**Development can be achieved in Chin State through combination of transparent political order based on peace process and strength of human resources of Chin nationals**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Feb—President U Thein Sein sent a message on the occasion to mark the 66th Anniversary Chin National Day which falls on 20 February, 2014. The translation of the message is as follows:**

**Esteemed national people in Chin State,**

I take great pride in sending my message to the celebration of the 66th Anniversary Chin National Day which falls on 20 February, 2014. Unity that was built among our national brethren is an integral part of the history of Myanmar’s struggle for Independence. Under the leadership of our national leader General Aung San, the Panglong Agreement that is of vital importance in building national unity was signed on 12 February, 1947, after making a firm determination to gain independence of the hilly regions and the mainland under one flag. Myanmar regained its independence after the Aung San-Atlee Agreement.

After gaining Independence, Chin nationals gathered (See page 9)

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**Mandalay Region Department of Archaeology and National Museum recently voiced that there will be renovations to U Bein Bridge, without damaging its original structure. The bridge situated in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region is the longest teak bridge in the world.**

As the historic teak bridge that spans Taungthaman Lake and links Amarapura Old City and Yadanaabon University is more than 150 years old, renovation is needed to ensure the long-term durability of the bridge, said an official of the department. Now, plans are underway to renovate the bridge through cooperation between the department and donors, an official said.

He said: “U Bein Bridge is certainly worth a visit for globetrotters who arrive in Mandalay. The bridge is always crowded with visitors in the evening as the best time to see the bridge is at sunset. Visitors, numbering more than 1000, come in flocks to watch the sunset from the bridge every evening during this season. So, we concerned the durability of the bridge.”

He continued that those interested to make renovation to the bridge will be allowed with the permission of the department to conserve the bridge, without harming its cultural heritage.

U Sein Myint, one of Mandalarians, highlighted the importance of conserving the original structure of the bridge, saying that it stands as an eye-catching piece of architecture and is a must-visit for all tourists as the world’s longest wooden bridge was built from teak planks and columns.

He pointed out the replacement of teak columns with concrete pillars that has been spotted by tourists. U Win Maung (Tampawady), a Myanmar architect, suggested that renovation works are needed for the long-term durability of U Bein Bridge of historical importance.

**Min Htet Aung**
(Mdy Sub-Printing House)

**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing back home from Indonesia**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Feb—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party on 20 February arrived back home after paying a goodwill visit to Indonesia.**

While in Bali, he visited Kopi Luwak coffee farm.

He also observed Bali Mandara Toll Road constructed by Jasamarga Bali Tol Highway Corporation. (See page 9)

**Renovation to U Bein Bridge of historical importance**

Mandalay Region Department of Archaeology and National Museum recently voiced that there will be renovations to U Bein Bridge, without damaging its original structure. The bridge situated in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region is the longest teak bridge in the world.

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**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views aerial view of Bali Bridge in Indonesia.**

**Kyemon: 20-2-2014**

**Trs: YM**
Basic first-aid course conducted to trainees in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 21 Feb—The basic first-aid course is being conducted to the youths from various wards of Meiktila, said Deputy Commanding Officer U Nay Oo of Meiktila Township Red Cross Battalion recently.

It was aimed at giving a helping hand to the victims and providing health care services to the local people, he added. The training course is being conducted at the sports ground in Paukchaung of the township from 8 am to 4 pm daily during the period from 19 to 25 February.

The training course comprises basic first aid, patient conveyance, health knowledge on diseases and bandaging methods in addition to basic military training course. A total of 72 trainees from 14 wards of Meiktila are attending the course.

Free eye surgical operations performed in Katha Township

KATHA, 21 Feb—The Ministry of Health and Sports arranged free eye surgical operations for the patients at Katha District People’s Hospital, Htigyaing Township Hospital and Myataung Station Hospital. It was supervised by Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye, region ministers, Chairman of Katha District Management Committee U Thet Lwin and officials.

The chief minister gave a speech. An official of Great Wall Foodstuff Co Ltd explained purpose of surgical operations. The eye surgical operations were performed at the precinct of Sasana Pitzawatyon Monastery in Katha from 20 to 23 February.

Over 2000 patients received health care services.

Inter-village road under construction in Myebon Township

MYEbon, 21 Feb—Myebon Township, one of the 17 townships in Rakhine State, is teeming with islands, rocks and sandbanks, totalling 145 of isles.

So, local people in the township face poor transportation. At present, an earthen road of Kamhtaunggyi-Tatya-Kyaydaw-Pauktuawng villages will be constructed.

Department allotted the fund for construction of the road. Construction started on 25 December 2013 and it will be completed by March 2014.
US, Australia to sign deal on tax cooperation

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said on Friday he’s pleased that Australia has put “growth strategies” at the core of G20 agenda this year and the two nations will soon sign an agreement on tax cooperation.

In a joint briefing with Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey, Lew said global growth remains uneven and well below potential despite signs of improvement.

He emphasized the significance of the growth strategies, saying the strategies must address both deficiencies in near-term demand and longer-term economic challenges.

According to Lew, the US economy is continuing to show broad underlying strength, providing critical support for the global outlook. “Further progress globally is needed to achieve faster and more balanced growth around the world,” he added.

Work on tax cooperation was one of the most important initiatives at the G20, Lew said. “I’m proud today to announce the US and Australia have completed Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act agreement in substance and we plan to sign it very soon.”

Meanwhile, Hockey said a strong US economy was good for both Australia and the world.

“We want the United States to have a strong and vibrant economy and we are encouraged by what has been achieved,” he said.

Hockey also emphasized the need for outcomes at the weekend G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting on issues like tax, banking regulation and macroprudential policy, expecting robust discussions during the meeting.

Abe says upcoming TPP ministerial meeting “extremely important”

TOYO, 21 Feb — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday said the upcoming ministerial meeting of countries negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal is an “extremely important” step toward concluding the talks.

“Very tough negotiations are continuing, in which national interests are clashing...I want our negotiating team to work as one to achieve national interests,” Abe said at a meeting of TPP-related ministers held to confirm the government’s stance in the regional free trade talks that involve Japan’s major trade partner, the United States.—Kyodo News

Libyan military plane crashes in Tunisia, 11 killed

TUNIS, 21 Feb — A Libyan military plane carrying medical patients crashed early on Friday near Tunisia’s capital, killing all 11 crew and passengers on board after an engine failure, Tunisian authorities said. The Antonov aircraft went down after the pilot tried to land in farmland near Grombalia town south of Tunis, the TAP state news agency reported.

Six crew members as well as the patients and their companions died, a spokesman for Tunisia’s defense ministry said. Libyans often travel to Tunisia for medical treatment.

It was the second crash involving a military plane in North Africa in two weeks; an Algerian military transport plane crashed into a mountain in bad weather on 11 February, killing 77 people, in the country’s worst air disaster in a decade.—Reuters

Britain, Iran revive “direct” diplomatic ties

LONDON, 21 Feb — Britain and Iran on Thursday resumed direct diplomatic relations as the Iranian Embassy in London restored part of its consulate operations.

Britain has agreed with Iran that from 20th February bilateral relations will be conducted directly through non-resident Charges d’Affaires and officials. We will no longer have formal Protecting Power arrangements in place,” the British Foreign Office said in a statement.

“This is the next stage of the step-by-step process of taking forward our bilateral relationship with Iran,” the statement added.

The statement marks the latest development in a thawing relationship between London and Tehran, who severed their direct diplomatic ties following Iranian protestors’ storming of the British Embassy in Iran in 2011.

In November 2011, thousands of angry Iranian demonstrators broke into two British embassy compounds following Iran’s decision to downgrade its diplomatic ties with Britain in response to its financial sanctions against Tehran.

UKRAINE

Ukraine presidency says deal reached on crisis, opposition silent

KIEV, 21 Feb — Ukraine’s presidency said on Friday a deal had been reached at all-night talks on resolving the country’s crisis after 75 people were killed in two days of the worst violence since Soviet times.

But the opposition did not immediately confirm agreement had been reached and diplomatic sources described the talks brokered by three European Union ministers as “very difficult”.

Three hours of fierce fighting on Thursday in Kiev’s Independence Square, which was recaptured by protesters demanding President Viktor Yanukovich quit, left the bodies of civilians strewn on the ground close to where talks took place.

A few thousand people were occupying the square on Friday morning but there was no sign of any new violence after Thursday’s bloodshed in Kiev, which is caught in a geopolitical tug-of-war between East and West.

Yanukovich’s press service said in a statement that agreement had been reached at the talks and added: “The agreement will be signed at midday (1000 GMT).”

The three EU ministers, from Poland, Germany and France, did not immediately comment on the presidency statement.

EU officials went into the talks on Thursday hoping for a plan for an interim government and early elections could bring peace.

France’s foreign minister said late on Thursday there was still no agreement over a proposed road map to ease the crisis, which began in November after Yanukovich spurned a trade deal with the European Union and turned instead towards Moscow.

An aerial view shows the anti-government protesters camp in Independence Square in central Kiev, on 21 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

A man walks amid rubble of damaged buildings in the al-Myassar neighbourhood of Aleppo on 19 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

UN Security Council to vote on Syria aid resolution on Saturday

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Feb — The UN Security Council will vote on Saturday on a resolution to boost humanitarian aid access in Syria, where the United Nations says 9.3 million people need help, although it is unclear if Russia and China will support or veto the draft.

Australian UN Ambassador Gary Quinlan, who co-authored the text with envoy’s from Jordan and Luxembourg, told reporters the vote would be held at 11 am (1600 GMT) on Saturday.

The text includes demands for cross-border aid access and an end to shelling and aerial bombardment, including barrel bombs, and threatens “further steps” in the event of non-compliance.

These were among the main sticking points during almost two weeks of negotiations on the draft, said diplomats.

Russia, supported by China, has shielded its ally Syria on the UN Security Council during the three-year-long civil war.

They have vetoed three resolutions condemning Syria’s government and threatening it with possible sanctions.

Western diplomats said a possible Friday vote by the 15-member council was pushed to Saturday after Russia said it needed more time.

“A delegation has requested to have some time to get some instructions from its capital,” French UN Ambassador Gerard Araud said, although he did not name the country.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday Russia would block the adoption of a resolution that allowed aid and convoys to enter Syria without the consent of the Damascus government.

Reuters

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Pakistan lodges strong protest to Afghanistan over killing of security men

ISLAMABAD, 21 Feb — Pakistan has lodged strong protest with Afghanistan over the murder of 23 security personnel by Pakistani Taliban on Afghan side of the border, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday. Pakistani Taliban from Mohmand tribal region claimed to have killed this week 23 security personnel who had been captured in 2010. This militant group is believed to have hideouts in the border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan. “Pakistan has conveyed its strong protest and serious concern to the Afghan government on the brutal murder of 23 Frontier Corps personnel inside the Afghan territory,” the Foreign Ministry said. “This protest was conveyed by Mr Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs to the Afghan Foreign Minister Mr Zarar Maqbool Osmani today in Male, Maldives where both were attending the SAARC Ministerial meeting,” a Foreign Ministry statement said. Xinhua

US leads pushback against emerging market angst at G20

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — The world’s rich nations pushed back against emerging market complaints about the spillover effects of their monetary policies, saying on Friday they had to get their own houses in order and get with the agenda of lifting global growth. As finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the Group of 20 developed and emerging gather ahead of a weekend meeting in Sydney, many are already talking at cross purposes.

Emerging nations want the US Federal Reserve to calibrate its winding down of stimulus so as to mitigate the impact on their economies. Developed members reply that the troubles in the emerging world are mostly homegrown and domestic interest rates have to be set with domestic recoveries in mind. “Emerging markets need to take steps of their own to get their fiscal house in order and put structural reforms in place,” US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said at a financial conference in Sydney ahead of the ministerial meetings. That was a sentiment very much echoed by the finance ministers of Japan and Britain. Japan’s Taro Aso said the Fed’s taper was positive as it reflected an improving US economy, even if it raised the risk of sharp capital outflows from some others. “It is important for emerging economies to correct these things by making their own efforts,” Aso said in Tokyo. Developing nations from South Africa to Turkey to Russia have seen their currencies crumble in recent months as the prospect of higher returns in the United States sucked foreign funds from their economies. South Korea Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Strategy and Finance, Hyun Oh Seok, suggested the Fed and other major central banks could at least strive to avoid surprises in their policy.

Japan’s ODA serves as “investment in future” for ASEAN

TOKYO, 21 Feb — Japan’s official development assistance to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has been an effective “investment in the future” for the 10-nation region and Japan, bolstering development and prosperity for both parties, according to a government paper released on Friday.

The ODA White Paper for 2013 calls for ensuring that Japanese ODA will spur ASEAN initiatives to build infrastructure and narrow intra-regional development gaps toward the goal of boosting regional “connectivity” and achieving a more integrated economic community by the end of 2015. “While supporting ASEAN’s efforts toward integration, it is hoped that (the Japanese government) will make greater efforts and worked-out plans to realize ODA that will also contribute to building a basis for overseas deployment of Japanese companies,” the paper says.

The paper says that amid rapid changes in the international environment surrounding Japan, “It is necessary to support countries that share fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as strategic values, as we deploy ODA strategically as a diplomatic tool.”

With a total population of about 600 million and gross domestic product of more than $2 trillion, ASEAN draws attention from the world as a major “production base.” As of 2011, Japan’s investment accounted for 17 percent of foreign direct investment into the region, it says. In 2012, Japan’s ODA totaled about $10.60 billion, down 2.1 percent from the previous year and ranking fifth after the United States, Britain, Germany and France.

Vietnam was the largest recipient of Japanese ODA with $1.64 billion, followed by Afghanistan with $873 million, India with $704 million and Iraq with $360 million. Among ASEAN countries, Cambodia ranked seventh, Myanmar 17th and Laos 18th. Among African countries, Tanzania ranked 10th, Kenya 11th, Ghana 12th and Ethiopia 14th. —Kyodo News

5.0-magnitude quake hits South Atlantic Ocean

HONG KONG, 21 Feb — An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted South Atlantic Ocean at 16:28:50 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 14.96 km, was initially determined to be at 36.4247 degrees south latitude and 39.5812 degrees west longitude.
Haitian migrants’ boat capsizes off Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo, 21 Feb — A boat carrying about 25 Haitian migrants capsized on Thursday off the southeast tip of the Dominican Republic, killing at least three. Authorities recovered three bodies and rescued another 10 passengers, while naval units continue to search for more victims.

Juan Pablo Sandoval, a spokesman for the Dominican Navy, said all three fatalities were Haitian women, and among the survivors were six men and four women, one of them pregnant. All were taken to a hospital in Higuera, 161 km east of the capital Santo Domingo. —Xinhua

2014 Rio Carnival to generate 950 mln USD

Rio de Janeiro, 21 Feb — This year’s carnival in Rio de Janeiro is expected to generate some 2.2 billion reals (950 million US dollars) for the city, the Rio state government said on Thursday.

According to the Rio Tourism Company (RioTur), 750 million US dollars of the total windfall will be generated by tourism, including hotel and restaurant revenues. The remainder, said RioTur, will be generated by activities more directly linked to the carnival, such as investment in samba schools, street parades, decorations, and other related activities. —Xinhua

UN chief wants 3,000 more troops for Central African Republic

United Nations, 21 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday appealed to the international community to send an additional 3,000 troops and police to Central African Republic to combat worsening sectarian violence until a likely UN peacekeeping force is established.

He told the UN Security Council he would shortly report to the 15-member body with a recommendation for a UN peacekeeping force with a robust mandate to protect civilians and promote stability in the landlocked former French colony.

Ban, who has said he is gravely concerned the violence could spiral into genocide, warned that a “de facto partition” of the country was setting in. At least 2,000 people have been killed and some 700,000 have been displaced since December.

“The deployment of a peacekeeping operation, if authorized, will take months. The people of the Central African Republic do not have months to wait,” he said. “The international community must act decisively now.”

Ban proposed that an international force of African, French and European troops be increased by a third within weeks to 12,000 soldiers and police.

The force would bridge the gap of up to six months until a UN peacekeeping force is established.

The bridging force should focus on containing the violence, protecting civilians, preventing more displacements, creating a secure environment for aid delivery, and laying the groundwork for the handover to a UN force as soon as possible, he said.

UN aid chief Valerie Amos said on Thursday she had been shocked by what she had seen during a three-day visit to the poor nation at the heart of Africa. “There are not enough troops on the ground.” Amos told a news conference in Bangui, after returning from a trip to the north of the country.

French UN Ambassador Gerard Araud said French and African forces had started to stabilize the situation. “The priority today: what we are going to do in the coming months to try to alleviate the suffering of the Central African people?” he said. “The secretary-general made some proposals. The Security Council is going to have a long time at them.”

The European Union is already deploying 1,000 soldiers to join 6,000 African and 2,000 French troops, who have struggled to stop the fighting sparked when the mostly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power a year ago in the majority Christian state. —Reuters

ILO envoy stresses need for equal employment

United Nations, 21 Feb — ILO envoy said on Thursday the need for equal employment opportunities for all people around the world.

“The priority is to establish a relation-ship between economic, social and environmental issues.”

Four rescued Japanese divers return home after ill-fated trip

Osaka, 21 Feb — Four Japanese women who were rescued some 75 hours after their seven-member scuba diving group went missing off the Indonesian island of Lombok returned home on Friday.

“It’s painful that some of us could not return to Japan,” Emi Yamamoto, one of the four, told reporters upon arriving at Kansai International Airport, a week after their ill-fated diving trip began. One member of the group was found dead on Tuesday and another remains missing.

On behalf of the four who returned home, Yamamoto, 33, apologized for causing trouble and said, “We were able to return thanks to all your efforts.” —Kyodo News

Australia to buy P-8A aircraft to boost maritime surveillance capabilities

Canberra, 21 Feb — Australian government has approved the acquisition of eight P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft, Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced on Friday.

These aircraft will dramatically boost Australia’s ability to monitor its maritime approaches and patrol over 2.5 million square kilometres of Australia’s marine jurisdiction, an area equating to nearly 4 percent of the world’s oceans, the prime minister said in a Press release.

The acquisition of the eight P-8A aircraft will cost approximately 4 billion AU dollars (3.6 billion US dollars), including support facilities.

The first aircraft will be delivered in 2017, with all eight fully operation- al by 2021. The government has also approved an option for a further four aircraft subject to the outcomes of the Defence White Paper review. Together with high-altitude unmanned aerial vehicles, these aircraft will replace the Royal Australian Air Force’s AP-3C Orions that have served Australia for over four decades.

The P-8A is a potent and highly versa-tile aircraft. As well as patrolling Australia’s maritime approaches it can conduct search and rescue, anti-submarine and maritime strike missions using torpedoes and Harpoon missiles. —Xinhua

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BNSF to move into tank car ownership with safer oil flee

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — Global oil giant Shell on Friday announced it had reached an agreement to sell its downstream businesses in Australia to Dutch-owned energy trader Vitol for 2.6 billion US dollars. Shell says the sale covers its Geelong Refinery and 870-site retail business, along with its bulk fuels, bitumen, chemicals and part of its lubricants businesses in Australia, but it does not include the Aviation business, which remains with Shell Group.

"The majority of Shell’s downstream staff in Australia will continue to operate the business under its new owner," Shell said in a statement. "Shell’s upstream operations in Australia, in which it will continue to invest, are not impacted by this announcement." The deal with Vitol is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close in 2014. The Vitol Group was founded in 1966 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Since 1991 the company has grown significantly to become the world’s largest independent energy trader.

Shell’s Chief Executive Officer Ben van Beurden insists that Australia remains important to Shell but the company is making tough portfolio choices to improve its overall competitiveness. "Our customers will continue to benefit from the quality associated with the Shell brand and we are confident Vitol will invest in and grow the business," Beurden said in the statement. Vitol President Ian Taylor said the acquisition was an exciting one for the company. "Australia is a growing economy and we look forward to working with the management team to strengthen and grow the business," Taylor said. Shell has recently divested several downstream businesses including the sale of refineries in the UK, Germany, France, Norway and the Czech Republic. The company has also sold its downstream businesses in Egypt, Spain, Greece, Finland and Sweden.—Xinhua

BNSF generally own only the tracks and locomotives that pull trains. Railcars are usually owned by leasing companies or firms such as refineries that sometimes buy cars for their own fleets. In some cases, shippers buy railcars, sell them to leasing companies, and then lease them back. The December crash of a BNSF crude train in North Dakota involved railcars that did not meet industry safety standards, according to investigators. The train collided with a derailed grain train, setting off fires that burned for more than a day. No one was hurt. Crude-carrying tank cars built after October 2011 are based on stronger design standards recommended by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) trade group. Those design standards feature stronger hulls and reinforced valves less likely to puncture or leak in a derailment.

The US Transportation Department’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is considering new rules for safer tank cars as crude transport via rail surges in tandem with the booming onshore oil production in the United States and Canada. Last week, Canadian National Railway Co (CN.R.TO) and Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd (CP.TO) said they would charge higher rates for customers that move crude in railcars built before October 2011, which the National Transportation Safety Board said in 2009 were unsafe. BNSF declined to comment on possible pricing to shippers opting to use the railroad’s tank cars once they are built, saying such information is proprietary. Other US railroads also declined to comment last week on the Canadian railroads’ decision to charge shippers more for using older tank cars. BNSF’s plan to move into tank car ownership and the Canadian railroads’ pricing decisions to push shippers to use newer railcars all come before US regulators have issued any new safety standards. BNSF did not identify railcar makers that it will invite to bid, but manufacturers in the United States include Trinity Industries Inc (TR.N), American Railcar Industries Inc (ARIL.O) and Greenbrier Cos Inc (GBX.N). Shares of American Railcar rose as much as 15 percent, while Trinity jumped 10 percent and Greenbrier climbed 6 percent. A Trinity spokesman said it would look at BNSF’s needs.

Earlier this month, before saying it would take bids for new oil railcars, BNSF said it would spend $1.6 billion this year on locomotive, freight car and other equipment purchases. That was part of a $1 billion increase in its annual capital budget to $5 billion. BNSF did not say when it expects to take delivery of the cars. American Railcar Industries said on Thursday that its tank railcar manufacturing unit was maxed out, though Greenbrier recently said it had capacity for more work.—Reuters

H1N1 flu resurges in US, hitting younger people hard

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — This year’s flu season in the US has hit young- and middle-aged adults harder than in the past three years, as a result of the resurgence of the H1N1 virus that caused a worldwide pandemic in 2009, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Thursday.

People aged 18 to 64 represented 61 percent of all hospitalizations from influenza, up from the previous three seasons when this age group represented only about 35 percent of all such hospitalizations, the CDC said.

Influenza deaths followed the same pattern with more deaths than usual occurring in this younger age group, said the CDC, failing to provide an exact number of deaths caused by the flu. Flu hospitalizations and deaths in people younger- and middle-aged adults is a sad and difficult reminder that flu can be serious for anyone, not just the very young and old,” CDC Director Tom Frieden said.

The CDC urged that everyone should be vaccinated as a CDC study, also released Thursday, found that flu vaccination may reduce a person’s risk of having to go to the doctor for flu illness by about 60 percent across all ages. It recommends that everyone six months and older get an annual flu vaccine.

"The season is still ongoing. If you haven’t yet, you should still get vaccinated," said Frieden. Typically, the flu season ends in March or April in the US.—Xinhua
Next-generation GPS satellite launched into orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, 21 Feb — A US Global Positioning System satellite was launched into orbit on Thursday, buttressing a 31-member constellation network in constant use by the military, civilian agencies and companies around the globe.

The satellite, built by Boeing, was carried into space aboard an unmanned Delta IV rocket, which blasted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida at 8:59 pm EST/0159 Friday GMT. The Delta 4 rocket was built and launched by United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin and Boeing, under contract with the US Air Force.

Once in position, the new satellite will replace a 16-year-old member of the GPS constellation, one that already has lasted more than twice as long as expected.

“Those are the ones that we’re going to be replacing first,” Cooley said.

Using signals from GPS satellites, receivers can calculate positions on Earth within a meter and to a milliometre of a second. The network has become a ubiquitous part of modern life, used in industries from financing to farming.

The GPS satellite launched on Thursday is the fifth in a next-generation series of spacecraft that beam more precise navigation signals and resist jamming. The so-called “2F” series, which are designed to last 12 years, also include satellites and six older spacecraft that are kept in orbit as potential spares.

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — An international team of researchers said on Thurs- day that they had created muscles that can lift more than 1,600 times heavier than human muscles of the same length and weight.

Li Na, of the University of Texas and one of the authors, told Xinhua, “They can generate 7.1 horsepower per kg of muscle weight, similar to that produced by a jet engine.”

According to Li, the surprising idea was based on their previous success of creating muscles using materials like carbon nanotubes as they hoped to bring down the cost of artificial muscles. Artificial muscles that can lift more than 1,600 times heavier than human muscles of the same length and weight, Li Na of the University of Texas and one of the authors, told Xinhua. “They can generate 7.1 horsepower per kg of muscle weight, similar to that produced by a jet engine.”

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WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — Last month was the fourth warmest January since record keeping began in 1880, trailing only 2002, 2001 and 2007, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said on Thursday.

The globally-averaged temperature over land and ocean surfaces for January was 0.65 degrees Celsius over the 20th century average of 12.0 degrees Celsius, the NOAA said its monthly report.

“This also marked the 38th consecutive January and 347th consecutive month (almost 29 years) with a global temperature above the 20th century average,” the NOAA said. “The last below-average January global temperature was January 1976 and the last below-average global temperature for any month was February 1985.”

Most areas of the world experienced warmer-than-average January, with the most notable warmth across Alaska, western Canada, southern Greenland, south-central Russia, Mongolia, and northern China. Parts of southeastern Brazil and central and southern Africa experienced record warmth.

What’s WhatsApp? A messages service that spans borders, devices

NEW YORK, 21 Feb — What in the world is WhatsApp? The online messaging platform has been catching on for a few years with younger users and international sets of friends, but a much larger audience noticed it on Wednesday, when Facebook Inc said it had agreed to pay $19 billion for the service.

It is a phone and mobile device app to send text, video and picture messages, and 450 million people use it monthly, some 200 million more than Twitter, according to numbers from the company.

And it’s adding a million users daily, which caught Facebook’s eye. WhatsApp works across different types of phones, across borders, and with-
IPU donates servers, computers to Myanmar Hluttaw

Regional development,...

Thanks to constant efforts for its reforms, Myanmar sees significant progress and has won the trust of world countries. It could help Myanmar to get chance of leading the regional countries. The 2014 is a distinct year for Myanmar. Soon, Myanmar would host ASEAN Summit and 3rd BIMSTEC Summit. This BIMSTEC Summit is set to include the signing of MoUs and appointment of first-ever BIMSTEC Secretary.

Myanmar has taken a leading role in energy and agricultural sectors since joining the BIMSTEC in 22 December, 1997. The Ministry of Energy is serving as a focal ministry for energy sector. National Committee for BIMSTEC Energy Sector Cooperation was established on 23-7-1999, comprising deputy minister for energy as chairman and directors-general from the Ministries of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Electric Power, Energy, Mines, Science and Technology and Education as members and director-general from Energy Planning Department as secretary.

By Swan Oo

Myanmar has served as a leading country for three-year consecutive term since 1999. Myanmar handed over its duty to alternate Sri Lanka. Thanks to its active participation, Myanmar has continued serving in a leading country at the request of Sri Lanka. Dur- ing its tenure, senior officials/experts meeting were held for five times from 2000 to 2005, except 2004. The countries have reached an agreement on small-scale solar power generation in rural areas, technical assistance for capacity building and women empowerment in renewable energy sector.

With regard to energy sector, the countries have agreed on sustainable development of energy use for development of hydro-carbon and new hydro-power projects and cooperation in electricity and natural gas networks and technology at first BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok of Thai- land on 31 July, 2004. They have agreed at senior energy officials’ meeting held in New Delhi of India on October 2005 on the points covering:

(a) Development of grid connectivity for transmission of electricity in the region,
(b) Development of trans-BIMSTEC Gas pipeline,
(c) Development of the hydro potential in the BIMSTEC region,
(d) Promoting use of non-conventional sources of energy in the region using the experiences and knowledge available of the member countries,
(e) Sharing experience in the area of energy efficiency and
(f) Energy conserva- tion and Energy security issues emphasis on use of resources available in the region.

The Ministry of Electric Power is making cooperation with Thailand and India on BIMSTEC Trans Power Ex- change and Development.

Yangon, 21 Feb—A ceremony to confer honorary professorship by University of British Columbia-UBC on Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet, Economic Advisor to the President and Member of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council, was held at the headquarters of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI on Mmine Kyawswa Street here on 21 February, attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with the train- ees of a Special Course on International Trade No.1 at the training school of the ministry at the corner of Strand Road and Shwebon- tha Street. The Union min- ister called for the fifty-five trainees about the important role of trade sector, emerging qualified entrepreneurs and future development plans of trade.

Dr Aung Tun Thet receives honorary professorship from UBC

Dr Aung Tun Thet has been an influential leader of Myanmar’s business community for many years. He has been a vocal advocate for the country’s economic growth and development, and has played a key role in shaping the country’s trade policies.

Regional development,...

The Union minister called for the fifty-five trainees about the important role of trade sector, emerging qualified entrepreneurs and future development plans of trade.

BIMSTEC Energy Sector Cooperation

According to Trans BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline Project, Myanmar has been distributing natural gas to Thailand through Yadama Project in Taninthayi Offshore since 1995 and Yad- agan project in Mottarna Offshore since 2000.

Regarding Non-Con-ventional Source of Energy Project, demonstration project (1) on tobacco dry- ing was implemented by the Ministry of Energy in Kokhaye village of Mying- yan Township in 2008, Mandalay Region in 2003 with the assistance of the Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) of India with the use of bio fuel. A work- shop on renewable energy development project was held in Bagan-NyaungU on August 16-17 2004, attended by the delegates from the BIMSTEC countries. The workshop was visited the project there.

As a second project, biogasifier rural electrification project (2) was done by the Ministry of Energy, power grids by the Minis- try of Electric Power and project implementation by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

The project was attended by U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Secretary U Maung Toe, Daw Aye Aye Mu, Member of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, and officials from the Hluttaw offices.

Project Manager Mrs Norah Babin handed over documents related to the donations to committee chairman U Hla Myint Oo. Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa spoke words of thanks.

MNA

Dr Aung Tun Thet receives honorary professorship from UBC

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Regional development,...

The Union minister cited the results of trial surveys in a national representative sample of 20 townships, saying that the population ageing in next 10 years is expected to take effect by the end of 2014 with the approval of the parliament.

Meanwhile, Myanmar does not have adequate homes for the aged and the number of elderly care volunteer groups is relatively small compared to social organizations working in other fields. More and more senior citizens are home alone following a rise in the number of dual-earner households. Yet, there is only one government-funded day care center for the aged in Yangon, and it just came into existence last year.

According to the Population Department, 8% of more than 10,000 tramps on Yangon streets are elderly persons who have lost support from family or have lost family members. Volunteer groups and/or well-wishers may be able to help them for a meal or two, but an effective government policy is in urgent need to help them take their last breath in a safe haven, but not on the streets, helpless.
Development can be...
(from page 1)
in Falam on 20 February, 1948, and they decided to take a bold political step to abolish feudalism that was exercised throughout the successive periods in Chin region and practice the system of representative democracy that developed in Talaingson region. As a gesture of wielding the bold step, Chin Affairs Council designated the 20th of February as “Chin National Day” on 9 October, 1950. Celebration of Chin National Day marking the start of the burgeoning of the system of representative democracy today is seen as an event agreed with ongoing political progress. Despite its small size and far-flung location, its ability to produce qualified human resources is significant. Emergence of prominent Chin national political leaders, senior civil officers and brilliant soldiers proves Chin State has a great significance. It can be witnessed as a particular significance that Aung San Thuriya Captain Taik Chin, a Chin national, is one of the few people who received Aung San Thuriya Title, the highest military award in Myanmar.
I firmly believed development can be achieved in Chin State that lagged behind in development in successive periods through a combination of a transparent political order which is known as national reconsolidation based on peace process which is taking place in the time of the incumbent government and highly qualified human resources which is defined as an advantage of Chin national. I would like to call on all Chin national people at home and abroad it is high time for them to combine their efforts and to cooperate with the entire people. Myanmar society experienced the bitter consequences of political conflicts after gaining the independence. Today is the time for all national people to take bitter lessons of the past, to make efforts for ending conflicts and to work together to achieve peaceful coexistence. Hence, I would like to urge all national people to work together with the Union Spirit to build the Union in accordance with the principles laid down by General Aung San and leaders of the national races during the Panglong Conference. I would like to urge all national people again to take part in the political reforms, economic reforms and peace making process being carried out by the government, Hluttaw, political parties, political forces, economic institutions, non-governmental organizations, the Armed Forces, the ethnic armed forces and the people to achieve success in implementing the reforms.
If we all national people build the unity among us based on the Panglong Spirit, we will see the modern and developed Union of Myanmar which is based on the federal system. This is the future vision that we all should have.

MP proposes
(from page 16)
5,000 million kyat for small-scale hydropower plants in Naga and Chin states. Pyithu Hluttaw’s national people’s affairs, socio-economy development in rural areas and internal peace implementing committee chairperson Daw Dwai Bu suggested to increase the 2014-2015 estimated budget of the Border Affairs Ministry from 65309227 million kyat to 88154017 million kyat.

Mindat marks Chin National Day

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun attended the ceremony to mark the 66th Anniversary of Chin National Day at Myoma sports ground in Mindat Township on 21 February. At the ceremony, before the Chief Minister of Chin State and the general secretary of Chin National Front (CNF) gave speeches, the Union Minister read out a message sent by President U Thein Sein. The official presented gifts to Chin national people leader Vamthumong’s family and certificates of honour to the victorious athletes. Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin presented certificate of honour to wellwisher U Htan Shein of Htut Khaung Gyi Co. The Union Minister inspected conservation of biodiversities in Natmaung National Park. He met with the staff of the administration office of the park and called for raising educative talks to conserve ecosystem, biodiversity and natural heritage of the park, effectively preventing the environment and culture in line with law and rules, improving research programmes in coordination with some organizations at home and abroad, implementation of eco-ourism for development of socio-economic, more job opportunities and earning more income.

Kyoshin Co Ltd to fund school building for the deaf in Yangon

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has a plan to establish one more school for the deaf in Yangon, funded by Kyoshin Co Ltd of Japan. Kyoshin Co Ltd of Japan also funded building of two special schools for the deaf, each in Yangon and Mandalay. Over 500 students are learning at the two schools. Kyoshin Co Ltd has contributed 337319 USD so far to building hostels, training schools, main buildings for teaching, water tank with a capacity of 20000-gallon, sign language teaching halls and establishment resource centre for information of the deaf, said Mr Sadaki Tachiki, Chairman of Kyoshin Co Ltd at the meeting with Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw Su Su Hlaing. The 15th donation of Kyoshin Co Ltd in 2013 has help the ministry upgrading the computerized knitting course.
During the meeting, the deputy minister expressed thanks to Kyoshin Co Ltd for giving helping hands to the ministry for 16 years as part of efforts for promoting development of the disabled.

Hotel security to be beefed up

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung held talks on hotel security with general managers and managers of hotels in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone at Mani Yadana Jade Hall on 21 February. The Union Minister called for installation of CCTV cameras and Walk-Through devices in hotels and effective use of such devices as ASEAN-meetings will be held at the hotels. Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than suggested that door lock system should be replaced with keycard system.
Yangon, 21 Feb—A ceremony to share merits gained for construction of Shwehsanbin Bridge, the 21st facility of its kinds on Lengauk-Chinpyit Road leading to Alaungdaw Kathapa will be held on the bridge on 24 March, according to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Subhoga of the donation centre for the bridge. Such road is reliable for over 50,000 people from over 60 villages in Pale and Yinmabin townships of Monywa District in Sagaing Region. Thanks to organizing efforts of Sayadaw Vepulla of region, over 80 million could be collected during from 2007 to 2008. At the construction committee meeting, the local authorities and members of the Sangha pledged to donate cash to the fund. Moreover, local people contributed their labour to construction of the bridge with the assistance of local authorities.

Shwehsanbin Bridge, 550 feet long, is stretching over North Yama Creek. It is of reinforced concrete type. As the bridge has been completed, it will contribute to economic, education and health development of over 50,000 people.

Rural development tasks gaining momentum
Phakant, 21 Feb—Head of Rural Development Department of Phakant Township in Kachin State U Soe Than on 17 February made field trips to Sapaw, Mamon and Phabyin villages in Seikmu Village-tract. He met village administrators, townswolders and local people and discussed rural development tasks such as village electrification, availability of safe water, smooth transport, and rural social and economic development tasks of the villages.

Inter-Ward/Village football tournament marks Pa-O National Day
Hsihseng, 21 Feb—A football tournament that marked the Pa-O National Day, was opened at the football ground in Ponlaung Village of Hsihseng Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of Shan State (South) on 19 February. Organizing Committee U Khun Hla Myint and Township Administrator U Win Lwin made speeches. The organizing committee Chairman U Khun Maung Soe explained the purpose. In the debut, Nawngthe beat Loisaung (South) 3-1. In the second match, Nawngyindon beat Takakhun 2-1. A total of 52 football teams in 16 groups.

Summer paddy planted
Pakokku, 21 Feb—Farmers of Pakokku Township started cultivation of summer paddy on 1957 acres of land through two ways of water supply in 2013-14. They use water from three water pumping stations. Local farmers are striving for cultivation of Palethwe, Shwepyihtay, Yadana Toe, Hsinwweyin and Theehtetyin paddy strains exceeding the target.

Magway, 21 Feb—Magway Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lan Aung and region level officials on 19 February inspected water tanks of 15 wards and water supply station of Development Affairs Committee in Magway Township.

Magway Township Fire Services Department is facilitated with seven fire trucks, and No 2 fire station with one fire truck, three GBS fire trucks donated by Magway Region government and 41 water bowser. The township fire brigade is formed with 39 fire servicemen of Township FSD and 525 members of auxiliary fire brigade. A total of 47 water tanks ranging 2000 to 20000 gallons of water and four water taps of Township Development Affairs Committee, according to Head of Magway Township FSD U Kyaw Thein. "It needs to provide more water taps to Township Development Affairs Department. In addition, it needs to construct one more water tanks in Yanpei Market."

It needs to provide more water taps to Township Development Affairs Department.
Cranes load and unload containers at Singapore’s Tanjong Pagar Container Terminal on 20 Feb, 2014. Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) announced on Thursday that Singapore’s economy expanded by 4.7% in 2013.—Xinhua

Two senior officials jailed in corruption scandals in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 Feb — A former protocol chief of Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs was sentenced to 15 months behind bars on Thursday for cheating public money, while a senior anti-graft official was jailed ten years on the same day for misappropriation in a separate lawsuit. Lim Cheng Hoe, 61, former chief of protocol, had earlier pleaded guilty to cheating by inflating the expenses involving the purchase of pineapple tarts and wine repeatedly.

Lim was convicted of ten counts of cheating amounting to about 35,000 Singapore dollars (27,778 US dollars). He had also admitted to 50 counts of cheating totaling some 54,000 Singapore dollars (42,857 US dollars), which were taken into consideration in sentencing. Lim made the false claims between February 2008 and May 2012. Claims were made for more than 10,000 boxes of pineapple tarts when only 2,300 boxes were purchased.—Xinhua

Brunei, Singapore jointly produce interactive documentary

Bandar Seri Begawan, 21 Feb — Authority for Information Technology Industry (AITI) of Brunei Darussalam and Media Development Authority (MDA) of Singapore have joint hand to produce a river documentary. The documentary — Gabung: Kisah Antara Dua Sungai, or Tales of Two Rivers, is the first collaboration work between independent production houses from both countries, and focuses on the transformation of two national rivers in Brunei and Singapore through the years of economic growth.

This joint project or ‘Gabung’ in short, represents the consolidated efforts of both production houses in finding common grounds and working together to produce this documentary which was well applauded by the Minister of Communication of Brunei, Pehin Dato Haji Abdullah at the launch of the event on Thursday.—Xinhua

Singaporean entrepreneurs meet to explore business opportunities

PHNOM PENH, 21 Feb — Cambodian and Malaysian business executives gathered at a forum here on Friday to seek possibilities to broaden trade and investment ties between the two countries.

The meeting provides a good chance for businessmen of the two countries to exchange views on the current business climate and explore business opportunities, said Cambodian Permanent Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon, who co-chaired the forum with visiting Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhdyddin Yassin.

“The Cambodian government is committed to creating a stable and favourable investment climate for all investors, particularly Malaysian investors,” he said.—Xinhua

Two S Koreans discontinue family reunion for health problems

SEOUL, 21 Feb — Two elderly South Koreans in their 80s and 90s discontinued participation in the family reunion, which is being held in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)’s Mount Kumgang resort due to health problems, Seoul’s Unification Ministry said on Friday. The 91-year-old Kim Seom-kyung and the 84-year-old Hong Shin-ja will cross the military demarcation line (MDL) at around 1 pm local time to return home after the private reunion with their long-lost relatives from the DPRK for two hours through 11 am on Friday.

The two South Koreans went northward to the Mount Kumgang resort by ambulances Thursday, the first day of the three-day reunion event. After the mass gathering Thursday afternoon, the medical staff advised them to stop participating in the reunion due to health worsening. The old man and woman met their son, daughter, younger sister and nephew, who have never seen for over six decades, in ambulances where first-aid kits and equipments are furnished.—Xinhua

Vietnam to focus on developing industrial, border trade cooperation with China

HANOI, 21 Feb — Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade recently approved a master plan on development of industrial and trade cooperation at the border area with China until 2020 with a vision to 2030.

According to Decision 805/QĐ-BCT, the orientation for development of industrial sector at the border area with China will focus on potential fields, including mining and mineral processing on the basis of efficient utilization of resources; mechanical engineering; processing of agricultural and forest products; construction materials and hydropower.

Development will focus on small-scale and cottage industry together with restoring of handicraft villages, thus contributing to manufacturing of essential commodities, creating jobs and promoting tourism, according to the decision.

Specifically, those projects will be set up to exploit the advantages of available materials from animal husbandry, farming and fisheries.

Besides, the country will invest in upgrading technology for manufacturing of cement and other construction materials, as well as synchronizing power transmission and distribution, said the ministry.

Regarding commercial sector, the country will develop modern forms of trade in urban area in association with traditional forms; increasing investment for infrastructure construction of border economic zones, upgrading logistics and warehouse systems to facilitate the supply of materials for production and border trade activities. According to the ministry, Vietnam will continue its construction and upgrading of border markets, especially ones at the border gates of Tan Thanh (Lang Son province), Mong Cai (Quang Ninh province) and Lao Cai (Lao Cai province).

Vietnam plans to open four new economic zones along the border with China by 2020.

In order to implement the plan, the Ministry of Industry and Trade has mapped out several key solutions, including the establishment of cross-border economic cooperation zones, and improving investment environment.—Xinhua

Bali police declare dive boat captain suspect in fatal accident

DENPASAR, 21 Feb — Police on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Thursday declared the captain of a dive boat a suspect in a fatal scuba diving accident that left at least one American woman dead.

Handoyo Supeno, law enforcement chief at the Bali Police Headquarters, said the police have also questioned Saori Furukawa, one of the two locally based Japanese dive instructors who were leading five other Japanese women on a dive last Friday off the neighbouring island of Nusa Lembongan when all seven went missing. He refused to comment, however, whether the 37-year-old woman will be declared a suspect.

Furukawa was rescued along with four of her clients on Monday, some 75 hours after their group disappeared. The body of the fifth client was found Tuesday, while the other instructor remains missing.

Handoyo said the captain, Agustinus Bratuarsuma, was declared a suspect after testimonies from the survivors revealed that when the group surfaced after a 30-minute dive late Friday afternoon, they could not find his boat.

Agustinus, who was immediately detained upon police questioning, faces a five-year jail term if convicted.

Speaking to reporters at the police station, Agustinus, 30, said he does not know why he was detained.

“I hope this case will be settled soon, so I can work again. I have wife and kids (to feed),” he said.

Earlier last week, Agustinus told police investigators that the group went missing during their third dive on Friday. —Kyodo News

(From R) Nahomi Tomita, Atsumi Yoshidome, Emi Yamamoto and Aya Morimoto are pictured during a Press conference after being discharged from hospital on the Indonesian island of Bali on 20 Feb, 2014. —Kyodo News

Kyodo News

new light of myanmar
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**70 dead bodies recovered in northeast Nigeria after attacks**

LAGOS, 21 Feb — A total of 90 corpses have been recovered and buried in Nigeria northeast town of Bama a day after deadly attack by Boko Haram, local officials told Xinhua on Thursday.

Chairman of Bama Local government Baba Shehu Gulumba, who escaped the insurgents attack, said about 90 people were killed, when the attackers invaded the town of Bama, headquarters of Bama local government Area around 4 am local time on Wednesday.

Also the chairman of Youth Volunteers in Bama Akura Satomi said his men evacuated 96 corpses from various scenes of the attack, adding that the corpses were released to the family for burial.

The traditional ruler of Bama town, Kyari Ibn Ibrahim told Xinhua that 34 people were buried shortly after the attack, but said many families may have buried their dead without reporting to authority. The Shehu’s palace was attacked but he escaped unhurt while part of the palace and over 15 vehicles were burnt.

A Xinhua reporter who visited the scene said many patients with gun shot wound were seen on the bed and floor at the town General Hospital. Chief Nursing Officer in charge, Enim Mohammed Shiuwa said the hospital received 48 victims with gunshot wounds but regretted that 17 of them died.

“We have just removed 9 bullets from some patients now, 16 of the patients were referred to Maiduguri; seven to University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital and state specialist hospitals,” Shiuwa added.

Locals said more corpses are being discovered, a development which could push forward the dead toll. — Xinhua

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**Girl dead, three injured after tree falls at Sydney school**

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — An eight-year-old girl died after being struck by a falling tree branch in the playground of a primary school in Sydney’s northwest, the New South Wales Police confirmed on Friday.

A male teacher, a five-year-old kindergarten girl and her seven-year-old brother were also injured when the large branch fell on them at Pitt Town Public School at about 1:15 pm (local time) on Friday, police said. The eight-year-old girl was taken to Westmead Children’s Hospital where she died shortly after being admitted.

The three injured were also rushed to the hospital, two of them with serious injuries, police said.

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**British firm part of Australian investigation into detention centre riot**

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — An investigation into deadly clashes this week at an immigration detention center in Papua New Guinea will examine possible misconduct by private security contractors, Australia’s immigration minister said on Friday.

One asylum seeker was killed and more than 60 were injured during riots at a facility on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea that houses asylum seekers as part of Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s tough policies to deter them from coming to Australia.

Several detainees allege they were set upon with makeshift weapons by Papua New Guinea police and PNG employees of Britain’s G4S, the world’s biggest security group, which is responsible for security at the facility.

“I wish to stress that the review will look closely at any actions of those contracted to provide services at the centre in a safe and secure manner,” Immigration Minister Scott Morrison told reporters in Canberra. Australia uses detention centers at Manus Island and another on the tiny Pacific island of Nauru to process would-be refugees sent there after trying to get to Australia, often in unsafe boats after paying people smugglers in Indonesia. The number of asylum seekers reaching Australia pales in comparison with other countries but it is a polarizing political issue that also stokes tension with neighboring Indonesia over border policies that have been criticized by the United Nations and international human rights groups.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has said the Manus Island camp should be shut because it fails to provide “safe and humane conditions of treatment in detention”.

Morrison said the riot began when detainees forced their way out of the center. However, refugee advocates said it was triggered when Manus Island residents, G4S employees and PNG police stormed the facility, attacking the asylum seekers. — Reuters
**Katrina Kaif’s Dost Protocol: she says Salman is just a message away**

New Delhi, 21 Feb — Katrina Kaif’s relationship status with Ranbir Kapoor may be complicated or even non-existent at present but at least the Dhoom 3 actress has one alleged ex-boyfriend she can count on.

In an interview, Katrina Kaif told Dainik Bhaskar: “Salman Khan is always there, he is always just a message away. I am still very much in touch with him.” Trouble in the Katrina-Ranbir paradise was reported after their recent holiday to New York and though they were spotted at Aamir Khan’s some weeks ago — albeit arriving separately — they are believed to have spent Valentine’s Day apart. Salman, on the other hand, is famously close to both Katrina as well as another ex-girlfriend, former model and actress Sangeeta Bijlani. And it’s not just the muscle-bound Dabangg star who watches out for Katrina, the entire Khan- daan does. “We are the only family she has here. She gets pulled up by me, my sister, my father, my mother. And she has to listen, she’s good at listening,” Salman told NDTV in 2012, before the blockbuster Ek Tha Tiger — starring Salman and Katrina — released.

So it was Salman Katrina turned to when it came to her sister Isabel’s Bollywood debut — Dr Cabbie, which co-stars Speedy Singh’s Vinay Virmani and The Big Bang Theory’s Kunal Nayyar, features Salman’s name as co-producer. Of course, Salman knows all about Being Human but, when it comes to Katrina Kaif, we suspect it goes a little further than just being gentlemanly towards an former flame.—PTI

**Katie Holmes says Taylor Swift is awesome**

LOS ANGELES, 21 Feb — Actress Katie Holmes is gaga over pop star Taylor Swift and says she is “awesome”. The 35-year-old says her The Giver co-star is brilliant, reports dailymail.co.uk.

“She is awesome. I love that girl. I just think she is so smart. She’s so young, really brilliant and works very, very hard,” Katie Holmes told Extra magazine. The duo spent quality time together in South Africa last year while they were shooting for the sci-fi movie, which tells the story of a seemingly perfect Utopia which is built on a dark secret. The Giver also features Jeff Bridges and Meryl Streep. —PTI

**Shah Rukh Khan wants to buy football team**

Mumbai, 21 Feb — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan says he wants to buy a football team, which will take part in the proposed IPL-style football league, promoted by All India Football Federation (AIFF) and IMG-Reliance.

“I am interested in buying stakes in the football league. If the football team happens then it is for Kolkata. We have limited resources but we are working towards it. Football team is 100 percent on cards,” Shah Rukh said.

Meanwhile, the 48-year-old actor seemed quite excited about the upcoming season of IPL, scheduled in April and May. —PTI

**Madhuri Dixit plans to educate Indian women**

Mumbai, 21 Feb — Actress Madhuri Dixit, who speaks about women empowerment and fights for justice in her forthcoming film Gulaab Gang, also plans to educate women in India.

“Yes, we have plans, but we have not started yet. I am looking forward to do that. I will tell you when I will be doing that, but no sense in talking about it now. But some sort of education I have started already with my online dance academy,” Madhuri told IANS. At present, she is pumped up about her role in Gulaab Gang in which she will be seen as Rajjo, who wants to correct the wrongdoings in the society.

“She is a crusader in this film and she believes that women should be educated. Men have to be educated to respect a woman. A lot of time because of illiteracy or not being educated, they look at a woman like an object because that’s how they have grown up with and the thinking has to change from within,” said the 46-year-old. The Soumik Sen directorial also features Juhi Chawla. —PTI

**Elton John, Kanye West to play Bonnaroo music festival**

NASHVILLE, 21 Feb — Elton John and Kanye West will be among the acts during this summer’s Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Tennessee, organizers announced on Wednesday.

The Bonnaroo festival will be held 12-15 June on a 700-acre farm in Manchester, about 65 miles southeast of Nashville, where about 80,000 “Roozies” descend annually to enjoy 150 musical acts, dozens of comedians, arts and film.

The 2014 concert lineup was announced on Wednesday also includes Ice Cube, the Avert Brothers and Lionel Richie.

Bonnaroo is among the top live music gatherings of the year, much like the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in California and the Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts in Britain. Tickets for the festival go on sale Saturday on Bonnaroo.com.—Reuters
**SPORTS**

**Soriano’s 50-metre goal brightens up Europa League**

BERNE, 21 Feb — Jonathan Soriano scored an incredible goal from near the halfway line to complete a stunning 3-0 win for Salzburg away to once-mighty Ajax Amsterdam in the Europa League round of 32 on Thursday. Dani Osvaldo scored his first goal for Juventus to set the Italian champions on the way to a 2-0 win over Trabzonspor.

however compatriots Lazio slumped to a shock 1-0 defeat at home to Ludogorets Ruse, a result that may have been a factor is Kevin Kampl’s pass seven minutes later. The highlight came in the 35th minute when Spaniard Soriano picked up a loose ball inside the centre circle, saw Jasper Cillessen off his line and scored with a looping effort which had the Ajax goalkeeper desperately chasing back in vain.

Soriano, signed on loan after a troubled and disappointing six months at Premier League Southampton, fired home with an angled shot in the 16th minute after the ball ricocheted to him. Juventus, one of eight teams who parachuted into the Europa League knockout stage after finishing third in their Champions League groups, lived dangerously but Paul Pogba added the second from a corner as a Carlos Tevez pass in stoppage time. Lazio’s difficult season continued as they missed a penalty on their way to a defeat against the Bulgarian champions in a game which also featured two red cards.

Roman Bezjak sank Lazio with a swerving 25-metre shot on the stroke of halftime and Lazio’s Felipe Anderson had a penalty saved after the restart before Svetoslav Dyakov (Ludogorets) and Luis Ca- vanda (Lazio) were both sent off. Fiorentina had no such problems as Alessandro Matri, Josip Ilicic and Alberto Aquilani, from a penalty, shared the goals in a 3-1 win at Esbjerg while Napoli drew 0-0 away to Swansea City. Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk coach Juan- de Ramos enjoyed a 1-0 win over his former club Totttenham Hotspur when Yevhen Konoplyanka converted an 81st-minute penalty following a foul by Jan Vertonghen on Malteus.

**Juventus’ Carlos Tevez (l) and Dani Osvaldo look on during their Italian Serie A soccer match against Hel- las Verona at Bentegodi Stadium in Verona on 9 Feb, 2014. — Reuters**

**Pizarro omitted from Chile squad for Germany friendly**

LONDON, 21 Feb — Veteran Fiorentina midfielder David Pizarro was left out as Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli named a squad of 19 foreign-based players on Thursday for next month’s World Cup warm-up match away to Germany. Argente- nian Sampaoli also omitted Swedish-born defender Mikos Albornoz, who made his debut in last month’s 4-0 win over Costa Rica. Celta Vigo forward Fabian Orellana has earned a recall as Sampaoli looks to settle certain selection doubts in his mind ahead of the Bra- zil finals that start on 12 June.

Defender Gary Medel has been included in the squad, posted on the Chil- ean federation’s website (www.anfp.cl), in the hope he will recover in time from a torn muscle he suffered playing for Premier League side Cardiff City. Sampaol- li could yet add a defender as cover for Medel and a goalkeeper from Chile’s domestic league nearer the date of the March 5 match in Stuttgart. Chile face Australia, world champions Spain and the Netherlands in that order in Group B at the tournament finals in Brazil.

**Squad**

Goalkeeper: Claudio Bravo (Real Sociedad)
Defenders: Gary Medel (Cardiff City), Mar- cos Gonzalez (Flamengo), Gonzalo Jara (Notting- ham Forest), Eugenio Mena (San- tos)
Midfielders: Mauricio Isla (Juventus), Carlos Car- mona (Atalanta), Marcelo Diaz (Basel), Francisco Silva (Osasuna), Jorge Val- divia (Palmeiras), Charles Arau- guiz (Internacional), Arturo Vidal (Juventus), Felipe Gutierrez (Twente Enschede), Matias Fernan- dez (Fiorentina)
Forwards: Eduardo Vargas (Valencia), Alexis Sanchez (Barcelona), Fa- bian Orellana (Celta Vigo), Mauricio Pinilla (Cagliari), Jean Beausejour (Wigan Athletic).

David Pizarro celebrates scoring against Porto during their Europa League second leg soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England, on 22 Feb, 2012. — Reuters

**World No 1 Rafael Nadal**

**Nadal through to Rio Open quarterfinals**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb — World No 1 Rafael Nadal advanced to the quarter- finals of the Rio Open with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over fellow Spaniard Albert Montanes on Thursday. The 27-year-old will now face the second- round match winner between Albert Ramos and Joao Sousa.

Nadal showed none of the effects of a back prob- lem which sidelined him after his loss to Stanislas Wawrinka in the Australian Open final last month.

**Match Play exits for Stenson, Rose and McIlroy**

LOS ANGELES, 21 Feb — The sheer lottery of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship was again front and centre on Thursday as top seed Henrik Stenson, Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose were all eliminated in the second round, Swede Stenson, seeded one this week, nev- er lost before going down 4&3 to South African Louis Oosthuizen while fourth-seeded Northern Irishman McIlroy lost a see-sawing encounter with American Harris English after 19 holes.

In the final match of the day at Dove Mountain in Marana, Arizona, US Open champion and second- seed Rose was pipped by Els after 20 closely contest- ed holes, the big South Af- rican sealing victory with a magical birdie at the par- five second. Former world number one Els somehow struck his third shot from a near-im- possible lie in a greenside bunker towithin three feet of the flag before Rose needed two strokes to escape the sand on the way to a losing par five on their 20th hole.

Earlier third-seed- ed Fabio Fognini of Italy reached the last eight with a 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-3 victory over Uruguayan Pablo Cuevas while Alexandr Dolgopolov of Ukraine beat Argentine Facundo Bagnis 6-7 (4), 6-2, 7-6 (4).

In the women’s draw, Japan’s Kurumi Nara and Lorudes Dominguex Lino of Spain set up a last-eight meeting with wins while扈田栄的Helen of Ro- mania and Brazil’s Teliana Pereira also progressed.

**Xinhua**

**Italy’s Carolina Kostner competes during the figure skating women’s free skating program at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, on 20 Feb, 2014. — Reuters**

**With bronze**

er, worldly-wise Kostner did just that in So- chi as she nailed every one of her triple jumps to the haunting backdrop of Rav- el’s Bolero. “I was scared out of my mind,” she admit- ted. “You go along as a little girl dreaming of the Olym- pics. I was feeling, ‘Yeah, this is it.’ I just kept telling myself, ‘Just have the courage to go for it.”

Believe in it.”The long- limbed, baleic skater was radiant, so visibly wrapped up in her own emotive per- formance that the judges and the audience seemed but an afterthought.

Skating in a backless black dress worthy of a catwalk, the 27-year-old was a different woman from the girl who fell to pieces in Vancouver, se- ducing the audience with a near-im- possible lift in the opening notes of Bolero and building to a crescend- o with dramatic fast- paced spins.” I kept tell- ing myself there are a few more steps left and then you reach your summit...” she whispered, House of emotion and exhaustion after her skate. — Reuters

**K**

SOCHI, (Russia), 21 Feb — Italy’s Carolina Kostner captivated the audience with a poised and poignant performance to win bronze in the women’s figure skating at the Sochi Games on Thursday and instantly knew her decision to stick with the sport had been worth it. Four year earlier she had left the ice in Vancouver doubled over with her head buried in her hands, as if she could not bear to face anyone, after a miserable, tumble-ridden skate.

The Olympic spotlight on her, the Ita- lian had seemed to unravel during a performance that was heartbreaking to watch. After that, she very near- ly quit figure skating. She certainly did not think she would try it all over again at her third Winter Games but an old-
Nepal proposes holding SAARC Summit in November

KATHMANDU, 21 Feb — Ending the uncertainty, Nepal has proposed holding 18th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation(SAARC) Summit in Kathmandu in November this year.

SAARC, a regional association of eight South Asian countries, works for the regional development and cooperation. Nepal tabled such proposal in the meeting of SAARC council of ministers held in Maldives on Thursday. Other members of SAARC are yet to give their agreement about holding such conference in Kathmandu which also hosts the regional organization’s secretariat.

“We have proposed to organize the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu in November,” a national English Daily The Himalayan Times quoted Shankar Raihari, Foreign Secretary who is in Maldives for ministerial meeting as saying. Nepal will fix the exact date of the conference after the consultations with the new government. SAARC summit was in uncertain as Nepal was passing through political instability. Nepal has previously hosted two SAARC Summit in 1987 and 2002. China has an observer status in SAARC.

World Bank says Poverty falls in Cambodia, yet many still at risk of slipping back into poverty

PHNOM PENH, 21 Feb — Cambodia has exceeded the Millennium Development Goal poverty target and is one of the best performers in poverty reduction worldwide, according to a new World Bank Poverty Assessment Report released here on Thursday. “The poverty rate more than halved between 2004 and 2013, or 6.9 million people, or 3 million people in 2012,” the report said. “Today, approximately two out of five Cambodians are poor, compared with five out of 10 in 2004.”

According to the report, increased rice prices and increased rice production greatly contributed to poverty reduction, along with greater road access for farmers to markets, better access to market information through mobile phones, improved irrigation, and a liberal undistorted agricultural market.

“This is good news for Cambodia. The pace of poverty reduction has passed expectations,” said Alasasse Sow, the World Bank’s Country Manager for Cambodia.

“When a similar poverty assessment was undertaken in 2006, the aspirational goal was for Cambodia to halve poverty by 2015. Cambodia already reached that goal in 2011.” However, the report finds that Cambodia has about 8.1 million “near-poor” people, those who live on less than 2.30 US dollars per day per person. While they may have escaped poverty, they remain vulnerable to even the slightest economic shocks. “Despite impressive reduction in poverty, these hard won gains are fragile. Many people who have escaped poverty are still at high risk of falling back into poverty,” said Neak Samsen, Poverty Analyst of the World Bank in Cambodia and the co-author of the Poverty Assessment Report.

Thrills on Russian ice, Ukraine athlete leaves in protest

SOCHI, (Russia), 21 Feb — The women’s figure skaters provided a thrilling climax to Thursday’s Winter Olympics action when Russian Adelina Sotnikova claimed gold, but a skier’s decision to pull out of the Games in protest was a reminder of the crisis in neighbouring Ukraine.

Sotnikova was second going into the free skating programme and whipped up a partisan crowd into a frenzy with an energy-sapping routine.

The result left many neutrals scratching their heads about what exactly the judges saw, or did not see, as the Russian was the only one of the top three athletes to have a snatched landing at the end of a combination jump. In contrast, outgoing Olympic champion Kim Yuna of South Korea delivered a flawless display full of grace and beauty, but in the eyes of the judges she was no match for the Russian.

First Russian to win the women’s Olympic individual figure skating gold medal, Sotnikova landed 11 jumps, including seven triples, to the stirring backdrop of “Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso”.

At the nearby Bolshoy Ice Dome there was yet more drama on the ice, as the Canadian women’s hockey team came back from 2-0 down to win the final 3-2 in overtime against the United States. The win capped an undefeated run in Sochi for a Canadian team that have won four of five gold medals since women’s ice hockey made its debut at the 1998 Nagano Games.

Sotnikova’s victory was the perfect tonic for a home crowd still smarting from Wednesday’s bitter men’s ice hockey defeat by Finland in the other most coveted Olympic title on the ice.

“I found something totally different in myself today,” Sotnikova said afterwards. “I had a bit of nerves before I skated, but just before I started I was completely calm. I just felt how much I love to skate. I think I found a new me.” Away from the sporting drama, Alpine skier Bogdana Matrovska said she had withdrawn from Russia’s first Winter Games in protest against Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovych, who enjoys Moscow’s backing, and his government.

The Ukrainian’s decision came in the wake of deadly clashes between demonstrators and security forces in which at least 67 people have been killed, 39 of them on Thursday when a gun battle broke out in the center of Kiev.—Reuters

Photo taken on 20 Feb, 2014 shows an explosion site on a road in Qiaokou District of Wuhan City, capital of central China’s Hubei Province. According to the local fire department, three people were injured in a methane gas explosion in Wuhan on Thursday, which collapsed an underground sewage pipe.
MP proposes to set aside 7,000 million kyat for peace making in 2014-15 FY

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw’s Reform and Development Scrutinizing Committee U Aung Thein suggested Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to set aside the budget of 7,000 million kyat for spending in implementing tasks for making peace in the country in the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. The estimated expense budget of the 2013-2014 FY reached 11,553,041 million kyat, and the budget of 15303.796 million kyat has been proposed for the 2014-2015 FY, increasing 3750.755 million kyat as the president, the vice-presidents, Union ministers and deputy ministers would not reduce their salaries as from this fiscal year and the budget of allocation for the peace making process is included in the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. During the meeting, U Kyi Tha, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw’s Investment and Industry Development Committee, submitted a plan to cut the rural area power supply budget of 36590.774 million kyat drawn up by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development or the rural area power supply budget of over 79000 million kyat proposed by Nay Pyi Taw Council to be able to draw up the budget of (See page 9)

Regional development, environmental conservation to be implemented in a transparent manner

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The Implementation Committee of the Report of the Investigation Commission for Letpadaung Copper Mine Project is undertaking regional development and environmental conservation tasks including scheme on compensation for the land confiscated farmers. It needs to implement the tasks in a transparent manner in accordance with rules and regulations. The committee is to protect environmental impact along with sympathy and visionary in line with international standard mine closure plan in implementing environmental conservation tasks. At the same time, it is necessary to clarify implementation of EIA/SIA tasks to the locals, said U Hla Tun, Chairman of the committee and Union Minister at the President Meeting on resettlement for the landless and homeless in progress.—MNA

City development plan, township development plan to be implemented for landless and homeless

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The Implementation Committee of the Report of the Investigation Commission for Letpadaung Copper Mine Project is undertaking regional development and environmental conservation tasks including scheme on compensation for the land confiscated farmers. It needs to implement the tasks in a transparent manner in accordance with rules and regulations. The committee is to protect environmental impact along with sympathy and visionary in line with international standard mine closure plan in implementing environmental conservation tasks. At the same time, it is necessary to clarify implementation of EIA/SIA tasks to the locals, said U Hla Tun, Chairman of the committee and Union Minister at the President Meeting on resettlement for the landless and homeless in progress.—MNA

Issuance of ID for 2014 matriculation examination announced

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The matriculation examination for 2014 will take place from 12 to 22 March. Students across the nation may take out identity card at their respective exam centres starting 24 February (Monday) and students in Yangon municipal area, on 26 February (Wednesday).

Students from Basic Education High Schools, BEHSs (branch) and BEHSs (affiliated) may take out identity card from their respective school heads while external students may draw identity card from their respective examination supervisors. For further information, students may contact the respective exam supervisors and township education officers, announced the Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations.—MNA

Meeting on resettlement for the landless and homeless in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—The government is drawing city development plan and township development plan for the landless and homeless households,” said Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane at the meeting on resettlement for the landless and homeless at the hall of the President Office on 21 February morning.

The Union minister continued that it needs to collect rightful data for the landless and homeless in respective townships, saying accommodation and farmlands for them is necessary. As the incumbent government has been issuing farmland certificates to the people, they have now possessed firm land and property than previous time, he said.

He highlighted that the region and state level officials are required to systematically carry out work procedures for the landless and homeless. Arrangements are being made for accommodation and farmlands for them in coordination with the scholars, he added. It needs to consider for smooth transportation of the region, emergence of market-oriented economic system and sharing of technology and knowledge, he said.

Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein and U Hla Tun clarified works to be undertaken for accommodation and job creation for the landless and homeless. Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin discussed matters on making field trips by the teams formed with the scholars from the ministries to draw township development plan in the regions and states and measures to be taken in resettling for the landless and homeless. MNA

Building retaining walls, silt dredging underway in Chindwin River

Byline: Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

There has been rapid change in flow of water in Chindwin River even within a week in the dry season. Vessels travelling along the river face traffic delays in summer as the water depth is not enough for them. So, Sagaing Region’s Director of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems started building stone-reinforced log retaining walls near Monywa jetty, Ahlon jetty and Mingin jetty along Chindwin River and dredging sand from the river for proper flow of water in the middle of January. The waterway conservation works are set to complete this coming March.

With the aim of having proper water depth for vessels at the areas where river level is low, a stone-reinforced log retaining wall is being built along a sandbank in the river near Yonepin Yoe village in Salinjyi Township. Construction work has started since 20 January this year and it is scheduled to complete this coming March. It aims to allow vessels to pass through the river without any disruption.

Likewise, two more retaining walls are also being constructed near Ahlon jetty, aiming at keeping proper water flow before Chindwin Bridge (Monywa).

Moreover, a dredger is clearing silt for allowing water flow to erode unwanted sandbanks in the river as of 7 November, 2013. Upon completion, there will be proper water flow and depth for vessels that come to dock in Mingin jetty. Kyemon: 21-2-2014

Trs: YM