Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker discusses development tasks in Ottara District

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, called on support committees for development in Ottara District for carrying out development tasks right and in conformity with the law. He stressed the need for implementing development tasks in wards, villages, townships, districts and regions and states as the government is making efforts for building a modern and developed nation in accordance with the market-oriented economic system. (See page 8)

EU Ambassador visits relief camps in Myebon Township

Byline: Kyaw Thu Win
Photo: Thet Htet

Hsinthay Dam to benefit over 5000 acres of farmlands this year

Hsinthay Dam 16 miles west of Tatkon in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area could irrigate only about 1,400 acres of summer paddy last year. But now it has a plan to supply water to over 5000 acres of farmlands this year.

“Left canal of the dam irrigates eight village-tracts and the right one, six village-tracts. As of 1 February, the dam will supply water to the farmlands. At present, some of farmers are engaging in tasks of cold season crops while some have completed their works. Irrigated water cannot flow to the farthest area from the dam. Due to lack of irrigation system knowledge, some complaints were made to officials,” remarked an official of Irrigation Department.

“Actually, farmers are striving for ensuring convenience of summer paddy cultivation in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw and they will benefit over 5000 acres of farmlands this year. Hsinthay Dam is ready to irrigate farmlands in Tatkon Township,” explained Staff Officer U Myint Lwin to the interviewer with regard to supply of water for summer paddy. As officials of the dam are working on improving irrigation system, they will supply water to the farmlands if necessary, not rotation system. However, the farmers should avoid inappropriate acts that some of them substitute cold water in the place of hot water in the farmlands, and some supply water into the farmlands unnecessarily. In consequence, water from some farmlands spills out. To minimize loss and waste of water, canals and drains have been repaired.

The amount of 5000 acres of farmlands is based on calculating the accurate data. This year, the dam will irrigate farmlands starting from nursery period to last time of water supply before harvesting.” explained Staff Officer U Myint Lwin to the interviewer with regard to supply of water for summer paddy in Tanay Township of Nay Pyi Taw.
Yaywai-Thaphanchaung asphalt road nearing completion

The road section comprises 3.3 miles long road section. The construction of the asphalt road in Meiktila Township and those of Pyawbwe Township, is nearly completion.

Upon completion, local people from various villages in Meiktila Township will enjoy fruits of smooth transportation and health, social, economic and education sectors.—MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

National Sports
Inter-Subject Football Tournament concludes at Sagaing University

SAGAING, 1 Feb.—The Sagaing University Inter-Subject Men’s Football Tournament reached the final match for 2013-14 academic year.

The final match took place at the Sagaing District sports ground on 30 January. Rector-in-charge Dr Thura Oo greeted the players of both teams. In the match, Physics team beat Chemistry team 4-2.

Prof. Dean of English Department Dr Swe Tun presented silver trophy to Physics Team. A total of nine football teams from Townselders Association U Zaw Win graced the competition.

Pay Your Tax

Buildings under construction for Meiktila fire victims

MEIKTILA, 1 Feb.—In the riot that occurred on 20 March 2013, a fire broke out in Meiktila, leaving over 2000 people from 400 households homeless. Most of the fire victims were Islams who were accommodated at the relief camps.

Meiktila District Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe, Township Administrator U Myo Hlaing, Staff Officer U Thein Tun Zaw of Township Settlement and Land Records Department and officials scrutinized the household victims and allotted apartments. At present, buildings are under construction in Chanayethaya Ward.

A total of 20 separate buildings and 30 three-storey buildings formed with 18 apartments each are being constructed for 93 households. The housing ward will comprise school, market, dispensary to be built before monsoon.—NLM-017

Plum on high demand, but not at good price

Magway, 1 Feb.—Although plum is on high demand at its market in Magway Township, plum farming is not cost effectiveness this year, according the owners of plum farms.

The people from Wadawchaung, Alechaung, Thaphanseeik, Htonpauktaw villages in Magway Township are engaged in plum farming works. In the past, the markets in Yangon and Mandalay are high in demand. So, some entrepreneurs reclaimed vacant and virgin lands for cultivation of plum plants.

“Last year, we got good prices at K 2500 per basket of plum and K 3000 per dried plum. This year, the prices downed to K 1500 per one basket of plum and K 2000 per dried one. Some entrepreneurs store their plum fruits so as to resell it to the market, waiting for good prices,” said a plum farm entrepreneur in Wadawchaung Village.

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MMAL-Myo Min (Htonpauktaw)
UN mediator calls for resumption of Syria talks on 10 February

MUNICH, 1 Feb — The United Nations mediator for the talks between the Syrian government and the opposition on Friday called for a resumption of talks on 10 February. Speaking at the 50th Munich Security Conference here, the United Nations-Arab League Special Envoy to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi called for a resumption of talks in the Swiss city of Geneva on 10 February.

“The talk of 10th February, that’s not 100 percent certain, but I hope it will happen.”

He called for those who have influence on the Syrian government and the opposition to do their best to make sure people will come back for talks. Brahimi expressed his hope that the discussions on Feb. 10 will be “a little bit more constructive” and the opposing sides will be ready to discuss seriously “how this war is going to be finished and how the people of Syria are going to start building what I called a new Syria.”

With regard to the talks that lasted eight days in Geneva, Brahimi said there was no progress. Referring to participants at the conference, Brahimi said he was “embarrassed” and “ashamed.” Brahimi mentioned some improvement during the talks. “They talked at first through me and then from time to time address to one another directly,” he said.

Brahimi told a press conference in Geneva that this round of Syria talks was a “difficult start” and progress was slow, but the sides “have become used to sitting in the same room” and have “engaged in an acceptable manner.” “This is a modest beginning on which we can build,” he said. According to Brahimi, the two sides discussed situation on the ground in the war-torn country with the mediation of himself, and the besieged Homs was “extensively discussed.” — Xinhua

Prince Akishino joins Argentines to mark 50 years of migration

BUENOS AIRES, 1 Feb — Prince Akishino, the youngest son of Japan’s Emperor Akihito and his wife Princess Kiko attended an event in Buenos Aires on Friday to commemorate 50 years since an immigration agreement between Japan and Argentina came into effect.

Prince Akishino said at the ceremony he was “glad to see the Japanese immigrants’ diligence and integrity, and their contribution to the advancement of interaction between our countries.”

The royal couple arrived in Argentina on Thursday night, after visiting Peru, and will attend a welcome event put on by a Japanese heritage association and tour livestock farms and other facilities before leaving for Japan on Monday.

They previously visited Argentina in 1996, Japanese emigration to Argentina resumed with the signing of the agreement in 1963, having been cut off during World War II. Japanese-Argentines now number around 23,000, the third largest Japanese community in South America after those of Brazil and Peru.

Thai protesters join final anti-government march before election

BANGKOK, 1 Feb — Anti-government protesters gathered in Bangkok’s busy tourist area of Chinatown for the third and final day of marches in the capital’s general election on Sunday amid fears of violence erupting during the vote.

The government is pushing ahead with the election, despite protesters’ threats to disrupt the vote and stop Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra’s Pua Thai Party from returning to power. Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban has called for a peaceful blockade of roads in the city, but in the same breath has vowed not to stop people voting.

Any bloodshed would further undermine the credibility of a vote that is deemed incapable of restoring stability in the polarized country. “The people will not sit on the polling booths, but will demonstrate on the roads. They will demonstrate calmly, peacefully, without violence. If anyone comes to try to cause trouble, we absolutely will not argue with them. We won’t do anything that will hinder people from going to vote,” Suthep said on Friday night.”

In the south, for those who are surrounding the places where ballots are being collected, surround them as usual, but I ask that you sit there peacefully, don’t back down, don’t run away, and do not fight them, just pray. I believe that this poll will be voided for sure.”

The Nation newspaper said protesters were camped at post offices to block the delivery of ballot papers in the south, where support for Suthep is strongest.

Many protesters in Bangkok wore red, the color of Yingluck’s “red shirt” supporters, in Saturday’s march, after Suthep said on Thursday that the right to hijack a colour.”

In honour of Chinese New Year, let’s wear red on our walk in Yaowarat (Chinatown),” said Suthep, wearing a festive red Chinese shirt.

The United Nations in Geneva called for a peaceful vote. Ten people have died and at least 577 have been wounded in politically related violence since late November, according to the Erawan Medical Center, which monitors Bangkok hospitals.

The main opposition Democrat party, which backs the anti-government protests, is boycotting the election, which Yingluck’s party is bound to win, though without enough members to achieve a quorum in parliament, guaranteeing further stalemate, at best, even if the election passes off peacefully.

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Next Iranian nuclear talks to take place in Vienna on 18 February

MUNICH, 1 Feb — Iran and six world powers will hold their next round of talks on Tehran’s nuclear programme on 18 February in Vienna, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif agreed on Friday.

“We had a really interesting meeting,” Ashton said in a statement, adding that “the most important outcome at this stage” is an agreement on the talks between Iran and Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

Ashton and Zarif met on the margins of an international conference on strators detained during mass unrest and repealed anti-protest legislation, in a fresh bid to take the heat out of the political crisis. But the move by Yanukovich, which demonstrated he remains politically active despite going on sick leave on Thursday, was not likely to be enough to end the sometimes violent anti-government protests on the streets of Kiev and other cities.

And TV coverage of a prominent opposition activist showing marks of torture inflicted by mystery kidnappers — along with reports police tried to arrest the man in hospital — fuelled anger that has become so explosive that the army made a rare statement, calling for urgent moves to ease the tension. Many protesters rejected Yanukovich’s amnesty outright, because it is conditional on occupied buildings being cleared of activists, and a radical Ukrainian nationalist group behind much of the violence pressed new tough demands on Friday.

The 63-year-old leader, who looks increasingly isolated in a tug-of-war between the West and the pro-Russian Soviet overlord Russia, suddenly withdrew from view on Thursday, complaining of a high temperature and acute respiratory ailment.

He was not seen in public on Friday.

Un-Arab League Special Envoy to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi attends a Press briefing in Geneva, Switzerland, on 31 Jan, 2014.—Xinhua

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22nd AU summit ends with commitment of agricultural transformation, regional peace

**WORLD**

Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz (R), who is also the newly-elected chairperson of AU, shakes hands with African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma after the closing of the 22nd African Union (AU) Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 31 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

"The transformation of agriculture holds the key to the success of our collective efforts to realize our vision," said Hailaniam Dessalegnathe, former Chairperson of the AU while addressing the opening ceremony of the summit themed “Agriculture and Food Security”. The former chairperson also said progress has been made over the past decade in Africa’s agriculture and it’s time to renew the commitment to do more in the sector. — Xinhua

**Japan-S Korea row emerges at international manga festival in France**

**Tokyo/Angouleme, (France), 1 Feb —** Japan expressed its disappointment Monday that South Korea is using an international comic book festival in France to publicize the issue of women forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military during World War II. “It’s extremely regrettable that the situation is contrary to the purpose of the manga festival, which is aimed at promoting international cultural exchanges and friendship,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference.

The top government spokesman said Japan has made clear at the event that it had apologized to those victimized by its wartime brutality in Asia and that the issue of individual compensation for sex slaves had been settled with South Korea under a bilateral treaty in 1965. The festival began Thursday in Angouleme, southwestern France, where the South Korean government held a special exhibition of comic books that depict Japanese soldiers kidnapping and assaulting young girls on the Korean Peninsula.

Visitors on 30 Jan, 2014, look at cartoons in a special exhibition by the South Korean government on wartime sex slavery, at an international comic book festival that began the same day in Angouleme, southwestern France. — Kyodo News

**Argentina, Paraguay ink accord on agricultural duties**

BUENOS AIRES, 1 Feb — Argentina and Paraguay signed an agreement Friday to jointly investigate duty rates on agricultural exports, Argentina's tax authorities said.

The accord was inked by Ricardo Echegaray, chief of the Federal Public Revenue Administration (AFIP) of Argentina, and Marta Gonzalez Ayala, Paraguay's deputy secretary of state for taxation.

It "aims to maintain the existing good relations between the two tax administrations, tackle the challenges of modernizing each and develop technical cooperation in the search for better practices," the AFIP said in a press release.

Under the agreement, the two agencies will work together to implement a new law in Argentina that applies a value added tax to agricultural goods.

"Exchanging information and management practices in the area of shipping costs will allow us to be more precise when analyzing the profitability of the agricultural export sector and the taxes paid on profits," Echegaray said.

Both Argentina and Paraguay are members of the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), a regional trade bloc that also includes Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela. — Xinhua

**Mexican president to seek OK on telecom, oil reform specifics**

MEXICO CITY, 1 Feb — Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said on Friday he will send secondary laws that flesh out landmark telecoms and energy reforms for congressional approval as he seeks to boost competition and economic growth. Pena Nieto pushed a series of reforms through Congress last year, which also spanned taxes and education, but the implementation of energy and telecoms reforms requires a separate batch of secondary laws.

He held off fast-tracking the reforms. The move would have risked angering conservative and leftist-leaning rivals who helped him push reforms through a divided Congress. "During the first days of February, I will send to Congress... secondary laws regarding telecommunications, economic competition and energy," Pena Nieto said, signing into law an electoral reform that allows for the re-election of lawmakers.

The secondary laws will help determine the impact of the telecoms reform on the likes of tycoon Carlos Slim, who has the lion’s share of the fixed-line and cellular market in Mexico. Investors are also waiting to see secondary laws for energy, which will give pointers as to how lucrative a range of new contracts to be offered to oil majors will be amid the biggest opening of the state-run sector in decades.

State oil monopoly PEMEX has struggled to explain Mexico’s oil reserves due to a lack of investment, high taxes and persistent allegations of corruption. — Reuters

**Butter fish**

This is a freshwater fish that can grow as big as a human. Although it is also known as the Greater Mekong Catfish, it is not a bottom feeder. The flesh is succulent and creamy.

**River prawns**

They are huge prawns like lobsters and each can weigh up to 10 ounces [30 grams]. The richness is in the oil in the head, which sweats out to make a delicious curry.

**Red cooked pork**

An essential dish on the menu at special feasts, this is pork cooked until tender with soy sauce and caramelised sugar so that it turns a deep red.

**Shad cooked for eight hours**

The flavourful flesh remains firm after the long, slow cooking but the bones turn soft and they crumble at a bite.

**Country style chicken**

This dish was invented by country boys who raid hen coops and gardens to have a midnight feast. Free-range chicken is cooked with slices of gourd, battered stalks of lemongrass and roughly chopped coriander in a soupy curry.

**Grilled eggplant salad**

Eggplants are grilled over hot coals, peeled and the flesh pounded and mixed with a little onion oil, fried and raw onion slices and sometimes garnished with chopped peanuts.

**Bagan black bean paste**

This is a thick paste made only in Bagan with centuries-old recipe. It has a deep savoury taste that goes well with fatty meats when cooked together to give a delicious gravy, or it is mixed with a little oil and slices of raw onions and mixed in with the rice.

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The following is a reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2014. Please visit www.tourism-guide.com.mm for further information. — Ed
Keystone report raises pressure on Obama to approve pipeline

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — Pressure for President Barack Obama to approve the Keystone XL pipeline increased on Friday after a State Department report played down the impact it would have on climate change, irking environmentalists and delighting proponents of the project. The agency made no recommendation in its report on whether Obama should grant or deny an application by TransCanada Corp to build the $5.4 billion line, which would transport crude from Alberta’s oil sands to US refineries.

But the State Department said that blocking Keystone — or any pipeline — would do little to slow the expansion of Canada’s vast oil sands, maintaining the central finding of a preliminary study issued last year. The 11-volume report’s publication opened a new and potentially final stage of an approval process that has dragged for more than five years, taking on enormous symbolic political significance and looming over Obama’s environmental and economic legacy.

“President Obama is out of excuses,” said John Boehner, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives and a big Keystone proponent. “If President Obama wants to make this a ‘year of action’ he will stand up to the extreme Left in his own party, stand with the overwhelming majority of American people, and approve this critical project.”

With another three-month review process ahead and no firm deadline for a decision on the 1,179-mile line, the issue threatens to drag into the 2014 congressional elections Novem-

ber. Obama is under pres-

sure from several vulnerable Democratic senators who favour the pipeline and face re-election at a time when Democrats are scrambling to hang on to control of the US Senate.

The report offered some solace to climate ac-
tivists who want to stem the rise of oil sands output. It reaffirmed that the US and Canada’s heavy crude re-
serves require more energy to produce and process — and therefore result in higher greenhouse gas emis-
sions than conventional oil fields. — Reuters

Japan, EU end 4th round of FTA talks; tariffs, railways discussed

BRUSSELS, 1 Feb — Japan and the European Union wrapped up their fourth round of free trade negotia-
tions on Friday in Brussels, where they discussed tariff-
related issues and non-tariff measures in the Japanese railway sector.

During the five-day talks — a key test before the European Union’s review in April of whether Tokyo has made progress in elimi-

nating trade barriers — aboli-

tion of EU tariffs on Japa-

desee automobiles was also a main topic of discussion. The review, a year after the negoti-

ations began, will be con-
ducted to decide whether to continue the free trade talks based on how much effort Japan has made to eliminate non-tariff barriers, especially in the railway sector.

The two sides agreed earlier to exchange proposals on scrapping or lowering tar-

iffs at an early date. A senior Japanese government official has said that they were striv-

ing to exchange offers by April, Japan, which wants to expand its market in the European Union, plans to propose scrapping tariffs on EU wine in stages so it can hang on to a concession from the 28-country bloc in the automo-

car sector. — Kyodo News

Pentagon to further study four possible East Coast missile defence sites

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — The US Defence De-

partment said on Friday it would conduct environ-

mental impact studies for four possible missile de-

fence sites in the eastern United States but stressed it had not yet decided to pro-

ceed with construction.

Congress, worried about Iran’s efforts to de-

velop intercontinental ballistic missiles, is urging the Pentagon to commit to an East Coast site.

Defence officials say current interceptors on the West Coast can defend the country against possible missile attacks, and an extra interceptor site would add enormous costs to a mili-

tary budget already under pressure.

Still, Pentagon officials are proceeding with the en-

vironmental impact study required under a directive in the 2013 defense authori-

zation bill.

In a statement issued on Friday, the department said it would take about two years to complete a comprehensive environ-

mental impact study, which will look at potential im-

pacts to land use, water resources, air quality, trans-

portation, socioeconom-

ics and other factors.

The four sites are Fort Drum, New York; SURE Training Area at Naval Air Station, Portsmouth, Maine; Camp Ravenna Joint Training Centre in Ohio; and Fort Custer Training Center in Michigan.

A fifth possible site — Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Vermont that had been identified in Septem-

ber — was dropped from the list of sites to be stud-

ied further. It was not im-

cmediately clear why it was dropped.

US lawmakers, wor-

ried about the ability of West Coast missile defense sites to protect against all possible missile threats, have pressed the Pentagon to consider adding sites in the eastern half of the coun-

ty. The 2013 defense au-

thorization law required US officials to identify three possible interceptor sites, including at least two on the East Coast. — Reuters

Indian diplomat’s claim of immunity challenged by US prosecutors

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — The Indian diplomat whose December arrest led to a major international dispute holds no immunity from US prosecution and should continue to face charges of visa fraud, Manhattan federal prosecutors said in court papers filed on Friday.

Deyani Khobragade was arrested on Decem-

ber on charges that she lied to US authorities about what she paid her house-

keeper. She was stripped-

searched while detained in Manhattan federal court-

house, which led to a dip-

lomatic firestorm between India and the United States that continued for weeks. Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara’s office ar-

gues in the court filings that Khobragade is a former diplomat and not immune from prosecution. Khobragade “currently enjoys no diplomatic status, and at the time of her arrest, the defendant’s position as

a consular official gave her immunity from prosecution for official acts only,” assis-

tant US Attorneys Kristy Greenberg and Amanda Kramer wrote.

As Indian officials de-

manded her release, Kho-

bрагадe’s New York tor-

net argued that her status as a consular official granted her immunity. Khobragade was accredited as a member of India’s mission to the United Nations earlier this month, one day before she

was indicted and asked to leave the country. The accreditation was part of a deal to allow her to leave the country. On 14 January, with Khobra-

gade back in India, her New York-based attorney filed a motion asking a US judge to throw out those charges.

In court papers, Kho-
bрагадe attorney Daniel Arshack said that diplomat-

ic immunity granted to her by the US State Department gave her absolute immunity from US prosecution, even

for suspected acts commit-
ted earlier. — Reuters

No of Japan’s commercial reactors drop to 48

TOKYO, 1 Feb — Two reactors at the accident-

stricken Fukushima Daini nuclear power plant were classified as defunct on Friday, reducing the num-

ber of Japan’s operable commercial reactors to 48.

While the Nos 5 and 6 reactors achieved cold shutdowns after the plant site was inundated by a huge quake-triggered tsu-

nami in March 2011 and suffered no major damage, its operator, Tokyo Elec-

tric Power Co, is consider-

ing using them as experi-

mental facilities to support the challenging task of scrapping the four other reactors at the complex. The Nos 1 to 4 units suffered critical damage and are already set to be scrapped.

The number of reac-

tors in Japan may further decrease if nuclear power plant operators find it diffi-

cult, or too costly, to satisfy a set of new safety require-

ments introduced after the Fukushima crisis.

All of the 48 reactors are currently offline. The Nuclear Regulation Au-

thority is conducting safety assessments for more than 10 reactors as part of the procedures toward restart-

ing their operations. The TEPCO is also facing pressure from Fukushima Prefecture to scrap the four reactor Fukushima Daini plant, which is located about 12 kilometers south of the crisis-ridden Daini facility.

— Kyodo News
New York, 1 Feb — Participating in yoga classes after treatment for breast cancer was linked to reduced fatigue and inflammation and increased vitality among women in a new study. Researchers found that breast cancer survivors who took 12 weeks of yoga classes ended up with reduced inflammation and felt less tired after six months, compared to a similar group of women who didn’t take yoga classes. “This may be a way to provide a good activity that also has other benefits,” Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, the study’s lead author, told Reuters Health. Kiecolt-Glaser is an investigator at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research in Columbus. She and her colleagues write in the Journal of Clinical Oncology that cancer survivors are twice as likely to have poor health and more disability, compared to people without a history of cancer. That may be partially explained by less exercise and activity during and after cancer treatment, which may increase inflammation throughout the body. Chronic inflammation has been tied to increased risks for death and a number of health disorders.

Previous research has also found that inflammation tends to be elevated among cancer survivors and people who don’t do a lot physical activity. Yoga may be one way to get breast cancer survivors moving again, because its intensity can be tailored to an individual’s limits. Yoga has also been linked to reduced fatigue among cancer survivors through better sleep. To see whether yoga had an effect on inflammation, mood and fatigue, the researchers recruited 200 breast cancer survivors, who finished their treatments at least two months before the study began in 2008. The women were randomly assigned to one of two groups that either participated in two weekly 90-minute yoga sessions for 12 weeks or were put on a waiting list and told to avoid yoga. The women’s blood was tested for markers of inflammation and quality of life. At the end of the study, the average score among women in the yoga group was five, versus 13 among women in the comparison group. There was no difference between groups in mood, but Kiecolt-Glaser said the women weren’t depressed enough at the start of the study to leave room for improvement. In addition to feeling less tired, the researchers found that at six months the indicators of inflammation in the yoga and control groups were between 13 percent and 20 percent lower than those in the comparison group.

Sanofi sues Eli Lilly over patents for top-selling insulin drug

The logo of French drugmaker Sanofi-Aventis is seen on the facade of their headquarters in Paris on 4 Aug, 2010.—Reuters

PARIS, 1 Feb — French drugmaker Sanofi said Eli Lilly and Co on Thursday that the company had infringed patents on its top-selling diabetes treatment, the insulin product Lantus. The lawsuit, filed in United States District Court for the District of Delaware, was triggered by notification from Lilly last month that it applied with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) seeking permission to sell a generic version of Lantus known chemically as insulin glargine. Lilly, in its submission, challenged the validity of several patents on Lantus held by Sanofi. Lantus is the world’s most-prescribed insulin product, with annual worldwide sales of about $37 billion. Indianapolis-based Lilly had said it will not launch its generic product before the February 2015 expiration of Sanofi’s patent on the active ingredient in Lantus. But the patent infringement lawsuit triggers a automatic 30-month stay of a generic approval by the FDA, which would keep Lilly’s generic off the market until mid-2016. Sanford Bernstein analyst Tim Anderson, in a recent research note, said a 30-month delay would raise Sanofi’s earnings per share from 2015 through 2020 by about 6 percent and lower Lilly’s EPS for the period by about 2 percent. A delay in the launch of a generic by Eli Lilly would also give Sanofi more time to switch patients to a new long-acting follow-up product known as U300 once it gains approval before cheap competition for Lantus hits the market. — Reuters

Toyota tells US agency seat issue could lead to recall

Detroit, 1 Feb — Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) has alerted US safety officials that seat material in several vehicles, including its top-selling Camry sedan, fails to meet fire retardation standards and could result in a recall. Toyota said on Thursday that it had stopped selling eight recent-model vehicles equipped with seat heaters in North America following an advisory about fire risk from South Korean safety officials. The world’s largest automaker said it did not believe a recall was necessary, however. South Korea applies the same fire retardation standards as those used in the United States, where the cars were built starting in August 2012. Some of the US-built models were exported to South Korea. The Japanese automaker said there have been no reports of fires or injuries related to the problem. The safety standard requires a certain burn rate as a flame moves across the seat heater’s cloth pad. Toyota said the number of affected vehicles at its US dealers totalled about 36,000, or about 13 percent of dealer inventory, but that does not include vehicles in transit to dealers or those already delivered to consumers. In the United States alone, the number of affected vehicles could top 111,000, according to research firm Kelley Blue Book. From the hit it took to its quality reputation during past recalls related to unintended acceleration, Toyota has learned that it cannot delay action on these issues. Kelley Blue Book analyst says that the decision to stop selling high-volume models with seat heaters would be costly. “The timing of this issue, and its impact on Toyota’s most popular models, couldn’t be much worse,” Kelley Blue Book senior analyst Karl Brauer said. “Given that much of the US is currently in the grips of a record cold snap, there’s sure to be high demand for models with seat heating.” Toyota officials appear confident there is no risk and as a result they feel any hit to the company’s reputation would be short-lived and less costly than a full recall, he added. From late 2009 to early 2011, Toyota recalled nearly 19 million vehicles globally related to unintended acceleration claims. In 2010, Toyota President Akio Toyoda apologized for the company’s handling of the recalls and said he would put customer safety first. — Reuters

Google’s outsized ad growth offsets steep price decline

San Francisco, 1 Feb — Google Inc’s quarterly revenue beat Wall Street’s target despite an ongoing decline in prices for its online ads and deepening losses at Motorola, the handset-making division to be sold to China’s Lenovo. Shares of Google, which have risen more than 20 percent in the past three months, rose nearly 4 percent to $1,178 in after-hours trading on Thursday. Google executives said in a conference call on Thursday that the company benefited from strong demand from brand marketers and retailers in the fourth quarter, as well as healthy demand for online ads in international markets. “In the holiday season one thing has become very clear, the Web has truly become the new holiday store window,” Google Chief Business Officer Nikesh Arora said.

Paid clicks on Google’s online ads jumped 31 percent during the typically busy holiday quarter, but the average cost per click that marketers paid the company slid 11 percent. Google’s advertising rates, like those of other Internet companies including Yahoo Inc, has been under pressure as more consumers access its online services on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, where advertising rates are lower than on PCs. Moto- torola, which Google has agreed to sell to China’s top PC maker for $2.91 billion, saw operating losses of $338 million in the quarter, more than double the $152 million loss from a year earlier. — Reuters
Microsoft board close to naming Nadella as new CEO

Bloomberg first reported the news on Thursday. Rising star Nadella, a native of Hyderabad, India — where Microsoft has its largest non-US research center — was promoted to run the company’s fast-expanding cloud, or Internet-based, computing initiatives in July last year as part of a shake-up of top management. The appointment of the 22-year Microsoft veteran would make him the most powerful Indian-born tech executive in the world and put him alongside PepsiCo’s Indra Nooyi, as the leader of a well-known, large-cap US corporation. He was promoted to run the company’s server and tools unit in 2011. That unit now forms the backbone of Microsoft’s cloud-computing platform, which Nadella runs under his official title of executive vice president, cloud and enterprise.

Facebook looks to nab Twitter’s ‘second screen’ crown in Super Bowl

San Francisco, 1 Feb — More than 100 million people will be glued to their TV screens on Sunday, when the Denver Broncos take on the Seattle Seahawks in America’s premier sporting contest, the Super Bowl. But two fierce rivals, Facebook Inc and Twitter Inc, will also be clashing head-to-head on a “second screen” that TV viewers will tune in for the big game. The two social networks are jostling to be the venue of choice for fans to comment on big plays, the star-studded halftime show and of course the commercial stimuli — multimillion dollar productions by major brands that are often a draw in their own right. The Super Bowl is the biggest stage for a broader battle that has intensified over the past year between the two behemoths of social media. By dominating online chatter during events such as the American football game, each company hopes to attract users and advertisers and capture a slice of the $70 billion spent annually in US television advertising.

New big-headed fish species discovered in Idaho and Montana rivers

Salmon (Idaho), 1 Feb — A tiny fish characterized by a disproportionately large head and previously unknown to scientists has been found in mountain rivers of Idaho and Montana in what biologists said on Thursday marked a rare discovery.

Scientists studying the amazing gliding proficiency of an Asian species known as the paradise tree snake say it does two things as it goes airborne. It splays its ribs in order to flatten its profile from round into a more triangular form, and it undulates while airborne — sort of swimming through the air.

Researchers led by Jake Socha, an expert in biomechanics at Virginia Tech, replicated in a plastic model the shape the snake assumes while airborne, and tested it to evaluate its aerodynamic qualities.

Ophidiophobics beware: flying snakes have great aerodynamics

Washington, 1 Feb — This may be the last thing that anyone with a touch of ophidiophobia — fear of snakes — would want to hear: flying snakes have surprisingly good aerodynamic qualities.

What we got were some surprising aerodynamic characteristics.

In fact, it was much more than we anticipated,” Socha added. The paradise tree snake is one of the world’s five species of flying snakes, all from the genus Chrysopelea.

To be precise, they are gliders, not actual flyers like birds and bats that achieve powered flight.

Twitter buys patents, seals licensing pact with IBM

San Francisco, 1 Feb — Twitter Inc has bought 900 patents and signed a cross-licensing agreement with IBM, making peace with Big Blue and bulkling up on its intellectual property portfolio as it takes on larger rivals Google and Facebook.

The agreement announced on Friday comes after International Business Machines Corp accused Twitter in November of infringing three of its patents.

At the time, it underscored how few patents the six-year-old social media company possesses in relation to more established rivals. A cross-licensing agreement will help safeguard Twitter against similar claims in the future.

IBM is one of the industry’s largest research spenders and stockpilers of intellectual property, a consistent leader in US patent filings and the owner of some 41,000 patents.

Twitter is following on the heels of Facebook, which itself faced similar claims before its own 2012 IPO.

The world’s largest social network has since gone on a patent-buying spree, acquiring intellectual properties tech bellwethers, including Microsoft Corp and IBM.
**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 2 February, 2014

**Don’t spark the clashes off**

These days, we see a lot of clashes, conflicts and violence around the globe. Today is the age of globalization. With the rapid advancement of IT, we have so many chances to enjoy the up-to-date information though the media.

These news may be right or wrong. Some media want to release information ahead of others as quickly as possible without knowing whether or not the news comes from the reliable sources. In some cases, it may trigger conflicts and violence and sometimes tarnish the images of those concerned. So, the media is of great importance.

There are so many reporting such as conflict reporting, economic reporting, crime reporting and parliamentary reporting etc. Among them, conflict reporting plays a crucial part. Journalists must take account of ten tips for conflict reporting—1. Don’t write in clichés; 2. Don’t believe everything someone tells you; 3. Don’t hunt for the “definitive truth”; 4. Don’t get things out of context; 5. Don’t accept information without question; 6. Don’t forget the human face of suffering; 7. Don’t be sloppy with words; 8. Don’t be led by another’s agenda; 9. Don’t ignore the local pressures; and 10. Don’t ignore history.

So, all media men should follow the above-mentioned points in reporting the conflicts. The journalist needs to be sensitive, have an understanding of history, be aware of cultural issues, and put people before the story. Don’t spark the clashes off.

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**MoU signed between Ooredoo Myanmar Ltd, KMA Group of Companies**

*from page 1*

He expressed his commitment to tackling challenges of transition process to democracy and to development of the multi-party democratic system and market-oriented economic system in the country.

Regarding the amendment of the constitution, he provided by EU for stability, peace and development of Rakhine State and ongoing work programmes. The EU Ambassador and party held a coordination meeting on reviewing the tour at the hall of Rakhine State Government Office, here, this morning.

During the meeting, matters to be addressed for Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw plunged into the right side of the road, losing control of the excessive speed. In the incident, the driver was injured and the vehicle damaged. It lost about K 1 million for damage.

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**EU Ambassador visits** ...

*from page 1*

townsenders clarified difficulties facing in the township, illegal settlement in the area of divergent ethnic groups, increased population, social and economic matters and issues to be followed the existing laws and they asked what they wanted to know.

They then visited Kantha Htwe and Bengali relief camps in Myebon Township and Aungmin-gala Ward in Sittway.

They met with Rakhine State government and political parties in the evening and discussed plans to be provided by EU for stabilty, peace and development of Rakhine State and long-term projects and assistances to be provided by EU.

They also met the monks from Alotawpyae Monastery in Sittway and questioned for their knowledge.

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**Mandalay District emerges champion in U-16 football tourney**

**Mandalay, 1 Feb**—The final match of the Inter-Basic Education School U-16 Men’s Football Tournament 2014 of Mandalay Region took place at Mandalay Thiri Sports Ground, here, on 27 January afternoon.

In the final match, Mandalay District routed PyinOoLwin District 3-1.

Departmental officials presented prizes and best player awards in places to respective winners.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint (Mandalay) distributed the prizes and encouraged the Development of Rakhine State, stability, peace and development of Rakhine State, short- and long-term projects and assistances to be provided by EU.

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**Vehicle overturns in Bago**

*from page 1*

A car overturned near mile post No. (87/1) on Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Kyaukdaw Township at 8:30 p.m. on 26 January.

The car driven by U Win Myint, 38, of 6th Tharaphi Street in Dagon Myothit (North) Township heading for Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw plunged into the right side of the road, losing control of the excessive speed.

In the incident, the driver was injured and the vehicle damaged. It lost about K 1 million for damages.

Myochoung Expressway Police Station has lodged a lawsuit against the reckless driver under Section 337/338 of the Criminal Law.
Various fruits and vegetables plants are being cultivated by local farmers in Mohnyin Township to send them to Myitkyina, city of Kachin State and mining city Phakant Township. Photo shows thriving Strawberry plantation of farmer U Maung Phyu in Ohnsanhsaing Village of Mohnyin Township.

Stimulant tablets, Ice, Khatkhu, rounds of ammunition seized

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Feb—Members of Anti-Drug Squad (Tachilek) seized 4100 stimulant tablets worth K 10.25 million from a Pajero car driven by Sai Loung Kham of Yangkham Village in Wamlon Village-tract of Mongphyat Township at Meyan combined checkpoint in Tachilek on 29 January.

Those of No 21 Anti-Drug Squad (Kunlong) seized 76 stimulant tablets from the bed room of Ma Kya Chin (a) Ma Nilar Myint, five grams of Ice and 1.4 grams of Khatkhu in ward 3 of Laukka in Shan State on 27 January.

Members of No 25 Anti-Drug Squad (Taunggyi) and local police members raided the house of Pay Lar (a) Sai Loung Kham arrested along with 4100 stimulant tablets in Tachilek Township.

Min Min Latt (Mann Tekkatho) expressed their view. The above-photo taken on the second week of January shows damages caused within days after renovating it near mile post 189/7 on Myitkyina-Shwebo Road in Mohnyin.

Myitkyina-Shwebo Road under upgrading

NLM-001

Ambulance donated to Shande Village of Meiktila Tsp

Meiktila, 1 Feb—Cash was donated for ambulance to Shande Myitta health care association at the office of Shande Village administrator in Meiktila Township on 30 January.

In-charge of New Dry Energy Co Ltd for Upper Myanmar U Tin Win presented K 2.5 million to Chairman of Shande Myitta health care service. Village administrator U Saw Lwin spoke words of thanks.

Shande model village is home to 1689 population of 283 households. It is located four miles north of Meiktila-Mandalay Road.

By Aung Tint Lwin of Aungmyethazan Township near Asia World Toll Gate at the entrance to Nawkgkho on 27 January.—Min Min Latt (Mann Tekkatho)

Shande model village is home to 1689 population of 283 households. It is located four miles north of Meiktila-Mandalay Road.

At present, the village has been supplied electricity. Thanks to ambulance, the local people are safety for their health as the ambulance can transport emergency patients to hospital in time.

The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Saw Htay, local authorities and wellwishers.

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 recon-ciliation
- 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
**WORLD**

Hashimoto hints at quitting as co-head of Japan Restoration Party

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

Sunday, 2 February, 2014

**JONGLEI STATE** (South Sudan), 1 Feb — South Sudan rebel leader Riek Machar accused the gov- ernment on Friday of ethni- cally cleansing and trying to sabotage peace talks, in his first face-to-face interview since fighting erupted late last year in Africa’s young- est nation.

Dressed in dark green military fatigues and speaking to Reuters in his bush hideout, Machar branded President Salva Kiir a dis- credited leader who had lost the people’s trust and should resign.

Thousand have been killed and more than half a million have fled their homes since fighting erupted in the capital Juba in mid-December and spread quickly across the oil-producing nation, often following ethnic lines.

The two sides signed a cease-fire on 23 January in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, but each has ac- cused the other of breaking it. “Salva Kiir has commit- ted atrocities in Juba, he has engaged in ethnic cleansing and he is still involved in the process,” Machar said.

His comments high- lighted the gulf between the sides, who are meant to re- sume their troubled peace talks in Ethiopia next week. Regional and world powers are worried fighting could break out again and spill over into neighbouring states.

South Sudan’s justice minister said this week that former vice president Machar and six of his clos- est allies should face treason charges, accusing him of trying to launch a coup.

“I am not aware of why we should face those charg- es for an alleged coup that never happened,” Machar said.

“(It) is another at- tempt to stop peace talks.”

Machar has regularly de- nied starting the violence or trying to seize power, and has accused the president of taking advantage of an out- burst of fighting between rival groups of soldiers to round up political rivals.

The United Nations and rights groups say both warring sides have commit- ted atrocities, in a conflict that has taken the country to the brink of civil war.

The government and rebels both accuse each other of ethnically mo- tivated killings. Human Rights Watch said earlier this month that government SPLA forces had targeted civilians from Machar’s Nuer group in Juba early on in the conflict, while rebel forces had butchered mem- bers of Kiir’s Dinka tribe in other towns.

The policy change is seen as aiming at promot- ing policy consultations with other opposition par- ties including part of the Democratic Party of Japan. The JRP also vowed to bring about a realign- ment of opposition parties that would serve as a base to effect a change in power, noting that the ruling Lib- eral Democratic Party is too closely bound up with vested interest and bureau- crats. — Kyodo News

**CARACAS**

1 Feb — Nearly 2,000 motorcyclists protested in Caracas on Friday, hooting horns and waving Venezuelan flags outside a government office to show displeasure with a ban on nighttime riding, which has been imposed to cut crime in one of the world’s most dangerous cit- ies.

Motorbikes are used in many of the robberies, kid- nappings and homicides for which the country is notorious. Stung by criticism of the country is notori- ous. Stung by criticism of Hugo Chavez, who used the late socialist leader to steer the Japan Restoration Party, President Dilma Rousseff.

So Paulo, 1 Feb — Even by Brazilian stand- ards — man, it’s hot.

January was the hottest month on record in parts of Brazil including its biggest city, So Paulo. The heat, plus a severe drought, has kindled fears of water shortages, crop damage and higher electricity bills that could drag down the economy during an election year for President Dilma Rousseff.

The scorching condi- tions don’t constitute a cri- sis quite yet, officials say. Weather has been mostly normal in other regions in- cluding Brazil’s soy belt, where a record crop is still expected. Summer rains could return in February and March to refill reservoirs, as they did last year when similar concerns over a pos- sible energy crisis proved to be overhypen. Still, the risks are considerable because Brazil’s economy is so fragile at the moment. Any disruption to food supplies or power costs would com- plicate the government’s ability to meet the center of its 2014 inflation target of 4.5 percent, and the re- gion’s orange and coffee smokers are already showing signs of stress, farmers say.

So Paulo’s average maximum daily tempera- ture in January through Friday was 31.9 degrees Celsius (89.4 degrees Fahr- enheit), a degree hotter than the previous January record and surpassing February 1984 as the city’s hottest month ever, according to INMET, Brazil’s national meteorological institute. Meanwhile, a high pressure system has blocked normal tropical afternoon rains during what is usually the year’s wettest month. So Paulo’s main reservoir is now at less than a quarter of its capacity, a 10-year low. Meteorologists aren’t hopeful for a change anytime soon. “This is the hottest, driest January we’ve ever had ... and there isn’t much hope for this heat to stop in the next two weeks,” said Celso Oliveira, meteor- ologist for Somar weather service.

**Record Brazil heat pressures crops, energy prices, government**

**Venezuelan bikers protest nighttime riding ban despite high crime**

**South Sudan rebel leader says government derailing peace talks**

**Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto**

**South Sudan’s rebels travel in a truck in a rebel-con- trolled territory in Jonglei State on 31 Jan, 2014. **

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**Record Brazil heat pressures crops, energy prices, government**

**Venezuelan bikers protest nighttime riding ban despite high crime**

**CARACAS**

1 Feb — Nearly 2,000 motorcyclists protested in Caracas on Friday, hooting horns and waving Venezuelan flags outside a government office to show displeasure with a ban on nighttime riding, which has been imposed to cut crime in one of the world’s most dangerous cit- ies. Motorbikes are used in many of the robberies, kid- nappings and homicides for which the country is notorious. Stung by criticism of numerous failed efforts to make the streets safer, this month officials in Caracas and other areas made it il- legal to ride a motorcycle after 9 pm.

The so-called “mo- torizados,” a term applied mostly to couriers and mo- torbike taxi drivers, gath- ered in the Petare slum be- fore riding to the peaceful demonstration. They said the new rule contravened their right to work and move about freely, and that students and low-paid la- Motos, or motorcycle taxi drivers, gathered in Petare slum before riding to the peaceful demonstration. They said the new rule contravened their right to work and move about freely, and that students and low-paid la-
5 out of 10 major utilities expect bleak full-year earnings

Tokyo, 1 Feb — Five out of 10 major utilities in Japan expect bleak full-year earnings as a weak yen has pushed up costs to import fuel for thermal power generation to make up for the halt of nuclear reactors, earnings reports released through Friday showed.

Although electricity rate hikes have boosted revenues, five utilities, including Kansai Electric Power Co and Kyushu Electric Power Co, project pretax losses totaling 520 billion yen for the year to March. The utilities are engaging in streamlining efforts, but they could seek further electricity rate hikes if their business conditions deteriorate further.

Kansai Electric Power, Kyushu Electric Power and Hokkaido Electric Power Co raised electricity charges in 2013. But they still expect to post pretax losses of 125 billion yen, 160 billion yen and 113 billion yen, respectively. The rate hikes were based on the assumption that some of their reactors would resume operating, enabling them to reduce purchases of expensive fuel for thermal power generation.

But no reactors in Japan are currently online. To resume operation, the facilities first need to satisfy a set of new safety requirements introduced after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster in 2011.

Chubu Electric Power Co, which is seeking to raise electricity bills from April, estimated that it will post a 110 billion yen pretax loss for fiscal 2013, while Chugoku Electric Power Co projects a 12 billion yen loss.

Hokuriku Electric Power Co and Shikoku Electric Power Co have not announced full-year earnings outlooks. For the April-December period, six of the 10 utilities reported consolidated pretax losses. Tokyo Electric Power Co, the operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi plant, was among the utilities that reported a pretax profit.

Kyodo News

Gov’t eyes issuing Tokyo Olympics license plates with special design

Tokyo, 1 Feb — The Japanese government is planning to issue commemorative vehicle license plates nationwide next year to mark the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, a source close to the transport ministry said on Saturday.

The plates will feature images of the Olympic rings and Japanese motifs such as Mt Fuji, breaking with ministry rules that prohibit special designs on license plates.

Special plates were issued for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, but never before in Japan, the source said.

The Olympic plates are expected to cost slightly more than the 4,000 yen charged for standard plates with a vanity number.

Kyodo News

India regrets downgrading of aviation safety ranking

New Delhi, 1 Feb — Indian Civil Aviation Minister Ajit Singh expressed surprise on Friday at the US aviation regulator’s decision to downgrade India’s aviation safety ranking from Category 1 to Category 2, calling it “very disappointing,” according to the Press Trust of India. With a Category 2 rating by the US Federal Aviation Administration, India’s carriers can continue existing service to the United States, but will not be allowed to establish new services to the country.

Singh said the FAA’s move came despite the fact that India is now “95 percent compliant” with what the FAA had asked it to do in terms of taking corrective measures to adhere to international safety standards and practices. He said the remaining 5 percent, namely recruitment and training of senior technical personnel in the Directorate General for Civil Aviation, will be completed by March. “DGCA will remain in constant touch with FAA, which will hopefully hold another review thereafter” to revert India to Category 1, Singh said.

India had held a Category 1 rating, signifying compliance with aviation safety oversight standards mandated by the International Civil Aviation Organization, since August 1997.

Kyodo News

Indonesia trade minister resigns to focus on presidential bid

Jakarta, 1 Feb — Indonesian Trade Minister Gita Wirjawan resigned on Friday, saying he wants to focus on his bid to become the ruling Democrat Party’s candidate in July’s presidential election.

The 48-year-old former investment banker, who became trade minister in October 2011, told reporters he tendered his resignation to President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who accepted it. The president did not immediately announce who will replace Wirjawan.

Wirjawan will soon participate in a Democrat Party convention to decide who will become the party’s presidential candidate in the election slated for 9 July, three months after legislative polls are held.

Parties or coalitions of parties that win 20 percent of the total seats in the parliament or 25 percent of the popular vote in the 9 April election can nominate their presidential candidates. Yudhoyono, whose party won the last election in 2009 with 20.81 percent of the total vote, is now in his second term as president and he is constitutionally ineligible to run for a third term.

The party’s popularity in opinion polls is low, likely due to graft cases committed by party members.

Among a dozen parties contesting at the national level, public attention is focused on the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-Perjuangan) led by former President Megawati Sukarnoputri, whose member Joko Widodo, the governor of Jakarta, is seen as the most popular potential presidential candidate, though he has not been nominated yet.

Kyodo News
Number of foreign workers in Japan hits record-high 717,504

Tokyo, 1 Feb — The number of foreign workers in Japan as of Oct. 31 stood at 717,504, up 5.1 percent from a year earlier and the highest level since 2007, when the government obligated companies to report the number of foreigners in their workforces, government data showed on Friday.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare attributed the increase to a new government policy promoting the hiring of highly skilled foreign workers as part of the country’s growth strategy, and construction and other companies’ moves to actively hire foreign workers due to shortages of labor amid improving economic conditions.

By nationality, Chinese accounted for the biggest proportion of foreign workers at 303,886, followed by Brazilians at 95,505 and Filipinos at 80,170. The number of Vietnamese workers rose 39.9 percent from a year earlier to 37,537. The number of foreigners working as specialists and engineers rose 6.7 percent to 152,571.

Chinese Lunar New Year is the most important traditional holiday for Chinese people. People prepare food and snacks for the Spring Festival since the day of Xiaonian.—XINHUA

The number of foreign workers, including their dependants, stood at 806,540, down 2.2 percent from a year earlier.

By region, the number of foreign workers in Tokyo rose 18.5 percent to 221,020, the highest in the country, followed by Osaka at 194,880 and Fukuoka at 123,019.

According to the government, the number of foreign workers in Japan has been on the rise since 2007, when the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare first collected data on foreign workers. The number peaked at 719,510 in March 2013, before falling to 713,425 in September 2013.

The increase in the number of foreign workers is expected to help boost the country’s economic growth, which has been lagging in recent years.

Source: Kyodo News
Jared Leto nominated

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb — Singer-actor Jared Leto is finding it difficult to process the critical acclaim he has received for his performance in Oscar-nominated movie Dallas Buyers Club alongside Matthew McConaughey and Jennifer Garner. Jared Leto, 42, was excited when he was offered the role of Rayon, a transgender woman with HIV, which has gone on to receive six Academy Award nominations, reported Contactmusic.

Jared Leto, who put his acting career on hold for over six years to release music with his band Thirty Seconds to Mars, told someone yesterday that he’d won over 30 awards for it already. I didn’t even know there were 30 awards to win. The big ones were the Golden Globes and the SAG Awards recently,” Jared Leto said. Referring to his Oscar nomination, he added, “I feel like this is insane and amazing - I feel like the luckiest person in the world. It’s a really special story and I feel proud to be a part of it.”

Jared Leto had to dress as a woman and lose weight for his portrayal of Rayon and his transformation was so stark he didn’t think audiences would even recognise him on screen.

“We are just friends,” Jared said. “It’s pretty crazy. I play a transgender woman. A lot of people wouldn’t recognise me in the role.”

Kanye West angry after Kim is rejected for magazine cover

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Kanye West says Kim’s dream to be on the magazine cover.

LONDON, 1 Feb — Rapper Kanye West has allegedly confronted a magazine editor after Lena Dunham was picked over his fiancée Kim Kardashian for the March cover of its February edition.

The 36-year-old rapper feels insulted that Vogue editor Anna Wintour, who he deems a close friend of his, picked Dunham over Kim, reported Radar online.

“Kanye, who met with Anna at the Beverly Hills Polo Lounge, argued that Kim is just as talented as Lena, if not more so,” a source said.

“To Kanye it’s insulting that his friend Anna is still refusing to even consider putting Kim on the cover of Vogue. He thinks Anna is listening to a bunch of ‘know-nothing’ corporate haters, as he put it. He’s upset that Anna isn’t willing to do him this personal favour and put Kim on the cover,” the source added.

“Kanye knows that it’s always been a huge dream of Kim’s to be on the Vogue cover and Kanye wants to make it come true. If nothing else, Kanye is persistent.”

However, it was previously revealed that Anna, 64, hates Kim — who has seven-month-old daughter North with Kanye - so much that she even banned her from attending the Met Gala in New York in 2012.

Priyanka Chopra: Proud of everyone who made Gunday possible

MUMBAI, 1 Feb—Actor Priyanka Chopra was in London at the National Theatre, for the production stage, is the story suggests.

The report added: “Gunday! I’m so proud of everyone who made this film possible. Yay! Pat on the back @aliaabuzaizar, Priyanka tweeted. The 32-year-old actress has slipped into the role of a glamorous cabaret dancer in Ali Abbas Zafar’s film. The film will also be released simultaneously in Bengali with full Bengali songs composed by Bappi Lahiri. Produced by Yash Raj Films, Gunday is slated to hit theatres on 14 February.—PTI

Oprah Winfrey on turning 60: I’m more secure in being myself now

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb — Oprah Winfrey has shot down rumours he is dating Selena Gomez, but says he finds her very attractive.

The 17-year-old singer has denied reports he has recently struck up a relationship with the Come & Get It hitmaker, but admits that they hang out together a lot, reported People magazine.

“We are just friends,” she said. “It’s pretty crazy. I play a transgender woman. A lot of people wouldn’t recognise me in the role.”

Oprah Winfrey wrote.

Mozart museum seeks to debunk evil Salieri poison myth

VIENNA, 1 Feb — It’s one of the great mysteries of music — did composer Antonio Salieri poison his onetime protege Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with arsenic? The famous 1984 Milos Forman film “Amadeus”, based on Peter Shaffer’s play, leaves little doubt he did. But now the Vienna museum dedicated to Mozart’s legacy has launched a campaign to burnish Salieri’s reputation as a supporter of the young Austrian genius — and not a jealous villain.

A new exhibit at the Mozarthaus where Mozart lived and worked in the late 18th century portrays Salieri as a good-humoured, talented and generous man who praised and honoured pupils including Ludwig von Beethoven and Franz Schubert.

The problem, curators say, is that too many people think of Salieri as the evil mastermind from Shaffer’s 1979 play that the Czech director Forman filmed in and around Prague, parts of which look much the same as they did in Mozart’s time. “We want simply to enlighten people and show the authentic Salieri, getting away from a very strongly fictionalised image,” museum director Gerhard Vitek said on Thursday.

The talent of Salieri, who was born in northern Italy in 1750 and moved to Vienna at age 15, made him a favourite of the imperial court. He wrote operas and other stage plays, patriotic compositions and sacred music when not teaching.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s original Anton-Walter-piano is pictured at the Mozart museum.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s original Anton-Walter-piano is pictured at the Mozart museum’s new exhibition of ‘Talents and Fall’. The original piano was bequeathed to Amadeus in 1763 by his former teacher, Johann Nepomuk Walter, and it was on this very instrument that Amadeus composed some of his major works.

The instrument is so respected by Mozart that he described it as “my faithful partner”, and it even featured in the composer’s will. But when he died in 1791, his family sold it to a wealthy connoisseur, and it was again sold in 1822.

Mozart museum director Gerhard Vitek told the press yesterday that the instrument is “unique” and “extraordinary”, and that it is “a very special item”, and that it is “a very special item”.

He said that the Mozarthaus, which represents the city of Vienna and the state of Lower Austria, is responsible for the exhibition, and it has been carried out in close cooperation with the museum.

The exhibition is based on new research and scientific and historical sources, and it is supported by the Austrian Ministry for Science and Research.

The exhibition was opened on 24 January.
**Sports**

**Argentina, Italy 1-1 in Davis Cup tie**

BUENOS AIRES, 1 Feb — Italy Davis Cup World Group first-round Friday:
Carlos Berlocq (Argentina) bt Fabio Fognini (Italy) bt Juan M Saturday Filippo Volandri/Simonsi Bolelli (Italy) vs Horacio Zeballos/ Eduardo Schwank (Argentina) Sunday Andreas Seppi (Italy) vs Juan Monaco (Argentina) Fabio Fognini (Italy) vs Ca Berlocq (Argentina).

Argentina’s Carlos Berlocq hits singes match at Davis Cup Patinodromo Municipal Adalberto from Buenos Aires city, capital of defeated Seg

**World Cup Trophy arrives in Venezuela**

CARACAS, 1 Feb — The FIFA World Cup Trophy arrived on Friday in Ven zuela, as part of a pro motional world tour in the lead-up to this year’s ulti mate championship to be held in Brazil. Venezuelan Sports Minister Antonio “El Potro” Alvarez presented the trophy to national media Potro” Alvarez presented the FIFA World Cup Trophy to national media Potro” Alvarez presented the FIFA World Cup Trophy to national media Potro” Alvarez presented the FIFA World Cup Trophy to national media Potro” Alvarez presented the FIFA World Cup Trophy to national media

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Venezuelan Sports Minister Antonio “El Potro” Alvarez presented the trophy to national media as part of a promotional world tour in the lead-up to this year’s World Cup championship to be held in Brazil.

Alvarez was accompanied by FIFA tour ambassadors Christian Karembeu and representatives of the National Football Federation.

The 18k gold trophy, measuring about 35 centimeters in height, will remain on show for three days in Caracas, where some 8,000 fans have already obtained tickets to see football’s coveted prize.

The trophy will also make an appearance at the presidential palace of Miraflores, where President Nicolas Maduro is scheduled to greet a delegation from the FIFA.

This marks the second time that a World Cup Trophy visits Venezuela, which failed to qualify for the 2014 World Cup. The first time was during the trophy tour preceding the 2010 South Africa World Cup. The trophy’s global tour kicked off on 12 Sept, 2013.—XINHUA

**Sochi Olympic villages officially open**

BEIJING, 1 Feb — Sochi’s Olympic villages have officially opened and welcome the arrival of athletes and coaches.

Three mountain villages and a coastal village have been built, to accommodate more than 6,000 athletes.

Figure skaters, hockey players, and curlers will rub shoulders as they enjoy perks like the village movie theater, library, and fully-stocked cantine.

Olympic committee representatives toured the facilities and came away impressed by the immensity of them.

“My first impression is that everything is pretty big, there are a lot of volunteers, everything new, and this big advantage is that everything is in the same place, all the venues, the sports venues, and the Olympic village and all the facilities are really close to each other.”

The villages are protected with security perimeters. The director of Olympic villages, Daniel Merkley, says it’s the safest place to be.

Athletic delegations will continue to arrive over the weekend. Once they make it through tight security checks, they will board buses and head to their respective villages.—XINHUA

**Dortmund beat bottom side Braunschweig 2-1 in German Bundesliga**

BERLIN, 1 Feb — Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang’s brace helped Borussia Dortmund to record the eleventh win of the season, at the opener of the 19th round in Bundesliga on Friday. Dortmund wrapped up the first win in 2014 following a four match winless streak. Meanwhile bottom side Braunschweig failed to secure decisive points for the relegation battle.

However, things started other than expected as Braunschweig controlled the proceedings in the opening period. The underdog created chances through Havard Nielsen, Jan Hochscheidt, Benjamin Kessel and Norman Theskerkauf, due to the fact that Dortmund were unable to gain a foothold into the match.

As the match progressed the “BVB” were capable to establish their rhythm when Nuri Sahin free kick tested Braunschweig’s goalkeeper Daniel Davari, who tipped the ball away from the left post near the half-hour mark. Despite Braunschweig’s courageous performance it were the visitors that broke the deadlock at the 31st minute.

XINHUA

**Jones and Watson share early lead in Phoenix**

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — Australian journeyman Matt Jones, bidding for his first PGA Tour title, made the most of his local knowledge to charge into an early tie for the lead in Friday’s second round of the Phoenix Open Bubba Watson, who fired a 66. Another left-hander, Greg Chalmers of Australia, was a further two strokes back after carding a six-birdie 67, ending the day level with American Harris Engel second at last year’s Greenbrier Classic, was delighted to have an early tee time for the second round.

“We definitely got the good side of the draw going off early,” the 33-year-old from New South Wales told seven tone. It’s cold ad the all isn’t going as ar.”

Wat- co-over South Yang seem af opening a h a 64, as also a p heat despite having dropped two shots in his last three holes. “I feel like I should win on every golf course,” said the slim American, who is bidding for his first victory on the PGA Tour since his major breakthrough at the 2012 Masters.

“Everything is clicking right now. I played really well last week, just didn’t make the puts. This time I’m playing well and some of the puts are dropping.”

Japan’s Hideki Matsuyama had been just one stroke off the lead after 17 holes but bogeyed the par-four 18th after finding a bunker with his approach to card a 67 for a nine-under total. Korean Yang and three-times Phoenix Open champion Phil Mickelson, who also attended Arizona State University, were both among the day’s late starters. Mickelson, who won last year’s title with a record-tying 28-under total of 256, carded a level 71 on Thursday having recovering from back pain which forced him to withdraw after the second round of last week’s Farmers Insurance Open.

XINHUA

**French cyclist Robert Marchand, 102, reacts with Gerard Misler, President of the Ardechois Cycling Club, after he covered 26.98 kms in one hour at the indoor Velodrome National in Montigny-les-Bretonneux, southwest of Paris on 31 Jan, 2014. Marchand set a new record in the Masters + 100 category established by the International Cycling Union UCI.—XINHUA
6.1-magnitude quake hits south off Visokoi Island

BEIJING, 1 Feb — An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted Visokoi Island at 03:58:43 GMT Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

London marathon organizers welcome Kenya’s Keitany inclusion

ITEN, (Kenya), 1 Feb — The race director for London Marathon, Hugh Brasher, would not hesitate to include the 2011 and 2012 women’s winner, Kenya’s Mary Jepkosgei Keitany, to fit her to run after returning from maternity duty.

Flu patients double, school closures quadruple, in one week in Japan

TOKYO, 1 Feb — Influenza patients doubled from a week earlier to an estimated around 1.32 million in the latest reporting week to 26 January in Japan, while flu-linked closures of part or all classrooms were reported at 3,009 schools, more than four-fold, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases said on Friday.

Ice storm shuts down Houston government, schools

HOUSTON, 1 Feb — An unusually ice storm hit the normally mild-to-hot city of Houston, Texas early this week, bringing chill-to-the-bone weather and forcing residents to deal with the ice-covered cars and roads and shut down the city government and schools.

The temperature plummeted from the mid-16 degree celsius to minus seven degree celsius and lower after the ice storm hit the city.

“We also had a wind-chill factor that made it seem even colder,” said Michael Walter, the public information officer at the city’s Office of Emergency Management.

The governor advised residents to stay indoors if possible and released a pre-storm alert of major throughs and bridges with salt, as many drivers found it hard to deal with a sudden situation of the unusual freezing weather.

There was significant upicks in motor vehicle accidents after the storm, with over 400 accidents reported in half a day, mostly relat-ed to ice on the highways, Walter said, adding that the day before ice hit, the police responded to a little over 100 ice accidents.

Some government offices for public service, such as parks, libraries, museums and municipal courts were closed for a day due to the ice storm. —Xinhua
Cash and kind provided to Naga nationals for regional development, poverty alleviation

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb — Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin together with the Sagaing Region minister for Finance visited self-reliant station pre-primary school and presented clothing and personal goods to the villagers at the monastery in Hmanpin Village, Hkami Township on 28 January.

On 29 January morning, the Union minister and party provided the students with clothing and personal goods at Ponnine Monastery and inspected self-reliant pre-primary school and site chosen for construction of district Social Welfare Department in Zeephyugon Ward.

Gunshots, explosions rock Thai protest day ahead of polls

BANGKOK, 1 Feb — Dozens of gunshots and at least two explosions raised tensions amid anti-government protests in the Thai capital on Saturday, a day ahead of a general election seen as incapable of restoring stability in the deeply polarised country.

At least three people were injured in the violence in front of a suburban shopping mall in the north of Bangkok, Gunmen among the crowds could be seen hiding their weapons before backing away from the shooting.

Sporadic gunfire continued as the sun began to set. It was not immediately clear whether the demonstrators or those wounded were the government’s supporters or its opponents, some of whom are aiming to block balloting in an election almost certain to continue as the sun began to set. It was not immediately clear whether the demonstrators or those wounded were the government’s supporters or its opponents, some of whom are aiming to block balloting in an election almost certain to continue as the sun began to set.

The attack took place in Bangkok’s Lakki district, close to the Don Muang airport, a stronghold of Yingluck Shinawatra to power. Her supporters had gathered to demand Sunday’s ballot is not obstructed.

Ten people have died and at least 577 have been wounded in politically related violence since late November.

Indonesia volcano kills at least 11, fears over more eruptions

JAKARTA, 1 Feb — Indonesia’s Mount Sinabung volcano erupted and killed at least 11 people on the western island of Sumatra on Saturday, the first time it is known to have claimed any lives, a senior government official said.

The volcano has become increasingly active in recent months, regularly spewing columns of ash several kilometres into the air. The government has evacuated tens of thousands of residents near the area.

“Eleven people were killed because of the eruption this morning and the number could increase. No evacuations could be made at this stage because of the potential for more eruptions,” Andi Arief, a presidential staff member, told Reuters. Sinabung is one of nearly 130 active volcanoes in the world’s most populous country, which stands along the “Ring of Fire” volcanic belt around the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Indonesia’s most deadly volcanic eruption in recent years was of Mount Merapi, near the densely populated city of Yogyakarta in central Java. It erupted in late 2010, killing more than 350 people.

Myoma-Mingin road section on Kani-Mingin-Taungwinchaung Road under construction

Mingin Township in Kalay District of Sagaing Region solely relies on the waterway in linking with the districts and towns from other region. It is a landlocked township as Shwethamin mountain range blocks like a wall.

At present, 16 miles and six furlongs long Mingin-Taungwinchaung (Myoma) earthen road section is being constructed by Monywa Swan Arr. Myanmar Moe Naing and Chan-tha Shwemye companies at a cost of K 2,500 million in 2012-13 FY and K 1,000 million in 2013-14 FY from Union Budget.

Under the guidance of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, officials made a field trip for timely completion of the road meeting set standard on 30 January.

Upon completion, the road will contribute to development of economic, social, education and management for 36 villages from 15 village-tracts in Taungwinchaung Area. Moreover, it will facilitate better transportation for rural people.

Byline & Photo: Ju Nine

Trs: KHS