-year-old Korean, a double winner on the PGA Tour, took advantage of ideal scoring conditions at the TPC Scottsdale and signed off with a superb approach to three feet at the par-four last before he sank the birdie putt.

Yang, who has not recorded a single top-10 on the U.S. circuit since he tied for sixth at The Barclays in 2011, was delighted with his up-tick in form.

“I have been playing like ‘you-know-what’ for a long time now,” the Korean told PGA Tour.com through an interpreter. “I have been adjusting my swing for a long time... and I think it’s finally paying off. I missed some good chances on the front nine so I was a little bit angry with myself but I’ve been playing some solid golf for the last four-and-a-half rounds so I think it’s good.”

Yang’s lead held up for most of the day until he was joined at the top by 2012 Masters champion Bubba Watson, who birdied four of his last six holes for a matching 64.

Americans Pat Perez, Kevin Stadler, William McGirt, Harris English and Chris Kirk, along with Australasian Greg Chalmers and Matt Jones, were in a further stroke back after opening 65s.

While Yang set the early pace, defending champion Mickelson was happy to complete his opening round with an assorted mix of five birdies, three bogeys and a double after struggling with muscle pain in his lower back over the past two weeks.

“My back’s fine, my game was a little rusty,” Mickelson, who was diagnosed with and treated for a facet joint in his back on Monday, told Golf Channel.

“Got off to a poor start, played a couple over (par) and finished poorly with a few over. In the middle of the round, I hit a lot of good shots and had a good little run.”

“I just wasn’t quite sharp. I wasn’t quite focused on every shot the way I need to be and let way too many shots slide today.”

Five-time major champion Mickelson double bogeyed the par-three hole, his third hole of the day, after hitting his tee shot into water but got his round back on track with birdies at the 13th, 14th, 17th, first and fourth.

The American, who won last year’s Phoenix Open with a record-tying 62 over a total of 256 after opening with a 60, then fadd-ed with bogeys at the fifth, seventh and ninth but preferred to dwell on the all the positives in his first round.

Investigators said driver fatigue could be a factor in the crash. The van hit the right side of the bus and there are no signs the driver made any attempt to stop before impact. And only one of the survivors was wearing a seat belt.

Xinhua
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Japanese Yen 63.2 billion of ODA loan

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Joint Committee Secretary U Aye Maung submitted Report of Joint Committee for Reviewing the Constitution at today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

The committee accepted 28,247 suggestions from political parties, legal experts, NGOs, departments concerned and people. A total of 106,102 persons collectively signed not to amend Section 6 (f) and Section 42 in Chapter (1), Section 9 (f) in Chapter (3), Section 436 in Chapter (12), Sections 337 and 338 in Chapter (7) and Section (12), Sections 337 and 338 in Chapter (3), Section 42 in Chapter (1), amend Section 6 (f) and 534 persons wished to amend Sections 59 (f) and 534 persons suggestions to amend Sections 445 in Chapter (14). A total of 28,247 suggestions from experts, NGOs, departments concerned and people.

The committee scrutinized the suggestions submitted by the people and organizations for constitutional amendment.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved findings and comments of the Joint Committee and ongoing tasks will be carried out for implementation of the report in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Regarding official development assistance loan (ODA Loan) to be provided by Japan, MP U Win Myint from Pyay Constituency discussed maintenance of North Nawin and South Nawin Dams and Wetthikan concrete road and suggested to generate electricity from the dam. (See page 9)