

First Union Government Golf Tournament held



President U Thein Sein waves at participants of the first Union Government Golf Tournament at City Golf Course and Yepya Golf Course.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—The first Union Government Golf Tournament took place at City Golf Course and Yepya Golf Course here yesterday and today.

Vice-President Dr Sai

Mauk Kham attended the opening of golf tournament yesterday morning, and enjoyed the first day's events. A total of 32 teams participated in the tournament.

Vice-President Dr Sai

Mauk Kham, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister U Soe Maung and chairman of the leading committee for organizing the golf

tournament Union Minister U Tint Hsan hit the flashing ball to open the tournament.

President U Thein Sein enjoyed the second-day events at City Golf Course and Yepya Golf Course this

morning.

In the evening, prize presentation was held at City Golf Course and Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented prizes to winners.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, deputy ministers, members of the committee for organizing golf tournament and golfers from the participating teams.

Chairman of the leading committee for organizing golf tournament Union Minister U Tint Hsan explained the purposes of

the tournament. Next, on behalf of President U Thein Sein, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented the trophy to Defence Ministry team which stood first both in team events (handicap) & (scratch).

Next, patrons and chairman of golf tournament organizing committee, and officials awarded the winners. Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham posed for a documentary photo together with prize winners, followed by a dinner.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents trophy to Defence Ministry team that stood first in scratch event of the first Union Government Golf Tournament.—MNA

PRESS RELEASE

Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Paris Club Conclude Agreement on Debt Relief of US\$ 5925 Million

Representatives of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Paris Club creditor countries met on 25th January 2013 and agreed to a comprehensive treatment of Myanmar's public external debt. The agreement recommended that the creditors "deliver an exceptional treatment providing a cancellation of 50% of the total of arrears due to Paris Club creditors in nominal terms in two phases. The remaining amounts will be rescheduled over 15 years, including a 7-year grace period".

Following the agreement, Norway has granted an exceptional full outright cancellation on all of its claims amounting to \$ 534 million while Japan is committing a substantial cancellation of its arrears worth over \$ 3 billion. This results in a very favorable debt relief of nearly \$ 6 billion or over 60% of total debt immediately in effect after the meetings in Paris. Meanwhile, other bilateral donors are expected to follow suit and more debt cancellation is coming on the way in the next six months.

During the meeting, Paris Club members took note of the strong commitment the Government of Myanmar (GOM) has shown in implementing economic reforms aimed at maintaining macroeconomic stability, while creating the institutions necessary to manage a rapidly changing economy and achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The Government of Myanmar's

economic reform program is supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with a Staff Monitored Program (SMP) currently providing a framework for cooperation between the GOM.

Paris Club members welcomed the GOM's commitment to continue their cooperation with the IMF at the end of the present SMP. The creditors fully recognized the commitment to reform and cooperation already shown by GOM; therefore, the Paris Club brought the case of Myanmar to its creditors' meeting within a short period of time and also determined that the conditionality of SMP was necessary only for one year. Paris Club members also welcomed the comprehensive arrears resolutions that the GOM has committed to implement with all its external creditors.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue His Excellency U Win Shein expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to all the members of the Paris Club, describing how this agreement heralded the beginning of an era of new relationships in which Myanmar is committed to fully cooperate with all the members of the Paris Club. He pledged that the GOM will use the resources made available by the debt relief. In schools, hospitals and poverty reduction programs, while we will also step up a vigorous reform process under the Framework of Economic and Social Reforms.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue Press Release on Myanmar's debts owed to ADB

Myanmar had taken out loans from Asian Development Bank (ADB) to fund State-building projects. The government now is taking steps to settle the remaining debt in coordination with ADB and Japan International Cooperation Bank. Myanmar has taken out USD 512 million from Japan International Cooperation Bank on 17 January, 2013 and paid back the ADB. Myanmar could then finally settle the debt by paying off the bridge loan to JICB the

same day it obtained a loan of 512 million USD, the largest amount it received in 30 years from ADB.

As Myanmar could clear the debt, it would be recognized as a responsible nation in international community. In addition, it would have access to more low-interest-rate development loan programmes. It is learnt that ADB will resume social and economic assistance to help Myanmar build strong foundation for her poverty alleviation scheme and reform process.

LOCAL NEWS

Japanese sports gear for Myanmar Judokas



YANGON, 27 Jan — Under the Cultural Grassroots Project of the Japanese government, a signing ceremony for grant contract between Myanmar Judo Federation of the Ministry of Sports and the Embassy of

Japan in Myanmar took place at Yankin Hall of Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

First, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Numata Mikio explained purpose of donation.

Next, the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar and President of Myanmar Judo Federation U Tun Tun signed an agreement on donating sports gear worth US\$ 123,456.

Then the MJF President accepted cash donation presented by the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar and presented a certificate of honour to him. — Kyemon

YTU students urged to make great strides in learning



NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — In meeting with students of Yangon Technological University on 25 January, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo called for more efforts in learning till they completed

their studies so that they become internationally-recognized graduates. He said that plans were underway to upgrade universities as research-driven ones in future.

He stressed the need to

Dy Education Minister visits under-construction universities, college, schools

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — Deputy Minister for Education Dr Ba Shwe inspected progress in construction three three-storey buildings for Magway University on 20 January.

The Deputy Minister held talks with rector, professors, heads of departments and faculty members on academic matters which are being

implemented.

The Deputy Minister oversaw progress in three three-storey buildings for Pyay University and construction and academic matters of Taungup College the following day.

From 15 to 18 January, the deputy minister looked into construction of buildings for basic education schools in Yanbye Township. — MNA

Man dies in apparent suicide bid

YANGON, 27 Jan — A man who apparently committed suicide by hanging himself died at Htawauk Village, four-mile north-west of Pyawbwegyi Police Station in Dala Township on 19 January. According to the information given by the

Htawauk Village administrator and party that U Tin Myint, 50, of the village was found dead hanging himself in his house, Pyawbwegyi Police Station opened a file and investigation into the suicide case is underway.

Kyemon

use teaching aid, laboratory apparatuses and e-library effectively and efficiently.

Then the Union Minister inspected learning of students and labs. — MNA

More traffic lights accident-prone Maha Bandoolla Bridge



YANGON, 27 Jan — So far, installation of 15 traffic lights to serve as warning signs for vehicles running on the Maha Bandoolla bridge where road accidents are frequent have been carried out. The bridge links Botahtaung Township and



Timber shop fire in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 27 Jan — A fire broke out at a timber shop on Pyidawtha street in ward (nga/kha) of Thingangyun Township, here, at about 3.15 am yesterday.

The timber shop caught fire due to the embers from the fireplace.

A total 43 fire engines accompanied by 244 auxiliary fire brigade members and 168 fire crews, totaling 412 rushed there and managed to bring the fire under control in cooperation with ward dwellers at about 4 am.

Kyemon

Rehabilitation works for fire victims in Dimawhso Township

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo comforted fire victims and inspected progress of 61 makeshift shelters of 71 being built by Tatmadawmen in cooperation with peace group members at Dawhsawphya Village in Dimawhso Township on 23 January.

Next, the state chief minister accepted cash and kind donated by wellwishers, peace group, social and religious associations

and handed over them to fire victims at the village monastery.

After meeting with local people at the monastery, the state chief minister oversaw land preparation at the chosen site for resettlement of fire victims.

Up to date, wellwishers donated K 815,000 and relief supplies including construction materials worth K 29,483,750 for fire victims.

MNA

Regional development tasks in Sagaing Region inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — On his inspection tour of Kawlin Township People's Hospital on 21 January, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye inspected chosen site for construction of new patient ward, operation theatre and medical store and presented cash donation for trust funds of the hospital.

Next, the region chief minister oversaw progress in tarmacking of Kawlin-Myayne road, progress of two-storey post-primary school in Thamanta

Village where he presented notebooks, sports gear and publications and upgrading of road and repair of bridges along Shwebo-Myitkyina road.

On his arrival at newly-built two-storey basic education middle school (branch) at Utonbin Village, the chief minister met with local people and presented stationery, sports gear and publications for the school. He also visited worksite of Koebin creek bridge construction in Shwebo Township.

MNA

MTU students donate blood

MANDALAY 27 Jan — The ninth collective blood donation ceremony of a philanthropic association

had frequently happened to vehicles driving along the downward slop of the bridge out of gear.

The committee installed the 15 traffic lights in order to reduce traffic accidents, he added. — Kyemon

of the Technological University (Mandalay) under the Ministry of Science and Technology Mandalay and Red Cross Society was held at the three-storey main building of the university on 24 January.

Students donated blood collectively and 370 bags of blood were received.

Kyemon

WORLD

Chavez overcomes respiratory infection

SANTIAGO, 27 Jan—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has overcome a respiratory infection and is under further treatment, a government minister said on Saturday. “The respiratory infection has been overcome, though there is still some degree of breathing difficulty that is being treated appropriately,” Information Minister Ernesto Villegas told reporters in Chile, where Latin American and European leaders are

gathering for a two-day summit. Chavez was said to be in his “best moment” since his operation last December, Vice President Nicolas Maduro said on Saturday. “Vice President (Nicolas) Maduro has estimated that Chavez could come back in weeks, but we do not want to put a time frame on the president’s recovery,” Villegas added.

“Forty-five days after carrying out a complex surgical intervention

for the removal of a malignant lesion in the pelvis, with severe, acute complications, the patient’s general evolution is favorable,” Villegas said, reading a statement on the health of Chavez. Chavez, who was diagnosed with cancer in late 2011, has been hospitalized since his fourth operation on 11 Dec, 2012. After the surgery, he suffered respiratory failure caused by a lung infection.

Xinhua



Venezuelan President
Hugo Chavez.

Thousands march against gun violence in Washington

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan—Thousands of marchers rallied in Washington in favour of gun control on Saturday, including residents of Newtown, Connecticut, where a mass elementary school shooting reignited the US gun violence debate.

Speakers—including Education Secretary Arne Duncan, lawmakers and actors—urged the protesters carrying such signs as “What Would Jesus Pack?” to lobby Congress and state legislators to back gun control measures.

Duncan, who said one student had died from guns every two weeks while he was chief executive of Chicago’s public schools, denied that gun control

responsibility. This is about gun safety. This is about fewer dead Americans, fewer dead children, fewer children living in fear,” Duncan said.

Organizers backed President Barack Obama’s call for a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines and background checks for all gun sales. They also urged safety training for all buyers of firearms.

Marchers stretched for several blocks along Constitution Avenue as they approached the rally site in the shadow of the Washington Monument.

Participants included politicians from Maryland and the District of



People hold signs memorializing shooting death victims as they participate in the March on Washington for Gun Control on the National Mall in Washington, on 26 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

was about limiting firearm rights guaranteed by the US Constitution. Murders in that city last year rose to the highest level since 2008, according to police.

“This is about gun

Columbia, including Washington Mayor Vincent Gray, as well as actress Kathleen Turner and Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children’s Defence Fund.—Reuters

Iraqi parliament passes law to bar PM from his 3rd term

BAGHDAD, 27 Jan—The Iraqi parliament on Saturday passed a law that would bar Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki from a third term, amid anger of some lawmakers who argued that the draft law was unconstitutional. A total of 171 lawmakers out of 242 attended on Saturday’s session which voted in the draft that limits the president, prime minister and parliament speaker to two terms. The move could prevent Maliki from another four-year term in his office, but Maliki’s allies furiously rejected the move and insisted that the law was illegal, saying that they would go to the federal court to bring it down. The lawmakers of Maliki’s State of Law bloc walked out of the parliament session, protesting against

the vote for the draft law. “This law will not stand long and we will go to the courts,” Khalid al-Asadi, a lawmaker, told reporters at a Press conference at the parliament.

Observers said that even if Maliki’s allies will manage to abolish the law, the move is still seen as mounting pressures against Maliki who is already facing challenges of month-long protests by the Sunni Arabs. Earlier, the Sunni-backed parliamentary Iraqia bloc announced that it has boycott the upcoming parliament sessions except for those sessions leading to a motion of no confidence against the government and the discussion of decisions and laws that meet the demands of the protesters.

Xinhua

Syrian army advances in Idlib province: military source

DAMASCUS, 27 Jan—A Syrian military source said on Saturday that army units have eliminated many armed militiamen in the country’s northwestern province of Idlib, a main hub of armed insurgency in Syria’s 22-month deadly conflict, according to state-run SANA news agency. The clashes have taken place in the towns of Binnish, Tamsirin and Sarmin, the unnamed source said, adding that the army’s operations were “qualitative” and led to the destroying of sophisticated sniper rifles and rockets.

Meanwhile, local media reports said that clashes between the rebels and government forces at the central prison of Idlib have continued on Saturday, adding that more than 80 armed rebels were killed in the fighting that has been dragging on since Friday morning. Opposition activists, however, said the rebels had managed to storm the prison and free more than 300 detainees.

Xinhua

Malian-French forces recapture Mali’s biggest northern town

BAMAKO, 27 Jan—The Malian and French forces on Saturday said they have recaptured Gao, the biggest northern town, after a series of counter-offensives against rebels in the past two weeks. The biggest ever gain on the ground was announced by allied forces after an overnight bombing by French warplanes on

French military.

Reinforcements were reported to consolidate the control of Gao, including 350 Malian soldiers. Chadian and Nigerien troops, who are known for experience in desert warfare, would reach Gao “very soon,” the same source said. The Malian and French troops took control of Wabaria bridge and the



The photo released by French Army Communications Audiovisual office (ECPAD) on 26 Jan, 2013 shows Chadian soldiers waiting to board a French Hercule military aircraft in N’Djamena, Chad, on 24 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA

rebel positions and sporadic street fighting. Dozens of rebels were killed in the battle over the town. Mayor of Gao Sadou Diallo would arrive in the town from the Malian capital Bamako in the day, according to the

Gao international airport before seizing the town. Early this week, the Malian forces and their French allies began the second phase of their operation to recapture the two regional capitals of Timbuktu and

30 killed, over 300 injured in clashes after death sentence over Egypt’s Port Said massacre

CAIRO, 27 Jan—Up to 30 people were killed and over 300 others injured in clashes that erupted Saturday outside Port Said prison between security forces and family members

of 21 convicts who were sentenced to death over the Port Said massacre, state TV reported. “The Ministry of Health sent air ambulances to Port Said to move the seriously wounded people

to hospitals in Cairo,” the ministry spokesman Ahmed Omar told Xinhua.

After the Port Said Criminal Court on Saturday ordered death sentence for 21 defendants over the massacre, which killed more than 70 in February last year, families of the convicts violently attempted to break into the prison where they are detained.

The prison area was engulfed by clouds of smoke as furious families of the convicts set fire to trees and gardens attached to the prison and nearby police

station. Security forces responded by firing tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Seventy-three defendants, including nine top security officials, were arrested after tragic riots at Port Said Stadium following a soccer match between Port Said’s al-Masry and Cairo’s al-Ahly teams. The Egyptian interior ministry, for its part, on Saturday asked people in a statement to keep away from the areas of violent clashes, stressing that it would not give up its duty of protecting peoples’ lives and the state premises.

Xinhua



Thugs are seen at Al-Horreya French school near Tahrir square in Cairo, Egypt, on 26 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Andean glaciers melting at “unprecedented” rates

LIMA, 27 Jan—Climate change has shrunk Andean glaciers between 30 and 50 percent since the 1970s and could melt many of them away altogether in coming years, according to a study published on Tuesday in the journal *The Cryosphere*.

Andean glaciers, a vital source of fresh water for tens of millions of South Americans, are retreating at their fastest rates in more than 300 years, according to the most comprehensive review of Andean ice loss so far.

The study included data on about half of all Andean glaciers in South America, and blamed the ice loss on an average temperature spike of 0.7 degree Celsius (1.26 degrees Fahrenheit) over the past 70 years.

“Glacier retreat in the tropical Andes over the last three decades is unprecedented,” said Antoine Rabatel, the lead author of the study and a scientist with the Laboratory for Glaciology and Environmental Geophysics in Grenoble, France.

The researchers also warned that future warming could totally wipe out the smaller glaciers found at lower altitudes that store and release fresh water for downstream communities.

“This is a serious concern because a large proportion of the population lives in arid regions to the west of the Andes,” said Rabatel.

The Chacaltaya glacier in the Bolivian Andes, once a ski resort, has already disappeared completely, according to some scientists.

Reuters

Japan wants Nissan-NEC venture to buy Sony battery operations



Sony's lithium-ion battery for its Vaio laptops is seen during a photo opportunity at its showroom in Tokyo on 28 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

Tokyo, 27 Jan—A Japanese state-backed fund wants a Nissan Motor Co Ltd and NEC Corp joint venture to buy Sony Corp's lithium-ion battery unit to prevent rivals in China and Taiwan from

getting its technology as the Tokyo TV maker looks to offload non-core businesses, the *Daily Yomiuri* said.

The Bravia TV maker's shares rose as much as 6.9 percent in Tokyo after the re-

port. The company declined to comment.

Sony, which last year sold its chemical business to the government fund, Innovation Network Corp of Japan (INCJ), for \$700 million, is trying to revive the fortunes of its consumer electronics business by focusing on cameras, gaming and mobile devices.

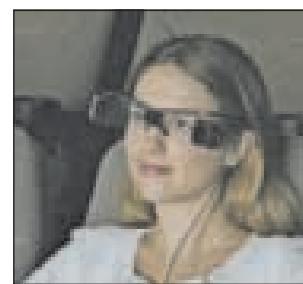
Sony's CEO, Kazuo Hirai, speaking at the CES consumer electronics show in Las Vegas this month, said any unit not contributing to those core divisions or helping to end losses in televisions could be sold. Under the company's accounting rules, asset sales are booked as operating profit.

The INCJ has offered to invest in any firm created by merging Sony's battery division with the Nissan-NEC venture, the *Yomiuri* said. It is also looking for other potential Japanese buyers, the

MUMBAI, 27 Jan—A “privacy visor” that uses infra-red light to interfere with facial recognition technology has been developed in Japan for people worried about being spotted by computers.

The goggles are useful for anyone who wants to avoid their identity being detected by hidden cameras, the inventors say.

“Measures for preventing the invasion of privacy caused by photographs taken in secret are now required,” said Isao Echizen of Tokyo's National Institute of Informatics.



The goggles, which are made of clear plastic, have lines of lights that emit near infra-red rays. Echizen says this is enough to throw software off the scent, rendering a face invisible to a computer.

However, the large plas-

tic structures, complete with glowing lights and a sizeable power pack, may make the wearer somewhat conspicuous to the naked eye.

But, says Echizen, he believes they are an improvement on previous attempts at privacy shields or the less innovative sunglasses and baseball hat approach that created a barrier between people by obscuring their faces. Last year, the European Union ordered Facebook to remove a facial recognition service after complaints from users about data protection.—PTI

Google doodles 64th Republic Day India

NEW DELHI, 27 Jan—Google has doodled a tiger on the India home page as a mark of respect on the occasion of the country's 64th Republic Day. The Republic Day in India is celebrated as the day India's own constitution came into effect on 26th January 1950.

While India gained independence from the British on 15th August 1947, it continued to be governed by the Government of India Act 1935, which was a relic of the British era. Thus, the Republic Day, is seen as the

day India broke all ties from the British-empire, especially since it was amongst the Commonwealth countries that refused to recognise the British Queen as their head of state after independence. Other countries like Australia and Canada, continue to have the British Monarch as their head of state till date.

Republic Day India commemorates the date that the Constitution Of India was enacted and became the document that governed the country.—PTI



China's Lenovo sees RIM as M&A option, CFO says

TORONTO, 27 Jan—A senior Lenovo executive said on Thursday that the Chinese computer maker may consider Research in Motion as a takeover target, sending the BlackBerry maker's shares up 2 percent just a week before it launches a make-or-break line of redesigned smartphones.

But Lenovo, which vaulted into the personal computer market with its 2005 purchase of IBM's PC division, would face formi-

dable hurdles if it tried to buy a company that Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper once described as a national “crown jewel.” The Chinese company would also encounter tough regulatory scrutiny in Washington, cybersecurity experts say.

Lenovo, on track to become the world's largest PC maker, has held talks with RIM and its bankers about various combinations or strategic ventures, its chief financial officer, Wong Wai

Ming, said on Thursday.

“We are looking at all opportunities — RIM and many others,” Wong told Bloomberg in an interview at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. “We'll have no hesitation if the right opportunity comes along.”

A spokesman for Lenovo said Wong was asked about RIM by the Bloomberg journalist and that Wong was speaking broadly about Lenovo's M&A strategy.

RIM, once a pioneer in the smartphone industry, has struggled in recent years as its aging line-up of devices have ceded market share to Apple Inc's iPhone and devices based on Google Inc's Android operating system.

Reuters

China's Alibaba and partners to invest \$16 billion in logistics network

SHANGHAI, 27 Jan—Alibaba Group, which runs China's largest e-commerce platforms, and its partners will spend 100 billion yuan (\$16.08 billion) in the first phase of investment to build a logistics network, a local newspaper reported

on Friday.

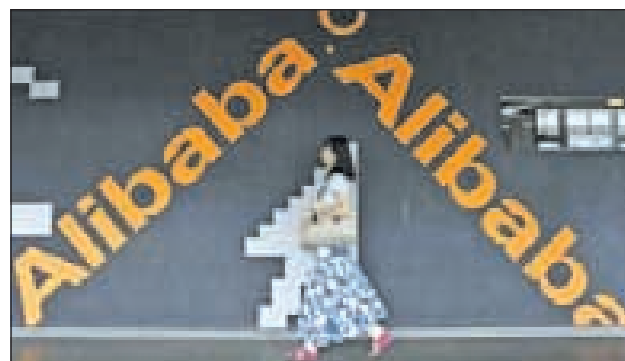
The unit will be chaired by Jack Ma, founder and chairman of Alibaba Group, and over the next 8-10 years aims to complete the network that would allow the delivery of products across China within 24

hours, *Beijing News* said.

Once complete, the network will be able to support annual online sales of 10 trillion yuan, it said. Alibaba will lead the group of investors, which will include private equity firms, express companies and a bank, the paper said.

Alibaba Group said it is spearheading the project in cooperation with industry partners.

“This is consistent with what we've said in the past that logistics is a key industry bottleneck for e-commerce growth in China and that everyone involved in this sector needs to work together to drive rapid development,” an Alibaba spokeswoman said in an email to Reuters.—Reuters



An employee walks past a wall painted with the logo of Alibaba (China) Technology Co Ltd at its headquarters office on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 21 May, 2012.—REUTERS



A logo of the BlackBerry maker's Research in Motion is seen on a building at the RIM Technology Park in Waterloo on 18 April, 2012.

REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Samsung Electronics sold 63 million smartphones in fourth quarter: report

SEOUL, 27 Jan— Samsung Electronics Co, the world's top handset maker, sold 63 million smartphones in the fourth quarter and commanded a 29 percent share of the global smartphone market, a report by research firm Strategy Analytics showed on Friday.

In 2012, Samsung sold 213 million smartphones with a 30 percent market share, followed by Apple Inc, which sold 135.8 million iPhones with a 19 percent market share, the report said.—Reuters



Models hold a Samsung 'Galaxy S3 mini' (R) phone and a 'Galaxy S3' phone during the mini's world premiere in Frankfurt on 11 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

FDA approves three type 2 diabetes pills from Takeda

NEW YORK, 27 Jan— US health regulators approved Takeda Pharmaceutical Co's alogliptin to treat type 2 diabetes as a standalone drug and in two other formulations in combination pills with older diabetes medicines.

The US Food and Drug Administration announced the three approvals simultaneously on Friday.

Alogliptin by itself will be sold under the brand name Nesina, the agency said. The drug in combination with metformin—one of the most common initial treatments for the disease—will be sold

as Kazano, and alogliptin along with pioglitazone — the chemical name for Takeda's Actos — will be sold as Oseni, the FDA said.

Type 2 diabetes is a growing health crisis that can lead to numerous serious complications, such as heart disease, circulatory problems and amputations, kidney damage, and blindness. It affects about 24 million Americans and accounts for more than 90 percent of diabetes cases diagnosed in the United States, the FDA said. Alogliptin, which lowers blood sugar levels

by stimulating the release of insulin after a meal, was shown to be safe and effective in 14 clinical trials involving about 8,500 patients with type 2 diabetes.

Due to caution about the heart safety of diabetes drugs after GlaxoSmithKline's Avandia was shown to cause heart problems, the FDA is requiring five postmarketing studies for Nesina, including a cardiovascular outcomes trial to assure that the drug does not increase the risk of heart attacks or strokes. Another study to be conducted once the

drug is being used by the public will monitor for liver abnormalities and serious cases of pancreatitis.

Kazano's label will include a boxed warning for lactic acidosis, a build-up of lactic acid in the bloodstream associated with metformin use, the agency said.

The Oseni label will have a boxed warning for heart failure associated with pioglitazone use. Pioglitazone belongs to the same class of diabetes drugs as Avandia, known as thiazolidinedione, or TZDs.

Reuters

EU seals pact with firms in bid to fill 700,000 tech jobs

BRUSSELS, 27 Jan— The European Commission unveiled a deal on Friday with Hewlett-Packard, Telefonica and eight other telecoms and technology firms aimed at filling up to 700,000 high tech job vacancies.

Calling it a grand coalition, EU Telecoms Commissioner Neelie Kroes said the companies pledged to offer training, free online university courses or provide start-up funding.

The European Commission is seeking to spur economic growth, boost

competitiveness and tackle a record jobless total of 26.1 million in the 27-country European Union, or 10.7 percent of the working population.

Hightech vacancies have proven hard to fill because jobseekers either do not have the right qualifications, have qualifications not recognized throughout the European Union or do not speak English. "The digital skills gap is growing, like our unemployment queues," Kroes, who was in Davos for the World Economic Forum, said in a statement on Friday. "We need joint action between governments and companies to bridge that gap."

Other companies which signed up to the pact included German business software group SAP, US networking equipment maker Cisco Systems, world No 2 staffing agency Randstad and Italian oil group Eni.

Norwegian telecoms provider Telenor, Finnish mobile phone maker Nokia, Alcatel-Lucent and ARM also offered pledges to Kroes.

"The ICT (information and communications technology) sector is the new backbone of Europe's economy, and together we can prevent a lost generation and an uncompetitive Europe," Kroes said in a statement.—Reuters

China economy to underpin global demand in 2013: CIC



The Bund on the banks of the Huangpu River is pictured on a hazy day in Shanghai, on 8 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

BEIJING, 27 Jan— China's economy could grow at more than 8 percent in 2013, giving some underpinning to global economic activity that is set for a mild, tortuous recovery this year, the head of China's sovereign wealth fund said on Saturday.

"China's economic growth could be over 8 percent this year. China's economy supports a very large part of global demand," Lou Jiwei, chairman of the China Investment Corp (CIC) CIC.UL, told a forum.

China's economy expanded an annual rate of 7.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012, snapping seven consecutive quarters of weaker growth, as a raft of pro-growth policies kicked in.

The Q4 bounce helped lift full year growth in the world's second biggest economy to 7.8 percent which, though China's slowest pace for 13 years, generated roughly a third of global economic growth of

3.2 percent - itself the worst since the 2009 financial crisis and just barely above the 3 percent mark economists say signals a worldwide recession.

Lou said that even if China's growth did accelerate further in 2013, increased financial market volatility caused by Europe's debt crisis and concerns about the US fiscal position, left the world economy set for a "mild, tortuous and slow recovery" at best.

Problems in debt-constrained countries, though, meant opportunities for cash-rich China, Lou said, adding that the government should encourage local firms to step up their efforts to expand and invest abroad.

"There are big opportunities for countries with cash on their hands, especially for China. We should grasp the opportunities and give firms more freedom in investing overseas," he said.

Reuters

Davos strives to make climate talk more than hot air

DAVOS, 27 Jan— Climate change is back on the global agenda, with debate in the corridors at Davos given fresh impetus by US President Barack Obama and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon both highlighting it as top priority this week.

Yet business leaders are still struggling to find the economic incentives to change current practices.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has not held back in its own assessment of the dangers, with former Mexican president Felipe Calderon warning of "a climate crisis with potentially devastating impacts on the global economy".

Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, summed it up for any Davos doubters: "Unless we take action on climate change, future generations will be roasted, toasted, fried and grilled."

There is a disconnect, however, between increasing evidence of extreme weather - from Superstorm Sandy in the United States in October to record heat in Australia

this month—and the limited response from politicians and businesses.

In some cases the clash is stark, as highlighted on Friday when Greenpeace activists shut down a Shell gas station near the WEF meeting in protest at oil drilling in the Arctic that is made easier by a warmer world.

Many companies tout the opportunities presented by a shift to a low-carbon economy, yet the reality is that the continuing economic crisis has discouraged businesses and governments from developing a truly long-term view.

The rapid growth in shale gas — a greener alternative to coal when it is burned, although not when it leaks into the atmosphere — has also made renewables comparatively less attractive, adding to the challenge.

The result is that while global investment in renewables is rising, the world still needs to spend \$700 billion each year to curb its addiction to fossil fuels, according to a study issued by the WEF this week.

"There is a clear lack of urgency in the climate debate," said Greenpeace Executive Director Kumi Naidoo. "Big business is holding us back."

Business, in turn, complains that the failure of governments to provide a clear regulatory framework limits its ability to plan for the future.

After past failures, governments aim to work out a new UN plan to address climate change in 2015 but

it will only enter into force from 2020.

"Climate change is a long-term issue and it is not clear how it is going to play out or what the returns are going to be," said PricewaterhouseCoopers International Chairman Dennis Nally.

"So CEOs have to measure how this investment stacks up vis a vis other opportunities that can generate clearer returns."

Reuters



Greenpeace protesters shut down a Shell petrol station during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos-Wolfgang on 25 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

WORLD

5.0-magnitude quake hits southern Sumatra, Indonesia

HONG KONG, 27 Jan—An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted southern Sumatra, Indonesia, at 04:05:42 GMT on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 58.10 km, was initially determined to be at 5.1704 degrees south latitude and 102.9402 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

India's left-wing Naxalite rebels abduct seven labourers in eastern state

NEW DELHI, 27 Jan—India's left-wing Naxalite rebels have abducted at least eight people from a remote village in the eastern state of Bihar late last night, a senior police official said Sunday.

"All the abducted people were labourers working in a road bridge construction project in Badaldiah



President of Chile Sebastian Pinera (C) meets with Serbia's President, Tomislav Nikolic (2nd R) in Santiago, capital of Chile, on 25 Jan, 2013. The meeting was held as part of the first summit of Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU).

XINHUA

village in the state's Jamui district. A group of armed Naxalites swooped on the village and took them away at gunpoint," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

A massive manhunt has been launched to rescue the labourers, he added.

Naxalites are active in at least seven Indian states

and they often abduct government officials and those engaged in developmental projects and trade them to free their colleagues lodged in jails.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has described Naxalism as the country's biggest internal security threat.

Xinhua



People bundled up against the cold walk in New York's mid-town Manhattan, on 25 Jan, 2013, as cold continues to grip the northeast US. —XINHUA

760 mln USD needed for Mali's anti-rebel operations

ADDIS ABABA, 27 Jan—Officials of the African Union (AU) expect 760 million US dollars in support for Mali's military operations against rebels.

The funding includes 460 million dollars the International Mission of Support in Mali (MISMA) to liberate the north of the West African country and 300 million dollars for the restructuring of the national army.

The estimation was made by delegates attending the preparatory meetings for the 20th African Union summit to be opened on Sunday in the Ethiopian capital.

This sum will be put on the table at the donors' conference

scheduled for Tuesday in Addis Ababa, following the 20th AU summit on Sunday and Monday, when the crisis in Mali would take the centre stage.

The MISMA force has just started deploying the 3,300 troops promised by member states of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS), a regional entity including Mali.

Chad, a non-ECOWAS country, has also committed to send 2,000 soldiers. The estimated 460 millions dollars for MISMA will cover the spending for the Chadian troops, director of the AU peace and security department, Wane el Ghasim, told Xinhua.—Xinhua

Bahrain's national dialogue to start soon without preconditions

MANAMA, 27 Jan—The Bahraini government on Saturday announced for the first time since last year a timeframe for the much awaited national dialogue between the government, and political societies and civil society organizations.

"Everything banks on the extent of readiness of the parties involved," Samira Rajab, a spokesperson of the government said in a statement, adding that the

second round of talks will be held "either by end of this month or early February at the most."

She pointed out that there will be "no preset conditions" by any side and only consensual visions will be taken into consideration and processed through constitutional institutions.

Rajab, who is also the State Minister for Information Affairs, said that the government's keenness to

ensure the success of the dialogue will put an end to the "unusual situation" in Bahrain.

The spokesperson also hinted that the process will be "purely internal" without any foreign intervention of influence.

The announcement was welcomed by Britain, the United States, Germany and several other states that viewed it as a step forward.

Last week, UN Secre-

tary-General Ban Ki-moon said that the initiative is an "important first step toward reforms that ensure justice and human rights for all Bahrainis."

Political societies in Bahrain, including the largest opposition group Al Wefaq National Islamic Society, have all welcomed the second round of talks.

"The opposition assures its seriousness to engage in a genuine process of dialogue and political negotiation that responds to the aspirations of freedom, dignity and equality," Al Wefaq said in a statement.

Xinhua

5.0-magnitude quake hits Philippine Islands region

HONG KONG, 27 Jan—An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted Philippine Islands region at 17:31:13 GMT on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 119.70 km, was initially determined to be at 5.4858 degrees north latitude and 127.0480 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

Yemen tightens security ahead of UN delegation visit

SANAA, 27 Jan—Yemeni Interior Ministry said on Saturday that it has tightened security in the streets of the capital Sanaa as a precautionary measure ahead of a UN delegation's visit due on Sunday.

In a statement on its website, the ministry said it bans the carrying of licensed arms and the circulation of motorcycles in Sanaa from Saturday evening to Monday.

Meanwhile, reinforcements to police patrols and security checkups have been witnessed in major streets of Sanaa.

Security officials said

that a group of US Marines arrived in Sanaa on Saturday to take part in securing the Sanaa airport and the residence of the arriving diplomats in the hotels.

The security measures came one day ahead of the arrival of a UN Security Council delegation and other foreign diplomats.

Government officials said the UN delegation will meet President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and his interim government to push Yemeni rival forces for holding a stalled national dialogue as per a UN-backed power transfer deal that eased former President

Ali Abdullah Saleh from power last year following a yearlong deadly street protests.

Abdullatif al-Zayani, the head of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that brokered the power transfer deal, arrived in Sanaa on Saturday to participate in Sunday's meeting, Saba said.

The national dialogue scheduled to be launched in mid-November 2012 in line with the deal has been delayed as the government's negotiations with pro-secession southern leaders ran into trouble

Xinhua

A Yemeni soldier checks a vehicle on a street in Sanaa, Yemen, on 26 Jan, 2013. Yemeni Interior Ministry said on Saturday that it has tightened security in the streets of the capital Sanaa as a precautionary measure ahead of a UN delegation's visit due on Sunday.

XINHUA



Foggy weather to afflict central, eastern China

BEIJING, 27 Jan—China issued a blue-coded alert on Sunday as foggy weather forecast for the coming two days will cut visibility and worsen air pollution in some central and eastern Chinese cities.

The alert represents the least serious level, after red, orange and yellow in China's four-tier colour-coded weather warning system.

The National Meteorological Centre (NMC) said visibility in provinces including Hebei, Henan, Shandong, Jiangsu, Anhui and Zhejiang will be cut to less than 1,000 metres on Sunday. In some cities, where fog will be thicker, visibility will fall below 200 metres.

The NMC warned of a decline in air quality and

advised residents in these regions to stay indoors as much as possible or take precautions.

Meanwhile, a strong cold front will cause snowfall and temperature drops in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, with some parts experiencing blizzards and temperatures plunging more than 10 degrees Celsius, it forecast.—Xinhua



A dancer participates in the 2013 Carnival Inauguration Parade on the 18 July Avenue in Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, on 25 Jan, 2013. Various artists participate in the carnival, which attracts more than 100,000 people each year in the 18 July Avenue, according to the local Press. —XINHUA

NATIONAL

MPs, Health Ministry, social-class organizations, social organizations need to organize education programme wider against rabies

Questions of two Amyotha Hluttaw representatives raised at the fourth day of the sixth regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw held on 21 January and answers of Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin are as follows:-

Question as to annual rabies cases in Yangon Region and States, and is rabies vaccine produced by BPI enough or not in case of the bite of an infected dog?

Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency (6)

I will ask the question with the permission of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker. The aim of the question is that there was the Anti-rabies Day designated by the United Nations which falls on a day between the fourth and fifth Hluttaw regular sessions. But, the Anti-rabies Day could not be remarked. I happened to attend a workshop on continuing medical process programme and read a perspective on “be careful of rabies” appeared on the 15-1-2-13 issue of Myanmar Alinn Daily. According to the perspective, I had learnt that there were about 55,000 deaths globally through the bite of infected dogs which carry rabies viruses. The factors inspired me to ask question were that a wife of a physician died from the bite of an infected dog when he was in service in Africa, a child was mauled and eaten up by dogs in upper Myanmar when third Hluttaw regular session was held, a rabies patient I had witnessed in the time of my career, a warning letter written by a literati disclosed that his son who studied in Thailand returned to Pale Myothit, Yangon Region on school holidays. The student was mauled by a dog. As the dog happened to be an infected one, the student later died of rabies transmitted through the bite of the infected dog. Another factor inspired me to ask question was an educational article about rabies written by Dr U Khin Shwe in the newspaper. In the past, my clinic saw two or three dog-bite patients who were referred to the Township Health Centre. The Township Medical Officer asked in a hurry the victims to purchase Anti-rabies vaccines at the BPI. The Anti-rabies vaccines then were not expensive as expected. Fourteen ampoules of Anti-rabies vaccines were injected intraperitoneally into the dog-bite victims for as many as 14 days. It was found generally that the injection can be saving the life of the victims. The symptoms of rabies included photophobia,

hydrophobia and regurgitation. Therefore, the victims need to be quarantined. Rabies is incurable. Its incubation period is from six days to three years since it is of viral infection. Scientists believed that the rabies virus is in the body. So, the medical association commented that rabies virus is in a cat that is closely associated with dogs.

Similarly, a bat or raccoon that is often seen in houses is a host of rabies. Therefore, prevention should be taken against dogs, cats and bats that can be rabies carriers, especially in the months of Tabodwe and Tabaung. Studies showed that rabies virus can be extensively multiplied in the hottest season. Thus, if the bite of an infected dog is in the upper part of the body virus can spread rapidly, and if the bite is in the lower part of the body virus cannot spread rapidly. Whatever it is, it should be paid series attention. Therefore, whatever part of the body is bitten by a dog, the victim should rush to regional health care centre or township health care centre or rural health centre of the Ministry of Health, and try to obtain rabies vaccines produced by BPI. Additionally, the dog owners also are needed to vaccinate their dogs to prevent them from being infected. So, when one is being bitten by a dog regardless of upper part or lower part of the body he should get vaccinated to save his life. To be able to do so, let me ask the question to the Ministry of Health through the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker. Question on whether there is plan to address the problem of those from remote areas of the country who are out of reach of health care services as SaMa holders medical graduates from remote areas with poor transportation fail several times the exam of Union Civil Services Board.

U Ha Shein Bwe of Chin State Constituency (8)

Firstly I would like to extend my greetings to the respected Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Union ministers and MPs. I am Ha Shein Bwe of Chin State Constituency (8). My question is that whether there is plan to address the problem of those from remote areas of the country who are out of reach of health care services

as SaMa holders national youths graduated in medicine from these areas with poor transport fail several times the exam of Union Civil Services Board.

Although the SaMa holders national youths from a few number of remote regions of the country were sitting for the exam of USCB several times with the goodwill of serving the interest of their own region, they failed. They have been waiting to be appointed but they have completed one-year house surgeon service and have to work at the hospitals for three years to get SaMa. So this situation calls for wider coordination between officials concerned to be able to meet the demand of doctors in these areas. I believe that, if the issues that could be resolved easily in remote are still subject to strict and inflexible regulations, we will not be able to tackle them easily. I would like to suggest the Health Ministry to take on the duty of recruiting assistant doctor because it is well informed of these issues in details.

I’m not talking about the doctors who were born and raised in the mainland and are not committed to serving the people of their native mainland. I’m talking about the medical graduates who were born and raised in Chin State and are eager to serve the people of Chin State. We have a 100-bedded hospital in Mindat. Seven assistant doctors were assigned in 2009. Within three months, six of them quitted. Only one doctor, one assistant doctor, was then left. He was also transferred in November, 2012. The proposed replacement for him denied the duty and resigned at the ministry HQ. Feeling responsibility to the local community, I requested the appointment of two local medical graduates from the health ministry and the union civil service board. Although they took UCSB exam twice, they failed. They were graduated from Mandalay University of Medicines in 2008.

They both came from countryside families and are willing to serve their native town. And the local people have pinned hopes on them. Despite various attempts, they did not pass the UCSB exam. The fact that these rare local

graduates were not assigned to the posts denied by the mainland doctors extensively undermine the local healthcare. I would like to suggest the officials concerned to consider it mildly and would also like to ask via Mr Speaker how these similar issues would be resolved in coming budget year. Thank you, all.

Answer:

Dr Pe Thet Khin

Union Minister for Health

I bestow all the blessings on you. Representing the Union Health Ministry, I would first like to answer the question of Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency (9) on sufficiency of rabies vaccine and production of Myanmar pharmaceutical industries. I would like to say ‘Thank you very much’ to the questioner. If I get to the point, the answer would not be enough. Let me provide some background information.

All 205 rabies victims in 2010 died of it. Again in 2011, all 240 victims met their end. Speaking region-wise, three died of rabies in Kachin, one in Kayah, two in Kayin, none in Chin, 42 in Sagaing, four in Taninthayi, 48 in Bago, 25 in Magway, 50 in Mandalay, eight in Mon, three in Rakhine, 20 in Yangon Region, six in Shan State and 28 in Ayeyawady Region, totaling 240 in 2011. As Mr Parliamentarian said before, a total of 55,000 around the world died of rabies. Victims in Asia and Africa constitute 95 percent of that figure. The disease could also be transmitted by other animals apart from dogs. But 97 percent was transmitted by dogs. Our figure 205 or 240 is under reporting in medical terms. It is most common and unreported in countryside. The death toll of 240 would be the least figure and the actual figure would be larger.

Why we don’t know the actual figure? Most common symptoms—photophobia, hydrophobia and regurgitation—are found in only 60 or 70 percent of rabies cases. There are also cases of partial paralysis before death. It is found in 30 or 40 percent of the infection.

Despite our documented figure being 240, there would be misdiagnosis by the ordinary people and some

health staff in the latter case. There is also incubation period which takes years. As it would take from a week or two to years, ancient Myanmar people did not approve the marriage of their daughters with the persons once bitten by dog.

So, I have heard the parents do not marry their daughter to him as it is not clear when exactly he will suffer from rabies. The number 240 is just the number of reported victims. There may be undocumented cases of people who die of rabies in villages. We received 17456 doses of rabies vaccines from Ministry of Industry in 2010-2011 and 16725 in 2011-2012. As it is to be given 14 doses of vaccine for each patient, it is enough for 240. However, the problem behind this number is somewhat bigger.

The vaccines would be enough for those who know he was bitten by infected dog. However, who think it is a normal dog bite and does not receive treatment usually face death. Because, once the rabies vaccine is injected, the patient is quite unlikely to die. We call it post-exposure prophylaxis. Precautionary rabies injections are highly effective in preventing the disease. Once infected with rabies virus, the sufferer is entirely likely to die. There was only one recorded survivor of rabies in US in 2006. But, still it was challenged by scholars. So, it is a hundred per cent fatal disease.

So, as regards who and when and what kind of dogs should be injected with rabies vaccine in Myanmar, the WHO says it should be vaccinated for whatever dog bite because South-East Asia, Asia, Africa, North America are endemic regions. You can’t take it for granted you are safe because your pet dog is vaccinated. Even if one is bitten by vaccinated dog, he must undergo precautionary rabies injections. Vaccine manufactured by MPF can be used only as a means of prevention. If the symptoms arise, immune globulin must be injected. It costs three hundred thousand to four hundred thousand kyats. But, even immune globulin can’t guarantee the sufferer’s survival.

When the dog is not

known whether infected with rabies virus or not, it is no problem to use rabies vaccine. But, if it is found to be the bite from infected dog, immune globulin must be injected in addition to rabies vaccines. Another important point is rabies vaccine from Health Ministry is known as nerve tissue vaccine developed from sheep brain.

Today, cell culture vaccine known as CCV has been in use and it is more effective than nerve tissue vaccine but with less side effects. Though the possibility is low, nerve tissue vaccine itself can cause nervous breakdown. So, we are gradually phasing it out. Cell culture vaccines such as PDEV and PCEC developed from tissues of chickens and ducks have been in widespread use. In East Asia, only two countries including Myanmar use vaccine developed from sheep brain. Other countries have been using cell culture vaccine. The Health Ministry will phase sheep brain vaccine out and try to produce cell culture vaccines soon. People need to join their efforts that time.

In the US, transmission from dogs is now rare thanks to vaccination programme of pet dogs, but it still sees rabies from bat bites. Likewise, rabies virus can be infected from cat scratch. But, at present we could not afford to provide rabies vaccine to everyone bitten by dog. So, elimination of stray dogs is of a good way to prevent rabies. However, as Myanmar are kind-hearted people, once they hear the municipal sanitation division is going to feed poisoned meatballs to the stray dogs, they keep them in monasteries and dogs survive because of this.

However, many people who haven’t seen rabies sufferers die from dog bite tend to save the dogs that are going to be fed poisoned foods. They seem to be lack of knowledge about rabies. Therefore, we including MPs, Health Ministry, social-class organizations and social organizations need to organize education programme wider. Especially, children, persons who handle meat and who breed animals can be vaccinated against rabies. So, we’ll organize while vaccination campaign educating them. Let me conclude my first answer here.

(To be continued)

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 28 January, 2013

A lasting peace through dialogue

Even though the government is doing its best for restoring eternal peace, the signing of peace agreements and handshakes by leaders alone will not guarantee the successful completion of a long-term peace process. So, the government keeps away from devising and delivering short-term plans in solving ethnic problems.

It prefers only the means that ensures lasting peace in the whole country. Accordingly, there must be a scheme that guarantees equal rights for all ethnic groups as per the non-segregation principles of the Union.

Concerning the clashes in the Kachin State, the government has been in the mission of seeking a peaceful solution since the very start of the disagreement. It has called for a ceasefire with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) with the eventual aim of seeing peace in the whole Union.

Here, we need the participation of general public in the peace-building task. We are also paving the way for the participation of civil society organizations or CSOs in the peace process as their position is vital in disseminating information about agreements and understandings reached among leaders. Accordingly, the Myanmar Peace Center is now facilitating the harmonious participation of all relevant civil society partners in the peace process.

Since the very beginning of its term, the government has committed itself to nationwide ceasefire desired by the entire country. Because its ultimate aim is the genuine and perpetual peace. The result is that, we have reached ceasefire agreements with 10 major ethnic armed groups.

As it has witnessed the international events, the government knows that peace-building is a process which needs time, patience, concessions and compromises for a win-win answer for all stakeholders. The situation of conflicts can change during the peace talks. In spite of such condition, we must not deviate from our commitment to achieve a lasting peace through dialogue.

KIA mine blast kills one

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—Three motorcycle riders stepped on a mine planted by KIA on their way from Myitkyina to Putao in Kachin State around 10.30 am yesterday, and Ko Kyaw Soe, 25, from Aungmyintha Village, Myitkyina was killed in the mine blast.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun...

(from page 16)

Rzak, the Vice-President attended Malaysia Night Reception held at Central Sporthotel, Davos.

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung and Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Set Aung, Members of the Myanmar delegation, attended relevant meetings, discussion and bilateral meetings.

The Myanmar Delegation headed by the Vice-President left Davos for Zurich by car on 26 January morning and arrived at Zurich in the afternoon. At 1.15 pm, the delegation departed Zurich for Bangkok in the afternoon. The delegation headed by the Vice-President was seen off by U Maung Wai, Permanent Representative/Ambassador of Myanmar and members of the Permanent Mission, Geneva.

The Vice-President and party arrived in Yangon via Bangkok this morning. At the Yangon International Airport, the Vice-President and the members of the delegation were welcomed by Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, Counselor Mrs Corinne Henchaz Pianani of Swiss Embassy to Myanmar and other relevant officials.

1050 runners participate in Yoma Yadana Marathon

YANGON, 27 Jan—Jointly organized by Yangon City Development Committee and First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Yoma Yadana International Marathon kicked off in front of People's Square and

People's Park this dawn, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, personnel from YCDC and FMI Co President U Theim Wai.

The marathon includes three events—42 kilometers,

10 kilometers and three kilometers. A total of 1050 runners—550 from international countries and 500 from Myanmar—took part in the different events.

Myat Mon Yadana Diagnosis and Special Clinic was opened on Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning. It was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe,

Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and Patron of the clinic U Hla Maung (Retd Ambassador) formally opened the clinic.

The clinic provides such service as basic medical check-up, dental care, physical rehabilitation and mental health care.

MNA

Talks on danger of drugs shared

YANGON, 27 Jan—A drug abuse. talks on disadvantages of drug abuse was given at the hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Hline Township on 23 January.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Htut gave talks on danger of

Township level departmental officials and responsible persons of Yangon (West) Anti-Drug Special Squad disseminated knowledge about danger on abuse of drugs.

Myanma Alinn

NATIONAL



Vice-President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with World Economic Forum Chair Professor Klaus Schwab and party.—MNA

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Hotels

and Tourism U Htay Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for National Planning and

Economic Development U Set Aung and members of the Myanmar delegation also arrived back this morning.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun participates in discussion with title of Business Interaction Group on Myanmar.—MNA



An innocent people dies in mine blast by KIA (Kachin) group near Zanan Village on Myitkyina-Putao Road.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar workers in Malaysia can now remit money home

TAUNGGYI, 27 Jan—Myanmar workers from Malaysia may remit their money to Myanmar Economic Banks in all parts of Myanmar through May Bank in Malaysia and its representatives, said District Manager U Win Naing of Myanmar Economic Bank in Taunggyi.

The money remitted

from May Bank in Malaysia will be issued immediately to receivers after seeking approvals from the head office of MEB as the receiver replies code number to the officials. Thanks to cooperation among the banks, the customer people can enjoy convenient relations to the banking services.—*Myanma Alinn*

Broken weighing bar from Waw Bridge removed



BAGO, 27 Jan—A Nissan driven from Kyaikto hit the weighing bar of Waw Bridge at mile post 71/4 at 3 am on 21 January. The weighing bar broke and fell on the vehicle. So, trucks with the loads missed the chance to pass the bridge except Saloons and small vehicles.

Due to traffic congestion, 3.5 miles long queue of vehicles appeared on road side on the bank of Mawlamyine.

The weighing bar was lifted with the use of two cranes from Shwe Than Lwin, but mission failed. Fortunately, the weighing bar was removed from the bridge with the use of a 60-ton crane by 30 skilled workers under supervision of Heavy Machinery Chief Engineer U Aung Myat Oo of Nay Pyi Taw, Senior Engineer U Myo Win and officials of Bridge/Road Special Group. They removed the vehicle under the weighing bar. Therefore,

Mobile library displays various books at school

KYUNHLA, 27 Jan—With a view to creating opportunity for students to have easy access to reading, Kyunhla Township Information and Public Relations Department in Sagaing Region launched the mobile library programme at Basic Education Middle

School (Thityamyaing) on 21 January morning.

The mobile library issued the membership cards to the students and displayed 250 copies of books on various subjects to be lent to the students.

—*Myanma Alinn*

Monastic education school in Hsatainggan Village of Magway

MAGWAY, 27 Jan—Abbot Bhaddanta Rajinda of Yaydwin Monastery in Hsatainggan Village of Magway Township manages the monastic education school for enabling the needy students to pursue basic education primary education free of charge with the assistance of School Board of Trustees.

Since 2003, the school has been opened free of charge for needy students. The school had admitted 80 students from KG to fourth standard from those residing in Hsatainggan and its surrounding villages.

In 2005, the school admitted the students up to seventh standard. At present, a total of 223



students are attending the school under teaching of six teachers.

The school provided cash assistance to five needy students to be able to learn matriculation education at Magway Basic

Education High School No 1. Moreover, food and school uniforms are being provided to 41 students.

Although the abbot wishes to fulfill the requirements of the students, the school faces difficulties

in various costs.

Thus, those wishing to make cash and kind donations to the school may contact Abbot Bhaddanta Rajinda of Yaydwin Monastery, Tel: 09-440225478.

—*Myanma Alinn*

National Tennis Championship 5-9 Feb

YANGON, 27 Jan—Myanmar Tennis Federation will organize the 2013 National Tennis Championship from 5 to 9 February at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon Region. The championship will be categorized as the men's open singles event and doubles event, women's open singles and doubles

events, men's and women's mixed doubles event, men's above 35 singles, doubles, above 45 singles and doubles, above 55 singles and doubles and above 60 singles and doubles events. Those wishing to take part in the championship are to enlist at the tennis court of the federation, not later than 11 am on 4 February.

—*Myanma Alinn*

Concert on human trafficking to be broadcast

YANGON, 27 Jan—With the aim of disseminating knowledge about anti-human trafficking, the music concert was held free of charge at the People's Square in Yangon on 16 December.

Disadvantages and dangers of human trafficking were shared as a programme at the concert to the audience.

The concert was attended by over 70000 people. The concert may be a tool to disseminate knowledge on human trafficking to the people. The programmes on the concert will be broadcast to the people through Channel 7 from 7 pm to 9 pm on 2 February.—*Myanma Alinn*

Legal affairs talked

SAGAING, 27 Jan—A talks on human trafficking and legal affairs was given at Dhammayon in Maungthaung Village of Sagaing Township on 21 January.

Chief Justice of Sagaing Region U San Ko gave talks on abiding by the prescribed

laws and rules. Then, District Justice Daw Khin Aye Mar, Township Judge Daw Khin Pyone Yi and Township Police Force Commander Police Major Tin Aung lectured Kyaw gave talks on gambling act, anti-human trafficking and traffic rules.

—*Myanma Alinn*

Pension salary issued through e-pension card system

KYAUKPADAUNG, 27 Jan—Myanmar Economic Banks under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue make arrangements for enabling pensioners to draw their salaries from the banks through e-pension card system. Kyaukpadaung Township Myanmar Economic Bank

of Mandalay Region issued pension salaries to the pensioners through e-pension card system as of 21 January.

Thanks to the modern system, pensioners and representatives enjoy convenience of taking out the salaries by saving time.

—*Myanma Alinn*



Mr and Miss Contest held in Pyay



PYAY, 27 Jan—In commemoration of 66th Anniversary Union Day, the

Mr and Miss Contest was held at Gingawady Hall on Strand Road in Pyay at 1 pm on 20 January.

At first, the Pyay Township Administrator spoke on the occasion.

The chairman of the organizing committee for the contest explained purpose of the contest and tasks.

Altogether 22 contestants from wards and Pyay, Pyay Education College and Pyay Nursing Training School participated

in the contest.

Likewise, altogether 10 body-builders from Pyay Township Body-building and Wightlifting Association took part in the contest.

Officials presented prizes to the winners from the first to fifth positions. The first prize went to Maung Soe San.

In the Miss Contest, Ma Zin Mar Thet won the first prize. Officials awarded five winners.—*Myanma Alinn*



First NATO Patriot missiles go operational in Turkey.

XINHUA

First NATO Patriot missiles go operational in Turkey

ANKARA, 27 Jan—The first bunch of batteries of Patriot missiles sent by NATO went operational in Turkish southern province of Adana on Saturday, Turkish media said.

All the batteries have been deployed in the areas close to the Turkish-Syrian border and the system has gone active and is under NATO command and control, said NATO spokesperson Lieutenant Colo-

nel Dariusz Kacperczyk in Adana.

The United States, Germany and the Netherlands are sending two batteries each to Turkey after the latter asked NATO for help.

All the six Patriot batteries will be connected directly to allied air command in Ramstein, Germany, according to the NATO spokesman.

Xinhua

Death toll rises to 61 in Venezuela prison riot

CARACAS, 27 Jan—The death toll of a prison riot in northwest Venezuela has risen to 61, medics said on Saturday.

Ruy Medina, director of the Medical Centre in Barquisimeto, capital city of Lara state, said 30 people were still being treated for injuries, most of them had suffered gunshot wounds.

Early on Saturday, Vice President Nicolas Maduro called the riot “regrettable” and “tragic,” saying the government had launched an investigation.

Crossfire broke out in Uribana prison outside Barquisimeto after prisoners resisted a spot check on weapons.

Penitentiary Services Minister Iris Varela said most of the victims sustained “bullet injuries” and others were stabbed or

burned by explosives.

Varela said the Attorney General’s Office as well as the Judicial Power were working on the autopsies of the deceased. A total of 28 corpses had been handed to their families.

“Prisoners who were injured or died had cuts and stabs with knives or homemade weapons at the jail, and some had signs of physical violence,” she said.

Uribana prison, which currently jails 2,600 inmates with the planned accommodation of 850, is one of the “three most violent jails” in Venezuela.

More than 21,000 murders were registered in Venezuela in 2012, up 15 percent from the previous year, according to international organizations.

Xinhua

China Development Forum held in London

LONDON, 27 Jan—A forum aimed at promoting a global understanding of China was held in London on Saturday.

Some 26 scholars and experts spoke at the one-day China Development Forum 2013, and exchanged views with the participants on such issues as China’s Asia-Pacific Relations and Disputes, Sino-western relations, youth development, Chinese economic

prospects for sustainable growth, legal reform and China on the global stage.

Under the theme “China in transition,” the forum featured key speakers including Kevin Rudd, former prime minister of Australia, Martin Jacques, visiting senior research fellow at IDEAS of the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE), Jacques Delisle, Director of the Centre for East

Asia Studies and professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania, and Gerard Lyons, Chief Economist at the Standard Chartered Bank. Weiming Tu, founding Dean of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies of the Beijing University, and Yu Jianrong, head of the Rural Development Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Science, will also speak at the event.—Xinhua

More camps needed by Syrian refugees in Jordan

BEIJING, 27 Jan—The UN has announced it is working with Jordan to build additional camps for Syrian refugees who are fleeing across the border. It follows a call on Friday by Jordan’s ruler, King Abdullah, for more international assistance. CCTV’s Special Affairs correspondent Roe Rutenberg has more from Northern Jordan.

In the last days, thousands of refugees have arrived here at the Zaatari Camp—the largest in Jor-

dan. The pace of their arrival has really picked up steam — topping 30,000 for January. That’s double the amount who came in December, according to official figures. And it’s partially a reflection of the fighting that’s intensified, according to the people here, in the southern Syrian city of Dara’a, just 30 kilometres behind me.

Many of the families that are arriving are being led by women...their husbands unable to come.

The Assad government in Syria has called on the people to return home ... and several hundreds are doing so, albeit on their own. But those leaving are heavily outnumbered by those arriving.

The government here has warned that the few camps it has already built are filled to capacity, and that it needs to build more. But it’s asking for help. The economy here has been hurting, and Jordan says it can’t bear the financial bur-

den alone.

Jordan is now hosting more than 320,000 Syrian refugees. That’s nearly half of all of the Syrian refugees in the region. The UNHCR—the UN’s Refugee Agency—says it has begun building a new camp with Jordan which it hopes will be ready by the end of this month... But with the end-of-fighting nowhere in sight, and the number of refugees increasing at this pace, even they admit: that might not be enough.—Xinhua

Hackers take down US government website

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan—Hackers on Saturday took down a US Justice Department website, in what was believed to be retribution for the death of an internet activist.

The website of United States Sentencing Commission, the agency responsible for federal sentencing guidelines, was taken down. Hackers also posted a message demanding the

United States reform its justice system or they would leak sensitive information obtained in the attack.

According to numerous news reports, the infamous hacker group “Anonymous” was suspected to be behind the attack. Reports quoted a letter from the group saying it hijacked the website to avenge the death of Aaron Swartz, an internet activist who committed suicide earlier this month.

Reports indicated federal prosecutors had aggressively pursued Swartz for allegedly downloading millions of academic articles with the intention of distrib-

uting them for free, before he committed suicide on 11 January. He was facing federal computer fraud charges and could have served 35 years in prison if convicted.

Richard McFeely, executive assistant director of the FBI’s Criminal, Cyber, Response, and Services Branch, was quoted as saying the bureau was immediately aware of the threat and is “handling it as a criminal investigation.”

The US Sentencing Commission also issued a statement saying its website was in the process of being restored on Saturday.

Xinhua



The Justice Department building is seen in Washington on 4 March, 2012.—REUTERS

Tunisian PM delays cabinet reshuffle amid deepening crisis

TUNIS, 27 Jan—Tunisia’s Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali delayed a cabinet reshuffle announcement on Saturday, citing the lack of agreement among the leading coalition.

In a statement broadcast by state media on Saturday, the prime minister delayed the cabinet reshuffle.

Signs of rifts within the leading Troika, composed of Ennahdha, the Congress for the Republic and Ettakatol, emerged lately, following President Moncef Marzouki’s statement that

“Ennahdha was not capable of governing the country.”

Jebali’s admission of his government’s incapacity to reach a compromise with other political parties comes as the country faces a severe political and economic crisis amid growing social unrest and violent episodes in inner regions.

“The cabinet reshuffle issue will be submitted to the Constituent Assembly for approval,” Jebali said,

adding that the cabinet reshuffle was “not an end in itself, but a means to set up an efficient action plan for the coming period.”

Jebali also urged the constituent assembly to announce election dates, promulgate a new electoral code and set up a higher independent electoral commission, an independent judicial commission and a media commission.

Xinhua

Merkel says Germans not to forget Nazi crimes

BERLIN, 27 Jan—German people bear the “an everlasting responsibility” to not forget the Nazi-era crimes and prevent such a “dark chapter” of Nazi-committed crimes from occurring again, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday.

Speaking in a podcast on her personal website 80 years after Adolf Hitler came to power, Merkel said “the responsibility must be made clear to generation after generation.”

Her speech came a days ahead of the anniversary of the freeing of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in 1945.

“We don’t forget that historic dark chapter, and will always remember it, to make us immune, so that it can never, never repeat itself,” according to Merkel.

She went on to call on all Germans to ensure that racism and anti-Semitism have no chance in the country any longer.—Xinhua



Palestinian protesters throw stones at Israeli soldiers during clashes after Palestinians tried to reach Anen village near the West Bank city of Jenin on 26 Jan, 2013. Palestinian protesters marched to the village to set up a “tent village outpost” called “village of prisoners”, near the Israeli separation wall.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Bangladesh garment factory fire kills six

DHAKA, 27 Jan—A fire at a garment factory in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, has killed at least six women workers and injured five others.

Police and fire authorities said the blaze on Saturday also destroyed sewing machines and garments. The fire was brought under

control in two hours.

The cause of the fire is not known yet but one of the men workers who escaped from the building said a bundle of wires suddenly flared up.

In November, a fire at a garment factory outside Dhaka killed 112 workers. Safety management of the

industry is under question.

Foreign apparel makers, which are attracted by the low labor cost, have factories in Bangladesh.

More than 4,000 garment factories are operating in Bangladesh. Clothing accounts for about 80 percent of the value of the country's exports.—NHK



Four killed, 20 missing in landslide in West Sumatra, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 Jan—Rescuers have found the bodies of four people who died in a landslide in Agam district of West Sumatra, Indonesia, on Sunday morning, which also left three people injured and 18 others missing, an official said.

"The injured persons were immediately rushed to hospital and rescuers are still searching for the 18 missing persons," spokesman of the National Disaster Management Agency Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told *Xinhua* over the phone.

The natural disaster took place at 06:45 am Jakarta time and has hit 15 houses. "As many as 20 people are trapped under the debris of the houses," said Ade Edward, spokesman of the disaster management and mitigation agency in West Sumatra.

Policemen, soldiers and people in local communities are on the site for evacuation with the help of heavy machinery equipment, said Edward.

Heavy rains since Friday have triggered floods and landslides in some areas of the district.

Xinhua

Chinese anti-corruption drive nets Politburo member



Li Jianguo, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), talks during the second plenary meeting of the NPC at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 8 March, 2012.

REUTERS

BEIJING, 27 Jan—A senior Chinese official is under investigation, a Hong Kong newspaper reported at the weekend, in a case that could represent the first time a national political figure has been netted in China's anti-corruption drive.

Li Jianguo, a member of the country's elite Politburo and the vice chairman of the national rubber-stamp legislature, has not been charged with any offence.

The Hong Kong-based *Ming Pao* newspaper however reported that Li had checked into a Beijing military hospital due to "psychological stress" from the investigation.

A call to the National People's Congress news department was not answered on Sunday.

If charges do result, Li would be the highest-ranking official snagged in an anti-corruption drive launched by the new party leadership. Earlier this month, the new head of China's ruling communist party, Xi Jinping, said anti-corruption efforts should target low-ranking "flies" as well as powerful "tigers".

Not all corruption investigations result in charges, and officials rumored to be under investigation often reappear in public in a sign that their case has been cleared. Li, who is not a widely known political figure, was formerly secretary to Li Ruihuan, a powerful official throughout the 1990s.

He is considered close to the Communist Youth League, the power base for outgoing Chinese president Hu Jintao, and was only named to the Politburo in November.

Reuters

N Korean media say Kim is ready for strong action

PYONGYANG, 27 Jan—North Korean news media reported that the country's leader Kim Jong Un has instructed top defence officials and diplomats to take action of national importance. This suggests that the country may hold a third nuclear test. State-run *Korean Central News Agency* reported on Sunday, that Kim summoned the officials after the UN Security Council adopted a resolution on last Tuesday to tighten sanctions due to last month's missile launch.

Top military official Choe Ryong Hae, the chief

of the munitions division of the Korean Workers' Party, Pak To Chun, and First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan were among those in attendance.

The agency says Kim expressed his firm resolve to take a strong measure of national importance and laid out tasks in detail.

The agency did not explain what the measure is. However, the country's National Defence Commission said on Thursday that it will carry out a high-level nuclear test with the United States in mind.

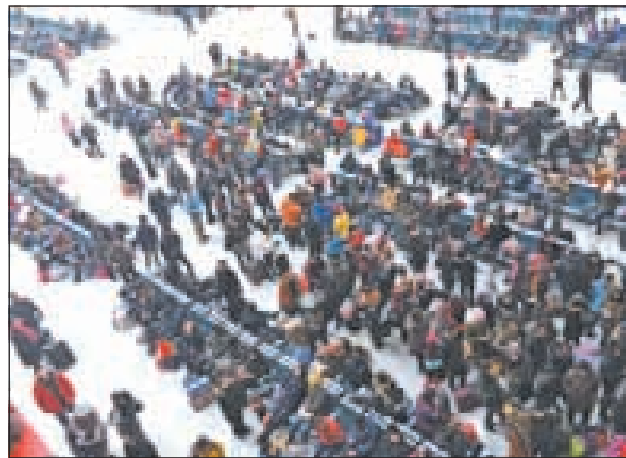
NHK

Spring Festival travel rush kicks off across China

BEIJING, 27 Jan — Chinese authorities added extra travel contingencies to ensure the smooth kick-off on Saturday of the world's largest annual migration that starts before the Lunar New Year. Railway authorities arranged 358 more passenger trains on Saturday to start handling the estimated 5.2 million

daily trips over the next 40 days' peak travel season, said Zhao Chunlei, an official with the Ministry of Railways.

A record 3.41 billion trips are expected to be made over this year's Lunar New Year travel rush, as Chinese who have worked away from home see the holiday as the most impor-



Passengers wait for trains at the Changchun Railway Station in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 26 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

tant occasion for family reunion. The country's rail network is expected to handle 225 million trips, while long-distance buses will see up to 3.1 billion passengers, which combine to account for 99 percent of the overall national capacity, according to the National Development and Reform Commission. Chinese have traditionally favoured road and rail transportation, whose fares are cheaper, for their home tours. On Saturday, signs of the holiday travel rush being commenced could be seen in many bus and train stations, where more staff and volunteers had been mobilized to maintain order. In a square in front of the Guangzhou Railway Station, located in the capital of south China's Guangdong Province, hundreds of passengers slowly streamed into the station under broadcasted instructions.—*Xinhua*

Singapore opposition party wins by-election with surprising margin

SINGAPORE, 27 Jan—Singapore's opposition Workers' Party won the by-election for the Punggol East single member constituency on Saturday with a surprising margin.

The victory of the opposition candidate Lee Li Lian brought the number of elected seats held by the Workers' Party to seven, out of a total of 87 elected seats in the parliament.

Lee won 16,038, or

54.52 percent of the valid votes cast on Saturday, while Koh Poh Koon of the ruling People's Action Party won 12,856, or 43.71 percent of the votes in the four-cornered fight on Saturday that also saw two other opposition candidates contesting. There were a total of some 31,600 registered voters in Singapore and 59 voters overseas. Singapore has a mechanism that encourages all voters to

cast their votes and the voter turnout was 94.26 percent. The by-election has been widely regarded as a test for the People's Action Party, which has been the ruling party in the city state since 1959. It now still has 80 of the 87 elected seats in the parliament.

The constituencies in Singapore include two categories, namely, the single member constituencies and the group representation

constituencies, which were introduced in 1991 to ensure that the minority communities of the Malay and the Indian are represented. In a group representation constituency, all the candidates must either be members of the same political party or independent candidates standing as a group, and at least one of the candidates must be a person belonging to the minority community.—*Xinhua*

H2A marks 16th successful launch

TOKYO, 27 Jan — Japan has launched an intelligence-gathering satellite on an H-2A rocket.

The launch took place at 1:40 PM, local time, on Sunday at Tanegashima Space Centre in southern Japan. The satellite has gone into orbit around the earth.

The launch marks the 16th consecutive successful liftoff of an H-2A rocket.

The satellite is equipped

with a radar system which can take images at night and in bad weather. The satellite reportedly can take images of objects as small as one meter on the earth from several hundred kilometres in space.

Japan launched its first two intelligence-gathering satellites in March 2003 in reaction to North Korea's missile test in 1998.

Japan has one radar sat-

ellite and three optical ones in operation. Japan originally planned to introduce a reconnaissance system consisting of two radar satellites and two optical satellites to cover every part of the globe once a day. A successful deployment of the radar satellite will complete the program. Some people have pointed out issues in operation and usage of the system.

NHK



ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Al-Qaeda-linked Taliban leader killed in E Afghan operation

KABUL, 27 Jan—The NATO-led coalition forces on Friday said that an Afghan-coalition security force has eliminated an al-Qaeda-linked Taliban leader in an operation in the country's eastern Province of Kunar.

"Afghan and coalition forces killed al-Qaeda associated Taliban leader, Wali, during a security operation in Dangam district, Kunar Province, yesterday," the International Security As-

sistance Force (ISAF) said in a Press release.

Wali was a Taliban leader and al-Qaeda facilitator who coordinated activities between the Taliban and al-Qaeda within the Province 185 km east of capital Kabul, and organized attacks against Afghan and coalition forces in Dangam District. He also oversaw the movement of weapons and suicide vest components, the release reads.

Separately, Afghan police rolled out an ongoing operation against Taliban in Panjwai district, in southern Kandahar Province on Thursday morning, the district chief Fazil Ahmad Ishaqzai told *Xinhua*.

He said the police forces have detained a key Taliban commander named Ahmadullah during the operation in the province 450 km south of Kabul.

Afghan forces and

some 100,000 NATO-led coalition troops have intensified cleanup operations against Taliban and other militant groups recently but the insurgents responded by carrying out suicide bombing and Improvised Explosive Devices attacks.

Up to five civilians were killed and 15 others injured when Taliban carried out a suicide bombing in eastern Kapisa Province earlier in the day.

Xinhua

Quake-hit Yushu to complete reconstruction in 2013

XINING, 27 Jan—Reconstruction work in a quake-hit plateau region in northwest China's Qinghai Province will be completed this year, local authorities said on Friday.

By the end of 2012, a total of 1,224 reconstruction projects had been launched in Yushu prefecture with an investment of about 38 billion yuan (6.1 billion US dollars), said Kuang Yong, chief of the provincial housing and construction bureau.

Nearly all of the area's

homes have been rebuilt, Kuang said, adding that 71 schools and 48 health facilities have also been completed.

The restoration of local cultural relics is nearly finished, although 87 religious sites are still being repaired, Kuang said.

Yushu was hit by a magnitude-7.1 earthquake on 14 April, 2010. More than 2,698 people were killed and the entire town of Gyegu, located near the quake's epicenter, was leveled.

Xinhua

Mozambican police hunt Maputo bank robbery

MAPUTO, 27 Jan—The Mozambican police said on Friday that they are hunting two armed men who on Tuesday afternoon raided a central Maputo branch of the Nigerian United Bank for Africa (UBA) and stole 2.8 million metica (about 100,000 US dollars).

Arnaldo Chefo, spokesperson for Maputo city police command, told *Xinhua* that a manhunt was launched on Thursday to trace the suspects at large with the cash.

"We have organized ourselves for the tracing of the suspects, we believe they are at large in the city and its surroundings," he

said.

The robbery took place in broad daylight, at about 14:30 on Tuesday, when the two thieves, pretending to be clients, entered the bank and claimed they wanted to open a foreign currency account.

According to Chefo, one of the so called clients asked the branch manager about the requirements for opening such an account.

He then pulled out a pistol and demanded that the manager open the bank safe. Chefo said the two grabbed 2.8 million metica, 4,800 euros and 14,300 South African rands.

Xinhua



Glyn Davies, US special representative for North Korea policy, is surrounded by reporters upon arrival at Beijing airport on 25 Jan 2013, from South Korea.
KYODO NEWS

Nepal, China to join hands for Chinese language promotion

KATHMANDU, 27 Jan—Nepal and China on Friday stressed the need for promoting the Chinese language in Nepal for bilateral tourism prosperity.

In a discussion programme organized by the Nepal China Language & Cultural Exchange Academy and China Radio International (CRI) Confucius Classroom Nepal, at Nepal Tourism Board in Kathmandu on Friday, the two sides agreed to narrow down the linguistic differences between the two neighbours.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Yang Houlan said the tourism industry has become a platform for Nepal-China friendship and language serves as a bridge of communication between the two neighbours.

"Understanding each other's language provides better guarantee for travel. Hence, the work of CRI and other institutions to teach the Chinese language

in Nepal is commendable," Houlan said.

Chief Secretary of the Nepal government Lila Mani Poudel said that Nepal could learn a lot from China and language play an important role to understand the prosperous Chinese economy.

Noting arrival of Chinese tourists to Nepal increased by 10 folds in the past one year, Poudel underscored that Nepal's economy could grow faster with more Chinese tourist arrivals.

He said that he would lobby concerned Nepali authorities to provide better visa facilities for Chinese nationals who want to visit Nepal to study the Nepali language.

"A rising China can boost Nepal's economy. Hence, learning the Chinese language can help boost the national economy. Nepal should respect China's sentiments and grow along for a better future," Poudel said.

Xinhua

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Veteran lawmaker Ichiro Ozawa (C) and his party colleagues pump their fists during the inaugural convention of the People's Life Party in Tokyo on 25 Jan, 2013. Ozawa was selected head of the small opposition party.
KYODO NEWS

Open recruitment more common in China's public institutions

BEIJING, 27 Jan—Open recruitment has been carried out in most Chinese public institutions as a method of filling posts, a government spokesman said on Friday.

The process of boosting open recruitment in government-sponsored institutions began in 2006, said Yin Chengji, spokesman for the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

Public institutions, including schools, research institutions, hospitals and publishing houses, are the backbone of China's public service system.

Yin said the ministry has also been working to

standardize the way posts are managed, with 145 out of 157 public institutions under the central government having standardized such management.

The ministry will make more efforts to enhance and standardize open recruiting this year, as well as inspect recruitment efforts in public institutions in cooperation with the Organization Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Yin said.

In addition, the ministry is considering creating regulations to encourage open recruitment in different sectors.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Legendary Japanese filmmakers to be honoured by Hollywood



LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan—Legendary Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa and three of his compatriots will be honoured by the Writers Guild of America (WGA) next month for their lifetime of work on movies that organizers said have “given us all a taste of the sublime.”

The WGA’s West branch, which represents the US West Coast writers of TV, films, radio and Internet programming, said that the late Kurosawa and

his collaborators Ryuzo Kikushima, Hideo Oguni and Shinobu Hashimoto, will receive the Guild’s 2013 Jean Renoir Award for Screenwriting Achievement on 17 February in Los Angeles.

The 94-year-old Hashimoto is the lone surviving member of the group. He is not expected to attend the ceremony. The annual award honours “those non-US writers whose work has raised the bar for all of us,” said Writers Guild of America West Vice President Howard Rodman.

“These four men, working in loose collaboration, are responsible for writing many, many masterpieces — films that reflect the Japanese culture,

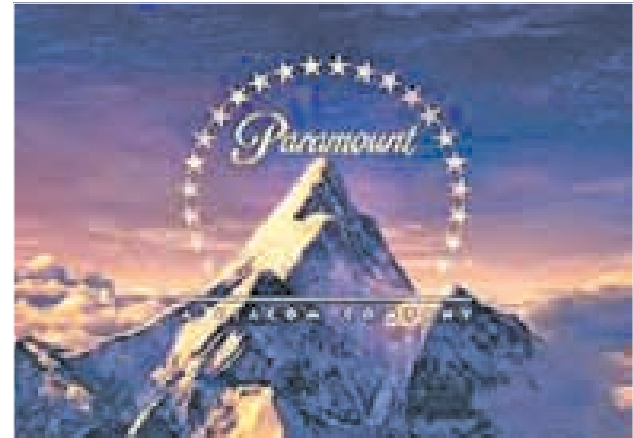
and have given all of us a taste of the sublime,” Rodman added in a statement. Kurosawa, who received an honorary Oscar in 1990 and died in 1998, found success in many films by collaborating with Kikushima, Hashimoto and Oguni on screenplays.

With Kikushima, the duo co-wrote such classics as “Stray Dog” (1949) and “Yojimbo” (1961). Hashimoto worked with Kurosawa on the seminal 1950 film “Rashomon.” Oguni, Hashimoto and Kurosawa came together on 1952’s “Ikiru” and 1954’s “Seven Samurai.” The entire quartet wrote such films as 1957’s “Throne of Blood” and 1958’s “The Hidden Fortress.”—Reuters

Paramount Pictures signs deal with China’s BesTV

SHANGHAI, 27 Jan—US film giant Paramount Pictures has signed a copyright deal with BesTV New Media, a subsidiary of Shanghai Media Group, offering top movies to the Chinese audience.

According to the deal, BesTV will have the copyrights of Paramount films, including the Academy Award-winning film “Hugo,” as well as new releases. It will broadcast them via its Internet TV and IPTV Premiere services. Established in 1912, Paramount has produced many blockbuster movies. The first batch of films to be shown by BesTV are Paramount series — “Mission Impossible,” “Transformers” and “Star Trek.”



Films like “Forest Gump” and “Ghost” will follow.

Industry expert, Bao Ran, chief of Digital Entertainment Industry Applications Group, said the deal was a sign of the American movie industry increasingly focusing its attention on the Chinese market, as China’s

fast growing new media and Internet sectors are luring audiences with Hollywood blockbusters. BesTV boasts tens of millions of subscribers in China. The company has previously signed cooperation deals with other film producers such as Disney and Warner Bros.—Xinhua

Singer Tina Turner on path to Swiss citizenship

ZURICH, 27 Jan—Soul music legend Tina Turner has taken the first steps toward giving up her US passport and becoming a citizen of Switzerland, the country she has called home for nearly 20 years. The Zurich suburb of Kusknacht has approved Swiss citizenship for the “Proud Mary” singer, pending confirmation from other authorities in the country, a spokeswoman for Turner said on Friday.

Turner, who was born in Tennessee, moved to Swit-



US singer Tina Turner performs during the “Ein Herz fuer Kinder” (A Heart for Children) TV charity telethon in Berlin, on 17 Dec, 2011.—REUTERS

zerland in 1995 to join her German-born record producer partner Erwin Bach and

has lived there since. She enjoys the privacy she receives there and has no plans to live elsewhere, the spokeswoman said.

“I’m very happy in Switzerland and I feel at home here,” Turner, 73, was quoted as telling the Swiss daily newspaper *Blick*. The eight-time Grammy winner retired from performing after her last tour, which ended 2009.

Her hits with Ike Turner and as a solo artist include “What’s Love Got To Do With It,” “Private Dancer” and “River Deep—Mountain High.”—Reuters

It’s a “Mini-Buble” for singer Michael Bublé and wife

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan—Canadian jazz singer Michael Bublé and his Argentinian actress wife, Luisana Lopilato, are expecting their first baby together, Lopilato said in a video posted to YouTube on Thursday.

The video shows what appears to be an ultrasound of a fetus with the words “Mini Buble !!!” attached to the image. here. A written statement that also is part

of the 21-second video says, “We’re having a baby Bublé!!!”

Bublé, 37, is a three-time Grammy Award winner known for such songs as “Haven’t Met You Yet,” “Home” and “Save the Last Dance for Me.” He and Lopilato, 25, were married in 2011. She has starred in such Spanish-language television series as “Chiquititas, la historia” and “Rebelde Way” and has also worked as a model.

Reuters



Canadian singer Michael Bublé and his bride Argentine actress Luisana Lopilato wave to fans after their religious wedding ceremony at the Villa Maria palace in Marcos Paz, outskirts of Buenos Aires on 2 April, 2011.

REUTERS

“Fruitvale,” “Blood Brothers” win top awards at Sundance

PARK CITY, 27 Jan—Drama film “Fruitvale” and documentary “Blood Brothers” won the top awards at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday, giving them a big boost to reach independent movie audiences this year. “Fruitvale,” starring Octavia Spencer and Michael B Jordan and directed by 26-year-old, first-time filmmaker Ryan Coogler, picked up the US drama jury and audience awards for its “moral and social urgency.”

The film is based on the true story of 22-year-old Oscar Grant, who was killed by police in Oakland, California, on New Year’s Eve in 2008 and whose death sparked riots against police brutality. Movie studio The Weinstein Company purchased distribution rights for the film. “This film had a profound impact on the

audience that saw it ... this award goes out to my home in the Bay Area where Oscar Grant breathed, slept, loved, had fun and survived for 22 years,” Coogler said in his acceptance speech.

Oscar-winning documentarian Davis Guggenheim awarded the US documentary jury prize to “Blood Brothers,” saying

it shook the voting panel to their core. The documentary follows an American man who moves to Africa and works with children suffering from HIV at an orphanage, and through his work, the children gain a voice. “It is so encouraging for the kids ... their lives are so encouraging, and they die and no one remembers

their name ... To take their story so that everyone sees it, it’s so awesome,” director Steve Hoover said.”

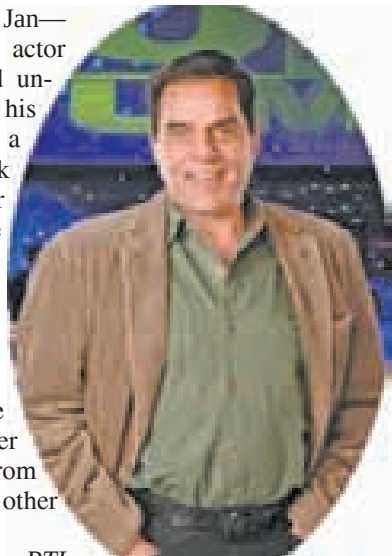
Young actress Shailene Woodley, praised for her performance in “The Descendants” last year, and her co-star Miles Teller won the Special Jury acting prize in “The Spectacular Now.” Actress Lake Bell, who made her directorial debut in the US drama category with quirky comedy “In A World,” picked up the drama screenwriting award.

Hosted by actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt, who premiered his raunchy directorial debut “Don Jon’s Addiction” this year, the Sundance Film Festival Awards pick winners at the top gathering for independent movies made outside of Hollywood’s major studios.

Reuters



Octavia Spencer arrives for the gala presentation of the film “Smashed” at the 37th Toronto International Film Festival, on 12 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS



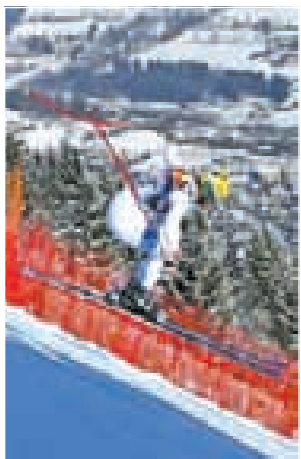
PTI

Dharmendra escapes unhurt after freak mishap

KHARGONE, 27 Jan—Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra escaped unhurt after falling as his foot got entangled in a rope, on his way back from the outdoor shoot of his home production, ‘Yamla Pagla Deewana 2’.

The mishap occurred at Ahilyaghat in Maheshwar town near here. The rope was used as a barrier to prevent people from reaching stars and other crew members.

SPORTS



Dominik Paris of Italy is airborne as he competes in the men's Downhill event of the Alpine Skiing World Cup downhill ski race in Kitzbuehel on 26 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Alpine skiing: Italy's Paris wins Hahnenkamm downhill

KITZBUEHEL, 27 Jan—Dominik Paris became only the second Italian to win the most prestigious downhill on the World Cup circuit, on Kitzbuehel's Hahnenkamm mountain, on Saturday. Joint winner of the Bormio classic earlier this season, the 23-year-old Paris outshone the favorites in one minute 57.56 seconds to emulate compatriot Kristian Ghedina, crowned in 1998. "Who wouldn't dream of winning Kitzbuehel?" said the skier from Merano, in the South Tyrol.

"To win Kitzbuehel is a career high, something very special for a downhill, I didn't feel so good up there but I nailed the final part really well. It's the kind of course I like the most, you have to fight from top to bottom, like at Bormio." Paris fended off questions about his chances at the world championships in Schladming which start on 5 February. "I don't want to think about Schladming. Kitzbuehel is Kitzbuehel. Nothing else matters for now," he said.

Reuters



Bob and Mike (L) Bryan of the US pose with the trophy after defeating Robin Haase Igor Sijsling of Netherlands in their men's doubles final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 26 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Okafor sparks big win for Wizards over Bulls

SALVO, 27 Jan — Washington's Emeka Okafor dominated inside as the improving Wizards stunned the Chicago Bulls 86-73 to record their fifth straight home win on Saturday.

At 11-31 Washington have the second worst record in the NBA, ahead of only Charlotte (11-32), but turned the tables on joint Central Division leaders Chicago (26-17) behind Okafor's 15 points and 16 rebounds.



Washington's Emeka Okafor

Azarenka keeps her eye on the prize to retain title



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus (L) poses with her trophy after defeating Li Na of China in their women's singles final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 26 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

MELBOURNE, 27 Jan — Victoria Azarenka kept her eye firmly on the prize despite a host of distractions to rally from a set down and retain her title with victory over Li Na in a dramatic Australian Open final on Saturday. The Belarussian had to block out an often blatantly hostile crowd, sit through two lengthy time-outs for Li's injuries and bide her time as a firework display lit up Melbourne's skyline before she finally extinguished her Chinese rival's hopes with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory.

Li twice needed treat-

ment after heavy falls — the second time blacking out momentarily after banging her head on the court. Azarenka looked stunned and then relieved at the end of the 160-minute contest when she realized had won her second grand slam title, ensuring she would retain the number one world ranking to boot. Even in her moment of triumph, however, the lukewarm response of the crowd on Rod Laver Arena was a reminder of the controversy surrounding her semi-final win over Sloane Stephens.

Reuters

Bryan twins break record for grand slam doubles titles

MELBOURNE, 27 Jan — American twins Bob and Mike Bryan became the most successful men's pair in grand-slam history on Saturday when they won their 13th doubles title together at the Australian Open.

The 34-year-olds beat the Dutch pairing of Robin Haase and Igor Sijsling 6-3,

6-4 to break the record of 12 grand slams they had shared with Australians John Newcombe and Tony Roche. "Obviously it feels really good to have that record and to be a part of history feels really special," Mike Bryan said. "We weren't thinking much about it on court but once we look back on our careers it will be fun

to see what we have done. It's a big record."

The left-handed Bob Bryan served out for victory to seal their sixth Australian Open title together. It was the brothers' 84th career title and their second consecutive grand-slam triumph, after their win at the US Open in September.

Reuters

Marleau's double ties record as Sharks beat Avs

SALVO, 27 Jan — San Jose's Patrick Marleau became just the second player in NHL history to score multiple goals in the first four games of the season, leading the unbeaten Sharks

to a 4-0 victory over visiting Colorado on Saturday. Marleau netted two first-period power play goals to become the first player to achieve the feat since the Ottawa Senators' Cy Den-

neny in the NHL's inaugural 1917-18 season, the league said on its website: www.nhl.com.

Already the league leader in goals, Marleau struck twice in 80 seconds against the Avalanche to take his total to eight in the first four games. He also picked up an assist on Joe Thornton's second-period power play goal to give him 11 points this season. "I don't know if he can keep scoring two goals every night, but he can keep his play up the way it's been," Sharks coach Todd McLellan told reporters.

Reuters



San Jose Sharks's Patrick Marleau

Waiting game for Snedeker in Torrey Pines fog

SAN DIEGO, 27 Jan —Defending champion Brandt Snedeker had to endure a marathon day of putting practice and waiting around at the Farmers Insurance Open on Saturday before play was finally abandoned because of thick fog.

The fast-talking American, who trails tournament leader Tiger Woods by seven shots, arrived at the course at 5:30 am local for a scheduled tee time at 7:40 am, and left at around

4 p.m. without hitting a single competitive stroke after only five minutes of third-round action was possible. Weather permitting, play will resume on Sunday at the picturesque Torrey Pines venue where the \$6.1 million PGA Tour event is heading for a rare on Monday finish.

"It's frustrating," Snedeker told Reuters after spending a couple of hours chatting with his fellow players, caddies and officials on the practice

putting green. "Everyone's wants to play. 'I feel like on this golf course it would have been a lot of fun today. There's a great leader board lined up and a lot of action could have happened today. It's really frustrating when it doesn't happen. 'It has turned into a long day. I've been here since early this morning so you're a little tired and you want to get out there and play as much as you can.' Asked how he had managed to while away the time as a blanket

of thick fog lingered at the coastal venue, Snedeker replied with a broad grin: "You tell a lot of stories. I've been catching up with some guys I haven't seen in a while. 'You eat four or five times and you try to pass the time as best as possible.

You don't want to think too much about the golf course. You want to keep your mind fresh." —Reuters



US golfer Brandt Snedeker.

GENERAL

Refreshments donated to students



NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan— of Yanaung Monastery in Abbot Bhaddanta Kusala Khitaye Village in Zeyathiri

Township fed refreshment to 550 schoolchildren at Khitaye Basic Education Middle School (Branch) on 22 January.

The Abbot has been donating potable to the school for consumption of teachers and students for over 10 years.

The Abbot plans to donate refreshment to the schools in Mayingyi, Intha and Chaungphyia villages.

Myanma Alinn

Ex-Aum member on death row may testify in trial

TOKYO, 27 Jan—A death-row inmate and former member of the Aum Shinrikyo cult may be asked to appear at the trial of another former cult member.

The death-row inmate is former senior Aum member Yoshihiro Inoue. In 2009, the Supreme Court confirmed the death penalty for his roles in a number of Aum crimes, including the 1995 sarin

gas attack on the Tokyo subway system.

A trial is expected to begin later this year for former Aum member Makoto Hirata who is accused of abducting and confining a chief clerk at a notary office in Tokyo in 1995. Hirata was arrested on New Year Day last year after 17 years on the run.

Inoue's lawyer says his client is prepared to testify in the trial if he is

asked by the Tokyo District Court. Inoue and Hirata are alleged to have been at the site of abduction.

It is unusual in Japan for a death-row inmate to appear in court as a witness. It would be the first in a series of trials involving former members of the cult. Tight security arrangements would have to be considered in deciding how and where to hold Inoue's testimony.

NHK

Floods in southern Africa kill more than 40

CAPE TOWN, 27 Jan—Floods have killed more than 40 people in Mozambique and South Africa. Rivers overflowed in southern Mozambique, mainly in Gaza Province, due to heavy rain since the middle of this month.

The United Nations says 36 people had died in floods as of Friday. In Gaza's provincial capital, many houses were inundated. Some residents fled to rooftops. The military has used boats to rescue them. In all, 70,000 people have been forced to evacuate.

The United Nations and non-governmental organizations are providing food and other emergency supplies to the evacuees.

But UN officials say the number of evacuees is likely to grow as water levels are rising in some flooded areas.

Flooding has also killed 12 people in neighboring South Africa. It allowed at least 7,000 crocodiles to escape from a reptile farm, prompting a police search.

NHK

Russians compete in ice fishing contest

MOSCOW, 27 Jan — Anglers in far eastern Russia braved the freezing weather to take part in an ice fishing competition. About 700 people joined the contest on Saturday at Russky Island off Vladivostok, where the sea waters freeze.

They opened holes in

the 60-centimetre thick ice, and competed to catch as many fish as possible within the 3-hour time limit.

The temperature was around minus 15 degrees Celsius. So once pulled out of the water, the fish quickly became frozen.

The happy winner was a

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(28-1-13 09:30 am ~ 29-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * "Myanmar Sentiment & Myanmar Donation" 28 Buddha Images Pujaniya Festival
- * Music
- * Lucky Bamboo
- * News
- * Process of Planets correlated with Horoscope for 12 Sign Ascendants
- * News
- * A Warm Welcome from the Golden Land
- * News
- * Poetic & Friendship
- * Precious Lobsters
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * Grassland Survey in Hukaung Tiger Reserve
- * News
- * Myanmar Manufacturing Equipment, Components & Engineering Technology Exhibition MMT 2013
- * News
- * Taung Gyi Township: Significant Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda
- * Myanmar Movies "Glass Marble"

MYANMAR TV

(28-1-2013, Monday)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 am | 5:05 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw -Uppatasanti Paritta | 15. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions |
| 7:30 am | 5:15 pm |
| 2. Morning News | 16. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe) |
| 7:40 am | 5:35 pm |
| 3. Dhamma Puja Song | 17. Myanmar Language |
| 7:50 am | 5:45 pm |
| 4. Nice & Sweet Song | 18. "Road to 27th SEA GAMES" (Bodminton) |
| 8:00 am | 6:00 pm |
| 5. Health Programme | 19. Evening News |
| 8:15 am | 6:20 pm |
| 6. Cute Little Dancers | 20. Sing & Enjoy |
| 8:30 am | 6:50 pm |
| 7. Teleplay (Health) | 21. TV Drama Series |
| 8:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| 8. Dance Of National Races | 22. News |
| 8:40 am | 8:00 pm |
| 9. International News | 23. News |
| 8:45 am | 8:00 pm |
| 10. Musical Programme | 24. Weather Report |
| 4:00 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 11. Martial Song | 25. Cartoon Series |
| 4:05 pm | 26. Documentary |
| 12. Dance Variety | 27. Teleplay |
| 4:15 pm | 10:00 pm |
| 13. Musical Programme | 28. News |
| 4:30 pm | 29. India Drama Series |
| 14. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Biology) | |

Rescuers find wreckage of aircraft in Antarctica

WELLINGTON, 27 Jan — The wreckage of the plane carrying three Canadian men missing in Antarctica since Wednesday has been found on Saturday, and rescuers said the crash would have been unsurvivable. Rescuers said the plane crashed close to the summit of Mount Elizabeth and there are no signs of activity in the area surrounding the site and the aircraft appears to have made a direct impact that was not survivable.

No details are available on the cause of the crash. The site of the crash is at a height of 3,900 meters at the northern end of the Queen Alexandra Range, within New Zealand's

Search and Rescue Region - halfway between the South Pole and McMurdo Station (approximately 680 km or 370 nautical miles in each direction). Two helicopters, including a Southern Lakes helicopter on contract to Scott Base, reached the site at around 7:15 pm (NZ time), having traveled from McMurdo Base on Saturday afternoon to a forward base at Beardmore Glacier, about 50 km from the crash site.

A landing was not possible though they were able to survey the site briefly before returning to the Beardmore Glacier site. The next of kin of the three men have been informed.

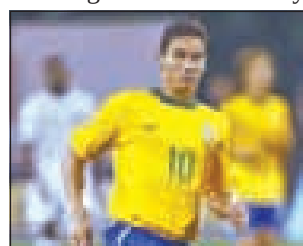
Xinhua

Ganso scores first Sao Paulo goal

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Jan — Brazil international midfielder Paulo Henrique Ganso scored his first goal since his September move to Sao Paulo on Saturday to help his team to a 2-1 victory over Atletico Sorocaba in the Campeonato Paulista.

Ganso's 30th-minute header was followed by a 76th-minute strike from Argentine Marcelo Canete before Fabio Sanches scored a late goal for the visitors at Morumbi Stadium. In Rio

de Janeiro's Campeonato Carioca, Bernardo scored twice as Vasco de Gama moved to the top of the standings with a 4-2 victory



Brazil international midfielder Paulo Henrique Ganso

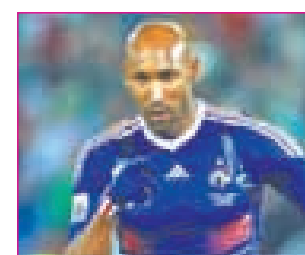
at Resende.

Meanwhile Botafogo has confirmed former AC Milan and Real Madrid midfielder Clarence Seedorf will make his first appearance of the year on Sunday against Fluminense at Rio's Engenhao Stadium. Fluminense will be without Brazil striker Fred and former Portugal star Deco, who have been afford an extended summer break by coach Abel Braga.—Xinhua

Juventus to sign Anelka

MILAN, 27 Jan — Former French international Nicolas Anelka has arrived in Torino to sign a five-month contract with Juventus, the Italian Serie A champions club general manager Beppe Marotta confirmed on Saturday. "Anelka? In July we made some targeted investments, but now we are in an emergency situation in attack, so we moved to fix those issues, even if it is not official yet," Marotta said.

"It can be a good move



Former French International Nicolas Anelka.

for the short-term, then at the end of the season we'll evaluate what must be done. He is filling a hole. It is a

five-month contract with an option for the second season, if things go well.

"Anelka's arrival rules out any other transfers, because in this stage of the transfer window there are no other opportunities. "He will put himself at the disposal of the squad and it'll be up to Antonio Conte to decide how to use him. After all, he is not in great physical condition considering he hasn't played for a month," he said.—Xinhua



Vice-President U Nyan Tun being welcomed back by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Counselor Mrs Corinne Hensch Pianani from Swiss Embassy.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—A Myanmar delegation headed by U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, arrived back from Switzerland this morning by air via Bangkok after participating in the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2013 held in Davos from 23-26 January.

The Vice-President and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe,

region ministers, Counselor Mrs Corinne Hensch Pianani from Swiss Embassy and departmental officials.

The Myanmar delegation headed by the Vice-President left Yangon for Bangkok in the evening of 23 January and arrived at Suvarnabhumi International Airport. At the airport, the Myanmar delegation was greeted by U Tin Win, Ambassador of Myanmar to Thailand, and officials of the Embassy. Then, the Myanmar

Vice-President U Nyan Tun arrives back after attending World Economic Forum

delegation left Bangkok for Zurich at 02.00 am on 24 January and arrived at Zurich International Airport at 6.50 am local time. The delegation was welcomed by U Maung Wai, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Myanmar, Geneva and staff of the Mission at the Airport.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation departed Zurich for Davos by car and arrived at Davos in the evening of 24 January.

The Vice-President accompanied by members of the Delegation met Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman and Founder of the World Economic Forum at his office in the Congress Centre, Davos. At the meeting, both sides friendly discussed issues pertaining to developments in Myanmar and the World Economic Forum on East Asia to be held in June 2013 in Myanmar.

The Vice-President together with other heads of State and Government and leaders of the Delegation as well as heads of International Organization attended the Informal Gathering of World Economic Leaders-Defining the Imperatives for 2013 held at 12 pm at Parsenn/Pishca of Congress Centre.

At 1.55 pm of the same day, the Vice-President, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Permanent Representative/Ambassador of Myanmar U Maung Wai, met with Mr Didier Burkhalter, Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Council and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, at Room ME23 in Congress Centre. At the meeting, they discussed matters relating to friendship and cooperation between the two countries, development aid from Switzerland.

The Vice-President participated in "Business Interaction Group on Myanmar" held at 2.30 pm in Rinerhorn Club, Congress Centre. At the discussion, the Vice-President gave an opening remark on economic reforms taken by Myanmar.

Then, the Vice-President, Union Minister U Soe Thane and Deputy Minister U Hset Aung responded to the queries on foreign direct investment in Myanmar raised by the participants. The discussion was participated by CEOs and senior officials of multinational corporations.

The Vice-President accompanied by the Deputy Foreign Minister and the Permanent Representative/Ambassador of Myanmar,

met with Mr Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, at 3.55 pm at Room ME 23 of Congress Centre. During the discussion, they focused on promotion of relationship and cooperation between the two countries. The Vice-President invited Dutch companies through the Prime Minister of the Netherlands to invest in Myanmar.

The Vice-President together with Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR Mr Somsavat Lengsavad, Prime Minister of Malaysia Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak, President of the Philippines Benigno Siameon Cojuangco Aquino III, and Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Kittiratt Na-Ranong, participated

as panelists in Interactive Session entitled "Resilience in Diversity". At the session, Ms Ellana Lee of CNN served as moderator. The discussion focused on fostering economic integration, and strengthening security cooperation. The Vice-President briefed the participants on the reform process in Myanmar, high potential of Myanmar to play a key role in the regional food security. The Vice-President also extended his appreciations to the members of ASEAN on their support on Myanmar and encouraged to continue to do so.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of Malaysia Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul (See page 8)



Vice-President U Nyan Tun shakes hands with Vice-President Mr Didier Burkhalter of Swiss Federal Council.—MNA

Concrete sleepers ensure greater safety

The Yangon circular railroad was commissioned into service on 1 May, 1959 and is being upgraded to meet the urbanization of commercial hub. Upgrading of railroad sections is among the works for improvement of rail transportation.

In so doing, the focus is placed on replacement of wooden sleepers with concrete ones and the replacement is reportedly to be completed soon. Therefore, we interviewed Assistant General Manager (Civil) of Myanmar Railways U Tin Win.

Q: When the replacement was started approximately?

A: It was started around 2004-2005. But it was just a pilot one. The



actual replacement begun in 2011-2012.

Q: How far had the replacement been completed now?

A: Over 95 per cent. The remaining section is

between Yangon and Lanmadaw. But, it only needs two or three days to complete. The circular railroad has two rail tracks—up and down and

the replacement of wooden sleepers will be completed cent per cent during this month.

Q: So, what would be the benefits of the replacement?

A: Wooden sleepers you know are not durable but concrete sleepers can be used for the long run and make the railroad firmer. We have also put the gravels to the full between one sleeper and another. So, it makes the railroad smoother for train and also reduces the risk of derailment.

Q: Can you compare the durability of two?

A: Wooden sleeper can be used at least two to five years. If it is made of hardwood, it lasts five

**Interviewer: Ye Win Hsaung (Kyemon)
Photo: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)**

to six years and other kinds of wood can be used only for two years. Concrete sleepers last for as long as 50 years.

Q: What are the benefits for passengers from the replacement?

A: It makes passengers feel more comfortable.

Q: So do you have any promotion plan to attract more passengers against the increasing traffic congestion?

A: Divisions like transportation division and commercial division under MR are conducting surveys even on ticket-selling for the convenience of passengers. As the traffic congestion is getting worse, more

passengers would choose the train. What I can assure you is respective divisions are trying to improve the service.

Q: Do you have any comments on upgrading of circular railroad?

A: We do all this for convenience of passengers. We hope they will find it pleasing.

The Yangon circular railroad was inaugurated on 1 May, 1959 and construction of up and down rail tracks was completed on 1 November, 1960. It is 29.50 miles long and has 30 stations.

**Trs:TKK
Kyemon: 24-1-2013**