

President's Scholarship Award for outstanding Myanmar students to study at international universities established



NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—The following is the full text of the speech delivered by President U Thein Sein through radio programmes to the entire people on 1 February.

My fellow citizens,

In this month's radio address, I would like to update you on the work of my government in January.

The difficulties, challenges and constraints we have encountered during this process of political and economic reforms, and peace building are not uncommon for a country that has recently embarked on this process. We have yet to achieve tangible results in some areas because of these

difficulties. To address issues in these areas, we have set clear goals, and will proceed with determination to achieve tangible results.

Fulfilling the long-standing needs of our society is easy to talk about but much more difficult to achieve in practice. The difficulty of the work we must undertake on political reforms can be likened to swimming upstream. Despite the challenges, my administration will try

I particularly like to acknowledge the remark made by the Chairman of the Karen National Union, Saw Mutu Sae Poe that in order to make sure that the peace process moves forward step by step, all parties "must make history by courageously signing the (nationwide ceasefire) agreement".

its utmost to achieve our goals.

We are determined to achieve peace and national

unity. Because of the co-operation of the government, parliament, political (See page 8)

Health care reforms to be stepped up to uplift health standard



President U Thein Sein cordially greets participants at workshop on health sector development.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—The Union government would step up efforts for uplifting the health standard of Myanmar as part of efforts for health care reforms, said President U Thein Sein.

Speaking at the work-

shop on uplifting the health standard at the President's Office here today, the President said a committee led

by a Union minister at the President's Office, comprising representatives of ministries concerned and or-

ganizations related to health would be formed to be able to promote the coordination between Ministry of Health and other ministries and region and state governments.

The committee would take four steps and it will have to carry out the health system performance evaluation based on the framework for economic and social re-

forms in the first step as part of efforts for economic and social reforms.

As a second step, the committee will have to form an advisory body comprising experts and to seek advice from health organizations from foreign countries and at home and to report realistic reforms that need to

(See page 9)

President U Thein Sein's radio message on air

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes from 1 to 3 February. Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamyia FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham calls for quality health care as medical expense abroad is high

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Workshop on promotion of health sector in Myanmar kicked off at the President Office here today.

On the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that today's workshop is held as part of health sector reforms. Those present at the workshop are to give suggestions about health

sector development.

The Vice-President urged the public to stay healthy and maintain good health as prevention is better than cure.

He added that the country has around 30000 doctors. But only one third of them are serving as civil servants. Therefore, the country is in need of more doctors, nurses and mid-

wives.

Doctors, nurses, midwives cannot fully provide medical services to rural areas where 70% of the country's population is residing. Therefore, specially trained medical staff

should be sent there, the Vice-President advised.

He stressed the need for hospital medical equipment and supplies as medical expense abroad costs over USD 200 per year.

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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaking at workshop on health sector development.

MNA



Durability of libraries disseminated to local people



Official of Township Information and Public Relations Department explains ways to maintain durability of self-reliant libraries in Tatkon Township.

TATKON, 31 Jan—A talk on durability of self-reliant library was held in Alegyun Model Village in Tatkon Township, Ottara District of

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 29 January.

The head of Township Information and Public Relations Department gave

talks on increasing number of books and publications, raising fund, membership opportunities to borrow various subjects of books,

voluntarily service for librarian.

The talk was attended by over 80 youths of the township.

Township IPRD

Kachin State election subcommission, political parties meet

MOHNYIN, 31 Jan—The meeting between Kachin State Election Subcommission and political parties took place at Mohnyin District Deputy Commissioner's Office on 29 January.

Chairman of Kachin State Election Subcommission U Nyunt Shwe called on the political parties to join hands with the election sub-commissions in systematic collection of votes at the free and fair

elections in 2015.

Next, he answered the queries raised by the political parties.

The meeting focused on making preparations to hold the 2015 elections in Mohnyin.—NLM-001

Cooperative Activity

Loan K 7600 million disbursed to cooperative societies in Kyaukse Tsp

KYAUKSE, 31 Jan—Under the arrangement of Ministry of Cooperatives, a ceremony to hand over K 766.3310 million for agricultural loans to local people on 29 January.

Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Department U Zaw Myo Oo explained disbursement of loans. Chairman of Township Development Committee U Aye Tun

explained development tasks for cooperative societies and handed over the loans to cooperative chairmen.

The Cooperative Department disbursed K 694.4210 million to 7413 members of 128 agricultural and general service cooperative societies and K 71.91 million to 1598 members of 56 cooperative societies.

Staff of the department in six groups will present loans to borrowers within six days. The department gets K 1.5 per cent interest through the loans for development of cooperative societies in Kyaukse Township.

Successes were achieved from reducing poverty alleviation and rural development in the township.

MMAL-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)



JETLI Foundation to donate parks, new school buildings in Thabeikkyin, Kyaukmyaung

SINGU, 31 Jan—JETLI Foundation offered to officials of Township Education Department for construction of parks and new school buildings in Thabeikkyin and Kyaukmyaung in the aftermath of the 2012 earthquake.

On 25 January, officials of JETLI Foundation arrived in Singu where they met Township Education Officer U Than Nyo, Headmistress Daw Hnin and officials.

Foundation officials donated equipment for the parks and 12 sports gear worth K 24 million as initial donations.

Experts from the foundation will install the equipment for the parks on 17 and 18 February.

The parks and school buildings will be built in Thabeikkyin and Kyaukmyaung at the same time.

MMAL-Win Maung

Transportation

Driving licences issued in Haka

HAKA, 31 Jan—Haka Township Directorate of Road Administration held talks on traffic rules before issuance of the driving licence to the people at the hall of Township Information and Public Relations Department in Haka on 29 January.

Acting Head of Chin

State Directorate of Road Administration Daw Htalar Min explained traffic rules.

Next, the candidates set for the traffic rules writing exam and other regulations and rules.

Those who did not pass the test are to be used in Tatkon.

MMAL-Gar Phay (IPRD)

Facts about taking census disseminated in Yedashe Tsp



YEDASHE, 31 Jan—Yedashe Township census taking committee and auditors and collector

from Ward/Village-tract census taking committee jointly conducted by an educative talks on taking

census at Ngakhonmachaung Dhammayon in Thagara of Yedashe Township on 28 January.

The Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department made clarification on the points of questions for taking census process in 2014 and its advantages and the Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department explained the duties of the collectors.

They also disseminated knowledge on taking census in Swa, Yeni and Yedashe townships from 28 to 30 January.

Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)

Agriculture

Cold season chick pea thriving in Yezagyo

YEZAGYO, 31 Jan—The people in Yezagyo Township are engaged in cultivation of cold season chick pea. This year, officials set the records with over 24000 acres of farmlands that will be put under the chick pea. The pea plants were grown on the land fed with inputs and moisture that had been used in cultivation of monsoon paddy. Thus chick pea plantations are covered with cultivation of chick pea.

Except from pesticides, the plants no need to the

fertilizers and input, said U Nyan San of Thazi

Township.—MMAL-Pe Tun Zaw (Yezagyo)



WORLD

Libya sets 20 February for constitution assembly vote

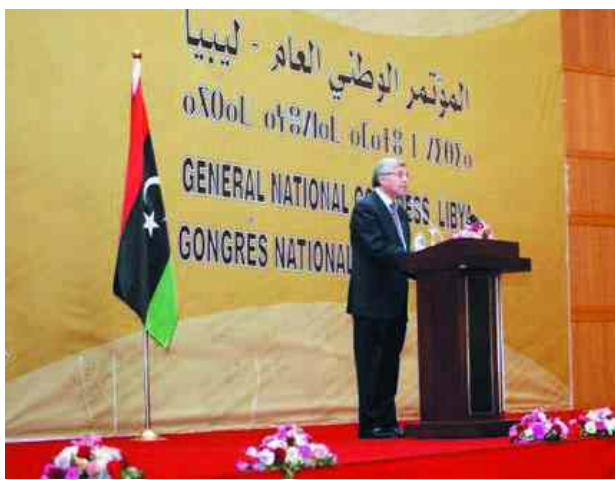
TRIPOLI, 31 Jan — Libya will elect an assembly on 20 February to draft a constitution intended to advance transition to democracy and break political stalemate more than two years after a NATO-backed uprising toppled Muammar Gaddafi. The North African country is caught up in chaos with its Congress deadlocked between Islamists and a leading nationalist party, and its nascent army struggling to assert itself against unruly former rebels, tribal groups and militants.

Just hours before the congress decision, gunmen kidnapped the son of Libya's special forces commander in Benghazi, later

calling the colonel to demand he withdraw troops in return for his son's release, state news agency LANA said. At least one soldier was killed, medical and security sources said, after troops clashed with gunmen in the eastern city. Militants from the hardline Islamist Ansar al-Sharia group have been fighting troops there.

Setting the date for the vote was a small step in a transition that has frustrated Libyans since the fall of Gaddafi with the fragile government often at the mercy of rival bands of former rebels who refuse to accept Tripoli's authority.

"We want all Libyan people and groups to



Nouri Abusahmain, president of the General National Congress (GNC), speaks during a ceremony in Tripoli on 30 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

reconcile and support these elections," Nouri Abusahmain, president of the General National Congress, said after announcing the date of the vote on Thursday.

Once the 60-member constitutional assembly is elected, it will have 120 days to draft a new charter, which would then be submitted to a popular refer-

endum. If the document is approved, an election for a proper parliament would be held in late 2014.

But that drafting process is likely to be complicated by the demands of tribal, regional and ethnic interest groups already vying for influence over Tripoli's government.

Reuters

Thai polling stations might have to close if trouble on election day



Riot police officers stand guard behind barricades as anti-government protesters rally outside the Thai Royal Police Club in Bangkok on 29 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 31 Jan — Thai authorities might close polling booths if violence erupts during Sunday's disputed election which could further undermine the credibility of a vote that is deemed incapable of restoring stability in the polarized country.

The government has vowed to push ahead with the general election despite threats by anti-government

protesters, camped out at major intersections in Bangkok, that they will disrupt the polls in an attempt to stop Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's Puea Thai Party from returning to power.

The main opposition Democrat party, which backs the anti-government protests, is boycotting the election, which Yingluck's party is bound to win but

without enough members to achieve a quorum in parliament. The prospect of polling stations having to close early because of trouble on the streets will only add to doubts about the vote's legitimacy.

Puchong Nutrawong, secretary-general of the Election Commission, said it was concentrating on security in Bangkok and the south, where the opposition is strong, after hundreds of thousands of people were prevented from casting their ballot during early voting last Sunday when protesters obstructed polling venues.

"We're focusing our security efforts in Bangkok and in the south. I've asked commission officials to call polling venues in southern Thailand today to ensure we are as prepared as we can be," Puchong told Reuters.

"If any polling station faces a security threat it can shut down."—Reuters

Next TPP ministerial likely in late February

TOKYO, 31 Jan — Japan's minister in charge of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks said on Friday the next TPP ministerial meeting will likely be held in late February as proposed by the United States.

"There is a strong chance (the next gathering) will take place later in February. It has yet to be confirmed officially, but we are making rapid arrangements toward that," Akira Amari said at a Press conference.

Noting that the next round of negotiations will be convened "at a critical time" before November's midterm election in the United States, Amari said all 12 TPP members need "determination to conclude the negotiations."

The 12 countries, which also include Australia, Canada, Chile and New Zealand, are mulling convening the next meeting for four days through 25 February, to be preceded by a chief negotiators' meeting from 17 February, according to sources familiar with the plan.

Kyodo News

Britain and France set to clash over EU reform at summit

LONDON, 31 Jan — British Prime Minister David Cameron is set to clash with France's President Francois Hollande over how to reform the European Union on Friday, souring an Anglo-French summit aimed at deepening defence and energy cooperation.

The first Anglo-French summit since Hollande won power in May 2012 will announce joint investment in the latest phase of a combat drone scheme, cooperation on civil nuclear power

trade bloc more efficient — an agenda he hopes will both persuade euroskeptical voters to back him at a 2015 election and quell dissent within his party. He has promised a referendum on Britain's EU membership by 2017.

"I'm sure that as part of those discussions around EU reform over lunch, certainly the prime minister will be making the points he has around the importance of a more flexible, more competitive European



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron holds a news conference during a European Union leaders summit, in Brussels on 14 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

research and an agreement on space and satellite technology.

But the real discussion begins later when, after the formal signing of defence and energy agreements, the leaders retire to a country pub close to Cameron's family home near Oxford in central England to air their differences over EU reforms.

Cameron wants to reopen European Union treaties to try to secure sweeping reforms to make the

Union," a British government official said.

But sources close to Hollande said this week that he was strongly against rewriting the treaties to suit Britain's domestic political agenda and that Cameron's push for deregulation was "toxic".

"Our interest is that the United Kingdom stays in Europe but that can't be achieved at the price of dismantling Europe," a source close to the French president said.—Reuters

WWII bomb control-detonated in western Germany

BERLIN, 31 Jan — Bomb disposal experts successfully control-detonated a 250 kg World War II bomb in western Germany's Cologne city after about 5,000 people were evacuated late Thursday evening, a city spokesman said. The bomb was found on Thursday during construction work near the Uni-Centre, a 45-storey apartment building housing about 2,000 people.

Because of the tricky construction of the fuse, bomb disposal experts had to opt for a controlled detonation of the bomb, and residents within a radius of 300 metres of the detona-

tion site were evacuated.

Local media said another World War II bomb was successfully defused almost at the same time in Neuss, about 40 km northwest of Cologne. More than 1,800 people were evacuated.

Nearly 69 years after the end of World War II, thousands of unexploded bombs are still believed buried in Germany. On 3 January, a construction worker manning a digger was killed when he accidentally struck a bomb during excavation work in Euskirchen in Germany's western state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Xinhua

Sochi Train Station is enclosed in a fence in Sochi, Russia, on 28 Jan, 2014, as Russia is on high alert against terrorist acts before the opening of the Winter Games the following month.

KYODO NEWS



WORLD



Riot forces stand guard on the upper side of Ghardaia City, about 600 km south of Algiers, Algeria, on 30 Jan, 2014. Security personnels were deployed recently to restore order in Ghardaia after tribal clashes broke out in the region.—XINHUA

Japan, US to hold 1st working-level talks on cyber security

TOKYO, 31 Jan — Japanese and US officials will meet for their first two-day working level talks on cyber security at the beginning of next week, Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said on Friday. “We’d like to improve our technological levels through cooperation with the United States, which has the most

advanced technology and human resources,” Onodera said at a Press conference.

Ro Manabe, deputy director general of the Bureau of Defence Policy, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence John Davis will co-chair the meeting, joined by Japanese Self-Defence Forces and US military personnel, to discuss how to

share information and train experts, Japan’s Defence Ministry said.

In October, Defence Minister Onodera and US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel agreed to establish a framework for officials at the vice-ministerial level to meet twice a year to coordinate efforts to counter cyberattacks.—Kyodo News



Tama, a cat “station master” at Wakayama Electric Railway Co., appears during an event in Kinokawa, Wakayama Prefecture, on 30 Jan, 2014, to promote chocolates featuring her. The products are being sold as St. Valentine’s Day presents. KYODO NEWS

Over 13,000 South Sudanese refugees cross into Kenya

NAIROBI, 31 Jan — A Kenyan humanitarian agency said on Thursday it has registered over 13,064 South Sudanese refugees at the Kakuma refugee camp with about 100 new daily arrivals.

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) said that the number of new arrivals has dropped a bit as compared to last week due to the fuel shortage in South Sudan.

“At the moment Malakal and Juba reception centers have been closed

down temporarily. They will be re-opened if there is an influx once again,” it said. The conflict in South Sudan has displaced more than 702,000 people across the country and caused another 123,000 fleeing to neighboring countries in over six weeks.

There are hopes that the cessation of hostilities agreement signed in Ethiopia last week by representatives of President Salva Kiir and former deputy president Riek Machar will lead to an end to the fighting and

help alleviate the plight of civilians in need.

The KRCS said it has continued to offer free mobile phone calls to the refugees in Kakuma camp to support family restoration links and for the new arrivals to convey their safe arrival in Kenya. It said its partners have been having weekly meetings every Wednesday, noting that KRCS was given the responsibility of registering the unaccompanied minors for tracing purposes.

Xinhua

Kerry to hold talks with Ukraine’s opposition in Germany

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — US Secretary of State John Kerry will meet key Ukrainian opposition figures on Friday on the sidelines of a security conference in Munich, a senior US official said on Thursday, his first meeting with some of the leaders of an anti-government uprising against President Viktor Yanukovich. Washington has welcomed talks in recent days between Yanukovich and the opposition groups to end two months of protests that began when Yanukovich rejected an EU trade deal in favor of closer ties and a financial bailout with Russia.

Among those attending the meeting with Kerry is Arseniy Yatsenyuk, a former economy minister and leader of the party of jailed former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko; former boxing champion-turned-politician Vitaly Klitschko, who leads the Udar (Punch) party; Petro Poroshenko, a member of parliament; and Ukrainian pop star Ruslana Lyzhychko.

Yanukovich and opposition leaders agreed in talks on Monday to repeal some anti-protest laws, a key demand by the opposition. The sides also agreed that prisoners detained by police in the unrest should be granted amnesty although Yanukovich has made this conditional on protesters relinquishing control of all premises and roads they seized. In addition, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov resigned on Tuesday after a sharp escalation in street

unrest and calls by the opposition for him to step down.

The senior State Department said the US was “cautiously optimistic” about the negotiations between the government and opposition.

Discussions with Kerry would focus on ways to restore calm and relaunch the political process in Ukraine, including plans to form a new government, according to the official.

Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry delivers opening remarks at a US-Pakistan ministerial-level meeting at the State Department in Washington, on 27 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

Anti-establishment party accuses Italian president of “attacking Constitution”

ROME, 31 Jan — The anti-establishment Five-Star Movement (M5S), Italy’s biggest opposition group in parliament, on Thursday made a formal petition for the impeachment of Italian President Giorgio Napolitano.

The M5S accused Napolitano of “attacking the Constitution,” according to a statement published on the internet-based movement’s website.

Napolitano allegedly failed in his role of being an independent arbiter of Italy’s politics, the M5S said, favouring the established parties and avoiding his intervention over unfair decrees.

The M5S, which is led by comedian-turned-politician Beppe Grillo, also complained that the 88-year-old president abused his pardon power and interfered in a trial

into alleged negotiations between the state and the mafia some 20 years ago.

Napolitano, a member of the former Italian Communist Party who gained a reputation for impartiality, last year became the first president in the Italian history elected for a second mandate to end a months-long postelection deadlock.

The M5S’s move came a day after the rul-

ing center-left Democratic Party (PD) and the center-right Forza Italia (FI) led by former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi reached a controversial agreement on a new electoral law.

On Thursday, several lawmakers of the M5S blocked the exits of the parliament’s constitutional affairs committee due to approve the bill for the new election law.

Xinhua

Three Cambodian children die in old mortar round explosion

PHNOM PENH, 31 Jan — A 60 mm mortar shell exploded in northern Cambodia on Thursday afternoon, claiming the lives of two boys and a girl, the local police said.

The victims were aged between 8 and 13 years old, said Pheng Lun, police chief of the rural Por commune, where the accident took place.

“The victims found the mortar shell while they tended cattle at rice fields, and they used rocks to beat on it, triggering the explo-

sion,” he said, adding that two of the victims were siblings.

The mortar round was left during the war time, he said.

Landmines and unexploded ordnance killed 22 people and injured 89 others in 2013, according to a report of the Cambodian Mine Action Authority released early this week.

The Southeast Asian nation is one of the world’s worst countries suffering from landmines and unexploded ordnance. An esti-

mated 4 million to 6 million landmines and other munitions were left over from three decades of war and internal conflicts that ended in 1998.

Heng Ratana, director general of the Cambodia Mine Action Centre, said that more than 3 million landmines and unexploded ordnance have been removed and destroyed, and the country is seeking about 50 million US dollars a year until 2020 to entirely get rid of all types of anti-personnel mines.—Xinhua

WORLD

Ukraine's Yanukovich goes on sick leave in midst of political crisis

KIEV, 31 Jan — Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich went on sick leave on Thursday after a bruising session of parliament, leaving a political vacuum in a country threatened with bankruptcy and destabilized by anti-government protests. The 63-year-old president appears increasingly isolated in a crisis born of a tug-of-war between the West and Ukraine's former Soviet overlord Russia. A former president said this week the violence between demonstrators and police had brought the country to the brink of civil war.

Shortly after his office

announced he had developed a high temperature and acute respiratory ailment, Yanukovich defended his record in handling the crisis and accused the opposition, which is demanding his resignation, of provoking the unrest.

"We have fulfilled all the obligations which the authorities took on themselves," a presidential statement said, referring to a bill passed late on Wednesday granting a conditional amnesty for activists who had been detained.

"However, the opposition continues to whip up the situation, calling on

people to stand in the cold for the sake of the political ambitions of a few leaders."

The amnesty offered freedom from prosecution to peaceful protesters, but only on condition that activists left official buildings they have occupied - something they have rejected.

Several members of Yanukovich's own party voted against the bill, even after he visited parliament himself to rally support, and some of his powerful industrialist backers are showing signs of impatience with the two-month-old crisis.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov resigned on Tues-



Interior Ministry members stand guard near the site of clashes with anti-government protesters in Kiev, on 30 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

day after a sharp escalation of the street unrest, which began in November when Yanukovich rejected a European Union deal in favor of closer ties and a bailout deal with Russia. The president, under pressure from

Moscow not to tilt policy back towards the West, has yet to appoint a successor. Serhiy Arbuzov, Azarov's first deputy and a close family friend of Yanukovich, has stepped in as interim prime minister.—Reuters

Man shoots dead six, wounds three in SW China

KUNMING, 31 Jan — A man shot dead six people and wounded three others at a village in southwest China's Yunnan Province on Thursday afternoon, local police said on Friday.

The suspect, 38-year-old Shao Zongqi, is now wanted by the police of Tengchong county.

Shao, who is from the village called Qingkou, is

suspected of carrying out the killing with a seemingly semi-automatic rifle before he escaped by a cross-country vehicle, police said in a statement.

The police offers 200,000 yuan as reward for providers of information that leads to the arrest of the suspect or people who capture him.

Xinhua



Congolese soldiers advance against the M23 rebels near the Rumangabo military base in Runyoni, 58 km (36 miles) north of Goma, on 31 Oct, 2013. —REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Jan — The UN Security Council stressed on Thursday that M23 rebels must be stopped from regrouping in Democratic Republic of Congo and expressed concern at Congolese soldiers aiding Rwandan Hutu militia, sparking a verbal clash between the countries' envoys. Rwanda's UN Ambassador, Eugene Gasana — a temporary member of the 15-member Security Council — accused Congo of "crying like small babies," while his Congolese counterpart, Ignace Gata Mavita wa Lufuta, said Rwanda's "arrogant behaviour must stop."

Rwanda has repeatedly intervened in Congo, saying it had to hunt down Hutu militia, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), which fled after Rwanda's 1994 genocide. Congo and Rwanda have fought two wars in two decades in eastern Congo. The UN Security Council expressed its concerns about the violence in eastern Congo in a unanimously adopted resolution that renewed an arms embargo and targeted sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes, on Democratic Republic of Congo.

The top UN official in Congo, Martin Kobler, has said there were credible reports that the M23 rebels appeared to be regrouping just two months after Congolese troops and UN peacekeepers defeated the Tutsi-led insurgency.

UN experts, who monitor violations of UN sanctions on Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo have long accused Rwanda of backing M23, which ended its 20-month rebellion in November, a claim that Kigali has fiercely rejected.

Rwanda and the UN experts have accused Congolese troops of collaborating with the FDLR, which includes Hutus who fled Rwanda after the genocide of 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutus. Kinshasa denies the claim.

"These guys (Congo), just every other day, coming and crying like small babies," Gasana told reporters after the council meeting. "Rwanda, it's a small country. Congo is rich. Congo has everything. How come Rwanda is always the scapegoat?"

Gata Mavita wa Lufuta told the Security Council: "We are a sovereign country and we must be respect-

ed as such and this arrogant behaviour (by Rwanda) must stop."

There was one thing both ambassadors agreed on: the UN Security Council was not the appropriate venue for their verbal spat.

Millions of people have died from violence, disease and hunger in Congo since the 1990s as armed groups have fought for control of the country's vast deposits of gold, diamonds, copper, cobalt and uranium.

Reuters

New commander takes charge of New Zealand military

WELLINGTON, 31 Jan — The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) came under a new commander on Friday, with Lieutenant General Tim Keating taking over from Lieutenant General Rhys Jones, whose term was marked by political wrangling and safety issues. Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman thanked Jones for his service to New Zealand and his distinguished 35-year career in the NZDF.

"He has overseen the withdrawal of the NZDF's commitments in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands, and he responded to a range of

humanitarian assistance operations, including the Christchurch Earthquakes and events in the South Pacific," Coleman said in a statement. Keating was a strong, credible leader with 32 years of military experience, he said.

Keating had joined the Army in 1982 and held various command positions. He had been deployed to Afghanistan as the Commander of the Bamyán Provincial Reconstruction Team in 2005. He held a Master of Strategic Studies from the US Army War College, Pennsylvania.

Keating will have a three-year term as Com-

mander of Defence Force.

Jones was appointed the country's top military officer in January 2011 on a three-year contract and was instructed by the government to cut the defence budget by 400 million NZ dollars (326.15 million US dollars). But critics have said the funding cuts have damaged morale among the ranks, and resulted in essential personnel being made redundant.

In September last year, when Jones announced his retirement, the main opposition Labour Party said he was being made a scapegoat for failed policies, and the same month a safety re-

view of the NZDF indicated that cost cutting, restructuring and high attrition were all factors in the poor safety record of the NZDF.

In July last year, the NZDF was convicted in court on breaches of the country's workplace health and safety laws regarding the death of a soldier during a training exercise in September 2012.

In November, the sole survivor of an air force helicopter crash that killed three other personnel in April 2010 was given leave by a Wellington court to bring charges alleging health and safety violations against the NZDF.—Xinhua

Two soldiers killed in bomb blast in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 31 Jan — Two paramilitary soldiers were killed in a blast on Thursday in restive southern Thailand where hundreds of such bomb attacks occur each year.

The latest attack happened as the two soldiers were on duty at a local school in Yaring District, Pattani Province. One of them died at the scene, while the other died in hospital.

Police said an explosive device hidden under a bench on which the soldiers sat during their break time was detonated by remote control.

The attack came a day after two paramilitary soldiers were killed in a blast in neighboring Yala Province while on patrol, while a separate blast injured three paramilitary soldiers as they were escorting a group of teachers to a school in the same province.

Since violence started in 2004, around 6,000 people have been killed in the four affected Provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala and Songkhla.

Kyodo News

People take part in the destruction of 96 weapons confiscated in criminal acts, in the headquarters of the General Direction for the Control of Weapons and Ammunitions (DIGECAM, for its acronym in Spanish) of the Guatemala's Army, in Guatemala City, capital of Guatemala, on 30 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA



Israeli President rides the Google Bike

By AvigayilKadesh

All 300 Google Israel employees come to Google's Tel Aviv digs to show President Shimon Peres the latest cool technologies, such as Code Lab.

Israeli President Shimon Peres may be 90 years old, but that did not keep him from spontaneously pedaling a bike across a Google Street View map when he visited the worldwide company's Tel Aviv offices in late August 2013.

Peres was in town to welcome senior developers from Google's Android Games team in California's Silicon Valley, who had just landed in Israel for the launch of Code Lab—a brainstorming workshop with Israeli game developers to create sophisticated new mobile fun with the aid of Google products.

At Google Israel's multi-floor headquarters in the iconic Electra Tower, Peres also learned of the latest innovations created by entrepreneurs at Campus TLV, a shared startup space hosted by Google for

Entrepreneurs.

Among them were developers of UpSense, an intuitive touch keyboard for the blind; small robots controlled by Android smartphones; Action Painter, an Android virtual painting app; and Veed.Me, an online platform connecting businesses with a screened community of videogra-

phers. Google's R&D Centre in Israel, told Peres about the new Google Campus for Moms, an eight-session "baby-friendly" tech entrepreneurship course led by Google and Yazamiyot, an Israeli women's entrepreneurship organization. The idea is to create a local hub of female leaders and provide the content and space



Checking out UpSense keyboard for the blind with co-inventor Nissan Yaron. Photo by Mark Neiman/GPO

phers.

Meir Brand, managing director of Google Israel, Greece and Sub-Saharan Africa, and Yossi Matias, managing director of

for learning and networking without having to leave baby at home.

Making entrepreneurs better

Introducing Code Lab,

Google Israel Developer Relations Programme Manager Amir Shevat said the goal of bringing in corporate experts from Android and YouTube divisions is "to make mobile games and video products more successful by bringing our expertise and our technology in order to empower the [Israeli] entrepreneurs who come with the ideas and the innovation."

Shevat explained that Code Lab is open to anyone from nine-year-olds to senior citizens, Arabs and Jews alike, with great ideas. "Usually we work with them for a week to 10 days,



but some for only one day." **The president Google bik-**

ing. Photo by Niv Kantor

"We advise them on how to leverage Google technology at no cost to them," said Daniel Dobson, a senior Android Games team member. "I love coming out here because we get the best questions from Israeli developers. That helps us figure out what we need to do to help developers use our infrastructure."

Added Shevat: "A few years ago, you had to work very hard to develop your product yourself, while we [at Google] have a platform and technology that will help you to develop the game or app and distribute it to your audience."

Peres asked how many of the ideas come to fruition. "I would say about seven percent make it through the first year," said Shevat. "That is a high percentage!" Peres responded.

"Yes," said Shevat. "And those who become very successful compensate for all those ideas that did not make it. Also, people with an idea can experiment, trying it again and

again until they get it right. Campus TLV isn't about choosing startups but making the entrepreneurs better. You can have three or four ideas that are not successful, but you learn from them and then you create something very successful at the end."

Peres laughed when he learned that each Google-sponsored startup CEO gets a colourful propeller beanie emblazoned with the word "Noogle," to show off being a "new-Googler."

"That's the way you know someone is new in the company," joked Shevat. In his remarks to hundreds of employees at the end of his visit, Peres observed that "Israelis are full of imagination and ambition."

"The most impressive thing about Google is the good will and ideology that leads you to always think about the other, and how to help and develop solutions for millions of people," he said. "Googlers, I'm proud of you for what you do."

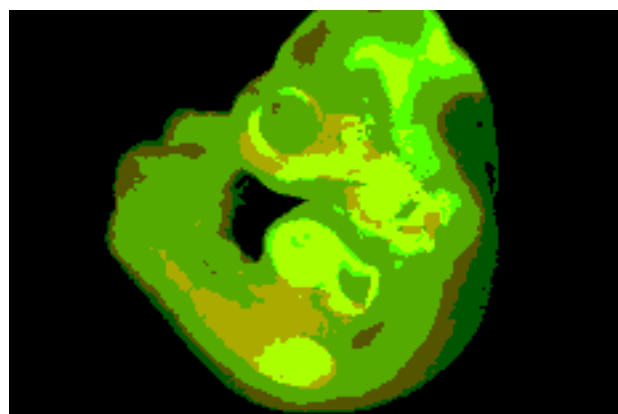
Scientists hail breakthrough in embryonic-like stem cells

LONDON, 31 Jan — In experiments that could open a new era in stem cell biology, scientists have found a simple way to reprogramme mature animal cells back into an embryonic-like state that allows them to generate many types of tissue. The research, described as game-changing by experts in the field, suggests human cells could in future be reprogrammed by the same technique, offering a simpler way to replace damaged cells or grow new organs for sick and injured people.

Chris Mason, chair of regenerative medicine bioprocessing at University College London, who was not involved in the work, said its approach in mice was "the most simple, lowest-cost and quickest

method" to generate so-called pluripotent cells — able to develop into many different cell types — from mature cells. "If it works in man, this could be the game changer that ultimately makes a wide range of cell therapies available using the patient's own cells as starting material — the age of personalized medicine would have finally arrived," he said.

The experiments, reported in two papers in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday, involved scientists from the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in Japan and Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in the United States. The researchers took skin and blood cells, let them multiply, then subjected them to stress "al-



A mouse embryo formed with Stimulus-Triggered Acquisition of Pluripotency (STAP) cells is seen in this undated image released by RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology on 28 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

most to the point of death", they explained, by exposing them to various events including trauma, low oxygen levels and acidic environments. One of these "stressful" situations was simply to bathe the cells in a weak acid solution for around 30 minutes.

Within days, the scientists found that the cells had not only survived but had

also recovered by naturally reverting into a state similar to that of an embryonic stem cell. These stem cells—dubbed Stimulus-Triggered Acquisition of Pluripotency, or STAP, cells by the researchers — were then able to differentiate and mature into different types of cells and tissue, depending on the environments they were put in. — Reuters

Yahoo says detected hacking attempt on email accounts

BANGALORE/ BOSTON, 31 Jan — Yahoo Inc said it had detected a "coordinated effort" to gain unauthorized access to Yahoo Mail accounts using malicious computer software.

The company said on its official blog that it believed that the attackers

were attempting to access the accounts using credentials that had been obtained from a breach of another company's user database. It did not identify that company.

People frequently use the same passwords on multiple accounts, so hackers

attempt to use credentials stolen in one breach to break into multiple types of accounts. "We have no evidence that they were obtained directly from Yahoo's systems," the company said on its blog.

A Yahoo spokeswoman declined to say how many

accounts had been compromised or provide a detailed description, saying that it was the subject of an investigation by federal law enforcement. The company said on its blog that it had prompted users to reset passwords to protect their accounts. — Reuters

4,000-year-old tablet reveals details of ark before Noah

LONDON, 31 Jan — A 4,000-year-old clay tablet from ancient Mesopotamia revealing details of the ark before Noah was on Thursday displayed at the British Museum in London.

Dr Irving Finkel, an expert on ancient Mesopotamian and cuneiform script with the British Museum, said the clay tablet was "one of the most important human documents ever discovered." Finkel recently deciphered the tablet which is light brown in color and about the size of a smartphone.

According to the language on the tablet, the boat was a round vessel, and the surface area would have been 3,600 square meters, with walls six meters high. The walls would then have been coated with bitumen.

"It was gigantic, it

works out at about two thirds of a football pitch," said Finkel. "It would have been ideal, it would never sink and it would be a light boat to save all the animals," he added.

This was a giant version of a craft which the Babylonians knew very well, Finkel pointed out, in daily use up to the late 20th century to transport people and animals across rivers. Finkel said he was "107 percent certain" that the ark described in the tablet had never been built.

He said the cuneiform text was written in about 1750 BC, and is part of a much longer Babylonian story about the flood and what led up to it, also known from the Book of Genesis in the Bible which was written much later.

Xinhua



52nd C-in-C Cup Football Tournament concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoyed the final match of the 52nd Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services' Trophy (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament at Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Sports Ground here today.

In the final match,

Yangon Command team beat Nay Pyi Taw Command team 5-4 in the penalty decision. The senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win presented awards to prize winners and winning teams. Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win awarded individual medals, Championship Trophy, duplicate cup and cash awards to No. 77 LID team in B-level match.

Next, the Senior General awarded the Championship Trophy, duplicate cup and cash award to Yangon Command team in A-level match.—Myawady

EU Ambassador and party meet town's elders of both communities in Maungtau

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—A delegation led by EU Ambassador Mr Roland Kobia separately met with town's elders of the both communities, Rakhine national parties and religious leaders at Sittway Hotel in Sittway Township, Rakhine on 29 January.

During the meeting, the delegation heard the reports sent by the both communities and reviewed the ways to solve the problems.

Similarly, the EU delegation and Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and party met with the internally displaced persons at the relief camps in Thet-

kaybyin and Thechaung villages.

They also met with the officials of Ducheertan (Middle) village at Basic Education Primary School in the village and viewed the maps of incidents and documentary photos. They met the local people and asked their needs.

Afterwards, the delegation had a discussion with the administrators from townships and district, officials of Maungtau District Police Force, town's elders and officials of UN agencies and social organizations.

Police Brig-Gen Tin

Ko Ko clarified matters related to violent attacks against Police Sgt Aung Kyaw Thein and party on his patrol at Ducheertan (middle) village in Maungtau Township on 13 January. Town's elders of the two communities explained the relations between the both communities.

In MraukU, the delegation also met the town's elders and members of UN agencies and social organizations. Town's elders explained that the people of both communities do not prefer and accept incorrect news released by some local and foreign media. It

Compensation, allowance to be provided to farmers in Letpadaungtaung Project Area

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Chairman of Committee for Implementation of the Report of Investigation Commission on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project Union Minister at President Of-

fice U Hla Tun and party looked round maintenance of water supply canal of Nyaungbingyi river water pumping project, construction of concrete lining from PS-1 to PS-2 and completion of station

hospital (16-bed) in Monywa, Sagaing Region yesterday.

They then attended openings of Khitthit Alintan library and rural electrification ceremonies in Tebinkan Vil-



Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun greets locals.—MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing awards C-in-C Championship Trophy to Yangon Command team in A-Level match.—MYAWADY

is necessary to build mutual trusts between the both communities for ensuring peaceful co-existence.

The officials from international organizations also reported on their activities and the EU Ambassador and party gave necessary advice. Later, the EU Ambassador and party visited the ancient pagodas in MraukU.—MNA

lage in Yinmabin Township and pre-primary schools and handing over of school buildings in Wethmay-Kantaw new Village and Hsete-Zetaw new Village and Wahdan Village electrification ceremony in Salingyi Township.

Newly-inaugurated schools were built at a cost of K 65 million each contributed by Myanmar-Wenbao Co Ltd and Myanma Economic Holdings Ltd according to corporate social responsibility (CSR) of the business firms for development of local youths.

They inspected construction of RC type two-storey building of BEMS in Phaungkata Village and met with the locals at the hall of No.6 Garment Factory (Salingyi).

Union Minister U Hla Tun said that the committee is making work progresses of the project public known in a transparent manner by hold-

Low-priced SIM cards allotted to workers in Dekkhinathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Nay Pyi Taw Council is implementing eight-point rural development and poverty alleviation in its area.

A total of 50 low-priced SIM cards was allotted to workers of Max Myanmar Construction Co at the company office in Dekkhinathiri Township to

enable them to get easy access to better telecommunications.

On 30 January afternoon, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt and officials looked into issuance of SIM cards to the workers through draw lot system.—Tun Tun Win (Pyinmana)

ing a meeting with locals every month. With regard to land confiscation, although some farmer has already taken out land compensation, some has not taken out yet due to various reasons. He continued compensation and allowance will be provided to the land confiscated farmers, adding the committee is carrying out not only findings of the investigation commission but also socioeconomic development tasks.

The region chief minister clarified work progress and ongoing work programmes of the project and Union Minister U Win Tun, matters on environmental conservation and Union Minister U Ohn Myint, rural area development tasks.

Managing Director Maj-Gen Zarni Win of UMEHL said that arrange-

ments have been made to provide suitable compensation for confiscated farmlands and the compensation is to take out as of 3 February 2014.

The committee chairman and officials presented K 25.4 million cash assistance to the students from the project and nearby areas for 2012-2013 academic year. In his concluding remarks, the committee chairman pointed out that it will achieve success through collaborative efforts of the locals in implementing the project in accord with report of the investigation commission. He pledged to sustainably conserve the project area, calling the locals to join hands with the government harmoniously for the interest of the State and people through constructive cooperation.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 1 February, 2014

Child labour

Child labourers are fairly common in tea-shops mostly in urban areas in our country. But, it would be wrong to define them as “being exploited” because they are often the secondary earners of their families. Who else would earn for their family members when they are labeled as child labour and pulled out of the work?

In poverty-stricken families, a child, mostly of the eldest one's own needs are often subjugated to the needs of his/her family. The eldest children just take it as a family duty and will not go to school even if the schooling is free or easily accessible because there is only one option—work or starve. Under such circumstance, boys will choose of their own volition to work in farming in rural areas and at teashops and eateries in urban places.

Unfortunately, girls from poverty-stricken families do not appear to be as lucky as their male counterparts and often become either paid or unpaid domestic helpers at young age. Such girls are subject to physical, psychological and sexual violence and abusive working conditions, which are hidden from public eye. The plight of such child labourers in the cruel hands of abusive employers is often beyond our imagination.

Boys working at teashops and beer stations are also vulnerable to physical violence of the owners, but it is rather rare in comparison with girl domestic workers whose sad stories are often unknown. Child domestic work is not recognized as a form of child labour in many countries because of the blurred relationship between the employing families and child labourers. Basically uneducated and being timid with police and courts, domestic helpers rarely file lawsuit against abusive employers, which in turn prolong their troubles.

From the point of view of human rights, the government should take a central role in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour through adopting and enforcing national legislation against child labour. In addition, public awareness should be raised systematically apart from putting effective enforcement and monitoring mechanism in place.

President's Scholarship ...

(from page 1)

parties, political groups, civil society, business groups, Tatmadaw, ethnic armed groups, other ethnic groups, and the public, we were able to address many difficulties and challenges during the past two years of peace building and national unity. It is due to this collective action that we are step by step closer to a nationwide ceasefire agreement, followed by political dialogue that will lead to peace.

A recent accomplishment was the successful holding of the ethnic armed groups meeting organized by the KNU in Law Khee Lar, Kayin State. Building on the positive results achieved at the meeting, the necessary negotiations will take place to hold a peace conference in Hpa-an, Kayin State to discuss the signing date and other details of the nationwide ceasefire agreement. Next, political dialogue, necessary for national reconciliation, will begin with the establishment of a framework followed by the commencement of meetings. These achievements are the result of our collective determination and perseverance.

Alongside the establishment of peace-based national unity, we are initiating fundamental reforms in the essential social development areas of national healthcare and education. These reforms would not be possible without the freedoms, openness, and assistance from the international community that all result from our political reforms.

A major development this month was the resumption of World Bank assistance to Myanmar after a break of several years. Related to this, the Second Myanmar Development and Cooperation Fo-

rum was held this month to energize efforts to ensure effective coordination with our international partners.

In consultation with experts, we are undertaking fundamental reforms to establish a national healthcare system to ensure healthcare access for all, rich or poor. The Ministry of Health and the International Development Association, which is part of the World Bank Group, will jointly adopt short- and long-term plans. To successfully establish universal health coverage accessible by all, it will be important for all of us to take personal ownership and make the correct choices to come up with home-grown process, just as we did with our political reforms.

We will need to learn from the lessons of how other countries overcame the difficulties and challenges of establishing a national healthcare system. Reflecting on these lessons and our own political, economic, and social conditions, I urge all of you to come together and act with a sense of national duty to ensure the emergence of a system agreeable to you all.

The national education reforms are of utmost importance for our future generations. We are already seeing wide-ranging discussions on this topic by civil society, education policy groups, and experts. I expect positive results to emerge from these discussions and debates. We are also establishing a President's Scholarship Award for outstanding Myanmar students to study at international universities so that future generations can have long-lasting educational opportunities, and also study subjects that will benefit the development of the country.

Another development is the emergence of civil society voicing their opinions and demands about the standards and norms of our open and free society. The demands for

laws that are in line with the new political system should reflect the needs of our society. We should view these positive demands as energizing the new political culture.

I have also noticed disputes and voicing of opinions concerning land ownership and illegal entry and occupation of land. Land issues have challenged every country that has undertaken reforms. Land issues are difficult to solve since they are related to political, economic, and social issues. We are addressing land issues systematically with emphasis on taking correct, and practical action. The government is also working with state governments to ensure data concerning landless families is collected and the families resettled according to township development plans. However, I would like to add that we will take appropriate action against those that illegally enter and occupy land.

The ASEAN Para Games were also held last month. I am proud of those Myanmar athletes that won medals at the event. Despite their disabilities, the athletes showed that they are still productive members of society, and given suitable roles, are valuable contributors to national development. These games remind our society that we all have the responsibility to help people with disabilities.

Last month, the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting was held in our cultural capital Bagan. Myanmar is the ASEAN chair this year, and we were able to discuss regional cooperation in the areas of investment, trade, employment opportunities, security, and skills development.

We will soon begin political dialogue with ethnic groups as part of the peace-based national unity process. Therefore, when considering changes to the 2008 Constitution, I urge you not to overlook the outcome of this dialogue.

Since the main demand of the ethnic groups is a union

based on federalist principles including equality, self-determination, ethnic rights, and preservation of their cultures and languages, political dialogue of these and other wide-ranging issues will necessarily result in some amendments to the Constitution. Moreover, these amendments must be made in conjunction with those that strengthen democratic values and norms to ensure a healthy constitution. Therefore, I urge those primarily responsible for constitutional amendments, namely, parliament, political parties, and political groups to take the above factors into consideration when making the amendments.

On the whole, I would like to encourage you all to try to overcome the difficulties, constraints and challenges that we encounter in creating a new political setting that the entire society has longed for with an open mind, tolerance and through your preferred approach. I would also like to shed light on the fact that although ethnic leaders initially attended the recent conference of ethnic armed groups in Law Khee Lar with diverse views, they reached a common position at the closing of the conference to sign the nationwide ceasefire agreement. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all ethnic leaders who contributed to such an outcome.

I particularly like to acknowledge the remark made by the Chairman of the Karen National Union, Saw Mutu Sae Poe that in order to make sure that the peace process moves forward step by step, all parties “must make history by courageously signing the (nationwide ceasefire) agreement”. He has urged all of us to work together to address a very difficult task in our history. Making such difficult political choices is an integral part of the new political culture and political setting I have repeatedly noted. I would like to conclude by saying that I am fully convinced that our efforts will yield good results.

I wish you all good health.

Correction

Please read “Arakan National Party” instead of “Rakhine Nationalities Party” in the first line of the news under the heading of “Public announcement for remonstrance” and sub-headings of party flag and seal of the party on page 8 in this daily issued on 28-1-2014.—NLM

Coord Meeting for signing MoU held



Coordination meeting on signing an MoU for exportation of 500,000 tons of Palethwe rice to the market of the Philippines in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—A coordination meeting on signing an MoU for exportation of 500,000 tons of Palethwe rice to the market of the Philippines took place at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here this afternoon.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said ongoing plans to export 500,000 tons of Palethwe rice to the Philippines for its food security

in accord with the agreement between the two countries during the President's trip to the Republic of the Philippines in 2013 while Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint touched upon matters on necessary assistance for the market. Senior Consultant of Water Stone from the Philippines Mr Norberto R. Ong also discussed ongoing plans of their country and quickly implementation of MoU.—MNA

Health care reforms...

(from page 1)
be carried out to the government.

As a third step, the committee will have to discuss the legislation regulation or other policy measures for health sector reforms and to put forward them to the Hluttaw through the government. In the fourth step, health care services would be implemented in cooperation with local people in regions and states.

Life expectancy for a man has improved from 56 in 1990 to 63 in 2011 while

for a woman is from 60 in 1990 to 67 in 2011.

The president has called for stepping up efforts for decreasing infant and maternal mortality rate, promoting health care awareness including educating and prevention against diseases, and promoting diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. President U Thein Sein has also urged Ministry of Health and region/state governments to coordinate each other to be able to reduce the infant mortality rate to 43 in 1,000 and the maternal mortality rate to

130 in 100,000 children as part of efforts for meeting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

He also called for making efforts for fighting the HIV and TB in the country.

Regarding the reforms of the health sector, the President has urged to expand the organizational set-up and to encourage skills and performance of staff, to ensure transparency in reforms, to establish the health insurance system and to formulate necessary rules and regulations for the food safety in the country.

He also urged the staff of the Ministry of Health to make efforts for turning the people's hospitals into reliable health care facilities for the poor people as the government has already

the Hluttaw representatives discussed Hluttaw affairs, education, health, rail transportation, judiciary, social welfare and financial mat-

committed to achieving that goal. President U Thein Sein also stressed the need for reviewing the Myanmar Health Vision 2030 and to draft the national health development plan and regional health plan in line with the Myanmar Comprehensive Development Plan. —MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham calls...

(from page 1)
He called participants for holding opening discussions about health sector development.

Next, Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein discussed education and health sectors.

National Health Committee Chairman Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin supplemented the discussion about health promotion.

The participants also concentrated on health sector development.—MNA

Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) holds 1/2014 meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) held 1/2014 meeting at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex yesterday, with an address by Chairman of MPU and Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

speakers. The meeting ended in the evening and ninth-day session will be held on 3 February.—MNA

taw speaker said that MPU was formed since three years ago with approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to deal with parliamentary affairs. The report of Joint Committee for Reviewing the Constitution will submit to today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session and the meeting purpose is to know ongoing work programmes of the Hluttaws, he added.

Vice-Chairman of MPU U Khin Aung Myint said that international community is monitoring the Hluttaws and a group in Myanmar also starts monitoring on the Hluttaws. They conduct researches on rural development, mineral resource, forestry and livestock breeding sectors of the country, he said. The MPU has prepared to up-

grade laws on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. The researchers have also target to monitor not only central level but also region and state level. He expressed his wish for actively taking part in MPU meetings by the region/state Hluttaw speakers through all collaborative efforts.

In his concluding remarks, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said that the Hluttaws are to overcome the obstacles in accord with the law and people's wishes, saying development fund needs to be beneficial to the people. The undertakings of the Hluttaws are to be carried out through media to make the public known, he added.

MNA

Union Attorney-General receives guests of UN Resident Coordinator's Office

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin met a delegation led by Ms Dessallien from UN Resident Coordinator's Office at his office here yesterday.

Director-General of the Union Attorney-General's Office U Kyaw Hsan, deputy directors-general and officials also attended the meeting.

MNA

Information Ministry holds press conference



Press conference of Ministry of Information in progress.—MNA

and use receivers illegally under the Communication Law which was enacted on 8 October, 2013.

During the press conference, journalists raised questions about applying

licenses for publishing print media, illegal import and using of receivers and prospects for running two state-run Myanmar languages in joint venture with private companies and services for

national people, sales of Set Top Box, media equipment used by Ministry of Information during 27th SEA Games and loss and profits of the New Light of Myanmar daily.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ...

(from page 16)
U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency said the organizations to be managed the loans require to have accountability and responsibility to beneficially use these loans in the projects. The Hluttaw decided to approve acceptance of ODA loan.

Japanese Yen 63.2 billion of ODA will be spent by Ministry of Rail Transportation, Yangon City Development Committee, Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

With regard to basic principles of National Planning Bill for 2014-2015 FY,



3rd annual dinner of Hluttaw...

(from page 16)
which are not related to projects funded by the budget of the government and the works would be implemented without damaging the duties and responsibilities of the governmental institutions, he said.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann speaking at annual dinner hosted in honour of Hluttaw Representatives.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Ministry of Information has refuted the allegation that the ministry has been publishing three state-run dailies at a loss as it is seeking K 36.566 billion kyat for the 2014-15 FY.

The ministry has sought the budget allocation of 36.566 billion kyat for the 2014-15 FY for six departments under the ministry and the Union Information Minister clarified the budget in detail at the parliament, said U Win Zaw Htay, Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise at the press conference here today.

Out of 36 billion kyat of state-owned investment in Ministry of Information in the 2012-13 FY, 3.337 billion kyat were invested in the News and Periodicals

Enterprise, and the NPE earned 14.19 billion kyat and its expenditure reached 11.75 billion kyat in the 2012-13 FY, gaining a profit of 2.44 billion kyat, he said.

Besides, the NPE has seen its profits in the 2013-2014 FY as it has earned 13.92 billion kyat and its expenditure reached 10.04 billion kyat so far till December, 2013, according to the statistics.

"The allegation on the media that the News and Periodicals Enterprise is publishing its three dailies at a loss is totally contrary to the ethics of the journalism," Director U Win Zaw Htay said.

During the press conference, U Kyaw Oo, Director of the Information and Public Relations De-

partment of the ministry also reaffirmed the ministry's notice to publishers of the print media to express imprint in their respective publications.

Regarding the 2004-agreement between Ministry of Information and the Forever Group Company Ltd, U Win Kyin, Director of the Myanmar Radio and Television, said the two sides renewed the agreement in 2006 and the two sides are also preparing to ink the new agreement to be able to cope with the current changes.

The ministry is also preparing to renew the agreement with the Shwe Than Lwin Media Company Ltd, he added.

He has also warned that actions would be taken against those who import

MMCWA responsible persons supervise training courses



NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, UNICEF and Health Department jointly organized the Seven Things This Year Initiative Project and the instructor courses in Thabaung Township of

Ayeyawady Region on 23 and 24 January and Ottwin Township of Bago Region on 29 and 30 January.

It was attended by in Thabaung Township, Joint Secretary-1 of MMCWA Daw Tin Tin Win, CEC member Dr May Soe Oo,

Project Manager Dr Thet Naing Oo and Project Officer Dr Zaw Tun Oo and officials of Ayeyawady Region MCW Supervisory Committee.

The Joint Secretary-1 and CEC member visited the pre-primary school of Thabaung Township MCWA and donated K 50000 to the fund for the township association.

On 29 January, the similar training course was opened in Ottwin Township of Bago Region. President of MMCWA Dr Daw Mon Mon Aung, CEC members

and officials, the head of Region Health Department and trainees attended the ceremony.

President Dr Daw Mon Mon Aung made an opening address.

The President and party visited the pre-primary school of the township association and presented uniforms for the children and K 50000 to the fund.

After that, they donated K 100,000 to the fund of Ottwin Township Hospital. MNA

Business

Meiktila brokerage helps develop trading

MEIKTILA, 31 Jan—Meiktila Brokerage established in September 2013 was initially formed with eight merchants.

Now, the brokerage has 20 executives and 160 members.

Before establishment of the brokerage, local merchants faced lower prices in trading all goods.

At present, Meiktila brokerage connects with borkerages in other regions to enquire prices of goods.

Now, the brokerage

manages sales of pigeon pea at K 19000 per bag. Thanks to high price, farmers from Mahlaing and Kyaukpadaung townships flow into Meiktila market.

However, pigeon pea cannot be exported. So, current price is under control of merchants. Farmers should hold their goods till they get good price.

Nowadays, Meiktila brokeage is busy with trading of goods as much as they can.

NLM-017

Over K 250 million loans go to agricultural cooperative

HAKA, 31 Jan—A ceremony to disburse loans to agricultural cooperative societies was held at the hall of Chin State Cooperative Department on 29 January.

Deputy Director U Aung Min of State Department and Chairman of Chin State Cooperative Syndicate Ltd U Kham Kyon explained disbursement matters.

Officials presented K 45.735 million loan to Thantlang Township Ltd and K 21.075 million to Haka Township Ltd.

The State Department has disbursed K 253.353 million to 3908 members from 108 coopeative syndicates of nine townships in the state.—MMAL-Haka District IPRD

56 human trafficking victims handed over in Myawady

MYAWADY, 31 Jan—A ceremony to hand over 56 human trafficking victims of Myanmar placed under care of homes of the Social Welfare and Development Department of Thailand was held at Thaungyin

Hall in Myawady through Myawady-Mae Sot route on 30 January.

Head of State SWD U Ko Ko Naing and officials, Deputy Director of Myawady District Immigration and National

Registration Department U Aung Win Thein and IP Tun Tun of Myawady Anti-Human Trafficking Squad and officials of Thailand attended the handover ceremony.

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady)



National Objectives of 67th Anniversary Union Day 2014

- For all the national races to cultivate the Union Spirit to perpetuate the Union
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Invitational volleyball tournament wraps up



MANDALAY, 31 Jan—The final match of the Aungthamadi Mandalay Invitational Volleyball Tournament 2014 was held

at the volleyball ground of Aungthamadi gold and jewellery and gold refinery plant in Aungmyethazan Township on 25 January.

Inwakhit (A) beat MCDC Vehicle Department 3-1 in the final.

Chairman of the organizing committee U Maw Maw presented prizes to the winning teams in respective positions.

Patron of the committee U Aung Aung gave K 500,000 to first prize winning Inwakhit team and K 300,000 to MCDC Vehicle Department.

In addition, Aungthamadi Mandalay Organizing Committee will hold the Moe Auk Myebyin invitational volleyball tournament at Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay in March.

The committee will award K 2 million to the first prize wining team and K 1 million to the second with the aim of turning out outstanding volleyball players in the region.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

REGIONAL



Utsunomiya city officials and "gyoza" dumpling restaurant managers shout banzai at the city hall on 31 Jan, 2014, after central government data listed the Tochigi prefectural capital as having the nation's highest average household spending on the food item in 2013.

KYODO NEWS

Utsunomiya regains Japan's No 1 'gyoza' dumpling city status in 2013

UTSUNOMIYA, 31 Jan— Utsunomiya has regained the coveted mantle of "Japan's No 1 'gyoza' dumpling city," municipal officials said on Friday, after central government data listed the Tochigi prefectural capital as having the nation's highest average household spending on the food item in 2013.

City officials and dumpling restaurant manag-

ers, who gathered at the city hall ahead of the 8:30 am release of internal affairs ministry data, applauded and shouted banzai after confirming that the spending in Utsunomiya was larger than in Hamamatsu, which was the biggest-spending city on the dumplings in 2011 and 2012.

Utsunomiya, north of Tokyo, had billed itself as the No 1 dumpling city to at-

tract tourists with the spending data remaining at the top of Japan's major cities for 15 straight years until 2010. The city government was thus shocked when the Shizuoka Prefecture city surpassed it in expenditures in 2011 and again in 2012. In an effort to urge citizens to spend more on dumplings, a dumpling song was used in promotional events.

Kyodo News

China issues alert for heavy fog

BEIJING, 31 Jan — China's meteorological authority issued a yellow alert for foggy weather as heavy fog will continue to shroud central and eastern China on Friday.

Heavy fog will persist this morning in Anhui, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Zhejiang, and parts of Shandong, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou, Guangxi and Guangdong due to inactive cold air and possible smog created by firecrackers as Chinese celebrated the lunar new year, with visibility in some regions reduced to less than 200 meters.

The NMC advised people in the middle regions along the Yellow River and Huaihe River and the mid and lower reaches of Yangtze River to reduce setting off fireworks.

China's meteorological alerts are categorized as blue, yellow, orange and red as the severity ascends.

Xinhua

Utilities lobbying LDP lawmakers to support new nuclear plants

TOKYO, 31 Jan— The Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan is lobbying lawmakers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to support new nuclear power plant construction, sources close to the matter said on Friday.

The lobbying comes as the ruling party polls its lawmakers in the run-up to working out a new national energy plan, with no nuclear reactors currently online

in Japan in the wake of the March 2011 Fukushima Daiichi plant accident.

In a written leaflet distributed to LDP lawmakers, the federation provides model answers to poll questions in support of nuclear energy, the sources said.

"Lawmakers are independently responding to the poll," LDP Secretary General Shigeru Ishiba told a press conference

Friday. "The party is not involved in providing the model answers."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has already said that he has no plans for building new nuclear power plants. In the leaflet, the federation says Japan should build new nuclear plants to maintain and develop the highest level of safety standards and technologies, the sources said.

Kyodo News



The Mie prefectural government shows on 20 Jan, 2014, a fossilized tusk base (left) and tooth of what is believed to be a newly discovered species of elephant that has been found in Suzuka in the central Japan prefecture. Archeologists say the elephant existed about 2.4 million years ago.—KYODO NEWS

Cambodian PM sends greetings on Chinese New Year

PHNOM PENH, 31 Jan— Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen sent his greetings to overseas Chinese in Cambodia on the Spring Festival, blessing them with good luck, fortune and happiness in the New Year.

"On the occasion of the Chinese traditional New Year — the Year of Horse, in the status of the prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I'd like to join the celebrations with all brotherly Chinese people who have always lived and shared difficult and happy times together for decades," the prime minister said in a message sent to the Chinese Association in Cambodia on Thursday, which was released to the media on

Friday.

"May the New Year bring luck, fortune and prosperity to all brotherly people," he said.

Chinese New Year is the most important festival in China, which marks the end of winter and the start of spring.

It is not a public holiday in Cambodia, but commonly celebrated, said Samrang Kamsan, a secretary of state at the Cambodian Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. "Chinese New Year is the second largest new year celebration in Cambodia after the Khmer New Year," he told Xinhua. "Nearly all of the Cambodian people celebrate the Chinese New Year."—Xinhua

Indonesia's population projected to reach 305 million in 2035

JAKARTA, 31 Jan — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Thursday that the country's population was foreseen to soar to 305 million in 2035 from 238 million at present.

With the growth of the middle class, the president said the demand for food could jump by 40 percent in 2035 compared with the 25 percent growth in

population.

"Certainly, the huge population is an asset should it be productive, but if it isn't, it is going to be a weaknesses," said Yudhoyono.

With three fourths of the country's territory covered by water, the president said that the plentiful sea reserves would be potential source of food in the years to come.—Xinhua

Nepal's 99-year-old "caveman" gets new house

MAKWANPUR, (Nepal), 31 Jan— After living for almost a century as a hermit in a cave, 99-year-old Jayapati Chepong is now ready to join mainstream society after the Nepalese government on Tuesday turned over to him a solidly-built house.

Most people think that cave dwellers were found only during prehistoric times, but Jayapati spent most of his worldly existence in a cave with two cooking pots as his only belongings.

Jayapati is a member of one of Nepal's most marginalized communities and living in a cave was more a matter of necessity than

choice.

"I had not expected a home from the government, I am really happy to have a new home," Jayapati Chepong, whose surname is derived from the name of the indigenous tribe where he belongs, told local media.

Nepal's government built the house under its Civilian Residence program at a cost of 162,000 Nepali rupees (around 1,600 US dollars).

The Chepangs are one of Nepal's most disadvantaged indigenous groups and are classified under the "highly marginalized" category.

Although no longer

a nomadic tribe, they are struggling to maintain their traditional way of living in a rapidly changing Nepali society.

The Chepangs used to survive through hunting, fishing and collecting edible roots from local forests. But most of the arable land for the marginalized community is now off-limits to them, according to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator's Office (UN RCHCO) in Nepal.

"We do not own land because we lack citizenship certificates required for land ownership," local Chepangs in Makwanpur said.

The remoteness of

Chepong settlements has been pinpointed as one of the main reasons behind the low literacy rates and high unemployment among the members of the tribe.

The Nepal Chepong Association (NCA) reported that more than three quarters of all Chepangs are illiterate and that only 1 percent of Chepong women know how to read and write, compared to Nepal's national average of around 50 percent.

The crisis that Chepangs are currently undergoing finds its roots in an overall socio-economic, cultural and political marginalization and discrimination.—Xinhua



People visit the temple fair in Ditan Park in Beijing, capital of China, on 30 Jan, 2014. The 29th Ditan Park temple fair open to the public on Thursday.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(2/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-176(2013-2014)	Geological Servery Field Equipment	(2) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-177(2013-2014)	50 KW Generating Set (Driven By Natural Gas Engine)	(1) Set	US\$
(3)	IFB-178(2013-2014)	Electrical Parts for HDD Rig	(23) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-179(2013-2014)	Wash Pipe and Packing for N-69 and N-815 Swivel	(2) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-180(2013-2014)	1/2"x1 1/4"x5 7/8" Tong Dies	(2000) Nos	US\$
(6)	DMP/L-053(2013-2014)	4" x 4" Twin Reciprocating Air Compressor and Water Transfer Pump	(2) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-054(2013-2014)	Allison Transmission Assy for Well Sevicig Truck	(3) Nos	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-055(2013-2014)	Electrical Spares for HDD Rig	(1) Lot	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-056(2013-2014)	H-Beams and U-Beam for EMSCO Mud Tank	(3) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-057(2013-2014)	Centrifugal Pump with Motor Driven and Portable Water Transfer Pump	(2) Items	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 26-2-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 29th January, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Gas rig blowout prompts evacuation in Louisiana

HOUSTON, 31 Jan—A natural gas well being drilled went out of control in the US state of Louisiana on Thursday, prompting dozens of workers to evacuate, local media reported.

Workers were drilling from the jack-up rig, located about 170 km southwest of Louisiana's southern hub of Lafayette, when the well began to flow natural gas, local TV KATC reported.

The rig, about 80 meters deep in water, is operated by EnVen Energy Ventures of Metairie. The company said 41 workers were evacuated immediately, and an additional 36 remain onboard. No injuries were reported.

The flow was diverted overboard, and crew members are working to shut the well. No visible sheen has been sighted and no pollution has reached the Gulf of Mexico, according to the report.

A platform that was producing oil and gas near the EnVen rig was shut down as a precaution. The federal Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is investigating the incident.

Xinhua



The audience enjoy a Chinese traditional dance show during an activity celebrating Chinese Lunar New Year at the Confucius Institute of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, the United States, on 29 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

More uninsured Americans plan to get coverage through Obamacare

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—The number of Americans who plan to get insurance through a healthcare exchange - the centerpiece of the new healthcare law - has increased, a Gallup poll released Thursday has found. The poll found that 56 percent of uninsured Americans planning to get insurance said they will do so through a government healthcare exchange - the centerpiece of US President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul, or Obamacare - with that figure steadily swinging up since Gallup began tracking uninsured Americans in October.

The poll came amid worries that too few Americans will sign up for insurance through healthcare.gov, which has seen myriad technical glitches since its

1 October launch, and has been billed by experts as easy pickings for hackers.

Indeed, many visitors to the site, which provides healthcare plans for those who sign up, have been prevented from completing enrollment due to technical problems, although the Obama administration said those issues are being worked out.

One possible reason for the exchange's growing popularity is improvements to the site to correct numerous technical problems. Another reason may be that some Americans now may have fewer choices as to where they can purchase insurance, Gallup said.

Indeed, insurance providers, according to US media, have dropped at least 4 million Americans in recent months as their plans did not

meet Obamacare's stringent requirements.

For Obamacare to work, insurance providers said they need an adequate number of young, healthy enrollees to offset the costs of older, sicker individuals who may use medical services more frequently and for more serious illnesses.

Gallup said a small but notable drop in January in the percentage of uninsured Americans is a positive sign that Obamacare is making progress toward its goal of getting more people healthcare coverage. Still, the trend represents only a marginal improvement, and it may be difficult to convince the remaining population of uninsured Americans to get covered in the months ahead, Gallup said.

Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (090)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (090) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (353)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (353) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

UN chief names deputy envoy for Libya

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Jan — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday appointed a national from Mauritania as his new deputy special representative and deputy head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed will also serve as the resident coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme's resident representative in Syria (2008-2012) and Yemen (2012-2014).

He also served in several positions with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) including as director of Change Management in New York, deputy regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa in Nairobi and representative in Georgia. Ould Cheikh Ahmed holds a Masters Degree in Human Resources Development from the University of Manchester (United Kingdom), a Bachelors Degree in Economics from the University of Montpellier (France) and an Advanced Certificate in Economics and Social Policy Analysis from Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (The Netherlands).—Xinhua

The secretary-general is grateful for Charpentier's dedicated service during his tenure in Libya and for his contribution to the coordination of the United Nations system in that country, said a statement from Ban's spokesman.

“Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed brings with him more than 27 years of experience with the United Nations in development and

humanitarian assistance in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe,” the spokesman said.

Most recently, he served as the United Nations resident coordinator, humanitarian coordinator and United Nations Development Programme resident representative in Syria (2008-2012) and Yemen (2012-2014).

ENTERTAINMENT

Oscars organizers revoke 'Alone Yet Not Alone' song nomination

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan — The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences has revoked a nomination in the best original song category for "Alone Yet Not Alone," after the songwriter violated Oscar rules and emailed voters about submitting the song for consideration.

Musician Bruce Broughton, a former Academy governor and executive committee member in its music branch, composed the title song from the independent Christian faith movie "Alone Yet Not Alone."

The Academy said on Wednesday that Broughton had used his position within the organization to contact voters about his own submission of the song, which was "inconsistent" with the Academy's rules on Oscar nominations campaigning.

"No matter how well-intentioned the communication, using one's position as a former governor and current executive commit-

tee member to personally promote one's own Oscar submission creates the appearance of an unfair advantage," Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Academy president, said in a statement.

Broughton said in a statement he was "devastated" at the Academy's decision.

"I indulged in the simplest grass roots campaign and it went against me when

the song started getting attention. I got taken down by competition that had months of promotion and advertising behind them. I simply asked people to find the song and consider it," the musician said.

The remaining contenders in the category are Pharrell Williams' "Happy" from "Despicable Me 2," "Let It Go" from Disney film "Frozen," "The Moon

Song" from "Her," and "Ordinary Love" from "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom."

After the Oscar nominations were announced on 16 January, *The Hollywood Reporter* said numerous contenders in the original songs long-list questioned how Broughton's little-known composition from an equally little-known film had beaten out songs by more popular artists on bigger films.

The original song and score categories of the Oscars are voted for by the 240 members of the Academy's music branch, who are sent DVD copies of song clips with the film and song title only, the Academy said. The voters are not given the name of the composer or lyricist. Each member is asked to vote for no more than five nominees in each category. The film industry's star-studded Oscars ceremony will be held on 2 March in Hollywood.—Reuters



An Oscar statuette is photographed while on display at the 'Meet the Oscars' exhibition at Grand Central Station in New York, on 22 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS



A still from *The Wizard of Oz*

Oscars 2014 to celebrate 75th anniversary of The Wizard of Oz

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan — The 75th anniversary of the 1939 classic *The Wizard of Oz*, starring Judy Garland, will be celebrated at the upcoming Oscars, show producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron announced today.

The film, which was a best picture nominee, is based on 1900 novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by author L Frank Baum.

"We are delighted to

celebrate the birthday of one of the most beloved movies of all time at this year's Oscars," said Zadan and Meron.

The *Wizard of Oz* received six Oscar nominations, winning two for Original Score and Song.

The Oscar ceremony will take place on 2 March at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Centre.

PTI

One Direction takes new record industry award as top band of 2013

LONDON, 31 Jan — Boy band One Direction was named the most popular recording artist of 2013 on Wednesday, in a record industry award that for the first time counted streaming numbers on services such as Spotify and Deezer as well as CD sales and downloads.

Streaming music has soared in popularity in recent years and Spotify boasts 24 million active users around the world.

"Streaming has become so much more mainstream within the music industry worldwide over the last couple of years we thought it was time we integrated the streams-on services such as Deezer and Spotify and

YouTube as well," IFPI communications manager Alex Jacob said.

US rapper Eminem took No 2 spot with Justin Timberlake coming in third.

Britain's One Direction released its third studio album "Midnight Memories" last year, which topped the US Billboard Top 200 chart, making One Direction the first group in the chart's history to debut at No. 1 with its first three albums.

"Incredible news! It's great to have a chart that includes everything from iTunes and record stores, to YouTube and Spotify," Niall Horan of One Direction said in a statement. "Again a huge thank you to all of

our fans for such an amazing 2013." Eminem released his eighth album in 2013, "The Marshall Mathers LP 2", while Justin Timberlake had a number of hits last year, such as "Mirrors" and "Take Back the Night". Other artists who made it to the IFPI top 10 were Rihanna, French electronic duo Daft Punk — who recently picked up two Grammys, and Katy Perry.—Reuters



British boy band One Direction arrives at the Cannes festival palace to attend the NRJ Music Awards in Cannes on 14 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Lambert, McGraw score seven nods at Academy of Country Music Awards

LAS VEGAS, 31 Jan — Country singers Miranda Lambert and Tim McGraw led the nominations for the Academy of Country Music Awards on Wednesday with seven nods apiece, and Australian singer Keith Urban followed with six nominations. Lambert joins her husband Blake Shelton, George Strait, country-pop starlet Taylor Swift and last year's winner Luke Bryan for the entertainer of the year award, the most coveted honour at the annual ACM ceremony, scheduled to be held this year on 6 April in Las Vegas.

Strait, 61, who has said he will retire from touring after this year, won the entertainer of the year prize at the Country Music Association

MIAMI, 31 Jan — Singer Justin Bieber has a Valentine's Day date with a South Florida judge on charges of driving under the influence, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

A Miami-Dade County judge today set a 14 February arraignment date for the 19-year-old star. In an arraignment, prosecutors formally file charges and a plea is entered, although

a defendant's lawyer can enter the plea in writing. Justin Bieber might not be required to attend. Justin Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff were arrested last week in Miami Beach during what police described as an illegal street drag race between a Lamborghini and a Ferrari. Neither has been charged with drag racing.

Police say Justin Bieber admitted to smoking



Justin Bieber, arrested for drunk driving, was released after paying \$2,500 bond.

marijuana, drinking and taking a prescription medication.—PTI

(CMA) awards in November. He released his 27th album, "Love Is Everything," last year. The Academy of Country Music, which honors the genre's big stars as



Miranda Lambert performs 'Mama's Broken Heart' during the 48th ACM Awards in Las Vegas on 7 April, 2013.



Tim McGraw performs 'Southern Girl' at the 47th Country Music Association Awards in Nashville, Tennessee on 6 Nov, 2013. REUTERS

well as small market radio DJs and concert promoters, televises its eight top awards along with the fan-voted new

artist of the year honor. Final nominees for the newcomer award will be announced after voting ends on 4 February. McGraw's song "Highway Don't Care" featuring Swift and Urban earned nods for single of the year, video of the year, vocal event of the year. He earned two nominations in the single, vocal event and best album categories each, which honour both producers and artists.

Lambert, 30, also earned nominations for top female vocalist, while her hit "Mama's Broken Heart," penned in part by newcomer Kacey Musgraves, picked up nods for single of the year, songwriter's award song of the year and best music video.

Reuters

SPORTS

New captain Carlos Moya plotting Spain victory in Germany

MADRID, 31 Jan — When Carlos Moya was climbing to the top of the world rankings he was used to having an entourage of coaches, physios and practice partners tending to his every need.

Top tennis players are among the most indulged sportsmen and women but, as Spain's latest Davis Cup captain, Moya is now seeing life from the other side of the fence.

The 37-year-old takes charge of his first Davis Cup tie this weekend, trying to plot Spain's path through a testing World Group first-round tie against Germany in Frankfurt.

Even without world number one and fellow Mallorcan Rafa Nadal and Spanish number two David Ferrer, Moya still has an enviable array of talent at his disposal and select-

ing the best combinations has been a new challenge.

Not to mention organising the practice, warm-ups, tactics, meal times and various other unseen duties.

"It's different definitely, you have a team of 15 guys around you that you have to manage every one, trying to put all the pieces together," Moya said in a TV interview.

"Then not being to go out on to court to play, that's different too although I'm already getting used to it."

The role of a captain often goes unnoticed when things go well but get it wrong and they often take the blame so Moya's decision to trust debutant Roberto Bautista Agut, ranked 52nd in the world, with Friday's opening singles against experienced Philipp Kohlschreiber is a bold one.

Bautista Agut, 25, is the



Carlos Moya of Spain follows the ball during his farewell exhibition tennis match against Guillermo Canas of Argentina in Buenos Aires, on 19 Dec, 2010.

REUTERS

third highest ranked singles player in the Spain squad, behind Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco, but his victory over world number four Juan Martin del Potro at the Australian Open this month prompted Moya to

throw him in.

"I trust Roberto," said Moya, winner of the Davis Cup with Spain in 2004. "I'm happy with how the draw went and him playing first because if you play second you tend to be nerv-

ous waiting for your match.

"I will tell him don't worry about the crowd. They are going to try and bother you, don't worry about the opponent, he's good but so are you.

"I'll remind him the pressure is on Phillip, he's a higher ranked player, he is playing at home, you have nothing to lose. Play it like any tour match."

Moya, the 1998 French Open champion, retired in 2010 after a persistent foot injury and follows a long line of former players into the Davis Cup hot seat.

Alex Corretja followed Albert Costa, who won the team event in 2009 and 2011, and now Moya gets his turn as Spain seek a sixth title since 2000.

"I'm looking forward to it and I think it's going to be very exciting for all of us," Moya said.

"The week has been

great so far and a great experience for me being around them. I'm very happy the way they've been practising and I think it's going to be a great tie.

"I'm trying to pass on my experiences from the past and take the pressure away from them," added Moya.

"One thing I've learned in Davis Cup is that rankings don't matter. It's about how they handle the situation and their experience."

One player who has plenty of experience in the team event is Germany's Tommy Haas although not in recent years.

Haas, an old sparring partner of Moya's, returns for only his second Davis Cup tie in seven years but the world number 12 is only set to play in Saturday's doubles because of a shoulder injury.—Reuters



Southampton's Jay Rodriguez (L) celebrates with team mate Dani Osvaldo after scoring a goal against Chelsea during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 1 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Southampton's Osvaldo heading to Juventus in loan deal

LONDON, 31 Jan — Southampton's controversial forward Dani Osvaldo is set to join Serie A leaders Juventus on loan after only six months with the English Premier League club, Italian media reported on Thursday.

Gazzetta dello Sport said the fiery Italy international, who became Southampton's club-record signing when he joined for 15 million pounds (\$24.75 million) from AS Roma in August, would be loaned out subject to a medical in Turin on Friday.

Juve, who have to pay 400,000 euros (328,967.32 pounds) for the loan, would also have an option to buy the 28-year-old for 18 million euros, Gazzetta added. Sky Sports also said a deal was imminent.

Osvaldo was suspended by Southampton last Thursday for two weeks follow-

ing an incident at the club's training ground which British media said was a bust-up with team mate Jose Fonte.

Southampton did not disclose what had happened but said in a statement: "The club has taken swift and proper action for what it considers a breach of the conduct expected of its players."

Earlier this month Osvaldo, who has only scored three goals in 12 appearances for Southampton, was fined 40,000 pounds and banned for three matches by the English FA for his part in a touchline fracas against Newcastle United in December. Osvaldo, who has 12 international caps, has a history of disciplinary problems. He was also kicked out of Italy's Confederations Cup squad last year after throwing a tantrum during Roma's defeat by Lazio in the Coppa Italia final.—Reuters

Johnson red card revoked but Remy three-match ban stands

LONDON, 31 Jan — Norwich City midfielder Bradley Johnson's appeal for wrongful dismissal against Newcastle United in the English Premier League has been successful and his suspension revoked, the Football Association said on Thursday.

Newcastle's French international striker Loic Remy, sent off with Johnson for violent conduct in an off-the-ball clash between the two during Tuesday's 0-0 draw at Carrow Road, failed in his appeal and will serve a three-match ban.

"The claim involv-

ing Bradley Johnson was upheld meaning his three-match suspension is withdrawn," said the FA on its website.

"The claim involving Loic Remy was dismissed therefore his three-match suspension remains with immediate effect."

The players were shown straight red cards in the 82nd minute.

Johnson will be available for Norwich's match at Cardiff City on Saturday while Remy will miss the north-east derby at home to Sunderland and two more games.—Reuters



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (L) challenges Norwich's Bradley Johnson during their English Premier League soccer match at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England, on 4 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Leeds owners seek new investors after takeover collapses

LONDON, 31 Jan — The Middle East-based owners of Leeds United said they were talking to other potential investors after a takeover led by the club's managing director collapsed on Thursday.

The latest ownership twist will enrage fans of the former English champions, now playing in the second tier. Supporters had hoped that new owners would be in place in time to buy players in the January transfer window to fund a promotion challenge.

"Our aim has always been to attract investment partners and we are cur-

rently speaking to a number of parties regarding the acquisition of shares," owners GFH Capital said in a statement.

GFH bought the club

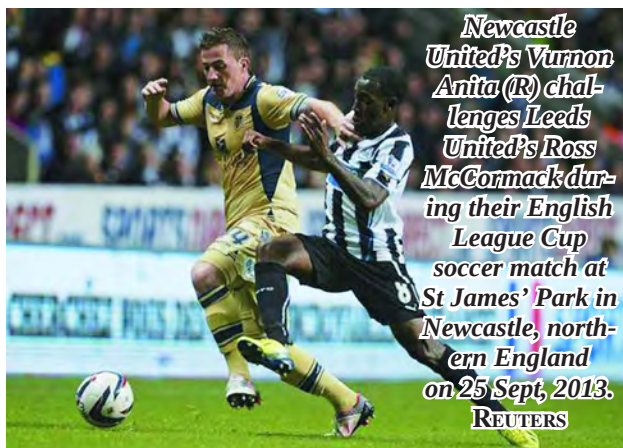
from former Chelsea owner Ken Bates in December 2012 but had planned to cut their stake to only 10 percent by selling out to British investors led by Leeds

managing director David Haigh. Haigh, who joined the club after the GFH takeover, said his partners had failed to put up the money they had pledged.

"Some of the consortium's backers ultimately didn't feel able to deliver the financial backing we had hoped was agreed to take the club forward," Haigh said in a statement.

British media reports suggest Italian Massimo Cellino, owner of Serie A club Cagliari, has emerged as a potential bidder for Leeds who are 12th in the 24-team Championship.

Reuters



Newcastle United's Vurnon Anita (R) challenges Leeds United's Ross McCormack during their English League Cup soccer match at St James' Park in Newcastle, northern England, on 25 Sept, 2013. REUTERS

GENERAL

Syria peace talks take a break as rivals dig in



Norwegian cargo vessel "Taiko" (L) and Danish "Ark Futura" are pictured in Latakia in this handout photo from 27 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

GENEVA, 31 Jan — A first round of peace talks on Syria wraps up on Friday with both sides in entrenched positions and the UN mediator expressing frustration that it had not even been possible to get agreement for an aid convoy to enter the besieged city of Homs.

After a week of talks at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, the opposing sides in Syria's civil war were still stuck on the

question of how to proceed.

Friday's closing session was expected to be largely ceremonial, with government and opposition delegates expected to meet again on 10 February.

"I hope that in the next session, when we come back, we will be able to have a more structured discussion," mediator Lakhdar Brahimi said. He was "very, very disappointed" that a UN aid convoy was still waiting fruitlessly to enter

the rebel-held Old City of Homs, where the United States says civilians are starving. Diplomats say that a top priority is to keep the talks process going in the hope that hardline positions can be modified over time.

The sides took a first tentative step forward on Wednesday by agreeing to use a 2012 document as a basis for discussions, but it was clear on Thursday that they are still at odds.

Thursday's session, however, began with a rare gesture of harmony, when all sides observed a minute's silence for the 130,000 people killed during the three-year-old war.

"All stood up for the souls of the martyrs. Symbolically it was good," opposition delegate Ahmad Jakal told *Reuters*. But the sides quickly shifted back to their disputes. The government delegation accused the opposition of supporting terrorism for refusing to sign up to a resolution opposing it.—*Reuters*

Three killed in rear-end crash in Texas

HOUSTON, 31 Jan — Three people were killed as a passenger van slammed into the back of a school bus early Thursday morning in Corpus Christi in south Texas, local media reported.

Three of seven people in the van, including the driver, died on the scene.

Four others were sent to hospitals. Their conditions were not immediately known, local TV KRIS reported. There were 12 children on the school bus. Seven were taken to hospitals with unknown injuries. The rest were transported safely to school, according to the report.

Investigators said driver fatigue could be a factor in the crash. The van hit the right side of the bus and there are no signs the driver made any attempt to stop before impact. And only one of the survivors was wearing a seat belt.

Xinhua

Yang and Watson set pace, Mickelson seven back

SCOTTSDALE, (Arizona), 31 Jan — South Korean Yang Yong-eun birdied six of his last nine holes to surge into a share of the lead in the Phoenix Open first round while Phil Mickelson launched his title defence with a level-par 71 in Scottsdale, Arizona on Thursday.

Yang, who became Asia's first male major winner with his victory at the 2009 PGA Championship where he overhauled Tiger Woods in the final round, mixed eight birdies with a lone bogey to fire a seven-under-par 64 in dazzling desert sunshine.

The 42-year-old Korean, a double winner on the

PGA Tour, took advantage of ideal scoring conditions at the TPC Scottsdale and signed off with a superb approach to three feet at the par-four last before he sank the birdie putt.

Yang, who has not recorded a single top-10 on the U.S. circuit since he tied for sixth at The Barclays in 2011, was delighted with his up-tick in form.

"I have been playing like 'you-know-what' for a long time now," the Korean told PGATour.com through an interpreter. "I have been adjusting my swing for a long time ... and I think it's finally paying off."

"I missed some good chances on the front nine so

I was a little bit angry with myself but I've been playing some solid golf for the last four-and-a-half rounds so I think it's good."

Yang's lead held up for most of the day until he was joined at the top by 2012 Masters champion Bubba Watson, who birdied four of his last six holes for a matching 64.

Americans Pat Perez, Kevin Stadler, William McGirt, Harris English and Chris Kirk, along with Australians Greg Chalmers and Matt Jones, were a further stroke back after opening 65s.

While Yang set the early pace, defending champion Mickelson was happy to

complete his opening round with an assorted mix of five birdies, three bogeys and a double after struggling with muscle pain in his lower back over the past two weeks.

"My back's fine, my game was a little rusty," Mickelson, who was diagnosed with and treated for locked facet joints in his back on Monday, told Golf Channel.

"Got off to a poor start, played a couple over (par) and finished poorly with a few over. In the middle of the round, I hit a lot of good shots and had a good little run."

"It just wasn't quite sharp, I wasn't quite fo-



Yang Yong-eun of South Korea watches his tee shot on the second hole during a practice round ahead of the British Open golf championship at Muirfield in Scotland on 17 July, 2013.—REUTERS

cused on every shot the way I need to be and let way too many shots slide today."

Five-time major champion Mickelson double-bogeyed the par-three 12th, his third hole of the day, after hitting his tee shot into water but got his round back on track with birdies at the 13th, 14th, 17th, first

and fourth.

The American, who won last year's Phoenix Open with a record-tying 28-under total of 256 after opening with a 60, then faded with bogeys at the fifth, seventh and ninth but preferred to dwell on the all the positives in his first round.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(1-2-2014, Saturday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:10 pm |
| 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 20. Musical Programme |
| 6:30 am | 2:25 pm |
| 2. Physical Exercises | 21. Business News |
| 6:40 am | 2:40 pm |
| 3. Documentary | 22. Hyper Sports |
| 7:00 am | 3:00 pm |
| 4. News/Weather Report | 23. News |
| 7:20 am | 3:15 pm |
| 5. Business News | 24. TV Drama Series |
| 7:40 am | 4:00 pm |
| 6. Hyper Sports | 25. News |
| 8:00 am | 4:15 pm |
| 7. News/ International News | 26. Cultural Dances |
| 8:25 am | 4:30 pm |
| 8. India Drama Series | 27. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar) |
| 9:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| 9. News/International News | 28. News |
| 9:25 am | 5:15 pm |
| 10. Teleplay (Health) | 29. 67 th Anniversary Union Day Programme |
| 9:35 am | 6:00 pm |
| 11. 67 th Anniversary Union Day Programme | 30. News/Weather Report |
| 9:50 am | 6:20 pm |
| 12. Documentary | 31. MRTV Youth Quiz Competition |
| 10:00 am | 7:00 pm |
| 13. News | 32. News |
| 10:15 am | 7:20 pm |
| 14. TV Drama Series | 33. 6 th ASEAN Quiz Competition |
| 11:10 am | 8:00 pm |
| 15. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions | 34. News/International News/Weather Report |
| 11:30 am | 8:35 pm |
| 16. Game Ffor Children | 35. Business News |
| 12:00 pm | 8:45 pm |
| 17. News/International News/Weather Report | 36. Documentary |
| 12:25 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 18. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News | 37. News |
| 1:00 pm | 9:30 pm |
| 19. Round Up of The Week's Hluttaw News | 38. Myanmar Series |
| | 39. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

1-2-14 07:00 am ~
2-2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * "Great Shwedagon" The Exhibition Hall Of The Great Chronicle Of Buddha
- * World News
- * Inspiration
- * Local News
- * Kyaukkyi Lantern Floating Festival
- * World News
- * Photographer: Kyaw Win Hlaing (YUC)
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Pyin Oo Lwin) (Ep-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * Local News
- * Made of Jade
- * World News
- * Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
- * Local News
- * A Highland with Peace and Charm
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
- * Local News
- * My Native Town Meiktila
- * World News
- * Scented Buddha Images
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Wedding Dresses
- * World News
- * Will you feed the pigeons
- * The World's Largest Book
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (Glass)

**Republic of the Union of
Myanmar****President Office****(Order No. 3/2014)****1st Waxing of Tabodwe, 1375 ME****(31 January, 2014)****Appointment of Vice-Governor
of Central Bank of Myanmar**

Under the Sub-section (a), Section 9 and Section 17 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Soe Min has been appointed as the Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Japanese Yen 63.2 billion of ODA loan

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan— Joint Committee Secretary U Aye Mauk submitted Report of Joint Committee for Reviewing the Constitution at today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

The committee accepted 28247 suggestions from political parties, legal experts, NGOs, departments concerned and people. A total of 106,102 persons collectively signed not to amend Section 6 (f) and Section 42 in Chapter (1), Section 59 (f) in Chapter(3), Section 436 in Chapter (12), Sections 337 and 338 in Chapter (7) and Section 445 in Chapter (14). A total of 592 persons sent separate suggestions to amend Section 59 (f) and 534 persons wished to amend Sections 435 and 436, he said.

He continued that it needs to amend, reject and

fill the constitution on a prioritized basis without race or partisan in accord with three objectives laid down by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The committee scrutinized the suggestions submitted by the people and organizations for constitutional amendment.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved findings and comments of the Joint Committee and ongoing tasks will be carried out for implementation of the report in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Regarding official development assistance loan (ODA Loan) to be provided by Japan, MP U Win Myint from Pyay Constituency discussed maintenance of North Nawin and South Nawin Dams and Wethikan concrete road and suggested to generate electricity from the dam.

(See page 9)

Vice-President U Nyan Tun meets CEO of Ooredoo Group



Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo Group Sheikh Abdulla Mohammed S.A. Al-Thani.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo Group Sheikh Ab-

dulla Mohammed S.A. Al-Thani and party of Qatar at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

They had a cordial

discussion on enhancement of information technology sector after signing an agreement between CIT Ministry and Ooredoo Group, cheap and qual-

ity communications service, technical transfer and creation of job opportunities for Myanmar youths, and training course for Myanmar women to be able to join in mobile telephone service sector.—MNA

3rd annual dinner of Hluttaw hosted in honour of MPs

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan — The 3rd annual dinner of Hluttaws was held at the dining hall in Hluttaw Complex here today.

Speaking on the occasion, U Khin Aung Myint, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, has expressed his delight for active participation of representatives of Hluttaw in implementing democratic system.

He quoted the research of Myanmar student at the Australia National University as saying that members

of the parliament are old on average, but they are man of wisdom, and more young representatives would become representatives in the next term.

According to the research, members of the parliament are working together in the parliament without party attachment, regionalism and racism, he added.

The Speaker also called on members of the parliament for making efforts for developing the legislative estate, the executive estate

and the judiciary estate: the three pillars of the multi-party democracy system.

Afterwards, Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, said that national people were very happy as the development fund of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw had reached out the people and were used for fulfilling the needs of the people.

The development fund would be allocated to works (See page 9)

Correction

Please read "Director General of Posts and Telecommunications Department" instead of "Director-General of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications" in the second line of the news under the heading of "CIT Ministry signs MoU for nationwide telecommunications license with Ooredoo Ltd" on page 16 in this daily issued on 30 January, 2014. Error is regretted.

NLM

Mann Yadanarpon Airlines welcomes first arrival of brand new ATR-620 aircraft

By: YM (NLM)



Mann Yadanarpon Airlines, the ninth domestic airlines for Myanmar, organized a welcoming celebration for its first arrival of brand new ATR 72-600 aircraft at Yangon International Airport on 31 January 2014.

U Kyaw Myo, the brand new airline's CEO, assured NLM reporter of the state-of-the-art equipment and systems of the latest generation turbo-prop aircraft, saying that the French-built 70-seater can contribute towards better flight safety. He continued that the airline's aircrafts

will be operated by Myanmar pilots trained by trainers of the ATR 72 series manufacture. With its first aircraft's domestic maiden flight on 27 February, Mann Yadanarpon will wing its commercial flights to Yangon, Mandalay, NyaungU, Heho, Kengtung, Tachilek and Myitkyina from its main base at Mandalay International Airport. In addition to its scheduled domestic flights, the aircraft worth USD 18 million will serve as a chartered flight for domestic and regional destinations, adding Mann Yadanarpon name to Myanmar's emerging domestic flight market. After taking delivery of its second purchased

aircraft in the third week of March, the carrier will expand its domestic routes, flying to other domestic destinations such as Putao, Homalin, Bhamo, Monywa, Kalay and Loikaw. With its potential market share in the country's aviation business, the carrier will make an acquisition of third same brand aircraft with the aim of increasing its flight frequency and further expanding to Thandwe, Sittway, Myeik, Dawei and Kawthoung. The airline has a plan to lease an Airbus A-320 to launch flights for regional and international routes when its domestic operation turned three years old.