President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Iranian President

Myanmar thanks Germany for its rightful stand against intense pressures from some Western countries on Myanmar in the past 20 years:

President U Thein Sein

Germany wants to assist Myanmar making great strides in sweeping reforms opened a new page in the history of Myanmar:

President Mr Joachim Gauck

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2014.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—The President of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr Joachim Gauck and Mrs. Daniela Schadt and party arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport this morning.

They were welcomed at the airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife and officials.

Next, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President, met Mrs. Daniela Schadt at the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am.

Then, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a luncheon to the German President and party at the Presidential Palace at 12.30 pm.

In his greeting speech, President U Thein Sein said it was a historic visit of the German President to Myanmar over the past 26 years after German President Richard von Weizsäcker in 1986 as his visit coincided with the occasion of the 60 Anniversary of the diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Germany.

The President thanked Germany for its effective aid for the development of Myanmar during the 60-year period of diplomatic relations. He acknowledged German government’s rightful stand against the intense pressures from some Western countries on Myanmar in the past 20 years.

The President expressed his firm belief that the German President’s goodwill visit would boost future bilateral cooperation, strengthening the existing bilateral friendship.

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K 100 million fund spent on development tasks in Meiktila

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Industries developing in Wundwin Township

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LOCAL NEWS

People delighted at news for sinking tube-wells

MADAYA, 10 Feb—Thanks to Ayeyawady River, Myaung River and Chaungmyaygi Creek, and Mandalay Canal and Yenatha Canal from Hsedaawgyi Dam, the local people can cultivate crops on a large number of irrigated areas. They are engaged in cultivation of paddy and crops on 134,601 acres of farmlands and croplands.

Shinhla and Thayezet village-tracts in the township are facing difficulty in water for agricultural purpose.

PyinOoLwin District Water Resources Utilization Department is making arrangements for sinking four-inch diameter tubewells.

“As of the second week of February, the tubewells will be sunk there. Now, pipes and sinking materials have arrived in Madaya. The local authorities have enlisted the needy farmers who want to sink tubewell in their farms. Actually, whenever river water subsides, Shinhla Village faces much difficulty in water supply to farmlands. But farmers are unaffordable to sink tubewell. Now, they are pleased for the government to sink the tubewells,” said village administrator U Sein Mya Min.

The department will sink 22 tubewells in Shinhla Village and five in Thayezet Village.

The water will efficiently be used in cultivation of crops. MMAL-Nanda Min Lwin

Stake driven for construction of two-storey school building

LASHO, 10 Feb—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of new reinforced concrete two-storey building was held at the designated place of Basic Education High School Branch in Tangyan of Northern Shan State on 6 February.

At first, Kaingkon Panyi Monastery Sayadaw and members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Ninety Degree Co Managing Director U Myat Thu Aung and party will build the 140 feet long and 30 feet wide building. It was funded K 168 million in 2013-14 fiscal year.

The ceremony was attended by Commander of the local station Col Kyaw Swa Win, senior military officers, Township Administrator U Htet Naing, township level departmental officials, Shan State Hlustaw MP U Sai Hsan Sein, and responsible persons of the Education Ministry. MMAL-Han Htay (IPRD)

Victorious athletes honoured in Shan State

TAUNGGYI, 10 Feb—A ceremony to honour victorious athletes in the XXVII SEA Games was held at the city hall in Taunggyi on 7 February.

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat made a speech.

Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Col Aung Thu, State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun and State Minister for Finance U Khin Thein Maung presented cash awards and certificates of honour to victorious athletes in boxing, Kampo, Pitangue, double regu of Sepak Takraw and regu and sailing, women’s football, Pancek Silat, Muay, track & field, and women’s hockey events.

Nan Hsu Myat San, who secured two gold medals in the Sepak Takraw double regu and regu events, spoke words of thanks. Later, the athletes were served with dinner.

It was also attended by Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, the deputy speaker of Shan State Hlustaw, state ministers, the advocate-general of Shan State, the auditor-general of the state, national race ministers, the secretary of Shan State government, winning athletes and guests. Kyemon-Joe Net

Bogoyoke Road, detour expanded for Kalay dwellers

KALAY, 10 Feb—Kalay is a strategic town in linking Chin State, Magway Region and upper Chindwin region. As the government expanded Bogoyoke Road and Bayinnaung Road with asphalt to the pavements on both sides, the local people are convenient in their travelling.

However, a total of 77,900 population residing in 19 wards and 207,740 population in 41 village-tracts in the township. That is why the Bogoyoke Road in downtown Kalay is always bustling with vehicles and pedestrians. Growing number of population causes traffic congestion on the road.

At present, the local people are hoping for efforts of the local authorities to ease traffic congestions along Bogoyoke Road and upgrade the two miles and three furlongs long detour with concrete between Minye Kyawswa Road in Aungnghitza Ward and Mothila.

To upgrade the detour will cost K 123.9 million, according to the Township Development Supportive Committee.

Kyemon-Maung

Placing of asphalt rural road inspected

WUNDWIN, 10 Feb—Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Shan Myint together with the head of Mandalay Region Rural Development Department on 9 February inspected repaving of Thaphan-Pintale road sections and sinking tube-well, water tank and waterworks undertaken by Aerial Engineering Co Ltd, Myanmar Land and Development Co Ltd and Silver Mack Co Ltd in Wundwin Township and left necessary instructions.

MMAL-Htay Hlaing (Wundwin)
Abe takes step away from mentor Koizumi in Tokyo race

Tokyo, 10 Feb — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe likely breathed a sigh of relief at the weekend victory of the candidate supported by his ruling Liberal Democratic Party in the Tokyo gubernatorial election, not just because so much was at stake for Japan’s capital as it gears up to host the 2020 Olympics, but for the sake of his own administration.

The victory by 68-year-old former health minister Yoichi Masuzoe was good news for Abe, who must have feared a victory by former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, whose anti-nuclear platform was backed by Abe’s own one-time mentor in the LDP, Junichiro Koizumi, another former premier. Prior to Sunday’s vote, a senior LDP lawmaker said the party would show Koizumi, who was in power facing of 2001-2006 and remains a popular figure with the public, that “there are limits to what he can do,” given that it was a must-win battle for the party.

An LDP-backed candidate lost his bid in January to become mayor of Nago city, the relocation site for a US military base in Okinawa, and another election loss, even at the local level, could have proven detrimental to the government as it braces to push forward key political aims. “I’m glad to hear Mr. Masuzoe got support from Tokyo voters and won the race,” Abe told reporters. “I hope he will tackle the challenges facing Tokyo head-on, such as the aging of its population and the economy.

A stable government and public support are essential for Abe and the LDP to tackle in the coming months the controversial issue of whether Japan should lift its self-imposed ban on exercising the right of collective self-defence and bring idled nuclear power plants back online. Masuzoe’s win will therefore embolden Abe’s LDP at a time when opposition parties remain in disarray, and political analysts say it also signals Abe’s growing divergence from Koizumi, who sought a small government and tried to “destroy” the old-style LDP with its relationships with vested interests.

Rice farmers protest as Thai government’s funding woes mount

Bangkok, 10 Feb — More than 1,000 farmers protested outside the Thai government’s temporary headquarters on Monday over the state’s failure to pay for rice bought under a subsidy scheme that the government has opened a new front against Yingluck Shinawatra, who was swept to power in 2011 with the help of millions of rural votes, but has become one of the biggest threats to her government.

The unrest among farmers has opened a new front against Yingluck’s government, which has been facing off against a Bangkok-based protest movement seeking to drive it from office for nearly three months. One of the organizers of those protests was arrested on Monday, the first of the core leaders to be held since the campaign to disrupt normal business in the capital began in November. The protests, which are still blocking parts of Bangkok, have found much of their support from middle-class, urban taxpayers appalled at what they see as corruption and waste in the rice scheme.

Tarit Pengdhe, head of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), Thailand’s equivalent of the FBI, said protest leader Sonthiyarn Chuenruethaitanatham was being detained by border patrol police on the outskirts of the city. He was among a group of people against whom arrest warrants were issued last week for defying a state of emergency that bans political gatherings of more than five people and gives authorities powers to detain suspects without charge. DSI chief Tarit also said he would announce the names of 136 individuals and companies suspected of providing financial support to the protest movement at a news conference on Tuesday.

“I have strong evidence that 58 of these firms have financially supported protests … and will summon the remaining companies and individuals to the DSI to explain themselves,” Tarit told Reuters. — Reuters

Syrian rebels kill 10 women in Hama Province

Damascus, 10 Feb — Syrian rebels killed 10 women in the central province of Hama on Sunday, the official SANA news agency reported. Armed “terrorist” groups committed the killing in Ma’ar town in the northern countryside of Hama, SANA said, adding that the rebels attacked the town and committed acts of arson, murder and property destruction.

Meanwhile, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said radical battalions took control over Ma’an and killed 25 people of the Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shi’ite Islam which the ruling elite in Syria belongs to. The Observatory said government troops evacuated the civilians from the village of the rebels’ attack, adding that most of those killed are members of the pro-government para-military National Defence Forces.

Also in Hama, 12 fighters of the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front were killed in clashes against the government troops in different parts of the countryside. The country’s nearly three-year-old conflict has taken a sectarian turn recently with al-Qaeda-linked groups and other ultra-radical groups fighting to topple the administration of President Bashar al-Assad to establish an Islamic emirate.

S Korea-US joint military exercises to begin 24 February

Seoul, 10 Feb — South Korea and the United States will begin two annual joint military exercises on 24 February, their militaries said on Monday. The Combined Forces Command said Key Resolve, a command post exercise, will be held through March 6, while Foal Eagle, a field training exercise, will be held through April. North Korea has demanded that the exercises be cancelled, calling them a rehearsal for invasion.

South Korea and the United States insist the exercises are defensive in nature. — Kyodo News

Israel PM to meet US president in Washington next month

Jerusalem, 10 Feb — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet with US President Barack Obama in Washington next month, the prime minister’s office confirmed on Sunday.

Netanyahu’s trip to the United States will include a speech in front of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a pro-Israeli lobby, and a meeting with Obama at the White House which will mainly focus on the peace talks with the Palestinians, the Walla! news website reported.

US Secretary of State John Kerry has been working in the past months toward a framework agreement that outlines the future advancement of the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The last meeting of the two allies was held in the United States last September which focused on the issue of the Iranian nuclear programme amid Iran’s overtures toward the West. There are mounting tensions between Israel and the United States due to some Israeli far-rightists’ criticism about Kerry’s work and their negation of the peace talks as a whole, as well as the two’s disagreement over how to tackle the Iranian nuclear issue. — Xinhua

Attack at religious place kills 8 in Pakistan’s Karachi

Islamabad, 10 Feb — At least eight people including a child were killed and 14 others injured on Sunday evening when some unknown assailants attacked a religious place in Pakistan’s southern port city of Karachi, local media and officials said.

Rescuers said that some women and children were among the injured. At the time of the attack, more than three motorcyclists remained outside the building while three others entered the building and opened fire.

At least six assailants wearing helmets to hide their identity hurled hand grenades at pilgrims present in the building before opening indiscriminate fire at them.

Police and rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the bodies and injured to the Civil Hospital of the city.

Injured people receive medical treatment at a hospital in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, on 9 Feb, 2014. At least eight people including a child were killed and 14 others injured on Sunday evening when some unknown assailants attacked a religious place in Karachi, local media and officials said. — Xinhua

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks to reporters at his office on 10 Feb, 2014, a day after the Tokyo gubernatorial election, which former health minister Yoichi Masuzoe won. — Kyodo News

Israel PM to meet US president in Washington next month

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**Swiss vote to set limits on immigration from EU**

**ZURICH, 10 Feb —** Swiss voters on Sunday narrowly backed proposals to reintroduce immigration quotas with the European Union, Swiss television reported — a result that calls into question bilateral accords with the EU and could irk multinational companies.

While neutral Switzerland is not a member of the EU, its immigration policy is based on free movement of citizens to and from the EU, with some exceptions, as well as allowing in a restricted number of non-EU citizens.

That pact on free movement of people, which came into force 12 years ago, was signed as part of a package of agreements with the EU, of which could now be in danger of unraveling, to say nothing of the effect on a globally oriented economy that employs large numbers of foreign professionals.

"This is a turning point, a change of system with far — reaching consequences for Switzerland," Justice Minister Simonetta Sommaruga told journalists in Berne.

The European Commission in Brussels said in a statement that the vote went against the principle of free movement of people.

It said it would examine the implications for its relations with Switzerland, taking into account the position of the government, which had urged citizens to vote "no".

"For us, EU-Swiss relations come as a package," said Hannes Swoboda, a member of the European Parliament.

If Switzerland suspends immigration from the EU, it will not be able to count on all the economic and trade benefits it is currently enjoying. We will not allow ... cherry-picking. — Reuters

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**Masuzoe “braces himself” for job after winning Tokyo governor race**

**WORLD**

**Tokyo, 10 Feb —** Yoichi Masuzoe, the victor in Sunday’s Tokyo gubernatorial election, said on Monday he would lead the Japanese capital in such tasks as preparing to host the 2020 Olympics and tackling rising welfare costs amid the aging of its population.

“I feel a very great sense of responsibility. I’ll brace myself and do my best,” Masuzoe told reporters. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whose Liberal Democratic Party supported Masuzoe in the election, said he wants to fully cooperate with the new governor, who will oversee policies for Tokyo’s 13 million people.

“I want him to make Tokyo a city that shines at the center of the world,” Abe separately told reporters. The governor-elect, succeeding Naoki Inose who resigned in December to take responsibility for a money scandal, is expected to start off by assessing the capital’s fiscal 2014 budget.

The draft budget for the year starting April 1 will be submitted to the local assembly later this month after the former minister of health, labor and welfare checks the planned spending and estimated revenues.

Masuzoe, a former House of Councillors member, said he wants to reflect his campaign pledges to some extent in the city’s new budget. “All I have to do is achieve results. I want to use my experience as welfare minister,” In campaigning, the 65-year-old pledged to make Tokyo the world’s top city in fields such as disaster prevention, social welfare, business and education.— Kyodo News

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**Mali says MuJWA Islamist group responsible for killing 31 Tuaregs**

**DAKAR, 10 Feb —** The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA) was responsible for killing 31 Tuaregs in an attack on Friday near the town of Tamankout in northern Mali, the minister for interior security said on Sunday. General Sada Samake, who visited the site of the attack accompanied by Malian army officers, told Malian national television that the killings took place around 2:00 pm local time (1400 GMT) on Friday.

The travellers aboard two vehicles fell into an ambush by the terrorists of the MUJWA, ” said the minister. He said a young girl and a woman were amongst those killed. Initial reports had attributed the killings to the settling of scores between Pol and Tuareg ethnic groups. The MUJWA has denied responsibility for the attacks.

Malian Interior Minister Cheick Oumar Diarra has said 50 people were killed in two camps and four wounded. The authorities said 25 people were killed in the ambush.

More than 1,000 soldiers in Mali are deployed to the desert region, carrying out periodic attacks against Islamist groups. The MUJWA has fought a battle with Al Qaeda’s local branch AQIM, along with Jihadists who have seized control of northern Mali.

“The struggle is not only against the regime of Yannukov, but against those who support them — against the Kremlin’s imperialistic policy,” Yanukovitch said.

Reporters were not able to reach Yanukovitch on Sunday with a mass rally where opposition leaders called for an end to the “dictatorial” powers of the president.

“About 20,000 demonstrators rallied on Kiev’s Independence Square, focal point of the protest movement, as Yanukovich searched for a new prime minister and the currency of the heavily indebted economy, the hryvnia, remained under strain. Russia piled further pressure on him at the weekend, linking disbursement of the next tranche of its $15 billion aid package for Kiev to repayment of a hefty gas bill owed to Russian firms.

Oleksandr Tymoshenko, the opposition leader and chief of the People’s Movement of Ukraine, said he had resigned in December to take responsibility for a money scandal, is expected to start off by assessing the capital’s fiscal 2014 budget.

The draft budget for the year starting April 1 will be submitted to the local assembly later this month after the former minister of health, labor and welfare checks the planned spending and estimated revenues. — Kyodo News

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**Ukraine protesters, Russia increase pressure on Yanukovich**

**KIEV, 9 Feb —** Ukrainian protesters, now in their third month of action, kept up pressure on President Viktor Yanukovych on Sunday with a mass rally where opposition leaders called for an end to the “dictatorial” powers of the president.

About 20,000 demonstrators rallied on Kiev’s Independence Square, focal point of the protest movement, as Yanukovych searched for a new prime minister and the currency of the heavily indebted economy, the hryvnia, remained under strain.

Russia piled further pressure on him at the weekend, linking disbursement of the next tranche of its $15 billion aid package for Kiev to repayment of a hefty gas bill owed to Russian firms.

Opposition leaders called for an end to the “dictatorial” powers of the president.

People shout slogans during an anti-government rally in Kiev on 9 Feb, 2014. — Reuters

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**Tsunami-hit shop offers sea salt-flavored chocolate for Valentine’s**

**SENDAI, 10 Feb —** A confectioner that had its shop destroyed by the tsunami that struck northeastern Japan following the March 2011 earthquake is targeting the Valentine’s Day market with a chocolate flavored by sea salt from the quake-hit coast.

Cleaveuniverse, based in Shiogama, Miyagi Prefecture, tops its “Moshio Chocolate” with sea salt extracted from waters of the nearby coast, according to chocolate maker Seiji Watane, 61. Until relocating to a neighbouring lot in the city in March 2012, Watanabe had been selling his products at a half-destroyed outlet to “relieve people’s sentiments with sweets during such a hard time.”

A polar bear enjoys heavy snow in the quiet Ueno Zoological Gardens in Taito Ward, Tokyo, covered with more than 20 centimeters of snow for the first time in 20 years on 8 Feb, 2014. — Kyodo News
Kerry to reaffirm commitment to positive US-China ties in upcoming visit

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb — US Secretary of State John Kerry will reaffirm US commitment to pursuing a positive relationship with China in his upcoming visit to Beijing, State Department said on Sunday.

From 13 to 18 February, Kerry will make his fifth trip to Asia in the past year, travelling to the capital cities of South Korea, China, Indonesia and United Arab Emirates, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement. In meetings with Chinese officials, Kerry will "relay the message that the United States is committed to pursuing a positive, cooperative, comprehensive relationship and welcomes the rise of a peaceful and prosperous China that plays a positive role in world affairs," Psaki said.

The top US envoy will also discuss regional issues including the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) as well as highlight the importance of US-China collaboration on climate change and clean energy, Psaki added.

In Seoul, Kerry will reaffirm US-South Korea alliance and continue the coordination of the two countries on DPRK. In Jakarta, he will meet with Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, according to Psaki.

Koinala sole candidate in Nepal prime ministerial election

KATMANDU, 10 Feb — Nepali Congress President Sushil Koirala became the sole candidate for Monday’s prime ministerial election after no one else filed candidacy by the stipulated deadline on Sunday, parliament secretariat spokesman Mukunda Sharma said.

Although legislators in the 601-member parliament that currently has 571 members can vote against 76-year-old Koirala, the chief of Nepal’s oldest party is now certain to be elected prime minister after the colonial era, settled down in the Malay archipelago and adapted to local language and culture.

Libanese army arrests Syrian army defector

BEIRUT, 10 Feb — The Lebanese army arrested Sunday a defecting Syrian army colonel in the eastern Bekaa border town of Arsal, the National News Agency reported. “Mahmoud Abbas, a defecting Syrian colonel and a member of the Syrian Revolution Military Council, was arrested in Arsal’s Wadi Hmwayed,” the report said.

Abbas was previously in charge of the army’s front in Al Qusair, a Syrian town adjacent to the Lebanese border. The town was the scene of a fierce battle in mid-2013, which saw the Syrian army rout the rebels from their stronghold.

Later Sunday, the Lebanese army announced the arrest of two Syrian nationals, Omar Mahmoud Ohman and Radwan Mahmoud Ayyoush, in Wadi Hmwayed for illegal entry. “The detainees are being interrogated under the supervision of relevant judicial authorities,” the army said in a statement.

Iran agrees on seven “practical steps” with IAEA

TEHERAN, 10 Feb — Iran agreed to take seven “practical steps” in its co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), according to a joint statement of Iran and the IAEA posted on the website of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) on Sunday.

Based on the agreement, Iran will also implement the IAEA’s Safeguards (Agreement) by 15 May, read the statement.

The fresh round of negotiations between Iran and the IAEA on bilateral cooperation was “good, constructive and progressive,” Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesperson for the AEOI said.

Iran entered talks with the IAEA “out of good faith” to help remove “artificial ambiguities” over Tehran’s nuclear programme as “the Islamic republic is not legally obliged under the Safeguards (Agreement) to respond to such queries and ambiguities,” Kamalvandi said.

The IAEA delegation also expressed satisfaction with Iran’s cooperation in implementing the previously-signed deal with the UN nuclear body, he said.

No immediate comment from the IAEA delegation is made.

Inspectors of the IAEA visited Iran’s Gachin yellow, low cake mine in the south in January 2014 and the Arak heavy water production plant in December 2013. The inspection was in line with the implementation of an agreement signed between the AEOI and IAEA in Teheran on 11 Nov, 2013.

However, cooperation with the IAEA does not mean to shut down or dismantle any of Iran’s nuclear facilities, an Iranian atomic official was quoted as saying by Press TV on Sunday. “None of the nuclear sites will be shut down or dismantled, and one should not be influenced by the foreign media hype,” said Asghar Zare’an, deputy chief of the AEOI for Protection and Security.

“We need to bear in mind that the hostility of the enemies toward the Islamic Republic of Iran is endless. Therefore, we should wisely and prudently turn the enemies’ hope into despair,” he said.

Iran is ready to make some changes in Arak heavy water reactor to allay western concerns, head of the AEOI, Ali-Akbar Salehi said on Thursday.

Bus tips over, killing 7, injuring 25 in Colombia

BOGOTA, 10 Feb — A speeding passenger bus turned over Sunday along a highway in Colombia, killing seven people and injuring another 25, the country’s Caracol Radio said.

Caracol Radio news network reported on its website the accident occurred at 74.5 km of the Puazuagaga-Bogota Highway after the driver lost control of the vehicle, reportedly due to excessive speed. The bus then veered out of its lane and turned over.

Among the fatal victims were three minors, and the injured were taken to local hospitals.

Rescue workers from the fire department who were at the scene said the number of victims could rise in the coming hours due to the seriousness of some of the injuries.

Photo taken on 8 Feb, 2014 shows the decorations on the bride’s crown during a Baba Nyonya wedding in Melaka, Malaysia. The Baba Nyonya (or Peranakan) is a minority community living in the straits of Malacca. Baba means men and Nyonya means women. They are descendants of the 15th and 16th century Chinese immigrants who came here as traders before the colonial era, settled down in the Malay archipelago and adapted to local language and culture.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto (R) shakes hands with the Secretary of National Defense Salvador Cienfuegos Zepeda (L) during the ceremony commemorating the 101st Anniversary of the March of Loyalty, held at the Chapultepec Castle, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 9 Feb, 2014. —Xinhua

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto (R) shakes hands with the Secretary of National Defense Salvador Cienfuegos Zepeda (L) during the ceremony commemorating the 101st Anniversary of the March of Loyalty, held at the Chapultepec Castle, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 9 Feb, 2014. —Xinhua

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Toyota to stop making cars in Australia from 2017

Melbourne, 10 Feb — Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) said on Monday it would stop making cars and engines in Australia by the end of 2017 in what would mark the end of an era for a once-vibrant auto production base and the loss of thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Toyota’s decision follows the planned exits of General Motors (GM.N) and Ford Motor (F.N) announced last year and would leave no global automaker remaining in Australia as high costs and a strong currency make it an unattractive production base. “We did everything that we could to transform our business, but the reality is that there are too many factors beyond our control that make it unviable to build cars in Australia,” Toyota Australia President, Max Yasuda said in a statement. About 2,500 jobs will be affected when the plant stops building cars in 2017, the company said. Toyota’s exit from Australia after more than half a century there deals a further blow to Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s conservative government, which is seeking to manage a slowdown in the $1.5 trillion economy as a decades-long mining investment boom slows. A pullout by Toyota had been widely feared because of the blow to the parts supply base from the flight of GM and Ford. “It’s a huge moment for industry in Australia,” Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane told reporters in Canberra after Toyota’s announcement. “Toyota have made no requests to us other than express their frustration with the difficulty they were having with the industrial relations process,” he said, when asked whether Toyota had sought financial assistance or other forms of aid.—REUTERS

Boeing sees Asia-Pacific fleet nearly tripling over 20 years

Singapore, 10 Feb — Boeing (BA.N) maintained its 20-year forecast for airplane demand at $4.8 trillion, and predicted that nearly half of the world’s air traffic growth would be driven by travel to, from or within the Asia-Pacific region over the next two decades. Boeing estimated airlines in the Asia Pacific region would need an additional 12,820 jets valued at $1.9 trillion over the next 20 years. It said the fleet would nearly triple, from 14,750 in 2032, to 5,090 in 2012. “Asia Pacific economi- cies and passenger traffic continue to exhibit strong growth,” Randy Tinseth, vice president of marketing at Boeing Commercial Air- planes told a media briefing on Monday ahead of the Singapore Airshow. “Over the next 20 years, nearly half of the world’s air traf- fic growth will be driven by travel to, from or within the region. The Asia Pacific fleet will nearly triple, from 5,090 airplanes in 2012 to 14,750 airplanes in 2032, to support the increased de- mand.” Both Airbus (AIR.PA) and Boeing have com- mitted to record production rates for their most popular models, but executives are closely watching the finan- cial turmoil in key aviation markets such as Indonesia and Thailand. Asia Pacific is home to some of the world’s biggest long-haul carriers and budget carri- ers AirAsia (AIRA.KL) and Lion Air have placed aircraft orders valued at billions of dollars, and are among the biggest custom- ers of Boeing and Airbus (AIR.PA). Boeing’s data projects that passenger air- lines in the region will rely primarily on single-aisle airplanes such as the Next-Generation 737 and the 737 Max, a new engine-variant of the 737, to connect pas- sengers.—REUTERS

Nestle looking at options to reduce L’Oreal stake

Zurich, 10 Feb — Nestle (NSEN.VX), the world’s biggest food com- pany, is looking at ways to reduce its $30 billion stake in cosmetics firm L’Oreal (OREP.PA), Bloomberg reported on Saturday, cit- ing sources with knowl- edge of the matter. Nestle has told L’Oreal of its intentions, and the two companies have discussed the issue with banks, though no de- cision over the possible timing of any sale, which could take years, has been made, the report said. Nestle is under pressure to make its intentions clear towards the cosmet- ics firm, its partner of 40 years, when the ties that bind them loosen in April. The Swiss company owns a 29.5 percent stake in L’Oreal and the expiry of a 10-year right of first refusal agreement with the Bettencourt family in April should make it easier for Nestle to sell, though it has no urgent need to do so. Talks have picked up as the expiry of restrictions approaches, the report said. A spokesman for L’Oreal declined to com- ment. Nestle declined to comment beyond pointing to a statement on its web- site that says the board is addressing the future of the stake “with great at- tention in the framework of the group’s global nutrition, health and wellness strategy”.—Reuters

China to extend subsidies on electric cars past 2015

Beijing, 10 Feb — China’s Finance Ministry said on Saturday it will extend a programme of subsidies for buyers of electric-powered vehicles after the current subsidy regime, part of ef- forts to combat pollution in cities, expires in 2015. The existing subsidies will be phased out by 2015 as planned, with a new re- gime to take effect after that date “to preserve poli- cy continuity”, the ministry said in a statement on its website. Details of the new subsidies would follow at an unspecified date. The subsidies were de- signed to help China meet a goal of putting half a mil- lion new-energy vehicles, defined as all-electric bat- tery vehicles and heavily electrified “near all-electric” plug-in hybrids, on the road by 2015 and 5 million by 2020. Pollution in cities, in part caused by an explo- sion in car sales in recent years, is a hot-button issue for China’s leaders, and several measures have been introduced, including curbs on sales of petrol-engined vehicles. The current subsi- dies up to 60,000 yuan ($9,800) are available for the purchase of an all- electric battery car and up to 35,000 yuan for a “near all-electric” plug-in vehicle were extended for a further three years at the end of 2012.—REUTERS

Next wave of super-rich heading for London as new crises bite

London, 10 Feb — Political and financial upheaval in some of the world’s largest emerg- ing economies is driving a new wave of rich migrants to London’s supercharged property market as a place to park their wealth, data from a leading real estate agency showed on Friday. Knight Frank, a specialist in upmarket properties, said it had seen online enquiries about British homes from crisis-hit countries such as Argentina, Ukraine and Turkey soar over the past year. “There is potentially a further wave of investment headed for the prime central London property market,” Tom Bill, associate in the Knight Frank residential research team, told Reu- ters. This is despite prices in London already having risen sharply after a rush of foreign buyers of London mansions, prompted by the Euro zone debt crisis and the Arab spring, along with Britain’s political stability and benign property taxes. Prices in London over- all in the three months to December were 14.9 per- cent higher than a year earlier, according to fig- ures from mortgage lender Nationwide, and some top- end values have inflated even more, driving prices in Britain’s capital beyond the reach of most residents and making it a hot politi- cal topic. Finance Minister George Osborne said in De- cember he would impose a capital gains tax on foreign property investors from 2015 in a bid to allay fears that wealthy foreign buyers are driving a property bub- ble.—Reuters

The logo of Nestle is seen on the company building in Mexico City, on 24 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Visitors look at Tesla Mo- tors’ Model S P85 at its showroom in Beijing on 29 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

An Auto worker loads bodysheells of a Toyota Camry Hybrid car onto the assembly line at the Toyota plant in Melbourne on 31 Aug, 2009.—REUTERS

An Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner prepares for a flying display, during the 50th Paris Air Show, at the Le Bourget Airport near Paris, on 20 June, 2013.—REUTERS

An Auto worker loads bodysheells of a Toyota Camry Hybrid car onto the assembly line at the Toyota plant in Melbourne on 31 Aug, 2009.—REUTERS

New Light of Myanmar
### Australia's oldest star

**Canberra, 10 Feb** — A team led by astronomers at the Australian National University (ANU) has discovered the oldest known star in the Universe, which formed shortly after the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago, the ANU said in a press release on Monday.

The discovery has allowed astronomers for the first time to study the chemistry of the first stars, giving scientists a clearer idea of what the Universe was like in its infancy.

“The discovery of this ancient star is the first time that we have been able to unambiguously say that we have found the chemical fingerprint of a first star,” said lead researcher, Dr Stefan Keller of the ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

“This is one of the first steps in understanding what those first stars were like. What this star has enabled us to do is record the fingerprint of those first stars. The star was discovered using the ANU SkyMapper telescope at the Siding Spring Observatory, which is searching for ancient stars as it conducts a five-year project to produce the first digital map of the southern sky.

The ancient star is around 6,000 light years from Earth, which Keller said is relatively close in astronomical terms. It is one of the 60 million stars photographed by SkyMapper in its first year. “The stars we are finding number one in a million,” said team member Professor Mike Bessell, who worked with Keller on the research.

“Finding such needles in a haystack is possible thanks to the ANU SkyMapper telescope that is unique in its ability to find stars with low iron from their colors,” Keller and Bessell confirmed the discovery using the Magellan telescope in Chile.

The composition of the newly discovered star shows it formed in the wake of a primordial star, which had a mass 60 times that of the Sun.

“To make a star like our Sun, you take the basic ingredients of hydrogen and helium from the Big Bang and add an enormous amount of iron — the equivalent of about 1,000 times the Earth’s mass,” Keller said.

“To make this ancient star, you need no more than an Australia-sized asteroid of iron and lots of carbon.” —Xinhua

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**China's Antarctic explorations peacefully intended, cooperative**

**Beijing, 10 Feb** — The opening of China’s fourth Antarctic research base is yet another step forward in the country’s ambitious plan to study Antarctica, and further contributes to the peaceful use of this icy continent. The Taishan station, located between China’s two existing Zhongshan and Kunlun stations at an altitude of 2,600 meters, can accommodate up to 20 people during the Antarctic summer.

According to the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), the Taishan station can be used for scientific observation, accommodation, power generation, storage, machinery maintenance, communication and emergency shelter. It also has oil storage installations and equipment to support a 400-tonne inland transport vehicle fleet. Its opening will most certainly bring new opportunities for international cooperation in Antarctic research. With 95 percent of its land covered by snow and ice, Antarctica holds huge mineral resources and the surrounding seas are full of bio-resources under its continental shelf.

The colossal deposits of natural resources help explain the territorial bickering by a number of countries and the fact that dozens of countries now operate seasonal and permanent bases on the frozen land. A latecomer to Antarctic research, China has made stunning headway in the past three decades.

The country launched its first Antarctic expedition in 1984, and inaugurated the Great Wall station the following year, more than eight decades after Argentina opened the first continually staffed base. It opened the Zhongshan and Kunlun stations in 1989 and 2009 respectively. The latter stands at more than 4,000 meters above sea level on one of Antarctica’s highest ice caps.

According to the SOA, another perennial station will be built in Antarctica’s Victoria Land by the end of 2015. It will allow researchers to carry out multi-disciplinary research on bio-ecology and climate remote sensing. Nevertheless, China’s explorations of the icy continent have always been peacefully intended and cooperative. In 1983, China acceded to the Antarctic Treaty, which sets aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, establishes freedom of scientific investigation and bans military activity on the continent.

The country maintains no territorial claims in Antarctica, and takes part in the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

“Peaceful use of Antarctica in the future will be a blessing for all human kind,” SOA deputy director Chen Lianzeng told Xinhua. China is willing to cooperate with other nations through the platform of the Kunlun station, and make due contribution to exploring the two polar regions, he said. During a visit to the SOA on Thursday, Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli also called for more exchanges with the international community in research in polar regions and oceans, and sharing of resources to achieve mutual benefits.” —Xinhua

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**Yahoo to partner with Yelp on local search engine results**

**Chicago, 10 Feb** — Internet portal Yahoo is partnering with consumer reviews website Yelp to beef up local results in its search engine, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

Yahoo Chief Executive Marissa Mayer unveiled the news at an employee meeting on Friday, the newspaper said, citing a person present at the meeting.

Yelp’s search engine will incorporate Yelp’s listings and reviews and the feature will be launched in the coming weeks, the newspaper said.

The terms of the deal, which could help Yahoo compete with market leader Google, were not revealed. Yahoo and Yelp could not be immediately reached for comment. —Reuters

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**Flappy Bird creator says popular game will fly no more**

**Hanoi, 10 Feb** — The developer of Flappy Bird, currently the most popular free mobile game on Apple App Store and Google’s Android Play store, has announced that he is taking the game down at midnight (1700 GMT) on Sunday.

Nguyen Ha Dong, a Hanoi-based game developer, announced the grounding of the addictive game in a Tweet at 1900 GMT on Saturday in which he also apologized to Flappy Bird players. “22 hours from now, I will take ‘Flappy Bird’ down,” Dong said adding: “It is not anything related to legal issues.”

“I cannot take this anymore,” he wrote. Flappy Bird has caused a sensation after rising out of obscurity and becoming one of the most downloaded mobile games on both Apple and Google’s online stores. Users have to steer a bird between green pipes. The Android version has been downloaded up to 50 million times, and attracted half a million reviews. Many people have been questioning Dong on Twitter about his decision to take down the game as only a day earlier he had been talking about developing the game for Microsoft’s Windows phones.

Dong could not be reached for comment. He had turned his telephone off after cancelling an interview with Reuters on Thursday and not finalizing arrangements for one on Friday.

Unlike other successful game makers such as Rovio’s Angry Birds Entertainment, which produced the hugely popular Angry Birds game and has hundreds of programmers, Dong made Flappy Bird by himself in a few nights, he said on Twitter earlier. The game, which he said was inspired by Nintendo’s Super Mario Bros, has been earning on average $50,000 a day from advertising, Dong said in a media interview. —Reuters

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**Russian authorities say Bitcoin illegal**

**Moscow, 10 Feb** — Russian authorities have issued warnings against using Bitcoin, saying the virtual currency could be used for money laundering or financing terrorism and that treating it as a parallel currency is illegal.

“Systems for anonymous payments and cyber currencies that have gained considerable circulation — including the most well-known, Bitcoin — must be blocked, since they violate money substitutes and cannot be used by individuals or legal entities,” the Russian Prosecutor General’s Office said on 6 February. It added that Russian law stipulates that the rouble is the sole official currency and that introducing any other monetary units or substitutes was illegal.

Russia’s central bank also said on 27 January that Bitcoin trade was highly speculative and that the unit carried a big risk of losing value. “Citizens and legal entities risk being drawn — even unintentionally — into illegal activity, including laundering of money obtained through crime, as well as financing terrorism,” it warned.

The Prosecutor’s General Office said it was working with the central bank and other law enforcement agencies to tighten regulations and prevent illegal use of pseudo-currencies. The Bitcoin community in the United States, far more developed than the one in Russia, has already come under intense scrutiny as authorities crack down on illegal activity carried out using the digital currency. —Reuters

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**Some of Bitcoin enthusiast Satoshi Nakamoto’s coins are pictured at his office in this photo illustration in Sandy, Utah, on 31 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS**
Working together is success

Working together is success as it enlists the strength of everyone as the mighty force of one. Oneness is what every community needs, and the combination of the strength of all the people of communities is the power of a nation.

Actually it is the unity that brings all the peoples of all the areas to come together to work as a single source of might. So unity is the artery of every community and country, and as for a multiple cultural society like ours, it is the lifeblood. However, the work of fostering unity is easier said than done because it is natural that there may be differences, disagreements, disputes and even quarrels in a heterogeneous society. Such problems do exist even in homogeneous societies.

Normally, every country or society is dealing with these problems, and it is wrong to say that a country with such problems is on the road to ruin. The important thing here is that we should find the most suitable mechanism that effectively mitigates these problems or at best solves or prevents them, but in a win-win situation.

Myanmar, a heterogeneous society, is facing disagreements and quarrels among the different national races for a long time, and they have been the main obstacles to the national development drive for over half a century. As we are now in the democratization process, the government in office has adopted a new mechanism inviting all stakeholders to the peace talks that are more transparent, candid and comprehensive than ever before.

What’s more we are seeing encouraging signs for a lasting peace. If there is peace, there will be unity, and in unity we can work together. Remember, working together is success!

First Intersessional Meeting of ASOD Working Group on Law Enforcement kicks off

YANGON, 10 Feb — The first international meeting of ASOD working group on law enforcement was held at Parkroyal Hotel, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on exchange of information on drugs control, new nacotic drugs consumption in the region, laundering drug money, involvement of West Africans in drug trafficking, cooperation in drug-control operations in border areas, control of chemical precursors which is used for production of narcotic drugs, drug smuggling of drug gangs and capacity building of drug control squads.

It was attended by Police Col Myint Thein, Joint Secretary of Myanmar’s Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, and senior officials from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The meeting continues tomorrow.

Deputy NPED Minister nominated as Union Minister for Education

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — The 12th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw took place holding eight agendas today.

First, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr. Daw Khin San Yi was the nominee of the President as the Union Minister for Education and informed the Hluttaw representatives of the remonstrance process against the nomination.

Next, Hluttaw representatives held discussions on the proposed planning of the government shown at the appendix-2 (a) of the National Planning Bill for 2014-2015 FY.

Daw Khin Thanda of Tada U Constituency urged the Health Ministry to put much-needed plans in the Bill as adequate health care service is desperately needed across the country.

Myanmar thanks Germany ...

(from page 1)

Then German President said his visit to Myanmar was to praise and support Myanmar’s democratization. He continued that his visit would enhance bilateral relations and Germany wanted to assist Myanmar which is making great strides in sweeping reforms that opened a new page in the history of Myanmar.

Before and during the luncheon, artists of the Department of Fine Arts presented entertainments to those present.

After the luncheon, the President and the visiting German President presented them bouquets.

Also present at the luncheon were Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, the Union ministers, deputy ministers, the German ambassador to Myanmar and officials.

Daw Khin Khin Win meets German President’s wife

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held talks with Mrs Daniel Schadt, wife of the German President, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

They discussed assistance to be provided by Germany for enhancement of education and health sectors in far-flung areas of the nation, upliftin the life of women in rural area, and social activities of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Daw Lin Lin Tin, wife of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Daw Thuazar Wai, wife of the Union Minister for Energy, Daw Lay Lay Nwe, wife of the Myanmar Ambassador to Germany, and officials were also present at the call. The German President’s wife was accompanied by Mrs Pham Thi Quynh Trang, wife of the German Ambassador to Myanmar.

Signing ceremony between Myanmar and Germany in progress in the presence of Presidents of both countries.—MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win and Mrs Daniel Schadt pose for documentary photo.—MNA

Normal every country or society is dealing with these problems, and it is wrong to say that a country with such problems is on the road to ruin. The important thing here is that we should find the most suitable mechanism that effectively mitigates these problems or at best solves or prevents them, but in a win-win situation.

Myanmar, a heterogeneous society, is facing disagreements and quarrels among the different national races for a long time, and they have been the main obstacles to the national development drive for over half a century. As we are now in the democratization process, the government in office has adopted a new mechanism inviting all stakeholders to the peace talks that are more transparent, candid and comprehensive than ever before.

What’s more we are seeing encouraging signs for a lasting peace. If there is peace, there will be unity, and in unity we can work together. Remember, working together is success!
President U Thein Sein,…

(from page 16) Reduction System CSS scheduling of the Foreign Debt of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the same venue at 12 pm today.

Deputy Minister Dr Lin Aung and the German ambassador to Myanmar signed the agreement in the presence of the two presidents.

Agreement Minutes on the Treatment of Debt of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was signed between Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein and Paris Club member countries on 23 January 2013 in Paris of France.

According to the agreement, debt clearance volume is over euro 1084 million. Out of them, 50 % of debt was cancelled by Germany. Over euro 543 million of the remaining 50 % debt is to be repaid by Myanmar with 3 % of the interest rate within fifteen years—seven years pending period and eight years repayment period.

Cooperation taking place …

(from page 16) for Myanmar. Cooperation is taking place in the Parliament comprising representatives from 19 political parties, he added. The German President reaffirmed Germany’s continued support to Myanmar’s democratization. He expressed his hope that constitutional amendments would be done before the elections, acknowledging that press freedom, emergence of political parties and peace-making process were good for Myanmar.

Next, the German President signed on visitors’ book at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

MNA

Preparatory works for amendment of constitution discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Chairman of Implementation of Constitutional Amendment Committee Deputy Speaker offered a seminar on the occasion, the Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and its role of independence and reputation are vital for ensuring a reliable judicial system, the rule of law.

Judicial independence, reputation vital for ensuring a reliable judicial system, the rule of law

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union, UNDP Myanmar and International Court of Justice, at Thingaha Hotel, here, this morning.

“The Rule of Law is an essential prerequisite for building a modern and developed country. Only optimistic cooperation of everyone concerned could bring a genuine rule of law. Protection of the independence and reputation of the Judiciary is important for a democracy. Judicial independence and reputation are vital for ensuring a reliable judicial system and the rule of law,” said the Chief Justice in his speech. A total of 40 judicial officers and judges attended the seminar that will continue tomorrow.

MNA

National Seminar on Myanmar’s Country Safeguard System commences

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—The National Seminar on Myanmar’s Country Safeguard System took place at Royal Kumndra Hotel, here, this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that Myanmar is focusing on enactment of the environmental conservation law and rules. The seminar will be held on agendas of frameworks of Asian Development Bank on environmental conservation and its aims, envelops, local national people and resettlement. He expressed his belief that the seminar will contribute to uplift of environmental conservation systems of Myanmar and ADB and expertise for environment and social protection.

Senior Programs and Economics Specialist Mr Peter J Brumblle and Social Development Specialist Ms Michiko Suga of SEA Department of ADB made speeches. The seminar was jointly organized by Ministry of ECF and ADB under the plan of Capacity Building for Implementing Environment and Social Safeguards in Myanmar.

The Environment Safeguards Awareness Workshop will be held tomorrow.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with President Mr. Joachim Gauck of the Federal Republic of Germany at the Aureum Palace Hotel here at 3:45 pm today.

After the meeting, they answered queries raised by local and foreign media persons.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Chairperson meets with German President

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets German President Mr. Joachim Gauck.— MNA

All national brethren are to join hands in implementing regional development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—The state government budget and Union budget are to be systematically spent upgrading education, health and human resources development sectors, said Union Minister U Hla Tun at the breakfast meeting attended by Shan State chief minister and state ministers at the hall of Shan State Government Office in Taunggyi yesterday.

Union Minister Li-Gen Thet Naing Win explained progress of socioeconomic status for national brethren in border areas and Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin, plans for provision of free health care services to locals.

In meeting with locals at the hall in Hopong Township of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Union Minister U Hla Tun said that Shan State enjoys fruitful result of peace, adding the government is translating into a democracy in a transparent manner. He called on all national brethren to harmoniously join hands in implementing regional development tasks the Union ministers and Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat made supplemenary reports.

In his concluding remarks, the Union minister said that members of regional development committee are to cooperate in carrying out people-centered development tasks in accord with people’s desire, urging them to follow existing law, by-law, order and directives and policies of the State.

They looked into construction of office of leading committee of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, town hall and staff quarters. They also inspected RC type Yankon creek-crossing bridge that links Hopong and Yankin Village.—MNA

All data of people confidential

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi. Photo: AYE MIN SOE

YANGON, 10 Feb—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi has called on all national people for answering the questions correctly as the 2014 national census would help the country to ensure its development.

“All data answered by the people are confidential,” the Union minister told the reporters during the press conference in Yangon today. The national census would be taken for 12 days from 30th March to 10th April and the rough report on results of the national census will be released in early 2015. The national census will be taken based on two points: international norms and human rights. “No need to worry about the questions because the census is aimed at ensuring the development of the country,” he said.

Regarding taking census in some areas of the armed groups, the Union minister replied that all armed groups were ready to cooperate with the government. The ministry has to take about two years to prepare for the upcoming national census. The last census was taken in 1983.—AMS
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

K 100 million fund spent on development tasks in Meiktila

Meiktila, 10 February—
Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Saw Htay of Meiktila Constituency No 1 and party inspected progress of tasks in wards and villages of Meiktila on 7 February.

“Work committees were formed for respective development tasks such as repairs of educational buildings, roads and bridges, health buildings and water supply tasks. We inspected the tasks and found out the fund was correctly spent on the tasks or not. Moreover, township level officials will check the progress of works,” said Region Hluttaw MP U Saw Htay.

After that, they inspected the development tasks in villages.

In Meiktila Township,

New library building commissioned into service

Thongwa, 10 February—
A ceremony to open Daw Lathe workshop was held at the library in Anugransein Village of Thongwa Township, Yangon Region, on 8 February.

Yangon Region Minister for Transport and Cooperative U Aung Khin donated K 50,000 and books, Region Hluttaw representative U Thaung Sein of Dawbon Township books and the Head of Yangon South District Information and Public Relations Department books to the library committee chairman.

The building 30 feet long, 20 feet wide and 13 feet high was cost K 4.33 million donated by Daw Oba Myint of the village.

Thanks to the library, over 1500 people of 412 households will have the opportunity to read various subjects of books easily. MMAL-Ko Ko Aung (Thayet)

MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

MMAL-Nay Lin

Action taken against traffic rules breakers

PyinOoLwin, 10 February—
Vehicles in various sizes from PyinOoLwin Township run along Mandalay–Lashio Highway to Shan State (North) daily.

To be free from traffic accidents, traffic police members led by Police Captain Win Myint of No 58 Traffic Police Squad (PyinOoLwin) together with local police, staff of Directorate of Road Administration and local authorities made surprise check at vehicles at Ziwaka Junction in Ward 5 of PyinOoLwin on 5 February morning.

Action is being taken against those who broke traffic rules under Section 26 of Mandalay City Development Committee Law and the persons in PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, Yamethin, Myingyan and NyaungU and other townships under the 1964 Vehicle Law as of February.

MMAL-Nay Lin

Industries developing in Wundwin Township

Wundwin, 10 February—
Rural people in Wundwin Township are striving for undertaking electrification on a self-reliant basis.

The villages enjoying electricity are mainly engaged in weaving and other cottage industries.

Lathe workshop owners produce small-scale products.

In the past, the weaving machine was worth K 1.7 million. Now, its price rose to K 1.9 million due to higher working demands.

Thanks to weaving machines, the local people enjoy better livelihoods in the rural areas as an engine of poverty alleviation and rural development.

Kyemon-Htay Hlaing
Nepal ends political deadlock, elects Koirala as new PM

Takamatsu, (Japan), 10 Feb — A South Korean living in Tokyo and a female pilgrim will be the first non-Japanese woman to complete the pilgrimage to Shikoku, a historic island in western Japan’s Shikoku Island. Choi Sang Hee, 38, who received her Japanese license last December, hopes to see more of her compatriots make the pilgrimage, believing that would help transform relations between her country and Japan. “South Koreans will change their impressions of Japan if they walk the course, known as Shikoku Henro, she said. She is the first foreign woman among some 15,000 Shikoku Henro registered guides, called “sendatsu,” since the Showa period (1926-1989), according to an association which issues sendatsu certificates. The 88 temples are all associated with the Buddhist monk Kukai, posthumously known as Kobo Daishi. Choi learned about the Shikoku Henro on the Internet, and first undertook the pilgrimage in 2010 to pray for her late father, who loved to travel. She visited again following the spring to pray for a happy future with a man she was about to marry. Choi also came to Shikoku in the spring of 2012 and made her fourth pilgrimage in May 2013. Four is the minimum number of pilgrimages to qualify as a guide. Choi is scheduled to visit Japan in March to speak about her experiences of Shikoku during an event to be held in Osaka. “As a sendatsu guide, I hope to be of help to others and return the favors to those who helped me,” Choi said. Recalling those years, Choi said, “When I got pains in my back, a local resident drove me to a nearby hospital, and there was also a time when a family let me stay at their home.” Her Japanese skills improved dramatically by the time she had completed her fourth pilgrimage. Choi has been introducing the Shikoku Henro, which marks its 1,200th anniversary this year, to South Koreans on her Web page and is currently compiling a book about her experiences. To emulate the traditional welcomes that Shikoku gives to pilgrims, she has made direction stickers with arrows to help foreign pilgrims who know little Japanese and has asked houses along the routes to post them.—Kyodo News

S Korean becomes 1st foreign female Shikoku pilgrimage guide

Sushil Koirala (C), Chairman and parliamentary party leader for the Nepali Congress Party, greets supporters, after filing his nomination for the post of prime minister for the election to be held on Monday, at the Parliament Secretariat, in Kathmandu on 9 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

KATHMANDU, 10 Feb — Nepal’s parliament picked a social democrat as its new prime minister on Monday after a last-minute power sharing deal ended a deadlock that had lasted more than two months after an election.

Sushil Koirala, the head of the centrist Nepali Congress party, was elected with support from the communist UML party, which holds the second largest number of seats in parliament and which wanted the assembly to hold new presidential elections. Koirala needed to be elected by a majority in parliament and his Nepali Congress party controls 194 seats in the 601-seat assembly.

The UML is made up of communists with more liberal political views compared to the Maoist former rebels who waged a civil war in the Himalayan nation until 2006.

Koirala, 76, replaces Khil RajRegmi, the Supreme Court chief justice who has headed a caretaker government since March last year. He now has the job of overseeing the preparation of a new constitution, one of the conditions of a 2006 peace deal that ended the decade-long war. A previous attempt to write the charter failed after the term of a constituent assembly expired in 2012.

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Beijing, 10 Feb — Shanghai has surpassed Tokyo and Hong Kong to become Asia’s most stylish city, a survey has found.

According to research by Global Language Monitor, a United States-based data research firm that catalogs trends in word usage, Shanghai is the reigning fashion capital of Asia, ranking 10th worldwide.

New York ranked first in the 10th annual survey of global fashion cities, followed by Paris and London. Asia is well-represented in the top 20, with Tokyo at No 11, Singapore at No 19 and Hong Kong at No 20. Beijing didn’t make the top 55.

“Shanghai now reigns as the fashion capital of Asia, beating out Hong Kong and Tokyo, according to the latest research by Global Language Monitor, a United States-based firm that follows trends in word usage.—Xinhua

Supplied photo taken in May 2013 shows Choi Sang Hee, a South Korean woman walking the Shikoku Henro pilgrimage course in Naruto, Tokushima Prefecture. Choi became in December that year the first non-Japanese woman to receive an official license as a guide for the pilgrimage to Shikoku temples on Shikoku Island.—Kyodo News

Shanghai becomes Asia’s most stylish city

Gov’t set to proceed with pro-nuclear policy after Tokyo election

Tokyo, 10 Feb — The defeat of two antimilitary candidates, including former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, in Sunday’s Tokyo gubernatorial election has given the central government a boost of confidence as it prepares to move forward with an energy policy supporting the use of nuclear power.

“Base-load power refers to electricity sources that are cheap and stable, and can be used continuously through the day. Base-load power remains a strong promoter of new reactors that have satisfied the country’s new safety regulations introduced last July, while effectively leaving open the possibility of allowing the construction of new reactors.”

The draft also said the government will push for the resumption of nuclear reactors that have satisfied the conditions set by regulations introduced last July, while effectively leaving open the possibility of allowing the construction of new reactors.

Nevertheless, Hosokawa’s attempt to focus attention on nuclear policy — a politically sensitive issue following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis — appears to have added pressure on the government to reassure itself from rushing toward a draught energy plan that has been criticized for its strong pro-nuclear tone.

The government initially wanted to decide the plan in January, having already unveiled a draft document a month before that praises nuclear power as an “important base-load power source.” Base-load power refers to electricity sources that are cheap and stable, and can be used continuously through the day. Base-load power remains a strong promoter of new reactors that have satisfied the conditions set by regulations introduced last July, while effectively leaving open the possibility of allowing the construction of new reactors.

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In the drafting process, officials of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry did not even seem to budge about showing that it remains a strong promoter of new reactors that have satisfied the conditions set by regulations introduced last July, while effectively leaving open the possibility of allowing the construction of new reactors.

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Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will face a consultation meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party later this month after briefing ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers on the content of the draft.—Kyodo News

Cambodian defence minister heads for Singapore Airshow 2014

Pinom Penei, 10 Feb — Cambodian Defence Minister Tea Banh left Sunday for Singapore to attend the Singapore Airshow 2014 due to be held at the Changi Exhibition Centre from 11 to 16 February. Tea Banh was accompanied by senior military and civil aviation officials and invited by Singaporean Minister for Defence Ng Eng Hen, Nen Sorath, head of the Cambodian Defence Ministry’s Policy and Foreign Affairs Department, told reporters at the Phnom Penh International Airport before departure.

Singapore Airshow is biennial and Asia’s largest aeronautical and defence event, he said, adding that military and commercial aircraft and equipment will be displayed at the show.

“The event is a good opportunity for defence chiefs from various countries to meet and exchange views,” he said. “It is also a chance for Cambodia to see the latest development and innovative aeronautics technologies around the world.”

During the visit, Tea Banh will meet separately with Singaporean Minister for Defence Ng Eng Hen and Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammudin Hussein. —Xinhua

China’s commercial hub deserves to be Asia’s fashion capital, said Qi Xiaozhai, dean of the Shanghai Commercial Economic Research Centre. “Shanghai has made a triumphal return by jumping 12 places from last year’s ranking. It returned to a rightful place in the top 10,” Qi said.—Xinhua

Shanghai no longer reigns as the fashion capital of Asia, beating out Hong Kong and Tokyo, according to the latest research by Global Language Monitor, a United States-based firm that follows trends in word usage.—Xinhua

As China further emerges onto the world stage, Shanghai leads the fashion charge, ” said Bekes, the New York-based fashion director for the outfit.

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YANGON, 10 Feb — accuse Iran of increasing “int’l aggression”

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Liability and Conditions of Port of Yangon.

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Claims Day Notice
MV KUO HSUING VOY NO (1011)

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Priyanka Chopra: I don’t follow rules, I make my own

NEW DELHI, 10 Feb — With her Bollywood movies and a budding international music career, Priyanka Chopra is into many places all at once but the actress says she has no plans to slow down anytime soon. Priyanka, who is in the middle of promoting her first release of the year Sunday, begins shooting the next schedule of Mary Kom soon and plans to bring out her next single by April this year. She says she loves juggling different things and playing difficult roles.

“I had a 200 crore release last year in Krithi 3 and the year before I had Barfi! and Agneepath. I think the last two years have been amazing for me. I had my singles. Exotic won triple platinum in India. I feel my pace is absolutely fine. I think I need to increase it,” she said. She is the object of affection to two of her leading stars — Ranveer Singh and Arjun Kapoor— in All About Azfar directed Gun on that day that hits the screens this Valentine’s Day. Priyanka plays the role of Nandita, a cabaret dancer in the Kotkata of the ‘70s in the Yash Raj film which is set in the world of coal mafia.

“I enjoyed doing the film. It was tremendously satisfying to have so many shades in a character but it was difficult also because there is so much going on in the movie. She is very pivotal to the story as all the conflict happens because of Nandita. You don’t know whose side to take,” she said. Priyanka says she took reference from her mother for fashion in the film while European cabaret inspired her dancing.

Priyanka Chopra: Exposed “grooving and shaking” for Bhootnath Returns

MUMBAI, 10 Feb — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, currently filming for his upcoming movie Bhootnath Returns, shot a dance sequence for the movie and later said he feels that the choreographers sometimes forget he is “old to be still doing this stuff”.

“Grooving and shaking with the young at the shoot for Bhootnath Returns, at times the choreographer and the production forget how old I am to still doing this stuff. But to be honest I did enjoy myself, despite the buckets of perspiration after each approaching summer heat-filled shot,” Amitabh posted on his blog srbachchan.tumblr.com on Sunday. The 71-year-old further said that after so much of dancing he does not regret missing the gym.

“And then, of course, the no regrets of not being able to gym, since, the workout during the song was enough to keep me going for a decade!” he added. Bhoothnath Returns is a sequel to the 2008 horror comedy film Bhoothnath that also featured Juhi Chawla.

Priyanka says she likes variety in the roles that she plays.—PTI

‘LEGO Movie’ tops ‘Monuments Men’ to score huge US box office win

LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK, 10 Feb — “The LEGO Movie,” an animated film based on the colourful plastic children’s blocks, snapped up $69.1 million in ticket sales to top weekend box office charts, easily beating the George Clooney World War Two film “The Monuments Men.” “The Monuments Men,” which also stars Matt Damon, Bill Murray and John Goodman, was second with $22.7 million in sales at US and Canadian theaters. The film is based on the true story of US soldiers who rescued art masterpieces from Nazi thieves.

After three consecutive weeks in the top spot, the Kevin Hart-Ice Cube comedy “Ride Along” took third with $9.4 million, according to data supplied by Rentrak.Led by the voices of Will Ferrell, Will Arnett and Morgan Freeman, “The LEGO Movie” features toy mini-figures of Batman, a pirate and others in a Lego universe faced with destruction on Taco Tuesday. The film won lavish praise from critics as inventive and funny, with 112 of 118 critics giving it a “fresh” rating on the movie review site Rotten Tomatoes, and far surpassed average industry projections of an opening weekend around $50 million.

“The LEGO Movie” was heavily marketed by Warner Brothers and The LEGO Group, the Danish company that makes the popular snap together blocks. The toy company released 17 building sets inspired by scenes from the movie. McDonald’s released eight collectable holographic cups with its Happy Meals. “It’s awesome,” said Dan Fellman, president of domestic distribution for Warner Brothers and the blockbinder opening, which was the biggest of 2014 thus far.

“We had a movie playing from 5 to 85,” he said. “Five-year-olds are enjoying it, their siblings are enjoying it, and their parents and grandparents are all enjoying it.”

Fellman noted that 59 percent of the audience was actually over age 18, and 55 percent were male. “We even had some midnight show business,” he said. Sales at 3-D showings were also far stronger than is usually the case with animated films. The big number was bode well for more “LEGO” films going forward from the studio. “The Monuments Men” received mixed reviews from critics and was moved from its original December 18 release date for additional post-production work and editing. The film, based on the book by Robert M. Edsel, was written and directed by Clooney. “It was very much in line with the high end of our expectations,” said Rocky Bruer, Sony Pictures’ president of worldwide distribution of the $22.7 million figure.

“We’re very happy with our opening, especially given all the noise of the Olympics and the big movies opening around us,” he said, adding that the film was playing well to adult audiences as was expected.

The weekend’s other major new release, “Vampire Academy,” based on the first book in the “Vampire Academy” series by fantasy author Richelle Mead, opened in the No 7 spot with $4.1 million in sales, according to studio estimates.Rounding out the top five, Disney’s long-running musical “Frozen” took fourth place with $6.9 million, while “That Awkward Moment” was fifth, collecting $5.5 million in sales. “Frozen” has racked up $369 million since its November debut.—Reuters

Eva Mendes pulled over by police

LAKEWOOD, New Jersey, Sunday.—PTI

Eva Mendes was reportedly given a piece of paper but apparently talked her way out of a ticket.

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United thwarted by last-gasp Bent goal for Fulham

London, 10 Feb — An injury-time goal from Fulham’s Darren Bent inflicted more pain on champions Manchester United as the bottom club rescued a 2-2 Premier League draw on Sunday, adding fuel to the fire for manager David Moyes’s critics. It was a further blow to United’s hopes of securing Champions League football next season and left them nine points behind Liverpool in fourth spot and six adrift of Tottenham Hotspur who beat Everton 1-0 with a goal from Emmanuel Adebayor. Late strikes from Rob-Jones and Michael Carrick helped United cancel out Steve Sidwell’s opener and evoked some of the never-say-die attitude that characterised former manager Alex Ferguson’s long spell at the club. However, the uncertainty that has plagued the new regime came back to bite them as Fulham substitute Bent headed in at the far post to nick a point in the 94th minute. “Today was as bad as it gets,” a shell-shocked Moyes told Sky Sports television. “We dominated the game. Being one down was bad enough. The amount of attempts, chances and play we had was unbelievable. How did we win? I have no idea.” It’s goals that count. You can have as much possession as you like. We should have scored more.

You’ve got to try and keep making things bad for Moyes who took over from Ferguson in the close season. It was a superb return to United, who stayed seventh on 41 points, for former assistant coach Rene Meulensteen as his Fulham side showed buckets of resolve to defend stoutly in the face of constant pressure.

Fulham set out their stall to defend deep, with two banks of four lined up in front of the goal with no recognised striker. Their lack of ambition was typical for a team shorn of confidence and hoping for a stroke of luck, much like a lower league side would approach a cup tie at Old Trafford. Against a United side also lacking belief, Fulham stifled the home team’s pedestal approach play and caught them napping on the break. Comically bad defending allowed Sidwell to stride unmarked into the area to latch on to a lofted pass from Lewis Holby and sidefoot the ball home, stunning a boisterous Old Trafford into silence after 19 minutes.—Reuters

Walker hangs on to win Pebble Beach

Cary, (North Carolina), 10 Feb — Jimmy Walker did it the hard way, almost squandering a huge lead before registering a nervous one-stroke victory to continue his hot start to the season at the $6.6 million Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Sunday. Walker began the day with a six-stroke lead but he made hard work of it with consecutive bogeys at the 12th and 13th holes that opened the door to his rivals at Pebble Beach.

He steadied the ship down the stretch for the most part, hitting a series of precise shots, before a three-putt bogey at the par-4 17th which created a tenuous one-stroke lead going to the par-five 18th. But Walker managed a nervous par, sinking a five-footer to stagger across the finish line with the victory after running his first putt past the hole. “I hate three-putting,” Walker told the Golf Channel. “I had a couple but managed not to do it on the last hole.” I made a really good putt.

“I tried to blank everything that was going on, tried to go about it as businesslike as possible.” He steadied a two-over 74 to finish at 11-under-par for the tournament. Walker’s third victory in eight starts at the start of the season — a feat achieved since 1995 only by Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and David Duval, according to the PGA Tour. The 35-year-old from Oklahoma collected nearly $1.2 million to increase his lead on the PGA Tour money list with more than $3.6 million and his lead in the FedExCup points standings.

Walker was relieved rather than ecstatic, admitting that trying to protect a big lead was an unnerving experience. “It’s a different feeling when you’ve got a lead like that,” he said. “You know pars are going to be good enough. I just struggled a bit with the speed of some of those greens and some of the chipping.”

German Hoefl-Riesch bids to retain super-combined crown

Sochi, (Russia), 10 Feb — Alpine skiing’s leading ladies race into the Olympic spotlight on Monday when German Maria Hoefl-Riesch seeks to retain the super-combined crown she won four years ago. Five Olympic golds are up for grabs on the third day of competition in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Austrian Matthias Mayer won the men’s downhill on Sunday in the first Alpine skiing race of the Games and now it is the turn of the women.

The super-combined features a downhill run followed by a slalom and Hoe-fl-Riesch won the inaugural Olympic event in Vancouver in 2010 when she beat American Julia Mancuso into second place.

Mancuso is in Russia to resume the rivalry although the main threat to the German this time looks likely to come from Austrian Nicole Hosp and Slovenia’s Tina Maze.

Tevez brace not enough as Juventus held

Juventus’ Carlos Tevez celebrates with his teammates after scoring against Hellas Verona during their Italian Serie A soccer match at Bentegodi Stadium in Verona on 9 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

Verona, 10 Feb — Carlos Tevez scored on two early goals for Juventus before the Serie A leaders squandered the lead in a 2-2 draw at Verona on Sunday. Luca Toni pulled one back and Tevez’s fellow Argentine Juanito Gomez grabbed an equaliser for Verona in the fourth minute of stoppage time after coming on as a late substitute. Tevez, who failed to win for only the fourth time in 23 Serie A games this season, stayed nine points clear of AS Roma, who were held to a goalless draw by neighbours Lazio.

Gervinho had a goal disallowed for Roma while Stefano Mauri came on at halftime for Lazio, his first match since completing a six-month ban for failing to report match-fixing in 2011. Otherwise, there was little excitement in a disappointing derby with a surprising number of empty seats blighting the Stadio Olimpico.

Troubled Inter Milan produced their first win of the year when they beat lowly Sassuolo 1-0 with a Walter Samuel header at the San Siro, putting them level in fifth place with Verona. Brazilian midfielder Hernandes made his Inter debut and midfielder Fredy Guarin his first appearance since his transfer to Juventus fell through in January.

Sochi, (Russia), 10 Feb — Home fans roared Russia to its first gold of the 2014 Sochi Olympics on Sunday after figure skating’s ultimate showman Yevgeny Plushenko sealed the title, while in the mountains Austria’s Matthias Mayer conquered the perilous Rosa Khutor run to claim the men’s downhill. With Russian President Vladimir Putin among the near 12,000 capacity crowd at the Iceberg Skating Palace, one of several new arenas built for the Winter Games, the hosts built an unassailable lead some 90 minutes before the contest ended.

“When we got off the ice, Vladimir Vladimirovich (Putin) congratulated us and said ‘Good job,’” said ice dancer Ekaterina Bobrova. “It was really nice and completely unexpected.” Kicking off the second day of full competition, Mayer claimed one of Winter Olympics’ most coveted crowns, as pre-race downhill favourites American Bode Miller and Norway’s Aksel Lund Svindal failed to make the podium. Son of 1988 super-G silver medalist Heinz, Mayer edged out Italy’s Christof Innerhofer by 0.06 seconds down the steep, icy piste set among the towering Caucasus mountains.—Reuters
Pakistani separatist militants blow up three gas pipelines

Islamabad, 10 Feb — Separatist rebels from Pakistan’s resource-rich Baluchistan province have blown up three gas pipelines, cutting supplies to the country’s most economically important province, an official from a state-owned gas company said on Monday.

The rebels blew up the pipelines to Punjab province overnight, said Ayub Biju, the emergency manager on duty for Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited in the capital of Islamabad.

Punjab is Pakistan’s most populous and wealthy province and the power base of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Most of the province is now without gas.

“This the first time they have blown all three simultaneously,” Biju said. “They used to just blow up one here or there.”

The pipelines are large -24, 18 and 16 inches in diameter. It will take at least two days to repair them, Biju said.

During that time millions of Pakistanis will be unable to heat their homes or run their factories.

Sarbaz Baloch, a spokesman for the banned Baluch Republican Army, said his group had blown up the pipelines near the Punjab town of Rahim Yar Khan, about 600 km (370 miles) south of Islamabad.

“These rebels are blowing up gas lines, cutting supplies to the province’s most economically important province,” Biju said.

The BRA is fighting for the independence of Baluchistan, Pakistan’s poorest and biggest province. They accuse the federal government of looting the province’s rich mineral resources and leaving its people to live in poverty.

Human rights groups have accused both the Baluch rebels and government security forces of serious human rights abuses, including kidnapping, torturing and killing civilians.

Three fans shot outside Brazil World Cup stadium

Natal, 10 Feb — Three fans have been shot outside the Arena das Dunas World Cup stadium in Brazil’s latest outbreak of football violence.

Police said the shots were fired by two men on a motorcycle after the Rio Grande do Norte state championship match between America and Santa Cruz on Saturday night.

“We don’t have the names of the injured fans but they are in a stable condition with injuries that aren’t life threatening,” police spokesman Francisco Araujo Silva said. Local authorities appealed to witnesses to contact police in a bid to capture the culprits.

The Arena das Dunas stadium, in the northeastern city of Natal, will host four matches during the World Cup, to be held from 12 June to 13 July this year.

Sunday’s shootings were not the first involving America fans.

In October last year, four America supporters were shot after a match against their local Serie B rivals Ceara. Violent clashes between fans have also affected Brazil’s top division.

In December, dozens were injured after a riot during the Campeonato Brasileiro match between Atletico Paranaense and Vasco da Gama in the southern city of Joinville.

Barca go back on top after topsy-turvy weekend

Madrid, 10 Feb — It was all change at the top of the BBVA Primera Liga this weekend as FC Barcelona returned to the top of the league thanks to a 4-1 win away to Sevilla. Two goals from Leo Messi and further strikes from Alexis Sanchez and Cesc Fabregas gave Barca the win and a vital three points after Verza fired home Almeria’s second of the night with Atlético midfielder, Gabi Fernandez in goal. Real Madrid went level on points and ahead of their neighbors on goal difference courtesy of a 2-0 victory at home to Villarreal, a result achieved despite the absence of the experienced Cristiano Ronaldo. Fit-again Gareth Bale opened the scoring after a defensive mistake after 6 minutes and then set up Benzema to make it 2-0 with an instinctive finish after 24 minutes. Mario Gaspar’s thumping drive just before halftime got Villarreal back into the game, but Jese Rodriguez’s fourth goal of the season after 65 minutes again put his side two goals ahead.

Reuters

Mayanmar TV

Myanmar international

6:00 am
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
2. Physical Exercises
3. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
6:45 am
4. Documentary
7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report
7:25 am
6. People Talks
7:35 am
7. 67th Anniversary Union Day Programme
7:45 am
8. Documentary
8:00 am
8:30 am
10. India Drama Series
9:00 am
11. News/International News
9:30 am
12. Documentary
9:45 am
13. Business News
10:00 am
14. News
10:15 am
15. Documentary
10:45 am
16. TV Drama Series
11:45 am
17. ThanNyin Tun Khaung Wae
12:00 pm
12:25 pm
19. Documentary
1:15 pm
20. Song Programme
2:10 pm
21. Documentary
22. Traditional Boxing
2:45 pm
23. Business News
3:00 pm
24. News
3:15 pm
25. TV Drama Series
4:00 pm
26. News
4:15 pm
27. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar)
4:45 pm
28. 67th Anniversary Union Day Programme
5:00 pm
29. News
5:15 pm
30. Business News
5:30 pm
31. India Drama Series
6:00 pm
32. News/Weather Report
6:20 pm
33. Kyae Pwint Myaye
7:00 pm
34. News
7:25 pm
35. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
8:35 pm
37. Teleplay
8:50 pm
38. 67th Anniversary Union Day Programme
9:00 pm
39. News
9:25 pm
40. Documentary
41. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR TV (12-21-14) 6:00 am ~ 9:00 am (MST)
President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win welcome German President

President Mr. Joachim Gauck took salute from the Guard of Honour and inspected it.

The German president was welcomed by the scouts from No (5) BEHS, waving the miniature flags of the two countries.

After the welcoming ceremony, the two presidents introduced their entourages each other.

Then, they held a discussion at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

Both sides discussed matters on successes and challenges in carrying out political, economic and administrative reforms in Myanmar, strengthening amity and cooperation between the two countries, promotion of trade and investment, peace building, stability and development of Rakhine State and development of SMEs sector.

Mr. Joachim Gauck became the first German president in 26 years to visit Myanmar after President of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr. Richard von Weizsäcker’s goodwill visit in Myanmar in 1986.

Financing Agreement (grant) for implementation of Rural Infrastructure Programme with the use of 7 million euro provided by Germany was discussed with Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

Germany was signed on 26 July 2012 to implement development plans by German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). According to the letter, German government will provide euro 15 million to Myanmar for enhancing vocational training centers, banking industry and government and NGOs from 2013 to 2015.

The export value of Myanmar to Germany amounted to US$ 42.98 million, which grew by 1.54 percent compared with 2011-12. Myanmar’s import from Germany was US$ 144.55 million, which exceeded by 51.97 percent compared with 2011-12.

Total trade volume was US$ 187.53 million and has exceeded by 36.44 percent compared with 2011-2012.

Germany is nine-largest trade partner of Myanmar and Myanmar’s main exports to Germany in 2012-13 are ready-made garments, rice, beans and pulses, slippers and forest products. Myanmar’s main imports from Germany are machinery, electronics, pharmaceuticals, transportation devices and science tools.

Myanmar’s export to Germany during the period from April to December in 2013-14 has reached US$ 29.25 million and up 34.7% compared with last year.

President U Thein Sein and German President Mr. Joachim Gauk attended signing of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Myanmar and the Government of Federal Republic of Germany on the

Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons meets

Nay Pyi Taw—The Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons held its meeting 1/2014 at the Ministry of Home Affairs, here, today.

In his address, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko said that as the government is implementing the reform process in a transparency manner, the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Corps was formed in 2013 for ensuring smooth cooperation in international community.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Liaison Offices were opened at Laukkai-Namsang in May 2013 for the third one of Myanmar and China and Myawaddy—Mae Sot Liaison Office in October 2013 for the third one between border of Myanmar and Thailand. The human trafficked victims homes will be opened in Kawthoung and Myawaddy.

He continued that the First Myanmar-US Anti-Human Trafficking Meeting was successfully held on 1 August 2013. Priority will be given to drawing the work plan for prosecution and protection of human trafficked victims in 2014.

Members of the CCPTP deputy ministers, the chief of Myanmar Police Force, officials of State and Region PTPC, officials of UN agencies, media persons and those of various fields participated in the meeting, and the Union minister reviewed their discussions.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Friendship and Cooperation Association

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Mikhail A. Dmitriev, Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Friendship and Cooperation Association.—Myawady

They had a cordial discussion on further strengthening relations between Myanmar and Russia, cooperation in military technologies, exchanging scholar-ship students and formation of Myanmar-Russia Friendship and Cooperation Association.