Government will use international loan assistances in transparent way for public interest

President U Thein Sein’s speech through radio programmes to the entire people far and wide the nation on 1-2-2013.

Accord could be signed for effective development cooperation.

In addition, our government is implementing the tasks pertaining to poverty alleviation. Majority of our citizens have to earn their livings from hand to mouth for their whole life. But they do not own even a house. To overcome it, low-cost housing projects are being implemented in Yangon. We will continue to implement affordable housing projects in other states and townships. In addition, we could increase the amount of agricultural loan for farmland from present level of K 80,000 per acre to K 100,000 per acre. Likewise, we could increase the amount for cropland from K 10,000 to K 20,000 per acre. Despite this, we notice the increase still does not meet the required amount. As farmland ownership has been legal under existing laws, we are under-taking farmland ownership (See page 8).

Saput Creek Bridge in Minbu Township to be completed later in 2013

About 10 decades ago in the colonial era, a bridge was built over Saput creek in Minbu Township. The bridge was subject to the ravage of time and could no more withstand vehicles of heavy loads. The government started construction of a new bridge beside the old one on 1 June, 2012. The construction of the new bridge on the road linking Minbu and Magway in Shwetabin village in Minbu Township in Minbu District of Magway Region is being undertaken by bridge construction special group (4) of Public Works.

The old bridge has the length of 14 ft and the width of 470 ft with one-lane motorway. It could only withstand 13 tons of loads. It would no more be used when the new bridge is completed.

The new bridge will have the length of 510 ft and the width of 24 ft. Its clearance area will have the width of 54 ft and the height of 6 ft and 6 inches. The RC bridge would withstand 75 tons of loads per vehicle.

Without calculating the cost of the approach roads, the estimated construction cost is K 1,400 million. It would be completed by the end of 2013.

In parallel with development of road networks, the region on the western bank of Ayeyawady River is no more isolated and starting to enjoy fruits of better transport. The Saput creek bridge under construction would become a key transport facility in the region linking towns on the eastern bank of the River with Minbu District. Minbu Alias: 29-1-13

Trs: IKC

Corrigendum

Please read production sharing contracts instead of profit sharing contracts. Fourth line third line of first paragraph and caption on page 1 of this newspaper issued on 31-1-2013.

NLM

Weather forecast for first dekad of February 2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay, partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Rainy condition

Rainy days are expected about 2 to 3 days in Tanintharyi Region, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

Night temperature will be above February average temperatures in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Mon and Kayin States and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.

Fog condition

Fog days are expected about 5 to 7 days in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Shan, Raheine and Kayah States and 4 days in the remaining Regions and States.

NLM
Region government meets township administrators

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win on 25 January morning delivered an address at the meeting of Bago Region Government, District and Township Administrators at the hall of the region government. At first, Township administrators from Pyay, Thayawady, Toungoo and Bago districts submitted reports. Deputy commissioners gave supplementary reports. The region chief minister made a concluding remark. MNA

Fire drill demonstrated at CITC

MEIKTILA, 31 Jan—The talks on fire preventive measures and the fire drill were held at Central Institute of Transport and Communication of the Ministry of Rail Transportation in Meiktila on 25 January afternoon. Head of District Fire Services Department U Kyaw Hsan gave talks on danger of fire. Members of Fire Brigade demonstrated fire fighting with the use of fire extinguishers. It was attended by the Principle of the institute and 155 family members of the staff.—Kyemon

CUSTOMS Department opens relations section

YANGON, 31 Jan—The relations section was opened at Customs Department on Strand Road, here, recently so as to solve the matters related to custom, according to the chairman of the information group of the department. The section is kept open from 9 am to 6.30 pm daily on office days. Two officers are assigned duty at the section for solving difficulties of people regarding the rules and regulations, procedures, orders and instructions on customs department. The chairman of the group said that if the officers assigned at the section cannot solve anything, arrangements have been made to solve the problems with the assistance of deputy directors and directors. The section accepts complaints and suggestions. So far, the section has accepted 41 complaints from companies and 81 from persons. —Kyemon

Myanmar selected athletes under training

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Selected athletes are under training at the Sports Training Centre in Nay Pyi Taw for securing success in the XXVII SEA Games. Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htay inspected training of athletes at the sports centre on 23 January morning and gave instructions. At the meeting hall of the centre, the deputy minister met managers and coaches and gave instructions on observing progress of each athlete. Later, he viewed training of athletes in the volleyball, boxing, Taekwondo and Sepak Takraw sports.—Kyemon

New archway under construction at ancient Karaweik PhaungdawU Pagoda in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 31 Jan—A new archway of Karaweik PhaungdawU Pagoda is under construction near the head of the Karaweik at Meiktila Lake in Meiktila. The pagoda was built in the period of King Alaungsithu in Bagan era. Ancient ancestors have been preserving the pagoda. In the past, the pagoda was decorated with lime in white colour. Later, Buddhist Myanmar people throughout the nation generously donated gold foils for gilding the pagoda. Moreover, the pagoda was renovated with a greater structure on Karaweik Barge on a grander scale. We set an aim to attract wellwishers and pilgrims across the nation to be able to make more donations to the pagoda by building a new archway. On completion of the construction tasks, we will make arrangements to offer gold plates and gold foils to the pagoda,” said Chairman of the Board of Trustees U Win of ancient Karaweik PhaungdawU Pagoda. —Kyemon

New school buildings handed over to Kyaukmyaung BEHS

SAGAING, 31 Jan—A ceremony to drive stake for reconstruction of the two-storey school building that collapsed in the recent earthquake was held at Basic Education High School in Kyaukmyaung of Sagaing Region in conjunction with the ceremony to hand over the renovated buildings to the school on 26 January. Wellwisher Chairman of Shwedagon Development Co Ltd U Aik Tun explained the purpose of donations and handed over documents related to the school to Headmaster U Tin Kyaw. Next, wellwisher U Aung Thaung-Dr Aye Aye Thein (OG specialist) donated 500 dozens of exercise books, Ears of Paddy Tyre Factory 10 sets of computer, Mr Barburi two sets of computer, U Nay Win (Taing Chit Swe Brokerage), U Nay Min Tun (Myanma Ahla Camera and Handset Sales Centre) and U Kyaw Khaing (Myanma Ahla Construction) one set each of computer to the school. The wellwisher for new school building and officials sprinkled scented water on the places for stakes. School buildings at the school collapsed in the earthquake that hit on 11 November 2012. The company reconstructed three school buildings namely Tharaphi, Sagawah and multimedia spending K 34.039 million. Shwedagon Development Company Ltd rebuilt three school buildings worth K 3.9 million. The new school building to be constructed will be 220 feet long and 30 feet wide, comprising 12 classrooms worth K 125 million.—Kyemon

Respects paid to teachers

YAMETHIN, 31 Jan—A ceremony to pay respects to older teachers was held at Okshiptin Basic Education Middle School in Model Theingon Village of Yamethin Township. At the ceremony, Ma Sar U demonstrated traditional cane ball skills.—Kyemon
**Pakistan**

A Pakistani girl shot by Taliban to have skull reconstructed

LONDON, 31 Jan—A Pakistani schoolgirl shot in the head by the Taliban for advocating girls' education is to return to a specialist hospital in Britain for surgery to reconstruct her skull.

Fifteen-year-old Malala Yousufzai, who was shot in October and brought to Britain for treatment, was discharged from the hospital earlier this month to spend time with her family after her initial treatment phase.

**Libya**

Libya receives 26,000 applicants for police training

TRIPOLI, 31 Jan—More than 26,000 members of Libya’s Supreme Security Committee (SSC) have applied to join the police, Interior Minister Ashour Shwail said on Wednesday.

The interior ministry has been working to integrate SSC members to the national police through a merger programme launched at the end of last year, Shwail told a Press conference. Police headquarters are under maintenance.

Shwail, a former professor of law, was tasked with collecting weapons, enhancing security and stability, and rehabilitating the national security forces with a campaign financing scandal.

**China**

Former Finnish MPs sentenced after campaign financing scandal

HELSINKI, 31 Jan—The Helsinki District Court on Wednesday sentenced two former members of the Finnish Parliament to suspended imprisonment for a campaign financing scandal. Antti Kaikkonen was sentenced 5 months of suspended imprisonment for dereliction of duty when chairing the Finnish Youth Foundation, the Finnish broadcasting company YLE reported.

Jukka Vihrialai, former chairman of the Finnish Slot Machine Association RAY, was given an 18-month suspended prison sentence for receiving bribes.

The two defendants, both from the influential Centre Party, were prosecuted early last year, months after the police began to investigate the scandal.

According to Hel sinki News, during Kaik ko nen’s 12-year tenure as chairman, the Finnish Youth Foundation bought campaign boards and seminar tickets for Centre Party candidates in their election campaigns, including Kaikkonen’s.

**Russia**

Russia envoy signals readiness to seek solution to territorial row

TOKYO, 31 Jan—Russian Ambassador to Japan Evgeny Afanasiev on Wednesday signaled Moscow’s readiness to seek a “mutually acceptable” solution to a long-running bilateral territorial dispute.

The remarks at a press event in Tokyo came ahead of former Prime Minister Yoshio Mori’s planned visit to Russia in late February to discuss with President Vladimir Putin the ownership of the Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, which are claimed by Japan.

“We are ready to discuss and search for solutions on any issue” in bilateral relations, Afanasiev said. “We decided together with Japanese leaders, that we should discuss this issue... to create conditions for some formula that can be acceptable to both.”

The dispute over the islands, which were seized by the Soviet Union following Japan’s surrender in World War II on 15 Aug, 1945, has prevented the two countries from concluding a peace treaty that would formally end the war.

The ambassador said that while Japan and Russia should not be in haste, “We need a peace treaty that will finally resolve all historical issues between us.”

But as to a possible framework that would resolve the dispute, he declined to comment.

The Japanese and Russian governments are arranging for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to go to Russia this year, possibly sometime between April and May, to have a summit with Putin. As long as Russia acknowledges Japanese ownership of the islands, Tokyo has taken the position it is flexible about when the islands may be returned.

The islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan as well as the Habomai islet group off Japan’s northernmost main island of Hokkaido are called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia.
Rocket blasts off with new NASA communications satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, 31 Jan—An unmanned Atlas 5 rocket blasted off on Wednesday to put the first of a new generation of NASA communications satellites into orbit, where it will support the International Space Station, the Hubble Space Telescope and other spacecraft. The 191-foot (58-metre) rocket lifted off at 8:48 pm (0148 GMT Thursday), the first of 13 planned launches in 2013 from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station just south of NASA’s Kennedy Space Centre.

Once in position 22,300 miles above the planet, the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite, known as TDRS and built by Boeing Co, will join a seven-member network that tracks rocket launches and relays communications to and from the space station, the Hubble observatory and other spacecraft circling Earth. Two other TDRS spacecraft were decommissioned in 2009 and 2011 respectively and shifted into higher “graveyard” orbits. A third satellite was lost in the 1986 space shuttle Challenger accident.

NASA used its space shuttle fleet for launching the satellites until 1995, then switched in 2000 to unmanned Atlas rockets, manufactured by United Space Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin and Boeing. With six operational satellites and a seventh space, NASA can track and communicate with spacecraft in lower orbits, such as the space station, which flies about 250 miles above Earth. Before 1995, when the first TDRS was launched, NASA relied on ground-based communications, occasionally supplemented with airplanes and ships, which was expensive to maintain and provided only a fraction of the coverage of an orbital network.

Three second-generation TDRS spacecraft were launched from 2000 to 2002. Wednesday’s launch marked the first of three planned third-generation satellites needed to replace aging members of the constellation.

First Chinese company joins WWF emission reduction programme

SHENZHEN, 31 Jan — The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on Tuesday announced that a north China company has become the first Chinese company and also the first photovoltaic (PV) manufacturer to join the WWF’s Climate Savers programme. Yingli Green Energy Holding Co, Ltd, a leading solar energy company based in the city of Baoding in north China’s Hebei province, is the first Chinese company to set a specific renewable electricity consumption target, the WWF said. Yingli has agreed to reduce the intensity of its greenhouse gas emissions per megawatt (MW) of PV module production by 13 percent by the end of 2015 in comparison to 2010 levels. The company also plans to reduce emissions from purchased goods and services per MW of PV module production by 7 percent and to reduce emissions from upstream transportation by 10 percent by the end of 2015. The Climate Savers programme, initiated by the WWF in 1999, now features the participation of 30 member companies that have set targets for emission reduction and are working with other companies, suppliers and partners to implement solutions for a clean, low carbon economy.

Peter Beaudoin, head of WWF’s China office, said it is “very demanding” for companies to join the programme. “Companies that agree to set emission-cutting goals and actively promote the application of renewable energy can become member companies,” Beaudoin said. Most Chinese companies have launched campaigns to combat climate change, Beaudoin added. “We are very glad to become the first Chinese company and the first solar manufacturer to join the program,” said Miao Liansheng, chairman and CEO of Yingli. “Yingli is working to provide affordable, green energy to ordinary people while carrying out our company’s social and environmental responsibilities to reduce energy consumption and emissions in our production and operations,” Miao said. Yingli also pledged that at least 4 percent of the electricity the company consumes will come from renewable sources, especially solar energy, by the end of 2015.

Top US firms open to voluntary cybersecurity rules: Senate

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — Many Fortune 500 companies support the creation of federal cybersecurity standards to protect them from Internet threats like hacking as long as they are voluntary, according to a Senate survey of top US chief executives released on Wednesday.

The report resulted from letters sent to Fortune 500 companies in September by Senator Jay Rockefeller, the Democrat from West Virginia who last year authored a now-expired cybersecurity bill and is now renewing his push for such legislation. Better protection from cyber threats has taken on growing urgency in Washington, with top officials warning of the potentially devastating impact of cyber attacks that could undermine key infrastructure, which is mostly privately owned. Some 300 top companies in a variety of industries responded to the survey, according to the report compiled by the staff of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which Rockefeller chairs.

Responding that growing interest in better securing networks, computers and data from cyber attacks, the survey showed broad support of the effort to pass new cybersecurity laws and collaborate with the federal government.

Electronic Arts slashes 2013 outlook as industry struggles

SAN FRANCISCO, 31 Jan — Electronic Arts Inc slashed its fiscal 2013 earnings forecast after a weak holiday quarter marked by disappointing sales of its “Madden NFL” programme, as the industry struggles with flagging demand. The games maker forecast non-GAAP revenue for the year to end-March of $3.8 billion to $3.9 billion and earnings of $0.86 to $1.00 per share from $1.00 to $1.15 per share previously, down about 13 percent at the mid-point. Chief Financial Officer Blake Jorgensen said the earnings forecast had been adjusted downward to take into account uncertainties in the seasonally weaker March quarter. “We haven’t gotten any stronger,” he told Reuters in an interview. “It’s a little early for me to know how strong the market’s going to be, so based on that we widened our range for revenue for the fourth quarter and brought our guidance down slightly just to make sure we’re prudent.” Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter said Electronic Arts was being “overly conservative” with its guidance after its big holiday release “Madden NFL: Lightening” underperformed.

“They were a little shell-shocked by how bad holiday demand was, and I think at the low end they’re probably assuming demand is down 20 percent or so,” Pachter said.— Reuters

Science cafes offer a sip of learning

ORLANDO, 31 Jan — Americans may be turning away from the hard sciences at universities, but they are increasingly showing up at “science cafes” in local bars and restaurants to listen to scientific talks over a drink or a meal. Want a beer with that biology? Or perhaps a burger with the works to complement the theory of everything? Science cafes have sprouted in almost every state, serving up tapas restaurants near downtown Orlando where Sean Walsh, 27, a graphic designer, describes himself and his friends as some of the laymen in the crowd.

“We just want to learn and whatever we take in, we take in. But we’re also socializing and having a nice time,” said Walsh, who drank beer, ate Tater Tots and learned a little about asteroids and radiation at two recent events. Others in the crowd come with scientific credentials to hear particularly scientists lecture on a narrowly focused field of interest. But the typical participant brings at least some college-level education or at least a lively curiosity, said Edward Haddad, executive director of the Florida Academy of Sciences, which helped start up Orlando’s original cafe and organizes the events.— Reuters

People experience the new BlackBerry smartphone Z10 at a press event in Toronto, Canada, on 30 Jan, 2013. Research In Motion Ltd (RIM) on Wednesday launched its long-awaited BlackBerry 10 OS and smartphones. Xinhua

“Your going to engage the (National Public Radio) crowd very easily here,” said Linda Walters, a marine conservation biologist from the University of Central Florida who has lectured twice at the Orlando-area science cafes. Haddad said the current national push to increase the number of US graduates in science, technology, engineering and math, or the STEM fields, is driving up the number of science cafes.—Reuters

Newly-born koalas tightly hold their mothers as feeders and koalas pose for group photos at Chimelong Safari Park in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 30 Jan, 2013. The park has successfully bred more than 20 koalas since it import ed six koalas from Australia in 2006.— Xinhua

Science Cafe

“New Light of Myanmar” by Peter Beaudoin, head of WWF’s China office, said it is “very demanding” for companies to join the programme. “Companies that agree to set emission-cutting goals and actively promote the application of renewable energy can become member companies,” Beaudoin said. Most Chinese companies have launched campaigns to combat climate change, Beaudoin added. “We are very glad to become the first Chinese company and the first solar manufacturer to join the program,” said Miao Liansheng, chairman and CEO of Yingli. “Yingli is working to provide affordable, green energy to ordinary people while carrying out our company’s social and environmental responsibilities to reduce energy consumption and emissions in our production and operations,” Miao said. Yingli also pledged that at least 4 percent of the electricity the company consumes will come from renewable sources, especially solar energy, by the end of 2015.

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Responding that growing interest in better securing networks, computers and data from cyber attacks, the survey showed broad support of the effort to pass new cybersecurity laws and collaborate with the federal government.
New York, 31 Jan—Regular yoga classes could help people with a common heart rhythm problem manage their symptoms while also improving their state of mind, a new study suggests.

According to the American Heart Association, about 2.7 million people in the US have atrial fibrillation (AF), in which the heart’s upper chambers quiver chaotically instead of contracting normally. People with AF are often prescribed drugs such as beta blockers to help control their heart rate and rhythm. But the medicines don’t alleviate symptoms for all patients, researchers noted—which is where add-ons like yoga could come in.

“This may be something they should consider,” said Todd Cade, a physical therapy researcher at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis. Yoga could be a beneficial treatment for people with atrial fibrillation.

Obviously they should talk to their doctor before they start a programme,” Cade, who wasn’t involved in the new research, told Reuters Health. “There are a lot of positive benefits of yoga, and there aren’t a lot of negatives,” he added.

The new study included 49 participants, 24 of them for an average of five years.

For three months, researchers led by Dr Dhanunjaya Lakireddy from the University of Kansas Medical Centre in Kansas City tracked study volunteers’ heart symptoms and their blood pressure and heart rate, as well as their anxiety, depression and general quality of life.

According to the agency, Diane 35, which is manufactured by the German pharmaceutical company Bayer, has been prescribed for 315,000 women in France as a contraceptive.

“This drug is not licensed for use as a contraceptive,” ANSM’s chief Dominique Maraini-chi told a Press conference on Wednesday. The agency expected pill users to find another alternative to replace Diane 35 with a period of three-month before the it is out of the market.

It has launched a new study into the pill and the result is expected in a week.—Xinhua

San Francisco, 31 Jan—Facebook Inc doubled its mobile advertising revenue in the fourth quarter, a sign that the No1 social network is seeing early success in expanding onto handheld devices as more of its users migrate to smartphones and tablets. Investors want to see evidence that CEO Mark Zuckerberg’s 8-year-old company is delivering on promises to develop a full-fledged mobile advertising business, as they challenge facing many of today’s technology leaders including Google Inc.

Facebook’s mobile ad revenue doubles in fourth quarter

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—The Facebook logo is pictured at the Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, California on 29 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

But the growth trailed some of Wall Street’s most aggressive estimates. Shares of Facebook were down roughly 3 percent at $30.21 in after-hours trading on Wednesday, regaining ground after falling more than 8 percent immediately after the numbers were released. Mobile revenue estimates among some analysts and investors were unrealistically high, said Sterne, Agee & Leach analyst Arvind Bhatia.

“As a result the stock was set up for disappointment,” he said. Overall, he said, Facebook’s results were encouraging. The company’s overall advertising business grew at its fastest clip since before its May initial public offering, helping its company’s revenue expand 40 percent and surpass Wall Street targets. Facebook has
Nicaragua makes progress in fighting hunger: FAO

MANAGUA, 31 Jan—Nicaragua has advanced most in overcoming hunger in Latin American countries, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said here on Wednesday. Except for an increase of chronic malnutrition in 1998, “extreme poverty and hunger are visibly decreasing in the country,” the FAO said in a statement. The Latin American country, with 5.8-million population in 1990-1992 to 20 percent prevalence from 55 percent in 1987, has advanced in overcoming hunger today, sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Resona Holdings to promote Vice President Higashi to President in April

TOKYO, 31 Jan—Resona Holdings Inc. will promote Vice President Kazuhiro Higashi in April to replace Seiji Higaki as President in a major management reshuffle, as its completion of public fund repayments has come into sight, sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

US gunman shoots three in Phoenix, Arizona

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan—Police were hunting for a suspect on Wednesday after three people were shot and injured in Phoenix, the US state of Arizona.

The suspect fired multiple rounds, hitting several people after an altercation, CBS affiliate KPHO reported.

At least one of the victims was reported to be out of surgery and in stable condition.—Xinhua

Chile, Finland to cooperate on mining, energy

SANTIAGO, 31 Jan—Chilean President Sebastian Pinera and visiting Finland’s Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen signed agreements on cooperation in the mining and energy sectors, the Chilean government said on Wednesday.

Finland will provide Chile with technology and fund to develop innovative mining machinery and clean energy equipment, according to the agreements signed on Tuesday.

“Chile is a mining country and we have many things to learn from you (Finland),” Pinera said. He said Chile has “huge potential in clean and renewable energy,” as its deserts have high level of solar radiation. “We have 25 percent of the world’s solar territories for geothermal energy, and we have more than 6,000 kilometres of coast for marine energy,” Pinera added.

Finland is among the best in the world in the use of renewable energy such as bioenergy, wind and hydropower, which accounts for 25 percent of its whole energy consumption. With geothermal energy as an important source in its green energy plan, the Northern European country has developed state-of-arts expertise in solar and geothermal energy utilisation.—Xinhua

Zhang Qingwei re-elected Hebei Province governor

SHENYANG, 31 Jan—Zhang Qingwei was re-elected governor of north-east China’s Liaoning Province on Wednesday at the first session of the 12th provincial People’s Congress, the local legislature.

Zhang, born in November 1961, was first elected governor of Hebei in January 2012.

Chen Min’er elected governor of Guizhou Province

GUIYANG, 31 Jan—Chen Min’er was elected governor of southwest China’s Guizhou Province on Wednesday at the first session of the 12th provincial People’s Congress, the local legislature.

Chen was born in the city of Zhum in east China’s Zhejiang Province in September 1960. He was appointed as the acting governor and vice governor of Guizhou on 18 December. At the same session, Zhao Kezhi was elected chairman of the Standing Committee of the Guizhou Provincial People’s Congress.—Xinhua

Wang Xiankui re-elected governor of Heilongjiang Province

HARBIN, 31 Jan—Wang Xiankui was re-elected governor of north-east China’s Heilongjiang Province on Wednesday at the first session of the 12th provincial People’s Congress, the local legislature.

Chen Zhenggao re-elected governor of Liaoning Province

SHENYANG, 31 Jan—Chen Zhenggao was re-elected governor of north-east China’s Liaoning Province on Wednesday at the first session of the 12th provincial People’s Congress, the local legislature.

Chen Min’er elected governor of Guizhou Province
Seven dead in N China traffic accident

Shanghai, 31 Jan—Seven people were killed after a heavy truck rolled over and crushed a smaller vehicle on Wednesday night in north China’s Hebei Province, local police said on Thursday.

The accident occurred on the No 331 provincial highway at 10:40 pm on Wednesday, when a heavy truck rolled over and crushed a small bus.

Seven people were rushed to a local hospital, where they died on early Thursday morning despite medical efforts.

An initial investigation found that slippery roads as a result of snow and rain were to blame for the accident, police from the city of Hejian said, adding that the accident is still being investigated.

Xi extends festival greetings to veterans

Beijing, 31 Jan—Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Wednesday extended Spring Festival greetings to military veterans.

As a festive art performance was held for the veterans and ex-officers in Beijing, Xi, also chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission (CMC), attended the gathering and expressed his best wishes to the participants.

The veterans expressed their appreciation for the achievements China has made over the last year and said they will carefully study the spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress. This year’s Spring Festival, or the Lunar New Year, falls on 10 February.

Chinese Navy depart for West Pacific training

A Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has set off from a military port in east China’s Qingdao City for regular open-sea training in the West Pacific Ocean, military sources revealed on Wednesday.

The fleet, comprising three ships—missile destroyer Qingdao, and missile frigates Yantai and Yancheng—carrying three helicopters, all from the North China Sea Fleet under the PLA Navy.

During the voyage, the fleet is scheduled to conduct multi-program training sessions in the sea area where China has been carrying out regular patrols, according to the sources.

The training area will include the Yellow, East China and South China seas.

Korea launches Naro space rocket

Seoul, 31 Jan—South Korea on Wednesday successfully launched its space rocket in its third attempt to put a satellite into space.

The Korea Space Launch Vehicle-1 (KSVL-1), also known as Naro, blasted off at 4 pm local time from the Naro Space Center, located 480 kilometers south of Seoul, on Sunday, 30 Jan.

Many countries are trying to develop a space program to gain a foothold in the space industry. The upcoming rocket will be the country’s third attempt to put a satellite into space from its own soil. Two previous attempts in 2009 and 2010 failed due to technical problems.

Santiago, 31 Jan—A strong magnitude 6.8 earthquake hit central-northern Chile on Wednesday, shaking buildings as far away as the capital Santiago, and possibly leading a woman to die minutes later of an apparent heart attack, the US Geological Survey and local officials said.

There were no reports of serious damage.

The quake, initially reported as a magnitude 6.7, struck at a depth of 28.4 miles, 63 miles southwest of Santiago at 5:15 pm (15:15 GMT), the US Geological Survey said.

A 50-year-old woman in Copiapo died after presumably suffering a heart attack following the quake, Chile’s Onemi emergency office said.

The earthquake hit well south of large mines in the world’s top copper producer and Chile’s emergent copper output grew at 7.6 percent in 2012.

Magnitude 6.8 quake shakes Chile, but no serious damage

A building suffers structural damage after an earthquake at Copiapo City, Atacama, Chile, on 30 Jan. 2013. A 6.7-magnitude earthquake hit Chile at 4:15 am Thursday (Beijing Time), according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre. The epicentre was monitored at 28.1 degrees south latitude and 70.8 degrees west longitude with a depth of 30 km.

Carbon monoxide kills 2 in NE China mine

HARBIN, 31 Jan—Carbon monoxide has been blamed for the Tuesday deaths of 12 workers at a coal mine in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, a local official said on Thursday.

Three workers entered the Yongsheng mine in Dongning County to pump out water when the storms moved through the Tuesday night storms, according to local media.

A large explosion of unknown origin possible, said the local news agency, adding that the explosion occurred at 2:37 am.

A massive 8.8-magnitude earthquake hit the West Coast of the Pacific coastline.

Magnitude 6.8 quake shakes Chile, but no serious damage

A building suffers structural damage after an earthquake at Copiapo City, Atacama, Chile, on 30 Jan. 2013. A 6.7-magnitude earthquake hit Chile at 4:15 am Thursday (Beijing Time), according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre. The epicentre was monitored at 28.1 degrees south latitude and 70.8 degrees west longitude with a depth of 30 km.

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Government will use...

(from page 1)

registration process in order that farmers can obtain working capitals by putting up their farm land as securities when necessary. I would like to urge the peasantry to grasp new financial management methods and opportunities compatible with the opening market. I would also like to re-claim your farmland to increase the value of your farmland, your major capital. Meanwhile, we need to shift toward modernized farming which can facilitate agricultural development in line with market economy.

It is undeniable that the present political achievements are attributable to collaboration of the government, the parliament, the Armed Forces, civil society organizations, and the citizen people. Democracy can’t be practiced just by holding elections. It means the knowledgeable entire people can make their own choices without suppression and restrictions. Here, well-organized and disciplined civil society organizations are of crucial importance.

Our government intends to resurrect the civil society organizations that took an important part in successive eras. At the same time, the onus rests on each and every citizen to strengthen civil society organizations. I met community-centered civil society organizations at Yangon Region Hluttaw on 20 January, 2013 to help develop participatory State-building process. On 27 January, 2013, respective ministers from our cabinet could enter round-table discussions with civil society organizations concerned. This I believe would develop into participatory administration process at all levels of administrative mechanism including region/ state level and Union level. Meanwhile, we need to place special focus on political stability, internal stability and national unity to make success of our reform efforts. Losses as the consequences of ongoing conflicts and the trauma locals from conflict regions suffer are also the losses of our society. We are taking steps to offer effective humanitarian assistance to national brethren in conflict regions and are cooperating with appropriate international organizations. It is high time we entered negotiation table to find a solution to stop losses and damages and establish genuine peace aspiried by the people. I therefore in all seriousness would like to urge all the leaders of respective organizations to come round the table and negotiate for a solution. One point I would like to stress here is only when the stakeholders and the entire national people strive in unity with magnanimity, we would be able to overcome this crisis as the ongoing peace process has reached delicate and sensitive stage.

To make the long story short, at the same time we are facing difficulties and challenges, we are also having opportunities that we didn’t get in over sixty years. I would like to urge the entire national people to surmount those challenges together with us. I would like to urge every one of you to arouse Union spirit with which we could get united on the upcoming 66th Anniversary Union Day and to take part in State-building endeavors.

I wish all of you physical and mental well-being.
Hluttaws mark Second Anniversary with gala lunch

**Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann deliver addresses at second anniversary of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.**

**MYANMAR GAZETTE**

**NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—** President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has reshuffled the following departmental heads to the departments shown against each other as of the date on which they assume their new duties.

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NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw celebrated second anniversary at the banquet hall of Hluttaw Complex, here this noon.

Pyithu Hluttaw IRC Chairman meets EU Advisor

**NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—** On behalf of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo received Mr. Robert Cooper, Head of the department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of the EU’s Foreign Policy, at the Hall No. 1 of the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

Poverty alleviation discussed in Myitkyina

**MYITKYINA, 31 Jan—** A coordination meeting on election of ward/village-tract administrators and poverty alleviation was held at the hall of Kachin State Government in Myitkyina on 21 January, with an address by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngin Hsai.

VISA launches international payment systems

**YANGON, 31 Jan—** VISA has brought international payment systems to Myanmar, launching the first Visa payment service for point-of-sale (POS) transactions in Myanmar today.

**Aunglan lit with lamp-posts**

**MYANMAR ALINN**

**State ministers and the secretary of the State Government gave supplementary reports.**

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**Myanmar and Thailand, said “We believe that Visa’s first POS payment transaction in Myanmar is an important step in helping Myanmar develop its electronic payments infrastructure.”**

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Chinese millionaire fights pollution with thin air

BEIJING, 31 Jan—China's foremost fencepost for air pollution in memory has rekindled a tongue-in-cheek campaign by a multi-millionaire with a streak of showmanship who is selling canned fresh air.

Chen Guangbiao, who made his fortune in the recycling business and is a high-profile philanthropist, on Wednesday handed out a can of fresh air to a man wearing a mask on a hazy day in central Beijing, on such as Xinjiang in the northwest to Taiwan, the southeast coast.

“I want to tell mayors, county chiefs and heads of big companies: don’t just chase GDP growth, don’t chase the biggest profits at the expense of our children and grandchildren and at the cost of sacrificing our ecological environment”, Chen said.

China’s air quality is closely watched as it fluctuates dramatically from day to day but in recent weeks has registered far into the unhealthy zone.

Air pollution is measured in terms of PM2.5, or particulate matter 2.5 micrometers in diameter, which are absorbed by the lungs and can cause heart and lung disease. The World Health Organisation recommends a daily PM2.5 level of 20 and says levels greater than 300 are serious health hazards.

Beijing’s air quality frequently surges past a level of 500, and on 12 January soared to 755, the highest in memory.

The 44-year-old entrepreneur, whose wealth is estimated at $740 million according to last year’s Hurun Rich List of China’s super-wealthy, is an ebullient and tireless self-promoter. He is always looking for a celebrity in China, with more than 4 million followers on sina Weibo, China’s most popular Twitter-like microblogging platform.

Chinese multimillionaire Chen Guangbiao (R) gives a can of fresh air to a man wearing a mask on a hazy day in central Beijing, on

Car drivers in China exceeds 200 mln

BEIJING, 31 Jan—The number of people licensed to drive cars in China has exceeded 200 million, an increase of 26.47 million year on year, according to the Ministry of Public Security statistics on Wednesday.

The statistics showed that there were 240 million automobiles on the roads by the end of 2012, and a total of 260 million license holders of all types of vehicles, including motorcycles.

Meanwhile, the number of road accidents involving deaths or injuries dropped by 3.1 percent in 2012, and the death toll by 3.8 percent. The number of accidents claiming more than three lives decreased by 15 percent.

There were 25 severe road accidents in 2012, two fewer than in 2011.Eight of the accidents last year took place on expressways and seven in the countryside. The ministry said the number of deaths on countryside roads increased by 13.9 percent year on year.—Xinhua

War journalists to return to Cambodia for Sihanouk's funeral

PHNOM PENH, 31 Jan—At least 30 war correspondents and photographers will come to Cambodia this week for the funeral of former King Norodom Sihanouk, Information Minister Khei Kantharith said on Wednesday.

The funeral and cremation ceremonies on Friday through Monday will be the biggest of their kind to be held in Cambodia in half-a-century and are expected to be attended by at least 1 million Cambodians.

Sihanouk died at 89 in Beijing last October. During their visit, a memorial dedicated to 37 foreign and Cambodian correspondents and journalists who died or went missing while covering the civil war in Cambodia between 1970 and 1975 will be inaugurated, the government spokesman said.

Those to be honoured by the memorial include Koki Ishiyama, a Kyodo News correspondent who died in 1974 in a Khmer Rouge-controlled zone some 100 kilometers west of Phnom Penh. His wife Yoko is among the confirmed participants.

Some veteran journalists will also pay their respects to Ishiyama at a Buddhist stupa built in his honor at Unaloam Pagoda, some 2 km away from the joint memorial.

The memorial was built in front of the five-star Le Royal Hotel, which was a meeting place for foreign correspondents in the 1970s, in central Phnom Penh.

Among foreign journalists who died during the Cambodian conflicts were 10 Japanese, eight French nationals, seven Americans, and others from Switzerland, West Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, India, Laos and Australia.


Sea Shepherd finds Japan's whaling research fleet in Antarctic Ocean

SYDNEY, 31 Jan—Anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has found Japan’s whaling research fleet in the Antarctic Ocean, prompting observers to speculate that the hard-line conservation group may disrupt Japanese whaling activities again.

Sea Shepherd said it found vessels of the Japanese fleet earlier this week and proceeded to pursue them.

“All four Sea Shepherd ships were guarding the approaches to the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary and interception was made before the Japanese fleet could enter the killing area,” according to a statement issued by the body on Tuesday.

Late last month, a Japanese whaling ship and two other vessels left Japan for the Antarctic Ocean to hunt whales for scientific research. A US appeals court issued last month an order banning Sea Shepherd from disrupting Japanese whaling activities.

The anti-whaling group in the past obstructed Japanese research whaling by such actions as hurling a rope around a whaling ship’s propeller and shooting bottles containing substances that emit strong odors.

The Japanese Fisheries Agency declined to confirm Sea Shepherd’s announcement.—Kyodo News

Benin moves closer to eliminating leprosy

COTONOU, 31 Jan—In 2012, Benin detected 243 cases of leprosy out of an estimated population of 9 million, an equivalent of 0.26 people in every 10,000 inhabitants, according to the coordinator for the national programme for the fight against leprosy.

“Benin was among the first Francophone countries in West Africa to adopt the new therapeutic method known as Polychemotherapy (PCT)”, he revealed.

He attributed the good results also to a national anti-leprosy programme, the training of medical staff; improved treatment services and the financial support from both national and international NGOs.—Xinhua
New Delhi, 31 Jan—Noting that most people are consumed by their own little priorities, Prime Minister’s Advisor T K A Nair yesterday stressed on the need for imbuing Gandhian principle of trusteeship while managing state firms.

“Those who are good in the company, those who are looking after one or the other aspects of the economy of the country, they do that in trusteeship. “You are not owners of what you manage but you hold that in trust...The concept of trusteeship is so relevant for the management of the PSUs,” Nair said at a function here to mark the 65th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. 

Through it has become “inevitable” to look after one’s own priorities in the present circumstances, he said, there was a need to reflect upon Gandhi’s sacri- fices. “We are living now in such circumstances that most of the time, most of us are consumed by our own little priorities, our own problems in life. “Needless to say, it is inevitable. But on occasions like this, we have the time to reflect upon what Mahatma Gandhi stood for. Not the supreme sacrifices that he made, but the example that he set,” the senior bu- reaucrat said.

Noted Gandhian Shob- han Baid, who has been high-lighted areas, which the Father of the Nation had followed and practised each and every moment of his life, where corporate India can take a cue from and make it a better world for everyone.

She also talked about Gandhi’s ethical leadership, values and sterling qualities co-relating them with the core values of the companies for increasing efficiency and performance in global busi- ness environment.—PTI

Australians start clean up after New South Wales floods

Sydney, 31 Jan—Hundreds of flood affected peo- ple are returning home to start the long task of cleaning up as the swollen Clarence River begins to recede in northern New South Wales during Australia, local media re- ported on Thursday.

Nearly 23,000 people have been isolated by flood waters across the state, most of them living downstream from Lismore and Grafton, according to the Australian Broadcasting Company (ABC). 

Most schools in the re- gion remain closed while power suppliers are work- ing to restore electricity in the region. 

Emergency food and medical supplies have been arranged for delivery to those isolated areas by the State Emergency Service (SES), the ABC reported.

SES Commissioner Murray Kear says cleaning up flood damage is a hard task. “That clean up will be a huge job with councils, with NSW SES volunteers, really all agencies across Government coming into these towns making sure that not only that the envi- ronment’s cleaned, but also that people are recovering and trying to get back to normal as soon as possible,” he told the ABC on Thurs- day.—Xinhua

Chinese top legislator pledges to further ties with Mongolia

Ulan Bator, 31 Jan— China’s top legislator, Wu Bangguo, on Wednesday pledged to further develop with Mongolia during a meeting with his Mongolian counterpart Zandaakhuu Enkhbold.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of China, said bilateral relat- ional relations have entered a new stage of development since China and Mongolia established a strategic part- nership in 2011.

He put forward a four- point proposal to further ties: Politically, Wu said China and Mongolia should strengthen their strategic mu- tual trust, continue to support each other on issues concern- ing their core interests, and carry out close cooperation in law enforcement and in the field of non-traditional security.

Economically, Wu said, the two countries should deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in such areas as mining, infrastructure con- struction and finance.

Culturally, the two coun- tries, Wu said, should intensify people-to-people ex- changes in a bid to strengthen mutual understanding and consolidate their traditional friendship.

China and Mongolia should also beef up cooperation on multilateral issues, Wu said, and sup- port each other in global and regional issues while safe- guarding their common in- terests. —Xinhua

Indonesia seeks increasing economic relations with Middle East countries

Jakarta, 31 Jan—In- donesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said that Indonesia is seeking closer economic relations with countries in the Mid- dle East, particularly in the investment sector, local media reported here on Thursday.

Speaking before de- parting for a visit to four countries in Africa and the Middle East, President Yudhoyono said that he would encourage improve- ment of economic relations with Middle East countries with investment being the most expected sector. 

“There would be an important event namely a business forum to be held in Jeddah where we would seek potential economic co- operation with the Middle East. As a member of G8 and with regard to global in- vestment we can make more concrete cooperation with the Middle East. Therefore we would use the forum for the benefit of our national economy,” the president said, quoted by the Antara news agency.

The president’s aide for development and economic affairs, Firmansyah, said that the president would invite Middle East inves- tors to take part in massive infrastructure projects in the country. “The government has set a target to create 1 million jobs that would cer- tainly require investment,” he said.—Xinhua

Moscow, 31 Jan — A Kobe-based food service company is set to open a Friday a Japanese udon noodle restaurant named Marugame Seimen in Mos- cow as the chain’s first store in Europe. The move by To- ridoll Corp, which has seen success with the restaurant chain’s business in Japan, has already entered China, South Korea, Thailand and the United States.

Although Russia is said to be a tough market to crack for foreign companies because of bureaucratic red tape and business practices unique to the country, To- ridoll says it aims to open 100 outlets in Russia by the end of 2017. 

Masahiro Iketemitsu, president of Toridoll LLC (Russia), points to Moscow’s population, which is the largest among major European cities, and Russia’s relatively high eco- nomic growth in Europe.

The 46-year-old com- pany chief said that after the sushi boom in Russia, consumers there are ex- pected to embrace noodles. “I hope Russians will enjoy the authentic taste of udon noodles,” he said.

At Marugame Seimen restaurants in Japan, the outlet in Moscow will be a self-service store and cus- tomers will be able to watch the cooks make and boil the noodles.

To suit the taste of lo- cals, it will also serve dish- es not on its menus in Japan such as sushi rolls, tonkatsu fried pork cutlets, and curry and rice. Prices will be set at around the same level charged at common fast food restaurants.

The restaurant will mainly target younger gener- ations and businesspeo- ple, according to Toridoll.

Japan noodle chain to open first restaurant in Russia

Mother and baby doing fine after risky surgery

BEIJING, 31 Jan—A woman with spinal muscu- lar atrophy gave birth to a premature boy in Beijing on Wednesday. The mother and the son remain in the hospital under close observation.

Lu Yuanchang, 31, was transferred to the operat- ing room at about 8:30 am to have a Caesarean section under general anesthesia. Surgeons delivered the baby an hour later. The baby, who does not have the gene de- fect that causes SMA, was less than 36 weeks old, and weighed 2.85 kilograms, be- cause the mother had gesta- tional diabetes, according to Gao Guolian, chief surgeon for Lu and president of the Aviation General Hospital where Lu is a patient.

The hospital did the surgery early because Lu’s amniotic fluid had been de- creasing, and she had been suffering serious breathing problems due to the size of the baby, said Gao.

“Right now, the baby is OK. But we need to watch him closely for any lung problems due to his prema- ture birth,” she said.

Before Lu, there was no academic report of women with muscular atrophy giv- ing birth in China. Doctors had made plans for every risk they could anticipate, according to Gao. “We were concerned that her uterus may not be able to contract during the surgery, because she has SMA. If such a thing had happened and led to a hemorrage, we would have had to remove her womb. But fortunately her womb was fine,” she said.—Xinhua

Chinese top legislator pledges to further ties with Mongolia

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (533)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (533) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.

SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (066)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (066) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.

SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS OSENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Singapore intercepts huge shipment of ivory from Africa

SINGAPORE, 31 Jan—Singapore authorities have intercepted the 1.8 ton of illegal raw ivory tusks from Africa estimated to be worth about $US2.5 million (US$2.0 million), the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority and Singapore Customs said on Wednesday.
They seized 1,099 pieces of raw ivory tusks packed in 65 sacks when they conducted a joint inspection on a shipment 23-2-2013, which had been planning in the two agencies said.
The giant was being shipped from Africa through the city-state. It was the second larg-est seizure by authorities here since 2002.

The AVA is working with local and international agencies to investigate this case, a joint statement by the two agencies said.
Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, of which Singapore is a signatory, all African and Asian elephants are endangered species.
International trade in ivory has been banned under the Convention since 1989.
“The Singapore government will not condone such illegal activities going through our country,” the statement said.

Israel carries out airstrike on science facility near Damascus

BRUSSELS, 31 Jan—Israel has conducted a rare air-strike on a military target inside Syria near the border with Lebanon. It happened amid fears President Bashar Assad’s government could provide powerful weapons to the Islamic militant group Hezbollah.
The Syrian military confirmed the strike, but it said the jets bombed a military research centre in a Damascus suburb, about 15 kilometres from the border with Lebanon. However, a US official said the strike hit a convoy of trucks but did not give an exact location.
The Syrian army denied that the strike had targeted a convoy. Regional security officials said Israel had been planning in the days leading up to the air-strike to hit a shipment of weapons bound for Hezbollah.
Top Israeli officials have recently expressed worries that Assad’s government could pass chemical weapons to Hezbollah or other militant groups. The airstrike was the first inside Syria in more than five years.

Xinhua
Barbra Streisand to sing at Oscars for first time in decades

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—Actress, singer and director Barbra Streisand may be a familiar figure at Hollywood’s Oscars, but she has only sung on the annual awards show once. Streisand will perform again at the Academy Awards on 24 February, producers said on Wednesday, without providing details about how her appearance would fit into the show or what she might sing.

Streisand, 70, has won two Oscars, one for best actress in “Funny Girl” and another for best original song, “Evergreen” from her 1976 vehicle “A Star Is Born.” Her performance of the song at the 1977 Oscars show was her only previous on-stage stint at Hollywood’s biggest night.

“In an event that celebrates the artistry of movies and music, how could the telecast be complete without Barbra Streisand?” producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron said in a statement.

“We are honoured that she has agreed to do a very special performance on this year’s Oscars.” Streisand has also been nominated for several Oscars, including for best actress in “The Way We Were” and as producer for best picture nominee “The Prince of Tides.”

Beyonce has been rehearsing Super Bowl performance for three months

LONDON, 31 Jan—Beyoncé has been rehearsing for the Super Bowl for three months. The Diva singer—who was criticized last summer for miming the American national anthem at President Barack Obama’s inauguration—has reportedly been preparing to perform at a high profile sporting event in New Orleans on Sunday (03.02.13) since the end of October.

A source close to the halftime show told EOnline.com: “Rehearsals typically go on for two to three months in advance” and explained that the 31-year-old singer was likely to have signed a deal to perform at the event last summer. Beyonce is not being paid to perform at the event but her production costs, which are estimated to be in the region of $500,000, will be covered and her show is being sponsored as part of her $50 million deal with her. The Halo hitmaker—who allegedly mimed The Star Spangled Banner in Washington DC immediately following the president’s swearing-in and speech because she only had one night to rehearse with the US Marine Corp Band before the performance—is reportedly feeling the pressure to wow next weekend despite believing she did nothing wrong.

A source close to the Diva singer said she was very disappointed and felt “a technicality which everybody does took away from the beauty of the moment. “She didn’t think there was anything wrong with it. Pavarotti did it! It was freezing out, and if she messed up just one note, that would have been the story. “Everybody uses these tracks, and the music director advised it. Any big outdoor live performance is almost always with some kind of track. “She did sing, but used a track.”

Despite previous beating, Rihanna back with Chris Brown

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—It’s official: R&B diva Rihanna says she is back together with Chris Brown, who is still on probation for assaulting her in 2009, saying “It’s different now.” “I decided it was more important for me to be happy,” Rihanna told Rolling Stone magazine in an interview published on Wednesday on its website. “I wasn’t going to let anybody’s opinion get in the way of that. Even if it’s a mistake, it’s my mistake,” she said of her renewed romance with singer Brown, 23, that has prompted consternation from fans and celebrity media because of their history.

“And being tormented for so many years, being angry and dark, I’d rather just live my truth and take the backlash,” said Rihanna, 24, adding, “I can handle it.” The couple’s reconciliation had been rumored for months, even before the pair unveiled a duet, “Nobody’s Business,” in November. That track was included on Rihanna’s latest album “Unapologetic.”

Brown pleaded guilty in 2009 to beating and punching Rihanna. He was sentenced to community service, anger management classes, given a restraining order and is still on probation.

The Barbadian singer told Oprah Winfrey in an emotional interview in August that she and Brown now had a “very close friendship,” and that she still loved him. “When you add up the pieces from the outside, it’s not the puzzle in the world.” Rihanna admitted to Rolling Stone, which hits newsstands this week with her gracing the cover above the headline, “Rihanna Crazy In Love.”

Spielberg seen winning director Oscar for “Lincoln”

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan—American filmmaker Steven Spielberg is clear favorite among the public to win the best director award for his film about President Abraham Lincoln at the Academy Awards this year, a Reuters poll showed on Wednesday. While the race to win best film at the 24 February ceremony was shaken up by “Argo” stealing the thunder of “Lincoln” at two award ceremonies last weekend, the best director statuette was deemed destined for one man.

Spielberg, 66, who has been nominated seven times for best director at the Oscars and won twice—for the World War Two dramas “Schindler’s List” in 1993 and “Saving Private Ryan” in 1998—was seen as far ahead in the all-male field of five. A Reuters Ipsos poll of 1,641 Americans found 41 percent thought Spielberg should win and 38 percent said he was most likely to win for his US Civil War-era drama in which British actor Daniel Day-Lewis plays Lincoln. Almost half of the respondents to the survey conducted Friday through Tuesday were unsure who should or was most likely to be voted best director. —Reuters

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“The Man From Primrose Lane”

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan—Actor Bradley Cooper has sealed to star in as the lead in new movie “The Man From Primrose Lane”.

The film is based on James Renner’s novel of the same name and is developed at Warner Bros Pictures with Cooper and Kevin McCormick serving as the producers, reported Aceshowbiz.
Austria and has been at Di fielder Kovacic was born in -senior squad. Attacking mid and has been called up to the ment for the Nerazzurri, but row to complete the transfer, expected in Milan tomor -modric' in Croatia and is fe -have officially signed teen age Dinamo Zagreb mid fielder Mateo Kovacic with a fee of about 11 million euros plus a further four million euros in performance-related bonuses. 1-year-old is nicknamed "the new Luka Modric" in Croatia and is expected in Milan tomor -build-up to the game but during the intense media either his father or uncle was examined by a doctor, the team said in a statement. — Xinhua MADRID, 31 Jan—FC Barcelona assistant coach, Jodi Roura accepted his side's 1-1 draw away to Real Ma -rua, who was standing in for Tito Vilanova, who is under going treatment for cancer, was not showing it. "A draw in the Bernabeu is a good result. It is a very good result to take back home," he said, adding that the match had not been better or less as he had expected. "I said before the game that the tie would have to be resolved in Barcelona, and that's the way it is. Maybe we lost the ball more than normal in the first half, but in the second half we had the game as controlled as you can do against Real Madrid," he said. Meanwhile goa -corer Cesc Fabrigas thought his side had improved as the game progressed. It was an intense game: maybe we were a bit off the ball in the opening minutes, and it was hard to get the ball, but then we were much more involved," said the midfielder. Cesc refused to be drawn on whether a 1-1 draw in the always difficult San -nuevo Bernabeu stadium was a good result. "We'll see if it's a good result, but its always hard in the Bernabeu and we have the return leg in front of our fans, although there is a month to go. We are playing well and having a spectacu -lar season, but anything can happen in this sort of game," he said. Cesc. Meanwhile Ma -on again failed to appear in front of the Press leaving his assis -tant Aitor Karanka to do the talking. Karanka said Real Madrid had worked hard and they were very pleased with their performance. He also highlighted the performance of goalkeeper Diego Lopez who was making his first appearance since returning to the club from Sevilla last -shoulder injury. New York, 31 Jan—New York Rangers captain Ryan Callahan will be side lined for up to two weeks with a partially dislocated shoul der suffered in Tuesday's game against the Philadelphia, the team said on Wednes -day. Callahan, who was in -jured during a fight in the third period of the Rangers' 2-1 win, underwent an MRI earlier on Wednesday and was examined by a doctor, the team said in a statement. According to the Rangers' timetable, Callahan is likely to miss anywhere between four and seven games over 10-14 day peri od. Callahan, who is tied for second in the NHL with 27 hits and sixth among league forwards with nine blocked shots, has two goals in six games this season for the Rangers (3-3).— Reuters San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh (R) and Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh are shown in this combo photo as they arrive for Media Day at the NFL's Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans, Louisiana on 29 Jan, 2013.— Reuters Super Bowl is Father vs Son as well as Brother v Brother Los Angeles, 31 Jan—Michael Phelps displayed ice-cool composure as a record-breaking Olympic swimmer but he was a bag of nerves on Wednesday when he played the "noisiest hole in golf" in the pro-am competition for this week's Phoenix Open. Phelps, who retired from swimming as the most decorated Olympian of all time after winning a record 22 medals including 18 gold, was paired with US Masters champion Bubba Watson when he stepped on to the 16th tee at the TPC Scottsdale. Huge popular with the fans, the infamous par-three is a 162-yard hole widely re garded as the loudest in golf and is completely surround ed by massive grandstands where thousands of raucous spectators are cramming in to savor the action."I was very nervous and my club was like shaking as I'm over the ball," Phelps told report ers about his tee shot on 16. "I felt my heart was going to jump out of my chest."I just pretty much had to try to swing the club as fast as I could." Phelps' tee shot landed on the green but rolled back off the front, sparking good-natured boos from rowdy spectators. Reuters Phelps a fish out of water at TPC Scottsdale’s ‘noisy’ hole New York, 31 Jan—New York Rangers winger Ryan Callahan (24) cele brates in front of Philadelphia Flyers left wing Ruslan Fedotenko (26) and goalie Ilya Bryzgalov (30) after he scored in the second period of their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York on 29 Jan, 2013.— Reuters Rangers captain Callahan out 10-14 days with shoulder injury New York, 31 Jan—New York Rangers captain Ryan Callahan will be side lined for up to two weeks with a partially dislocated shoul der suffered in Tuesday's game against the Philadelphia, the team said on Wednes-
**Chinese S&T workers urged to show devotion**

BEIJING, 31 Jan—Senior leader Liu Yunshan has urged science and technology (S&T) workers to show greater devotion to their professional research by learning from two Chinese experts.

Liu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks Wednesday while visiting experts Wu Liangyong and Shi Changxu, who have both won the country’s top science-and-technology award.

Wu, 90, an architect who won the State Top Scientific and Technological Award in 2012, earned his reputation for developing the science of human settlements in China and combining it with the country’s urbanization.

Shi, 93, won the same award in 2011 for his research on superalloy and new alloy steel, which has widely been used to produce turbine blades for Chinese fighter planes.

Liu praised the two S&T experts.

“All science and technology workers should learn from them and make contributions to building a well-off society and realizing the ‘Chinese dream’ with high ambitions, concrete steps and concentration on research work,” Liu said.

**Russia develops 10-year armament programme**

MOSCOW, 31 Jan—Russia has started to develop an armament programme that will last until 2025, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said on Wednesday. “We are starting work on the new state armament programme for 2016-2025,” Rogozin, head of the government’s military-industrial commission, said in his Twitter account.

The programme forecasts national security threats for Russia for a 30-year period. It also calculates the military-technical and economic environment for the next 10 years, according to the official.

Rogozin said that the military-industrial commission would work on such areas as equipping its soldiers with the newest weapons.

The commission would also focus on developing airforces, exploring space, and establishing a robotic combat system.

The government will allocate over 20 trillion rubles (668 billion US dollars) for the programme until 2020 and an extra three trillion rubles (100 billion dollars) for modernizing the defence sector, Rogozin said.—Xinhua

**France to turn off office and shop lights at night**

PARIS, 31 Jan—French shops and office buildings will have to turn off their lights at night to save energy and reduce light pollution, the French environment ministry said on Wednesday.

From 1 July, all non-residential buildings will have to switch off interior lights one hour after the last worker leaves the premises. All exterior and shop window lighting will have to be turned off by 1 am.

Local authorities will be able to allow exceptions for Christmas lighting and other local events.

The new law will save about two terawatt-hours of electricity a year — the equivalent of the annual consumption of 750,000 households, the ministry said.

Environment Minister Delphine Batho said it would also make France a pioneer in Europe in preventing light pollution, which disrupts ecosystems and people’s sleep patterns.

**Police uncover more violations in Brazil club fire**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Jan—Brazilian police on Wednesday found more breaches in a nightclub blaze that killed more than 200 people over the weekend, including unauthorized renovations that may have contributed to the fire.

Jader Marques, the lawyer of the nightclub owners, said his clients renovated the building without informing local authorities and, in particular, installing sound-proofing foam on the ceiling after neighbors complained about noise. The project was not approved by fire inspectors.

Sunday’s fire appears to have started when the band lit a flare that ignited the flammable foam boards, releasing toxic smoke that choked many of the victims.

That irregularity is among a long list of possible causes such as overcrowding, lack of an emergency exit and the malfunction of extinguishers.

Two band members and two club owners were detained on Monday on temporary arrest warrants. Police suspect the owners of attempting to tamper with evidence of their negligence, including security camera footage and the cash register, which could show how many people were inside the club at the time.

The fire at the Kiss nightclub in south Brazil’s college town of Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul state, killed 235 people, according to the latest report from the authorities.—Xinhua

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**14 face sentencing for violence against government**

NANNING, 31 Jan—Fourteen people pleaded guilty on Wednesday for encouraging mass violence against government buildings and intentionally damaging property in Qiong City in eastern China’s Jiangsu Province.

On the morning of 28 July, during a mass protest against a planned construction of a highly-polluting drainage project, Zhu Baosheng, Shen Yawei, Xu Jianjie and 11 others smashed office buildings and jumped on cars in the government compound, according to an open trial held in the local court.

Prosecutors said their violent behavior caused property losses, injured police officers and severely disrupted public order, and that they should be held responsible for their actions.

The 14 defendants plead guilty in court but argued on the length of their penalties.

The court will announce the verdict at a later date.

On the day of the crime, thousands of people in east China’s Jiangsu Province took to the streets to protest against the drainage project that would have discharged waste water from inland plant into the sea.

The local government canceled the project hours after the protest. —Xinhua

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Joint Bill Committee: Hluttaw should approve the word “corruption and bribery”

INRND does not expel French man

Mobile medical treatment for people

Outlook for subsequent two days

Byline: Maung Maung Myint Swe
Photo: Kyaw Thu Win