The New Light of Myanmar

THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU

Volume XXI, Number 302 | 13th Waxing of Tabodwe 1375 ME | Wednesday, 12 February 2014

Based on Panglong Spirit

All our national races are to establish the national unity based on "the Panglong Spirit" and then march towards a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation through a federal system.

Thein Sein
President
From the message sent on the occasion of 67th Anniversary Shan State Day

It is sure an era of peace and prosperity will be established as far as the country reaches national unity and reconciliation

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb— *The following is the unofficial translation of the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 67th Anniversary Union Day 2014.*

Esteemed national brethren,

Today is the 67th Anniversary Union Day, the auspicious significant day engraved in the hearts of national brethren born in the Union. On this significant occasion, I wish all national brethren great health, happiness and prosperity.

Esteemed national brethren,

All national brethren have been living together with unity in the country, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with the continuous history from time immemorial. As the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists caused misunderstanding among the national races, shattering the national unity, Myanmar had lost its independence. Thanks to united efforts of General Aung San and leaders of national races who acted in unison, the country regained national unity after signing Panglong Agreement on 12 February, 1947 and claimed independence.

After regaining independence, evil legacies of colonialism did not disappear and doubts and conflicts still remained in the country for many years. The country got left behind the neighbouring countries in political, economic and social development. Taking lessons of bitter experiences national brethren faced throughout the course of history while fighting back the imperialists and fascists, risking their lives for independence and sovereignty, all national brethren are to make their collaborative efforts for ensuring eternal peace and development.

Esteemed national brethren,

The government is striving for strengthening national reconsolidation in cooperation with the entire national people. Peace process is happening with good results after holding a series of successful negotiations aiming at bringing an end to the more than 60-year-old armed conflicts. A peace dialogue held in

(See page 7)

All national people must revitalize unity while joining hands for peace

One year after the Panglong Agreeement which shows the unity of all national people, Myanmar regained her independence on 4th January, 1948, which she had lost about 100 years.

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Honouring 67th Anniversary Union Day

LOCAL NEWS

Sepak Takraw Contest marks 67th Anniversary Union Day

MEIKTILA, 11 Feb—As an honour of 67th Anniversary Union Day, the Sepak Takraw Contest was held at Kantawmin Sports Ground in Yadana Manaung Ward of Meiktila from 6 to 12 February, according to Yadana Manaung Ward administrator U Zaw Naing Tun of Meiktila Township on 6 February.

"Youths are interested in playing Sepak Takraw event. So, the contest is aimed at creating the opportunity for the youth to show off their skills. Not only the players from Meiktila but those from Thazi, Wundwin and Mahlaing townships are taking part in the contest. Over 30 teams enlisted for the contest, he said.

The first prize winning team will earn K 225,000 and the second K 125,000.

Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Mahlaing gets rural health branch

MAHLAING, 11 Feb—The opening ceremony of a rural health branch was held in West Yayni Village of Yayni Village-tract in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region, on 9 February.

Region Hluttaw MP U Shwe Nann, Township Medical Officer Dr Myat Moe Hsan and Village Administrator U Than Tun formally opened the health branch. The MP made a speech, and the township medical officer explained the opening of the health branch.

The newly-opened rural health branch was 25 feet long and 24 feet wide. It was constructed at a cost of K 2,196,830.

"In the past, the local people went to Yayhtwet health branch when they needed to receive medical treatment. Thanks to the new health branch, not only ourselves but the people from Shawbyugon, Thaphangan, Kangale and Yaydwin villages around us can get health care services," said village administrator U Than Tun.—*Kyemon-Aung Htay (Mahlaing)*

Chin State Committee for Rights of the Child holds coordination

HAKA, 11 Feb—Chin State Committee of the Rights of the Child held the coordination meeting 3/2014 at the hall of the Chin State government in Haka on 7 February.

On behalf of the Chin State Chief Minister, State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Min Oo made a speech.

Secretary of the committee Head of Chin State Social Welfare Department U Chan Pe and U Hein Latt of UNICEF explaied progress of works in brief.

In-charge of education section from UNICEF U Ket Zalyan explaned assistance of UNICEF to Falam and Kanpetlet townships in 2014-15 academic years.

Next, Chin State ministers, state level organizations and members ofthe child rights committee participated in the discussions and adopted six future tasks.

Kyemon-Chin State IPRD

National Sports

Ooredoo Co sponsors Chin United FC

TIDDIM, 11 Feb—Communication company Ooredoo gave sponsorship to Chin United FC, one of the football clubs of Myanmar National League.

Chin United FC got sponsorship from AMT Co for its uniforms in 2012 for the first time. In 2014, Ooredoo gave the sponsorship for the second time of the football club.

The sponsorships are much contributions to the club, said Chief Executive Officer U Do Khant Ok of the club.

Chin United FC signed a one-year-term agreement with Oredoo Co.

Chin United delegated to the League-2 after the 2012 Myanmar National League. In 2013, it stood first int he League-2 and cruised into the 2014 Myanmar League.

Kyemon-Zo Hay Hsa (Chin Hill)

Clarifications on disciplines for exam supervisors, examinees

KANBALU, 11 Feb—A ceremony to clarify disciplines for the supervisors and examinees of matriculation examinations for 2014 was held at Basic Education High School No 1 in Kanbalu of Sagaing Region on 9 February.

On behalf of the township education officer, Headmaster Daw Mya Thein of No 1 Basic Education High School explained the examination tasks and disciplines and replied to queries raised by teachers.

It was attended by teachers from school heads and SATs and JATs of BEHSs, BEMSs and BEPSs.

Kyemon-Aung Thin Nyein Township (IPRD)

Respect paying, prize presentation ceremonies held

MYAUNG, 11 Feb—U Kyi Maung (retired deputy minister for education)-Daw Myint Myint Thein (Ngwe Saddan) presented cash assistance, clothes, medicines and personal goods to 82 older persons at the respect paying ceremony of 12th Ngwe Saddan respect paying ceremony on 6 February.

They also presented prizes to outstanding students of Nabet BEHS in Myaung Township.

Ngwe Saddan family donated K 5 million to the education fund at Nabet BEHS in Myaung Township.—*Kyemon-Myint Naing Soe (Htihlaing Myay)*

Progress of regional development tasks inspected in Mohnyin

PHAKANT, 11 Feb—Chairman of Township Development Implementation Committee Pyithu Hluttaw U Kyaw Soe Lay and member Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai Tin Aung together with Deputy Township Administrator U Aung Lin and township departmental officials made field trips to inspection of township development tasks in Mohnyin Township.

These tasks were funded by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in 2013-14 fiscal year.

The development tasks include construction of gravel on the road to Basic Education Primary School in Modasu Ward, Nantsakauk Bridge, the road to Helon Village, Yaylekyun Ward BEPS, Aungthabye Ward 3 Pyidawtha Bridge, Nantyin Creek bridge and Namha Creek Bridge.

Respective village administrators reported on progress of works.

The Pyithu Hluttaw MP gave suggestions on timely completion of the development tasks as these tasks are acutally needs for the region.—*Kyemon-K Hsai Naw (Phakant)*

Thai vote official says new general election may be needed

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (C) greets people as she arrives to a polling station to cast her vote in Bangkok on 2 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

Bangkok, 11 Feb — A member of Thailand's Election Commission said it may prove impossible to complete this month's disrupted election and the whole vote may need to be re-run, implying many months more under a caretaker government with limited powers.

Action by anti-government protesters meant voting was scrapped or halted in about a fifth of constituencies, so there will not be enough lawmakers elected to convene parliament to vote in a prime minister.

"If the situation continues like this, there is no way the election will be successful and we will not get the 95 percent of parliamentary seats needed," Election Commissioner Somchai Srisutthiyakorn told *Reuters* in an interview. "We might have to sacrifice this election and call a new one ... The government will have to call a new election date and get the king's endorsement," he said.

According to Somchai's reading of the constitution, voting has to be held on the same day throughout the country, so holding fresh votes would be illegal.

The government contests that and wants the five-member Commission to ensure voting in the affected constituencies goes ahead as soon as possible.

Somchai doubted that was on the cards, given the opposition of the protest group, the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC), which wants political and electoral changes implemented before an election and rejected the 2 February ballot.

"I've been to 12 out of 14 provinces in the south and the PDRC down there really won't cooperate. They are really against an election," he said.—*Reuters*

Fukushima signs renewable energy pact with German state

Dusseldorf, (Germany), 11 Feb — Fukushima Prefecture has signed an agreement with the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia to work together to promote the use of renewable energy.

The prefecture, which hosts Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant crippled by the 2011 quake and tsunami, aims to introduce renewable energy technologies from Germany, a leader in the field, to realize a society not dependent on nuclear power.

Fukushima Vice Gov Fumio Murata was among those who attended a signing ceremony held in Dusseldorf on Monday. Murata said, "We expect (the collaboration) will give further momentum" to the prefecture's effort toward a nuclear-free ideal.

State environment minister Johannes Remmel said at the ceremony that Germany and Japan are technologically competent to accomplish worldwide success in the field of renewable energy.

Fukushima and North Rhine-Westphalia will host alternately trade fairs featuring renewable energy businesses and promote joint research among businesses in the next three years.

After the Fukushima Daiichi crisis, Germany decided to stop all of its 17 nuclear reactors by the end of 2022. Renewable energy accounted for a record 23.4 percent in the total electricity generated in Germany last year.

Murata will also visit a trade show of energy-related companies being held in Essen in the state before leaving for Japan Thursday.

Kyodo News

Cyprus peace talks to resume seeking end to bitter conflict

Nicosia, 11 Feb — Peace talks resume in divided Cyprus on Tuesday in a fresh attempt to end one of Europe's most enduring conflicts and a decades-old obstacle to Turkey's hopes of joining the European Union.

Leaders of the island's rival Greeks and Turks are due to meet in no-mansland, at an airport compound in the capital Nicosia that was abandoned in past fighting and is now used as a base for the United Nations peacekeeping force. It will be their first formal encounter for almost 18 months.

Nicos Anastasiades, president of the internationally recognized Cypriot government, and Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu will mandate a UN envoy to read out a joint statement outlining the basic principles that should govern a settlement.

They will then leave their aides to negotiate the minutiae of any deal in a process which could take months, aimed at healing the split between the two sides caused by war in 1974.

"I do not only wish (Tuesday) will be the start of a process which yields results, but I am also vowing that I will work towards this," Kudret Ozersay, the Turkish Cypriot chief negotiator, said on Twitter.

Cyprus's partition is a headache for the European Union. The island is represented in the EU by its Greek Cypriots, with veto-wielding rights over Turkey's wish to join the bloc.

Turkey invaded Cyprus's north in 1974 after a Greek inspired coup. It provides political and financial support to a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state there.

Endless rounds of talks have failed to make headway on attempts to unite Cyprus as a union of two

Cyprus' President Nicos Anastasiades arrives at a European Union leaders summit at the EU council headquarters in Brussels on 20 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

autonomous regions with one central government.

"It's a good text ... it certainly helps set the direction (of talks) and that can only be a good thing," one diplomat told *Reuters*, referring to the joint statement outlining the principles of a deal.

But a junior partner in Anastasiades's centre-right coalition, the centrist Democratic Party, says the text is unbalanced in Turkey's favor and has said it could quit the government over the issue.

"The Turkish side achieves most of its long-standing ambitions, before talks have even started," said party Chairman Nicholas Papadopoulos, son of the late Tassos Papadopoulos, a former president who rejected a UN reunification blueprint in 2004.—*Reuters*

South Sudan rebels say they will boycott latest peace talks

Addis Ababa, 11 Feb — South Sudanese rebels threatened on Monday to boycott the next round of peace talks in Ethiopia unless the government freed political prisoners and sent home the Ugandan troops who have been supporting it.

But the regional IGAD bloc mediating the talks, due to resume on Tuesday, said rebel leader Riek Machar had agreed to have his delegation take part in the talks.

The Addis Ababa talks, which secured a ceasefire last month, aim to end a conflict that has claimed the lives of thousands of people and displaced more than half a million South Sudanese since it broke out on 15 December.

The rebels said they wanted four remaining political prisoners held by the Juba government to be released and the Ugandan army, which has been backing President Salva Kiir, to withdraw from South Sudan. "We are abstaining from participating in the next round of peace talks," the rebels said in a statement late on Monday.

Rebel fighters gather in a village in Upper Nile State on 8 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

Reuters

Brazilian president says protest no excuse for violence

Rio de Janeiro, 11 Feb — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff on Monday condemned the violence against a cameraman who was declared brain dead after being injured when covering a protest against bus fare hikes here last week.

Santiago Andrade's tragedy was a "sad, revolting incident," Rousseff said on her Twitter account. "We cannot allow democratic protests to be tainted by those who have no respect for human lives."

"Freedom of protest is a fundamental principle of democracy and cannot be used to kill, injure and threaten human lives, nor destroy public or private property," added the president.

Rousseff said she had ordered the Federal Police to help the Rio police investigate the case, and Brazil's G1 news website reported later that the man believed responsible was temporarily detained.

Xinhua

WORLD

US considers waiting on Afghan security deal until Karzai leaves

Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during a news conference in Kabul on 25 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb — Frustrated about prospects of getting Afghan President Hamid Karzai to sign a long-term security deal, the United States is considering waiting until he leaves office before completing the pact and deciding on a troop presence beyond 2014, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Monday.

"If he's not going to be part of the solution, we have to have a way to get past him," the *Journal* quoted a senior US official as saying. "It's a pragmatic recognition that clearly Karzai may not sign the (deal) and that he doesn't represent the voice of the Afghan people."

The White House, asked about the report, said it was standing by its previous comments on the issue.

The United States would like to leave more than 10,000 troops in Afghanistan for counterterrorism and training of Afghan forces after US forces formally withdraw at the end of this year following a 13-year mission in Afghanistan begun after the 11 Sep, 2001, attacks.

But Karzai has refused so far to sign a bilateral security agreement that Washington insists must be approved before it will agree to leave the troop contingent behind.

The White House says that in the absence of a bilateral agreement, all US forces will withdraw at the end of the year, and that a decision by Karzai is needed within weeks

Karzai has called that an empty threat and suggested any security deal could wait until after the April elections.

NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said earlier this month that Karzai was unlikely to sign a pact and would probably leave the choice for his successor.

The *Journal* said the revised schedule for drawing down troops was based on a plan presented by the Pentagon in January that involves keeping 10,000 US troops in Afghanistan after this year at a limited number of bases.

The plan would draw down those troops in two years and enable the removal of all US troops by the end of President Barack Obama's second term in early 2017, other than military personnel at the US Embassy, the *Journal* said, citing officials.

According to the Journal, the revised plan would allow the US military to accommodate having either 10,000 troops in Afghanistan after 2014 or an order to remove all the troops by the end of the year.

Reuters

White House 'disappointed' invitation withdrawn for North Korea visit

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits participants of a national agriculture competition in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 10 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb — The White House said on Monday it was "deeply disappointed" by North Korea's decision to rescind an invitation to US envoy Robert King to visit Pyongyang to discuss the release of imprisoned US missionary Kenneth Bae.

The White House remains prepared to send King, the US special envoy for North Korean human rights issues, to North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea), White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

"We are deeply disappointed by the DPRK decision for a second time to rescind its invitation for Ambassador King to travel to Pyongyang to discuss Kenneth Bae's release," Carney told reporters at a briefing.

Bae, a 45-year-old Korean-American, has been held for more than a year in North Korea after being sentenced to 15 years of hard labor on charges of trying to overthrow the state. North Korea's official *KCNA* news agency has not reported on the latest invitation to King or why it was rescinded.

A delegation including a retired US diplomat now in North Korea is not visiting at Washington's behest, a US official said on Monday. The retired diplomat, Donald Gregg, who was US ambassador to South Korea in the late 1980s and 1990s, arrived in Pyongyang for a visit with a group, North Korea's official new agency *KCNA* said on Sunday.

"This private delegation did not travel to North Korea on behalf of the US government," said the US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity and who referred all other questions to the delegation. North Korea has previously called for the cancellation of annual US-South Korean (Republic of Korea) military exercises, which North Korea opposes

"We remind the DPRK that the U.S.-ROK military exercises are transparent, regularly scheduled, and defense-oriented. These exercises are in no way linked to Mr. Bae's case," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Sunday.

The United States and South Korea will hold their annual joint military drills from February 24 to April 18, the combined forces command set up by the allies said, adding it had notified Pyongyang of the plan.

Reuters

Nigeria to assists citizens detained in Malaysia

LAGOS, 11 Feb — Nigeria has pledged to assist its citizens affected by the crackdown launched by Malaysia against undocumented immigrants.

Ogbole Ode, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced the pledge while speaking with media in Abuja, the west African country's capital on Monday. Ode said the ministry was aware of the arrest of some Nigerians in the southeast Asian country after a 21 January deadline for undocumented migrants to regularize their stay.

The spokesman said the Nigerian mission in Malaysia would ensure that Nigerians detained in the country were treated fairly before the Malaysian authorities took a decision on their immigration status.

Some reports said no fewer than 200 Nigerians have been arrested in Malaysia since the clampdown on illegal immigrants.

However, Nigeria's High Commissioner to Malaysia, Bello Ringim, said there has not been a situation where 200 Nigerians were arrested in a swoop.

He said Malaysian law enforcement agencies had the power to detain illegal immigrants for an initial two weeks, which could be extended, before deportation.

At the weekend, the Director-General of Malaysia's Immigration Department Aloyah Mamat said more than 3,700 illegal migrants and 30 employers have been detained in the second phase of a nationwide crackdown on illegal aliens.

Xinhua

2 Koreas to hold high-level talks on Wednesday at Panmunjeom

SEOUL, 11 Feb — North and South Korea are scheduled to hold high-level talks on Wednesday at the truce village of Panmunjeom, South Korea's Unification Ministry said on Tuesday.

"The agenda for the talks has not been fixed, but it is expected the two sides will discuss a wide range of issues concerning both sides, including the reunions of separated families," ministry spokesman Kim Eui Do said.

The inter-Korean talks, if realized, would mark the first such forum since the inauguration of President Park Geun Hye in February last year.

Kim Kyou Hyun, who recently was named as secretary general of the National Security Council, will lead the South Korean delegation, while Won Dong Yon, vice director of the United Front Department of the North's Workers' Party, will lead the North's delegation, Kim said.

The South Korean delegation will be composed of officials from the presidential office, the Unification Ministry and also the Defence Ministry, Kim said.

North Korea recently agreed with South Korea to resume reunions later this month of families separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War.

Kyodo News

Explosion shocks central Sarajevo, no one injured

SARAJEVO, 11 Feb — A huge explosion was heard in central Sarajevo on Monday night, and police said there were no injuries.

A local police press officer told *Xinhua* the explosion occurred at the entrance of the ice hall at the Skenderija Plateau. No one was injured, and several shops were damaged, he added.

It was still not clear what kind of explosive device was used, he added.

Sarajevo was rocked by violent clashes on Friday between protesters and police, with the Presidential Building set on fire. Protest have since resumed on Sunday, but with no clashes.

Xinhua

Asian Development Bank President Takehiko Nakao visits a primary school in Tanauan on Leyte Island, the Philippines, on 11 Feb, 2014. He visited areas of the island damaged by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. KYODO NEWS

WORLD

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (R) meets with President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz in the West Bank city of Ramallah on 10 Feb, 2014.
XINHUA

Pakistani Taleban wants gov't avoids unnecessary conditions

ISLAMABAD, 11 Feb — Pakistani Taleban Monday urged the government to avoid what they called unnecessary conditions at the beginning of the peace talks to keep the process on track.

The remarks from the Taleban spokesman, Shahidullah Shahid, came hours after a member of the Taleban mediators' team, Prof. Ibrahim, expressed satisfaction at the outcome of his talks with the members of the Taleban political committee in Waziristan tribal region.

Prof. Ibrahim was accompanied by Maulvi Yousaf Shah, a close aide of Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, head of the Taleban committee, who had involved in talks for two days.

"The Taleban political council that monitors the dialogue process with the government gave positive answers to the government's demands during the talks with Prof Ibrahim and Yousaf Shah," the TTP spokesman said in their first comments on talks in Waziristan.

"The Taleban, after a detailed discussion, also presented their preliminary demands to create a conducive atmosphere for the dialogue process," he said.

The mediators will convey the demands to the government's committee, he added. "We have made it clear to the negotiation team that the government should desist from such unnecessary demands that are difficult to accept and could harm the dialogue process," the TTP spokesman said.

The TTP spokesman said both sides agreed to provide a favourable environment for the talks and that the process will be gradually carried forward.

Xinhua

100 companies to hire 100,000 veterans over five years

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb — The US First Lady Michelle Obama announced on Monday that more than 100 construction industry companies have committed to hiring more than 100,000 military veterans over the next five years.

Michelle Obama and US Labour Secretary Thomas Perez delivered remarks at the National Symposium on Veterans' Employment in Construction, hosted at the Labour Department.

The event brought together construction industry officials, government leaders and education professionals to highlight hiring commitments throughout the industry, and it addressed employment challenges and opportunities for transitioning service members and veterans.

The first lady called the commitment to veterans "a huge deal," adding, "we did this because we wanted to inspire businesses and organizations across the country to ask themselves one simple question: What more can we do to honor and support our veterans and military families?"

"And today all of you answered that question with this incredibly strong commitment," Obama said.

In his remarks, Perez noted that the Labor Department's latest employment report indicates the private sector has created 8.5 million jobs over the last 47 months. The construction industry showed one of the most dramatic growth rates, he said, adding more jobs in January than in any month since March 2007.

The construction industry is expected to create more than 1.5 million jobs by 2022, Perez said, adding that the industry has long maintained a proven training and employment infrastructure.

"Through apprenticeships, certification and credentialing programs provided by labor unions and individual employers, veterans can translate their skills into in-demand civilian occupations," the secretary said.

"Nearly 8 percent of all registered apprentices are veterans," he added, "while 23 percent of apprentices are active military members learning skills in over 120 occupations ranging from airframe mechanics to firefighters."—*Xinhua*

Brazil cameraman pronounced brain dead after protest injury

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 Feb — A Brazilian television cameraman was pronounced brain dead by surgeons at a Rio de Janeiro hospital on Monday, four days after a firework lit by a protester struck him in the head.

His death, the first in Brazil this year due to protests that threaten to disrupt the World Cup soccer tournament beginning in June, underscores the unruliness and violence that have come to characterize the small, but continued rallies that began with a series of mass demonstrations last year.

Santiago Ilídio Andrade, a 49-year-old cameraman for the Bandeirantes television network, was filming a protest over a hike in Rio's bus fares last Thursday when a protestor, as yet unidentified, lit a large bottle rocket that flew up from the ground and struck him.

Photographs and video of the firework's deadly, albeit accidental, trajectory have filled the front pages of newspapers and prime time news coverage in the days since.

The incident is prompting renewed discussion about the protests, the sometimes oppressive police tactics to contain them and whether violence so far could lead to worsening unrest. While Andrade was treated for blood loss and cranial injuries at a Rio hospital, the police have been searching for the protester, who is believed to be affiliated with a loose collective of young anti-government militants.

Reuters

People help cameraman Andrade Santiago after he was injured during a protest by members of the "Free Pass'' movement, who were demanding zero tariffs in the Brazilian public transport system, in Rio de Janeiro on 6 Feb, 2014. Santiago has been declared brain dead on 10 Feb, 2014, according to local media.
REUTERS

US grants $20 million to rebuild schools destroyed in Texas blast

DALLAS 11 Feb — The federal government has awarded $20 million in grants to rebuild two schools that were destroyed last year in the central Texas town of West by a deadly fertilizer plant explosion, officials said on Monday.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said the money will be used by the West Independent School District, which has struggled for resources to rebuild from the 17 April blast that obliterated large parts of the town.

Superintendent Marty Crawford estimated two of the four campuses suffered as much as $53 million in damage from the explosion. The district's insurance company has paid out over $30 million so far.

The intermediate school and high school were within about 800 yards (metres) of the blast site and could not be salvaged. The middle school sustained minor structural damage and the elementary school was untouched by the explosion.

Students were bused to neighboring counties to finish out the school year and are now housed in portable buildings on the district's property.

"With FEMA's announcement, we're confident the cost will be covered," Crawford said.

Construction will begin in July and students could fill the hallways in late 2015 or early 2016, Crawford said.

The explosion at the plant killed 14 people. Local officials said costs have surpassed $100 million for city and school repairs.

In June, FEMA turned down the state's initial $40 million request for aid on the grounds that state resources were adequate to help the community of 2,800 rebuild.

Texas Governor Rick Perry appealed the decision and FEMA declared the city a major disaster site in August.

Reuters

6 injured in bomb blast near protest site in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 11 Feb — At least six street cleaners were wounded Monday in a bomb blast near a protest site in western Bangkok as antigovernment demonstrations continued in the capital, according to police.

The explosion occurred while the six employees of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration were cleaning roadside areas close to the protest site. Two of them were seriously injured by the explosive device, which exploded while the workers were sweeping the road.

The incident is under investigation but one of the protest leaders said the bomb might have targeted the protesters, who have held rallies in the area since late last year.

The protesters are calling on Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her caretaker government to step down.

Kyodo News

A unit of the Investigation Police Brigade (BRI) set a cordon around the court of Ghardaia, Algeria, Feb. 9, 2014, to secure the trial of 27 youngsters involved in ethnic clashes that hit the city recently. Sectarian conflict erupted between Mozabite Berbers of the Muslim Ibadi sect and the Arab Chaanba community. —XINHUA

All national people must revitalize unity while joining hands for peace

Saw Naing (Applied Economics)

It can be seen that unity can bring the success to our people and the country in the world and Myanmar history. The unity means cooperation and harmony. Having the unity can not only accomplish a task but also retain the long-time success.

There are a lot of success stories of collective efforts and the unity. Since yore, human beings had long been collectively living to fight the dangers they were facing. Along with cultural and ideological development, people established modern human societies. Such kind of development is the results of social harmony and the unity in our human society.

Lack of harmony and the unity could not bring such kinds of development and advancement to the country. And it can lead to the outbreak of conflicts and undermine the unity within our society. We should take the examples of the rifts that could end in violence and bloodshed. There are a lot of stories pertaining to the unity in the history of Myanmar.

We should take the lessons of lack of unity. Myanmar lost her independence in the time of King Thipaw. All our national races had to sacrifice their lives to regain the country's independence. The British colonialist tested Myanmar people's unity at a time when they had to regain her independence.

Soon after "the Aung San-Atlee Agreement" had been signed in London on 27 January, 1947, Myanmar had to suffer bitter consequences of divide and rule. Thanks to collaborative efforts of national leader General Aung San and patriotic leaders, the national races could show the strength of unity among our people through "the Panglong Spirit". It is the day (12 February, 1947) on which all national races reached an agreement in Panglong of Southern Shan State is the red-letter day for our country. We can imagine that how our leaders had to make all-out efforts for the unity.

The Panglong agreement was the consequence of the Aung San-Atlee Agreement signed in London on 27 January, 1947. In attempts to continue their rule in their own interest, the British government included the fact that the people of the mainland and hilly regions must prove that they want to gain the independence under the same flag in the Aung San-Atlee Agreement, and meanwhile, they practiced the divide-and-rule policies among the national brethren so that the national people could not work together. While General Aung San was in London, the British government adopted the divide-and-rule policy in hilly regions. Therefore, when arrived back Myanmar, Bogyoke Aung San had to made efforts, tackling challenges, to sign the Panglong Agreement. Even the Panglong Agreement was reached, the British government had formed an investigation committee to investigation the desire of the national people. Only after they got the report of the committee, the British Government recognized the Panglong Agreeement.

One year after the Panglong Agreeement which shows the unity of all national people, Myanmar regained her independence on 4th January, 1948, which she had lost about 100 years. General Aung San and leaders of national people brought about the greater unity with difficulties. I believe that the people of present time can preserve the greater unity brought about by our ancestors.

About 66 years ago, the colonialists tried not to give independence to the hilly regions under the same flag of the mainland. However, we gained our independence thanks to our unity. Today, many countries are interested in Myanmar and its natural resources which have highly lucrative. We strongly believe that only when all national people live in unity while working together with the foreign business firms, bringing about win-win situation, can the national people effectively use the natural resources in their own interests. If there is no unity among the national people at present, the country will face hardships for the country's economy at a time when its resources are completed and the sustainable development would not take place in the country. And, our posterity would live in poverty.

Today is the right time to step up our efforts for strengthening our unity so that we can bring about the development for the future generation. We, all national people, must revitalize our unity while joining our hands for peace. For the sake of the future generation, the present generation should be on alert to situations that can weaken the unity of all national people.

Following are the notes that I read from a book and the notes can be considered as guidelines for preserving our unity.

"We need to preserve our loving kindness to each other, showing physical, verbal and metal actions with amity each other.

We need to share the development that we achieve.

We need to train ourselves to have same morality.

We need to fairly view on diversity of points of view, concepts and opinions."

Trs: MT+AMS

Letter of Agreement (LOA) signed

***Signing ceremony of letter of agreement in progress.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb— Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin attended a signing ceremony of Letter of Agreement (LOA) between Health Department of Ministry of Health, and Asian Development Bank (ADB) for cooperating in diseases control so as to reduce HIV/AIDS infection as migration of people is increasing in countries from Greater Mekong Sub-Region, at the ministry here this morning. Health Department Director-General Dr Min Than Nyunt and ADB Adviser Mr Putu M Kamayana signed the agreement.

Under the agreement, ADB will spend US$ 10 million of Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) from mid-February 2014 to February 2018 in combating HIV/AIDS infection, renovating hospitals and building new rural health centres in Tachilek, Myawady and Kawkareik.—*MNA*

Civil Service Training opened in Yangon

YANGON, 11 Feb— Civil Service Training under the supervision of the Ministry of Information and with the assistance of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) of Germany was conducted at Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Street, here, this morning.

Director-General U Ye Tint of Public Relations and Information Department addressed the opening ceremony of the training.

The training was attended by 57 officials from the Ministries concerned in Yangon. A similar training will be given at Nay Pyi Taw on 13 and 14 February.

Professor of Southeast Asian Politics Dr Narayanan Ganesa of Civil Service College of Singapore will give talks on the purpose of the formation of ASEAN, the reform process and current political situation. Senior Hygiene Engineer Ma Seint Yi Htet of Wyeth Nutritionals Singapore and Trainer of Myanmar Development Partners will also give talks on the importance of leadership skills in each and every government staff along transitional period of the nation.

Civil Service Training starting from 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon is included Public Policy, Public Administration, Public Relations, International Relations and effective leadership skills according to the Ministry of Information.

MNA

Education Ministry holds traditional dance hailing Union Day

YANGON, 11 Feb— As a gesture of hailing the 67th Anniversary Union Day, the Ministry of Education held a traditional dance and sold traditional foods at Diamond Jubilee Hall of the Yangon University here this morning. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint delivered addresses on the occasion. They formally opened the traditional dance.

Next, University students performed traditional dances and songs.

The acting Union minister and party viewed round traditional foods at the booths on the lawn in front of the Diamond Jubilee Hall.

MNA

***University students participating in traditional dances show at Yangon University as a gesture of 67th Anniversary Union Day.*—MNA**

New model of Panasonic cameras introduced

YANGON, 11 Feb—New model of Panasonic cameras was introduced at Traders Hotel, here this morning.

New model of Panasonic—DMC-GM1 & HC-MDH2 started to penetrate Myanmar's technology market. Mr Lee Kim Fong of Panasonic Singapore highlighted strong points of the new model cameras saying that the new model cameras LUMIX GM1 and HC-MDH2 can be installed Live View Finder which can get clear images.

Lumix DMC-GM1 Series Camera worth K 780,000 is portable and easy to use designing three kinds of colours Silver, White and Black. The price of HC-MDH2 Full HD Camcorder is K 1.2 million.

New model cameras will be sold in the last week of February with one year guarantee and it will be available at No. 263 (YMCA Building), at the corner of Maha Bandoola Road and Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township, Yangon and dial 01-296578, 292664, 09-73026875 and at No. (B-3), 78th Street, between 27th and 28th Streets (Mann Myanmar Building) in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, and dial 02-72567.

Swe Swe Naing (MNA)

It is sure an era of peace...

(from page1)

Laiza area with the participation of different national races is a significant milestone on a path to a lasting peace. The government, in its part, will strongly support all efforts in promoting peace and national reconciliation.

Esteemed national brethren,

I firmly believe challenges, we can overcome threats and disturbances at home and abroad we have to encounter while building the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to become a modern, developed and democratic country through a strong sense of cohesiveness of all national brethren.

Especially, a collaborative effort of all national brethren is needed to overcome the risks while enjoying the benefits of rapidly developing technology at present.

Now is the time when the country is witnessing peace and stability and all-round development thanks to cooperation between the government and the entire national people and the international image of Myanmar is shining brightly. Preparations are underway to host this year's ASEAN Summit and related meetings in Myanmar after taking ASEAN's Chair for the first time after 17 years of its membership in ASEAN.

Myanmar hosted the 27th SEA Games successfully in last December and showed kindness, hospitality and high morality of Myanmar people, promoting the image of the nation. It is due to the Union spirit of all national brethren and their true patriotism.

Esteemed national brethren,

It is vital to put equal efforts of all national brethren in the process of democratization. As a result, the country is enjoying fruitful results of participatory democracy. It is sure an era of peace and prosperity will be established as far as the country reaches national unity and reconciliation. On this auspicious day, all national brethren equipped with Union spirit and true patriotic spirit are urged to have a hand in translating the nation into a discipline-flourishing democracy with the use of already-achieved sound foundations.

German President gives speech at Yangon University

German President Mr. Joachim Gauck delivers speech at the convocation hall of Yangon University.—MNA

YANGON, 11 Feb—Visiting German President Mr. Joachim Gauck delivered a speech at the convocation hall of Yangon University here this morning.

It was attended by Union Ministers, Rectors of the universities and university students.

The German President said: I stand before you — moved by your warm reception, by the beauty of your country, by the diversity of its people, landscapes and traditions, by the richness of your culture and by its history, which stretches back thousands of years.

There are now many signs of change in Myanmar — we are following them in Germany with interest and goodwill.

Of course we have noted that your Government under President U Thein Sein has released almost all political prisoners and that members of the once banned NLD and its Secretary General, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, are now sitting in Parliament. It is good that ceasefire agreements have been concluded with almost all ethnic minorities and that people between whom silence or even violence prevailed for many years, are sitting down together around the negotiating table. As freedom of the press has developed and public opinion has become a key political factor, you can judge your Government by the commitments it has made — for example, the pledge to end forced labour and the recruiting of child soldiers. All of these changes are also opening up your country for investments and entrepreneurship and thus for the material improvements which are so needed.

However, a state can and must create a framework in which all of its citizens can develop their talents and flourish equally and — above all — in which their rights to live in safety are protected, no matter what they are called or how they look or where their parents come from. It must enable everyone to express their opinions freely and to join together with others. In your country, there are pagodas and temples, mosques and churches. That is an invitation to make diversity your country's trademark and a measure of its strength!

I am concerned — as are so many others — when I hear of the ongoing violence between Buddhists and Muslims in your country. The efforts to bring about a nationwide ceasefire form an important basis for a process of political reconciliation in which all parties negotiate with one another instead of fighting against one another. Only national reconciliation can lay the groundwork which will allow Myanmar to flourish. We Germans will do everything we can to support you on this path, wherever it is useful or possible. For example, we are willing to provide assistance in the sphere of constitutional reform. I also spoke about this yesterday with representatives of the Government, the opposition and, above all, with the parliamentarians involved in this process. I can certainly understand how difficult and yet crucial it is to get minorities more involved. The future of the military in Parliament was also discussed during my talks. Our experiences as a federal state should be of interest to your country. We believe that this form of statehood makes unity in diversity possible.

Myanmar will depend on whether citizens feel that the reforms implemented to date will also improve their daily lives. We Germans know that only too well. For the economic upswing in western Germany after the Second World War also strengthened confidence in democracy.

That is why we want to support your country's economic development. Your geographical location — between the world's two most populous countries — could hardly be better. It is good that you are improving the legal framework in order to boost foreign investment in your country.

Your country is not only rich in raw materials but also in talented people — many of whom are gathered here in this lecture hall. You, ladies and gentlemen, have a tremendous opportunity: You can learn from the successes and failures of others! What can create prosperity on a durable basis — not merely in the short-term or at the expense of the future? In the transition how can we preserve what has to be preserved — from the country's natural resources to its cultural treasures and social cohesion?

It is no different in Germany! In the long term, however, a society in which all citizens are able to make their own critical contributions is more able to learn and more open to new ideas. You need universities to reconnect you to the world, just as this university has done admirably in the course of its history. The vision to be found at the entrance to this building encapsulates what really matters, both today and in the past: "To create an education system that will generate a learning society". It is good that your country is looking to the future with confidence.

I am therefore delighted that Deutsche Welle Adademie is in the process of establishing a school in Myanmar together with other European partners. I am delighted that our political foundations have sent staff to Myanmar to help you rebuild your country.

We are pleased that you are also interested in Germany. I have been told that the new Goethe-Institut in Yangon is already offering German courses even though it has not been officially opened yet — that is a good sign! This afternoon we will be initiating the institute's renovation. It is to become a meeting-place for all those interested in cultural exchange.

It is possible to not give in to fears but to choose courage. All of you now have the wonderful task of making use of this freedom! Have faith in your strength! Help those who fear getting behind in the wake of change.—*MNA*

Myanmar-German Business Forum held

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb— The 1st Myanmar-German Business Forum took place at UMFCCI Office in Lanmadaw Township here today.

It was attended by Union Minister U Soe Thane, Deputy Minister Daw Khin San Yi, and Parliamentary State Secretary Ms Brigitte Zypries of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and Pro Dr Ludwig Georg Braun of The Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) and entrepreneurs.

In the afternoon, entrepreneurs from Myanmar and Germany held a discussion.

UMFCCI and Association of German Chambers of Commerce (DIHK) signed an MoU and a joint-statement.—*MNA*

1st Myanmar-German Business Forum in progress.—MNA

NATIONAL

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 12 February, 2014

Spirit of Panglong

The Twelfth of February is one of the historic days of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It is also known as the Union Day that marks the signing of Panglong Agreement, guaranteeing people from hilly regions and the mainland to live together with peace and brotherhood forever. Despite the colonialists' attempts to drive a wedge and divide the nation, national brethren were able to show the spirit of Panglong vigorously.

The Panglong Agreement signed by General Aung San and leaders of national races was aimed at bringing all national brethren together in regaining independence in order to live together in the Union through thick and thin and weal and woe. This is the Panglong Spirit. It can be said that Panglong Agreement is the originator of adopting Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty. So, today is a day of remembrance in the existence of Myanmar and its entire people. Panglong Spirit has strengthened more and more and still prevails under the one and only flag.

Now is the time when the country is witnessing a participatory political reform, moving towards a democracy and initiating a programme of economic reform for achieving the equitable development the length and breadth of the nation. Such reforms need united effort of the entire people. All of us are to come to the unity based on the Panglong Spirit in order to shape a better future.

Future of our country is in our own hands and great strides are imperative in translating the nation into a developed one. Unity is the only one way to achieve success as the old saying goes, Unity is Strength. The revitalization of the Spirit of Panglong is sorely needed while nation-building endeavour is taking place for the emergence of a peaceful and developed country.

President U Thein Sein meets Singaporean Attorney-General

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—President U Thein Sein received Attorney-General of Singapore Mr Steven Chong, SC and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Both sides discussed further cementing bilateral ties between the Attorney-General Offices of the two nations, conducting proficiency courses for law staff and sharing experiences on rule of law.

Also present at the call were Union Minister U Soe Maung, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin, Deputy Minister U Tin Oo Lwin and officials.—*MNA*

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shaking hands with Attorney-General of Singapore Mr Steven Chong.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun meets Senior Executive Vice President

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Mr Jun Kinukawa, Senior Executive Vice President at Tokyo based Mitsubishi Corporation.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—Vice-President U Nyan Tun received Mr Jun Kinukawa, Senior Executive Vice President at Mitsubishi Corporation based in Tokyo of Japan, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

They cordially discussed investment in mining sector, cooperation in Thilawa Special Economic Zone Project and assistance for development of human resources.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin and Daw Le Le Thein, Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and officials.

MNA

Workshop on anti-money laundering (AML), combating financing of terrorism held

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—Jointly organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the International Governance and Risk Institute-GovRisk, a workshop on anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism was held at Thingaha Hotel, here yesterday morning.

Chairman at Central Control Board on Money Laundering Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko addressed the workshop. The workshop was also attended by the Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the leader of legal adviser to the President and members, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win, directors-general of the Ministry of Home Affairs, attendees from the departmental concerned, Chargé d' Affaires ai of British Embassy Mr Matthew Hedges and officers from Britain. 50 Senior Officers from the Supreme Court of the Union, the Office of Union Attorney-General, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Central Bank of Myanmar.

On 14 February, Private Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations will be discussed at the same venue.

MNA

Myanmar, US discuss development of mineral resources, renewable energy

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb— Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Mr. Robert Cekuta, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Department of State, and party at his office here this morning.

During the meeting, they discussed development of mineral resources and renewable energy, water and food security and their sustainable development.

As well, they focused on matters related to Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) membership application process, cooperation with US based organizations in carrying out biodiversity conservation in the country.

Besides, bilateral cooperation between the two countries in promoting the sectors of environmental conservation, energy, mines, forestry and human resources, which can support reform processes and progress of the country, were discussed.—*MNA*

Arrangements being made for winners in entrance exams to have opportunities to attend BTech, BE

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—At the 13th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw today, Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung said that the ministry seeks approvals from the Myanmar Investment Commission and the cabinet meetings and issues permits to entrepreneurs to do mineral explorations in regions and states. The entrepreneurs must submit the endorsements of the respective region and state governments.

In Kayin State, the ministry earned over K 1300 million as tax from issuance of permits for mining industry. The mining companies provide assistance to social, health, education and religious affairs to the local people residing near the mining blocks, he added.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Myat Kyaw said that entrance exams will be conducted for B Tech and BE courses in 2014, and arrangements are being made for winners in the entrance tests to have the opportunities to attend the respective courses.

The Pyithu Hluttaw sought the approval for the Electronic Bill sent back by the Amyotha Hluttaw without any amendment and the Associations Registration Bill submitted by the Public Affairs Administration Committee. Next, the Hluttaw informed the MPs of formation of Daw Mya Mya Win, Professor Dean (Rtd) and Daw Le Le Win, Assistant Lecturer (Rtd) as members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

At today's Amyotha Hluttaw session, Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung said that the ministry assigns one labour diplomat each at Myanmar embassies in Republic of Korea, Thailand and Malaysia for protection of Myanmar workers in the respective countries to be able to enjoy their social and health affairs.

Before assignment of the workers abroad, the promise of employment agencies has been received for protection of workers. If not, action will be taken against these agencies, he added.

The Amyotha Hluttaw approved the Money Laundering Bill and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Development Fund Bill.

Defence Services Personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representative Major Myint Sein read the report 1/2014 on progress of tasks in Chin and Rakhine States and social, health and education sectors presented by Amyotha Hluttaw Relief and Victims Care Committee. The Hluttaw put it on record.

MNA

German President opens Myanmar branch of Delegation of German Industry and Commerce

President of Federal Republic of Germany Mr Joachim Gauck opens Myanmar branch of Delegation of German Industry and Commerce (AHK).—MNA

YANGON, 11 Feb—President of Federal Republic of Germany Mr Joachim Gauck and party opened the Myanmar branch of the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce (AHK) after attending the Myanmar-German Economic Cooperation Forum at Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Office, here, this afternoon.

The visiting German President gave a remark that thanks to the Myanmar branch, the AHK will contribute much not only to Myanmar and Germany but also international economic arena.

The visiting President, President of UMFCCI U Win Aung and party opened the Association of German Chambers of Commerce (DIHK) and Myanmar branch of AHK. After that, they released a joint statement.

This morning, German and Myanmar entrepreneurs held a talk on promotion of businesses.

The visiting German President and party attended the opening of Goethe Institute at No 8 on Komin Kochin Road in Bo Cho Ward of Bahan Township this afternoon.

The German President, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and Rector of German Culture Department Mr Klaus-Dieter Lehmann opened the Institute.

After that, the German President and party visited Independence Monument at Maha Bandoola Park and Sule Pagoda.—*MNA*

Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union arrives back from Japan

YANGON, 11 Feb—Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein arrived back home by air on 9 February after participating in discussions on exchange of knowledge and experience at Nagoya University in Japan at the invitation of Aikyo Masanori, Vice-President of Nagoya University and Professor of Law.

Members of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Daw Hla Myo Nwe and U Myo Chit also arrived back here on the same flight.

The delegation was welcomed back by member of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Daw Kyin San and officials at Yangon International Airport.—*MNA*

Wife of Germany President visits Sandayaw Village of Htantabin Tsp

YANGON, 11 Feb—Mrs Daniela Schadt, wife of President of Germany Mr Joachim Gauck, and party this afternoon visited Sandayaw Village of Htantabin Township where rural development tasks are being undertaken with the assistance of Germany.

Germany-based Malteser Interantional and Welthangerhilife have been contributing to development of rural areas since 2003, said project coordinator Daw Thanda Phyu of Welthangerhilife.

Mrs Daniela Schadt and party viewed round two new school buildings of Sandayaw Village Basic Education Middle School Branch, two rainwater tanks and health centre and asked requirements of the local people. She expressed her thanks for warm welcomed of the local people.

Mrs Daniela Schadt, wife of President of Germany Mr Joachim Gauck, and party visit Sandayaw Village of Htantabin Township.—PHOTO-PHO HTAUNG

Not only the Germany government but also the INGOs give a helping hand to the nation.

Mrs Daniela Schadt and party went back to Chatrium Hotel at 4.30 pm.

Ye Khaung Nyunt

Myanmar, Singapore Attorneys'-General discuss legal affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin met with Attorney-General Mr Steven Chong of Singapore at his office, here, this morning.

The Attorney-General of the Union expressed his thanks to Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers for inviting law officers from Myanmar to attend legal affairs training and subject matters training as Myanmar had cementing friendship with Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers for a long time.

The Attorney-General of Singapore said this trip was the first time for him. He believed that providing training to Myanmar would create greater benefit to ASEAN countries. He also expressed his thanks to the Attorney-General of Myanmar for inviting him and providing necessary arrangement to live in.

Then they shared experiences on working procedures of the office of the Union Attorney-General and Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers and they discussed legal affairs between the two nations. Moreover, they also discussed the matters related to further cooperation between the two countries.

MNA

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 recon-ciliation
- 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

Free eye care provided to patients in Pakokku Township

MAGWAY, 11 Feb— In honouring the 67th Anniversary Union Day, under the arrangements of Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunalankara and Magway Region Development Foundation, Magway Region Health Department conducted free eye care treatment to the eye patients at Kanma Model Village Station Hospital in Pakokku Township on 9 February morning, with addresses by the Sayadaw and Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe.

Officials of the region Health Department reported on eye surgerical operations at the eye patients. The Sayadaw donated one air-conditioner worth K 300,000 and gifts to specialists, doctors and nurses.

The Sayadaw, the Chief Minister and party put up the glasses to the patiented who have already received eye surgery.

It was the fourth operation of its kind. The specialists gave surgical operations to 265 patients and medical checkups to 1144 patients from 76 villages near Kanma Model Village.

Kyemon-Tin Tun Oo (IPRD)

Township development tasks inspected

MYAUNG, 11 Feb— Sagaing Region Minister for Forestry, Mining and Energy U Than Htaik on 9 February met with Region Hluttaw MP U Nyunt Shwe and township level officials at the township General Administration Department in Myaung.

They discussed development tasks. The region minister stressed the need to make coordination among departmental officials and responsible persons of the committees in undertaking development tasks.

Officials reported on progress of works and wellwishers' efforts in education, health and transport. They inspected water supply tasks in the township and regional development tasks being carried out with the use of the fund.—*Kyemon-Myint Naing Soe (Htihlaing Myay)*

Self-reliant library building opened

YANGON, 11 Feb— Aleinmar self-reliant library was opened in Ward 53 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, here, on 9 February.

Region Hluttaw MP Daw San San Win, Township Administrator U Myint Lwin and officials opened the library.

The MP donated 100 copies of books, Head of District Information and Public Relations Department U Soe Nyunt Shwe 100 books and the Township Administrator K 10000 to Library Committee U Maung Mya.

Ward 53 administrator U Khaing Win presented one 21-inch TV to the MP. The building was constructed with the fund K 5.5 million by World Vision and K 3 million by the people.

Kyemon-Thaw Zin Htet

Section 2 of Peace Asphalt Road commissioned into service in Pekhon

PEKHON, 11 Feb— Pekhon Township Development Affairs Committee held the inauguration of the section 2 of Peace Asphalt Road on 9 February.

Kayan National Affairs Minister U Laurence, Township Administrator U Htin Kyaw, Township Development Affairs Committee U Tun Han and Executive Officer U Htein Lin cut the ribbon to open the road.

The Township DAC has spent K 48.6 million on 19 roads and bridges works such as one urban asphalt road, three concrete roads, one repaved road, two gravel roads, two renovated gravel road, five bridges, and one rain water tank.

The newly-opened road will benefit 2433 population from 374 houses of Ward 3.

The ceremony also was attended by the Pyithu Hluttaw representative, departmental officials, members of the Township Development Supportive Committee and social organization members, totalling over 200.

Kyemon-Ko Htwe (Pekhon)

Record 12.8 bil cyberattacks detected in Japan last year

TOKYO, 11 Feb — The government-backed National Institute of Information and Communications Technology detected a record 12.8 billion cyberattacks on government and other organizations in Japan last year, officials of the institute known as NICT said Monday.

The number was the largest since the institute launched surveys on cyberattacks in 2005, they said.

"Cyberattacks from emerging countries as well as China and the United States have been increasing," a NICT official said.

NICT has developed a system to determine whether access to servers at government and other organizations are cyberattacks and operated around 210,000 sensors for surveillance last year.

The number of NICT-detected cyberattacks through sensors rose from around 300 million in 2005 to about 5.7 billion in 2010 and around 7.8 billion in 2012, due partly to a gradual increase in the number of sensors installed for surveillance.

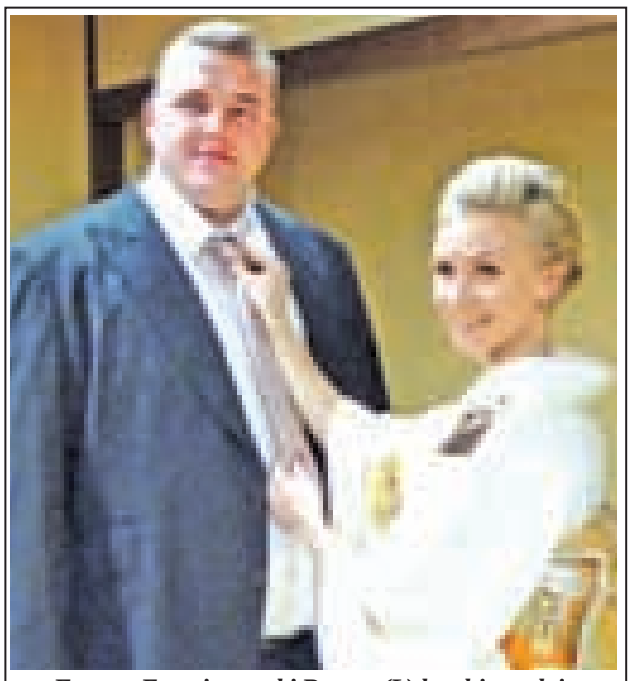
The number of cyberattacks in 2013 expanded 1.6 times from the previous year, while the number of sensors rose 1.1-fold.

Cyberattacks last year included distributed denial of service attacks, in which massive amounts of data were sent to down servers, as well as initial attempts to determine whether servers were vulnerable to attack.

After international hacker group Anonymous criticized Japan's whaling activities and threatened on the YouTube video site to attack related Japanese organizations around last May, NICT detected attacks on some government servers, the sources said.

But the sources noted that the actual locations of cyberattackers are difficult to identify because personal computers used in cyberattacks could be controlled remotely.

Kyodo News



Former Estonian ozeki Baruto (L) has his necktie fixed by his wife Elena, clad in traditional Japanese kimono, after having his topknot cut during a retirement ceremony at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan arena on 8 Feb, 2014. In the summer of 2010, the 1.98-metre wrestler became only the second European to climb to sumo's second-highest rank. —KYODO NEWS

Indonesia endeavors to expand airports

JAKARTA, 11 Feb — A senior official at the Transportation Ministry said here on Monday that Indonesia will continue to build new airports across the country while expanding existing ones, now that the country's airports are facing overcrowding problem due to increasing flight passengers.

Speaking in his keynote speech at a seminar on air transport here, Deputy Transportation Minister Bambang Susantono said that a total of 26 airports administered by state-run airport administrators of Angkasa Pura I and II is registering a Crowding Index of above 1.0 at the moment.

"It indicates that activities in the airports have surpassed 100 percent of the terminal capacity," Bambang said. Besides those operated by Angkasa Pura I and II, a technical unit at the country's air transport directorate general also operates 273 airstrips across the country at the moment.—*Xinhua*

Crew members have a training on a CRH6 bullet train during a no-load running in southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 10 Feb, 2014. China's latest high-speed shuttle CRH6 with a speed of 200 kilometers per hour made a no-load running between Chengdu and Dujiangyan in Sichuan on Monday before putting into operation.
XINHUA

Vietnam to increase taxes on alcohol, cigarettes to cut consumption

HO CHI MINH CITY, 11 Feb — Vietnam plans to increase special consumption tax (SCT) on alcoholic beverages and cigarettes by 15-30 percentage points in mid-2015 as part of the efforts to reduce their consumption, local *Vietnam News daily* reported Tuesday, quoting sources from the Ministry of Finance.

Specifically, the ministry made proposals to the government to increase the tax on cigarettes to 75 percent from the current 65 percent as of mid-2015, and up by another 10 percent in early 2018. According to the ministry, the higher tax is expected to contribute an additional 2.93 trillion VND (138.8 million US dollars) to revenues in 2016, and 7.7 trillion VND (roughly 365 million US dollars) in 2018.

The SCT on beer and liquor will increase to 65 percent from the current 50 percent, contributing an additional 7.8 trillion VND (369.6 million US dollars) and 389 billion VND (18.4 million US dollars) respectively.

Vietnam is the third largest per-capita consumer of beer in Asia behind only China and Japan. In 2013 the country consumed three billion litters, or 32 litters per person. The smoking rate is also high, with around 15 million people lighting up and also making millions of others, including women and children, passive smokers. Cigarettes killed 40,000 people in 2008, and the ministry expects the number to rise to 50,000 by 2023.—*Xinhua*

Nepal's new PM pledges new constitution within one year

KATHMANDU, 11 Feb — Nepal's newly elected Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said on Monday that his priority is to promulgate a new constitution within a year.

Talking to media persons after being elected by the Parliament as the country's prime minister Monday, Koirala said that he will take all parties into confidence to provide a new constitution. "I want consensus and reconciliation among the parties inside and outside the Constituent Assembly (CA)," Koirala said. The prime minister, who secured two-thirds of votes in the Parliament, also pledged to hold the election of local bodies within six months.

Due to political instability, Nepal has failed to hold the election of local bodies for 14 months. He also promised to attract more foreign investment into the country.—*Xinhua*

Criminal complaint filed against JR Hokkaido over data falsifications

TOKYO, 11 Feb — The transport ministry on Monday filed a criminal complaint against Hokkaido Railway Co. over falsifications of maintenance data.

The move by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism marks the first criminal case brought against a railway operator for violation of the Railway Business Act.

Offenders face a fine of up to 1 million yen.

JR Hokkaido is suspected to have falsified rail width data immediately after a September 2013 derailing accident on its Hakodate Line as well as on the day before a special ministry audit, according to the transport ministry.

The complaint does not identify any individuals involved in falsifying data. JR Hokkaido earlier fired a total five staff over their involvement in data falsifications.

Kyodo News

22 killed in road accidents in India

NEW DELHI, 11 Feb — At least 22 people were killed in two separate road accidents in India Tuesday, both related with wedding ceremonies, said local media.

Thirteen people were killed and three others injured when their car was hit by a speeding truck on a national highway at Kaluadighi near Malda town in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal, said *Press Trust of India*.

The victims were returning to their homes after attending a wedding reception.

In another accident, nine people were killed in a similar bus- truck collision in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, said local TV channel CNN-IBN.

The dead were also returning home from a wedding ceremony, said the report.

Spring is traditionally a wedding season in India.

Road accidents take place frequently in India due to reckless driving, bad road conditions and lack of safety measures, with at least 100,000 estimated to be killed on the road each year.

Xinhua

A boy prepares to perform "Taigushi" (carry stories) in Changle Town of Miluo City, central China's Hunan Province, on 9 Feb, 2014. "Taigushi", listed as a national intangible cultural heritage in 2011, is a folk performance during which children dressed up as heroes and heroines in traditional Chinese fairy tales and local operas, perform on planks carried by adults. —XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

"Supply of equipment for a Crisis Response Centre in NayPyiTaw, Myanmar"

Publication ref : EuropeAid/135164/DD/SUP/MM

The **European Commission** intends to award a **supply contract** for the supply, delivery, installation and putting into operation of the following lots:

Lot 1: **ICT equipment** ; Lot 2: **Office furniture** ;

for **the Ministry of Home Affairs** in a **work space** located in NayPyiTaw, Myanmar, with financial assistance from the Instrument for Stability Programme of the European Union.

The tender dossier is available from the EU Delegation to Myanmar, 45 Inya Myaing Road, Golden valley (2) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon and will also be published on the EuropeAid website: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome and on the Myanmar Delegation website : http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/myanmar/grants_tenders/tenders/index_en.htm

The **deadline for submission** of tenders is **19/03/2014**. Possible additional information or clarifications/questions shall be published on the above websites.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1406)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1406) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.2.2014 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.

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UN relief chief welcomes extension of humanitarian pause in Syria's Homs

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Feb — UN relief chief Valerie Amos Monday welcomed the extension of the humanitarian pause in Syria's old Homs city, a UN spokesperson said.

Amos, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, welcomed the news that the parties to the conflict have agreed to extend the humanitarian pause in old Homs city for a further three days, UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky said at a daily news briefing.

"I hope this will allow us to evacuate yet more civilians and deliver much needed additional supplies. The protection of civilians caught up in this horrendous conflict in Syria is the greatest priority for UN agencies and humanitarian partners," Amos said in a statement.

The humanitarian pause, which was recently concluded between Damascus and the UN, had barely begun with the evacuation of 83 people on Friday when sniper and other fire temporarily interrupted the process.

This continued throughout the weekend, deliberately targeting UN and Syrian Red Crescent workers and leading to the deaths of 11 people even as more than 800 people were eventually evacuated from the old city and some vital food and medical supplies made their way in, according to the UN.

Earlier in the day, governor of Homs, Talal Barazi, said that most of the evacuees were women, children and old men, who would receive proper care and medical treatment, adding that the evacuation could continue for the next three days.

"It is absolutely unacceptable that UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent aid workers were deliberately targeted," Amos said, highlighting the "extremely dangerous circumstances" in which aid workers have been operating.

"The international community must press for full accountability of the Syrian government and opposition forces and demand that the ceasefire is held so that all who want to leave can do so safely," she said.—*Xinhua*

Death toll in eastern India boat tragedy reaches 22

NEW DELHI, 11 Feb — The death toll in Sunday's boat tragedy in the eastern Indian state of Odisha has reached 22, with the recovery of more bodies overnight, a senior police official said on Monday.

"While 22 bodies have been recovered till now, some nine others are still missing. More than 100 people were on the boat which capsized in a river in the state's Sambalpur district. Rescuers are trying their best to fish out the missing people and the death toll may go up later in the day," he said, on condition of anonymity.

The passengers had hired the boat from a private operator for a pleasure trip, the official said, adding that a probe has been ordered into the mishap.

Boat tragedies are common in India, mostly because of overloading. Some 21 people were killed when a tourist boat sank in the Bay of Bengal in the central government controlled Andaman and Nicobar Islands last month.—*Xinhua*

SWAT soldiers wash their faces with snow in a physical training in Shangrao City, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 10 Feb, 2014. XINHUA

A salesperson arranges gold jewelry at a gold store in Lin'an City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 10 Feb, 2014. China Gold Association reported on 10 February that China's gold consumption for the first time exceeded 1,000 tons to reach 1,176. 40 tons in 2013, a year on year increase of 41.36 percent. Meanwhile, China's gold output rose 6.2 percent in 2013 to a record 428.16 tons.—XINHUA

St Petersburg celebrates memorial of Russian national poet Pushkin

ST PETERSBURG, 11 Feb — Russia's cultural capital St. Petersburg on Monday celebrated the 177th anniversary of the death of its greatest son, the poet and national cultural icon Alexander Pushkin. Several hundred people laid flowers and joined in a minute's silence at the house where Pushkin spent his last days, now converted into a museum.

The observance of a minute's silence at the precise time of the poet's death, 14:45 local time, is an unbroken tradition continued by locals even during the Nazi Siege of Leningrad from 1941 to 1944.

Meanwhile, in the Chyornaya Rechka district of the city, crowds gathered at the obelisk commemorating the famous duel in which Pushkin lost his life in 1837.

A series of poetry readings and other Pushkin-related cultural events have been organized across the city to commemorate the anniversary. Pushkin is widely regarded as the father of modern Russian language and literature, serving as an inspiration to subsequent Russian authors including Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Anton Chekhov, Vladimir Nabokov and poets of the so-called Silver Age in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Xinhua

Bolivia's La Paz department declared "disaster zone"

LAPAZ, 11 Feb — Bolivia's western La Paz department governor Cesar Cocarico on Monday declared his state a "disaster zone" due to the magnitude of the damage caused by recent heavy rains while Bolivian President Evo Morales pledged the government' s full support for thousands of victims of rain-caused disasters. Cocarico told a press conference "the whole department is experiencing days of desperation. Many people are drinking the water that has flooded their homes and that drove us to declare La Paz as a disaster zone."

More than 5,000 families in the department of La Paz have been affected by severe rains since the beginning of January. As many as 19 towns have been badly hit in his department, Cocarico said.

"We have to build homes, roads, tend the crops, help many people who are now beginning to get sick," he said, adding the declaration of disaster zone will lead to more emergency funds. Meanwhile, President Evo Morales on Monday flew over the badly- hit central department of Cochabamba, where a landslide buried several homes, killing 14 people, including seven minors.

The president pledged the government's full support for thousands of victims of recent heavy rains, including the materials needed to rebuild homes and infrastructure.

"I want the Bolivians who have been affected by the severe rains to rest assured and save their lives, because the government will be in those regions with its fullest support and all kinds of aid," said Morales.

Ordering the evacuation of several homes at risk of further landslides, the president assured "We are working with all the resources at our disposal. There is no lack of food. Yesterday (Sunday) food arrived and it will continue arriving."

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Oscar nominees hobnob three weeks ahead of Hollywood's big night

*Nominees for the Academy Awards best actor category Matthew McConaughey, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christian Bale and Bruce Dern (L-R) appear in a combination photo.—*Reuters

Beverly Hills, (California), 11 Feb — This year's Oscar nominees gathered for the ultimate Hollywood power lunch on Monday in a celebration of the old adage "it's an honour just to be nominated" three weeks before the film industry's biggest night.

The annual Oscars nominees luncheon convened more than 200 contenders pursuing an Academy Award on 2 March — from 18-time nominee Meryl Streep for best actress in "August: Osage County" to Lupita Nyong'o, who won a best supporting actress nod for her first film role ever in "12 Years a Slave."

The eclectic group of movie stars, directors and technical wizards even boasted U2 frontman Bono, who lined up for the "class picture" thanks to his best song nomination for "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom."

While no one is foolish enough to look confident of a win before Academy members begin voting on Friday, Monday's luncheon was a chance to turn on the charm by praising the Oscars, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the magic of Hollywood filmmaking. "I'm going to celebrate no matter what," said Matthew McConaughey, the presumed frontrunner for best actor for his role as an unlikely AIDS activist in the low-budget "Dallas Buyers Club," for which he won the Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards.

"This is my first time nominated and if I ever get nominated again, who knows," he added.

"But there will never be another first time, so I'm going to enjoy this." Cate Blanchett, the favorite to win best actress for her role as a disgraced socialite in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine," said this nomination "certainly took me by surprise."

"You're part unconscious when you're working deeply, but it's always a thrill, particularly because I've been away from the film industry for so long," Blanchett said.

Reuters

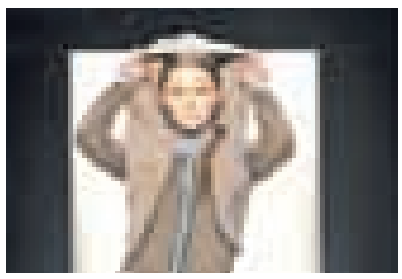
Alain Resnais fuses art forms in new comedy at Berlin festival

Berlin, 11 Feb — At 91-years-old, veteran French filmmaker Alain Resnais shows no sign of letting up his experimentation, drawing on theatre, graphic illustration and cinema in his whimsical comedy "Life of Riley" that premiered at Berlin's festival on Monday. In his third adaptation of a play by Britain's Alan Ayckbourn, the lives of three couples are shaken up by the news their good friend George Riley is ill and has just months to live. The news rekindles old emotions, and the three women start fighting to look after George in his last weeks and accompany him on his last holiday, creating unexpected and tragicomic tumult in their middle-aged, respectable relationships.

Through George's imminent death, they all seem to come alive. As Kathryn, played by Resnais' wife Sabine Azéma, says -- it is as if George, the invisible character around which all revolves, had a scheme in mind. Actress Sandrine Kiberlain, who plays George's estranged wife, told a news conference in Berlin that the French title of the film, "Aimer, boire et chanter" (to love, drink and sing), "reflects the message of let's live our lives to the full". Resnais, a doyen of French cinema who found fame in the 1950s with hits "Hiroshima mon amour" and "Night and Fog", was too ill to make the screening in Berlin but remains true to form on creativity. Punctuated by graphic illustrations of the houses where the characters live and panoramas of the English countryside, the action takes place in an artificial, cardboard cut-out studio world, underscoring the film's theatricality. The characters themselves are amateur actors rehearsing scenes, presenting the viewer with a play within a play.

Reuters

*Cast members Caroline Silhol (L) and Hippolyte Girardot pose during a photocall to promote the movie "Aimer, Boire Et Chanter" (Life of Riley) at the 64th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on 10 Feb, 2014.—*Reuters



A model presents a creation from the Katya Zol 2014 Fall/Winter collection during New York Fashion Week on 9 Feb, 2014. Reuters

Gold glitters among the looks at New York Fashion Week

New York, 11 Feb — Going for the gold isn't just a slogan for the Olympics Games; the gleaming metal is dominating fashions for fall. Gold is appearing in elegant evening wear, where it might be expected to shine, and in casual tops, sweaters and jackets as well on the runways in New York, where hundreds of designers are showing their Fall 2014 collections this week.

Son Jung Wan, a designer from South Korea, showed gold metallic swingy skirts, gold jacket lapels and gold-tipped shoes. American designer Lela Rose showed a flounce skirt, peplum blouse, wide v-neck dress and floor-length gown, all in a gold-dusted crisp, airy floral design. "People are just trying to elevate the basics," said Roseanne Morrison, fashion director at the Doneger Group trend analysts, on Monday.

"It gives people a sense of specialness as opposed to just a plain old basic turtleneck," Morrison said. Bringing the message home, models at Son Jung Wan sported thick gold lipstick. Designer Katya Zol, a Mongolian-born designer, played it up by painting gold stripes down her models' faces. At Mara Hoffman, a New York-based designer who said her looks were inspired by the landscapes and textiles of Northern Africa, models' arms were cinched with gold bracelets.

Reuters

Jennifer Garner: Was emotional about family while shooting Dallas Buyers Club

Los Angeles, 11 Feb — Actress Jennifer Garner, who has acted in Oscar nominated film Dallas Buyers Club, says that she was very "emotional" while shooting the film as she was nursing her new born baby that time. The 41-year-old added that she used to be "nervous" to leave the baby at home but it made her realise how much she loved her job, reports contactmusic.com.

*Jennifer Garner reveals she was nursing her new born baby that time.—***PTI**

"I was very nervous — it's hard to leave your baby at home and go to work. And I was a nursing mum, so I was extra emotional about it. By, by the end, it made me remember how much I like my job and that I have to keep things more in balance," Garner told *Radio Times* magazine.

The actress has children Violet, eight, Seraphina, five and 23 month old Samuel with her husband Ben Affleck.

PTI

Anushka Sharma: Have used temporary lip enhancer

New Delhi, 11 Feb — Anushka Sharma has something to say to all those accusing her of getting a lip job. Instead of simply denying that she had one via her representatives, the Band Baaja Baaraat actress has written a Twitter post in which she explains that she used a "lip enhancing tool" combined with make-up to get her look for her next film Bombay Velvet.

Anushka's over-abundance of lipsticked facial appendage was the practically the only thing people could talk about after her appearance on TV show Koffee With Karan — that, and her almighty blush when host Karan Johar asked her about her reported romance with cricketer Virat Kohli. Anushka's Twitter post begins: "Hellooooo everyone !! Today I am here to talk about my lips !! Yes ! There ! I said it .. My lips !"

*Anushka reveals she finds it difficult to talk about her personal life.—***PTI**

She describes herself as someone who finds it difficult to talk about her personal life but explains why she felt the need to make her lippy point: "Lately there has been a LOT of talk about me in this particular episode of Koffee with Karan. Mainly regarding my lips. I am here to just convey what I have to say regarding the same. I am talking about it only because this story has taken a scary direction and things have been 'blown out of proportion' (pun intended ;))"

PTI

SPORTS

*17 years old Han Tianyu, China's first medal winner celebrates with the national flag after match, on 10 Feb, 2014.—*Xinhua

Bolivia to play Brazil in Libertadores Cup

La Paz, 11 Feb — Bolivian team The Strongest will travel on Tuesday to Brazil, where it is set to play Brazilian team Atletico Paranaense Thursday in Group 1 games of the 2014 Libertadores Cup, a sports official said Monday.

The Bolivian team coach Eduardo Villegas said at a press conference in La Paz his team will hold a light training session in host city Curitiba prior to the match, to be held at 7 pm local time (2300 pm GMT).

The team's rivals in the regional tournament are led by Spanish coach Miguel Angel Portugal.

Villegas said players Daniel Vaca, Abraham Cabrera, Diego Bejarano and Walter Veizaga will not be able to play against Paranaense because they were expelled during the South American Cup match against Paraguay's Nacional in last August.

All four banned players are key, lamented Villegas, saying he has prepared a different team for this match, with goalkeeper Andres Jemio replacing Vaca in the lineup.

Defender Jair Torrico, meanwhile, has been under medical observation since he blacked out on 7 February after colliding against a player in a local league match. Players Nelvin Soliz, who has recovered from an injury, and Daniel Chavez, have already begun to train and will be able to play, he said.

Group 1 also includes Argentina's Velez Sarsfield and Peru's Universitario de Deportes, who will play each other on 11 February in Lima. This year marks the 20th time The Strongest competes in a Libertadores Cup, and while it has played against Brazilian teams on eight occasions, it has never faced Paranaense before.—*Xinhua*

Bjoerndalen misses record, as flying Dutchmen see off Japan challenge

Sochi, (Russia), 11 Feb — Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerndalen fell agonizingly short of an historic Olympic medal record on Monday on the third full day of action at the Winter Games, while Dutch skaters brushed aside the challenge from Japan and South Korea, and China became the first Asian nation to get on the medal board.

Competing in his sixth Games, Bjoerndalen was aiming to become the greatest single winter Olympian of all time by notching up a 13th Olympic medal in the men's 12.5-kilometre pursuit, having equaled compatriot Bjorn Daehlie's record when clinching gold in the 10-km sprint on Saturday.

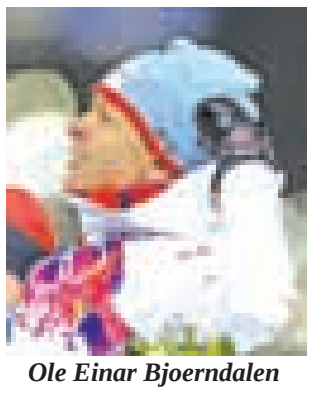
But the 40-year-old Bjoerndalen saw France's Martin Fourcade shoot and ski to victory in 33 minutes, 48.6 seconds, with Ondrej Moravec of the Czech Republic taking silver 14 seconds behind, and crossed the line just after Jean Guillaume Beatrix had snared the bronze for France, the time between them no more than it takes to say the Norwegian legend's name.

At the Adler Arena Speed Skating Centre, the Netherlands again swept aside all rivals as Michel Mulder won gold in the men's 500-metre speed skate in a total time of 69.31 seconds, with Jan Smeekens second and Mulder's twin brother Ronald third.

The Dutchmen left all the 2010 Vancouver Olympic medalists in their wake, with defending champion Mo Tae Bum of South Korea shut out in fourth and Japan's Vancouver bronze medalist Joji Kato and silver medalist Keiichiro Nagashima finishing disappointed in fifth and sixth.

But earlier in the day an Asia nation had finally got on the medal board, as 17-year-old Han Tianyu collected silver for China in the men's 1,500-meter short track, a whisker behind Canada's Charles Hamelin who added gold to his 500-metre and 5,000-metre winner's medals at Vancouver. Russia's Victor An, a triple gold medalist at Turin in 2006, took the bronze.

Reuters



Ole Einar Bjoerndalen

Granollers reaches Buenos Aires ATP second round

Buenos Aires, 11 Feb — Spaniard Marcel Granollers, 5th seed,reached the second round at the Buenos Aires ATP tournament on Monday by defeating Aljaz Bedene of Slovenia 7-5, 3-6, 6-2. Guido Pella of Argentina defeated Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain 7-6 (6), 6-4 to move into the second round.

Another Spaniard David Ferrer is the top seed followed by Fabio Fognini of Italy. Fognini won the Royal Guard Open on Sunday in Vina del Mar, Chile, which was his third ATP Tour title, all on clay.—*Xinhua*

Vancouver silver still haunts US

Sochi, (Russia), 11 Feb — The US men's ice hockey team finally arrived in Sochi on Monday, determined to make amends for their loss in the gold medal game at the last Olympics in Vancouver. A relatively young American team defied the odds to reach the final four years ago only to lose to Canada in overtime in a defeat that still stings.

"It was tough. Usually by the time you get the bitter taste of losing out of your mouth you're coming back to start another (National Hockey League) season," US forward Patrick Kane told reporters.

"But that one took a little while to get over with. You know four, five, six months and then you're thinking about it in the summer."

Despite their lingering disappointment, goaltender Ryan Miller said there were still plenty of positives the Americans could take from the experiences they had in Vancouver.

They proved they could match it with any team, reaching the final undefeated, including a win over Canada in the preliminary round.

"That's part of the story that hasn't come out as much, just how quickly we came together and how positive we were and it's going to have to be the same feeling over here," Miller said.

"It's been a long delay, it would've been nice to get another crack earlier but for a lot of us, being on the team that year, it was definitely a disappointment to come that close."

The United States play their first game in Sochi on Thursday against Slovakia, followed by a heavyweight clash with Russia on Saturday before closing out the preliminary round versus Slovenia on Sunday.

Reuters

*Team USA's Patrick Kane participates in the men's ice hockey team's first practice at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, on 10 Feb, 2014.—*Reuters

Brantley agrees new contract with Indians

Toronto, 11 Feb — The Cleveland Indians reached an agreement on a new contract with outfielder Michael Brantley, Major League Baseball reported on its website on Monday.

The 26-year-old Brantley will sign a four-year deal worth $25 million that features an option for a fifth year. The Indians were eager to lock up Brantley, a key member of last season's turnaround that saw Cleveland make a rare trip to the post-season.

Enjoying their first winning season since 2007, the Indians finished 92-70 and lost in the American League Wild Card game.

Brantley batted .284 with 10 home runs and 73 RBIs last season, his fifth with the Indians.—*Reuters*

*Cleveland Indians' Michael Brantley (C) is congratulated by teammates in the dugout after he scored in the eighth inning of their MLB baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto on 3 April, 2013.—*Reuters

Uchida suffers hamstring injury

Cologne, (Germany), 11 Feb — Schalke said on Monday that Atsuto Uchida has sustained a right hamstring injury but did not reveal how long it would take the Japan international defender to make a full recovery. Uchida set up his team's second goal on Sunday in Schalke's 2-0 home win over German Bundesliga rivals Hannover 96, but he sustained the injury in the closing minutes and could not finish out the game.

"This is going to take some time, but injuries and me are old friends," Uchida said after the game. Schalke manager Jens Keller indicated after the match that the injury may rule Uchida out for the rest of the season.

The injury could jeopardize Uchida's chances of playing for Japan in World Cup warm-up against New Zealand at Tokyo's National Stadium on 5 March.—*Kyodo News*

GENERAL

A woman selects horse-shaped lanterns in Yangzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 10 Feb, 2014. Many people purchase festival lanterns to celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year of Horse.—XINHUA

Singapore to host TPP ministerial meeting 22-25 February

SINGAPORE, 11 Feb — Singapore will host a ministerial meeting of countries involved in negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement from 22 to 25 February, the government said Monday.

The meeting involving 12 countries, including the United States and Japan, comes soon after the last TPP ministerial meeting in Singapore in December, which failed to reach a yearend deal.

The TPP ministers are expected to try to wrap up the talks during this upcoming meeting.

TPP sources said the ministerial meeting will be preceded by a meeting of TPP chief negotiators from 17 to 21 February in Singapore.

Negotiations for the ambitious free trade deal have been bogged down by differences on politically sensitive goods such as beef, rice and sugar, as well as issues such as intellectual property rights and government procurement.

Besides the United States, Japan and Singapore, the TPP involves Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Mexico, Chile and Peru.

Kyodo News

South Australian capital sees record number of days above 40 degree

CANBERRA, 11 Feb — South Australian capital city of Adelaide has set a record for the number of summer days with a maximum temperature of more than 40 degrees Celsius.

The city hit 40.9 degrees on Tuesday afternoon, making it the 12th day this summer when the temperature went above 40 degrees Celsius, breaking a 117-year-old record.

On 10 of the 12 days — one in December, six in January and three in February — the temperature was more than 42 degrees.

South Australia's State Emergency Service issued an extreme heat warning for Tuesday, saying the conditions posed a risk to public safety.

Adelaide's temperature is expected to keep rising on Tuesday, and is predicted to be 42 degrees on Wednesday.—*Xinhua*

MYANMAR TV

(12-2-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:20 am
2. Physical Exercises

6:30 am
3. 67th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony (Live Brodcast)

7:10 am
4. 67th Anniversary Union Day Programme

7:30 am
5. Documentary

7:45 am
6 Instrumental Music

8:00 am
7. News/ International News

8:25 am
8. India Drama Series

9:00 am
9. News/ International News

9:25am
10. 67th Anniversary Union Day Programme

10:00 am
11. News

10:15 am
12. TV Drama Series

11:10 am
13. 67th Anniversary Union Day Programme

11:45 pm
14. Approching Science Discovery World

12:00 pm
15. News / International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm
16. Myanmar Movies

2:20 pm
17. ASEAN Quiz Competition

3:00 pm
18. News

3:15 pm
19. TV Drama Series

4:00 pm
20. News

4:15 pm
21. 2014 University Entrance Examination (English)

4:50 pm
22. Gatamahar

5:00 pm
23. News

5:25 pm
24. India Drama Series

6:00 pm
25. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm
26. Shwe Yin Chone Than

6:50 pm
27. 67 th Aniversity Union Day Programme

7:00 pm
28. News

7:50 pm
29. Teleplay

8:00 pm
30.News/ Internation News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm
31. People Talks

8:45 pm
32. 67 th Aniversity Union Day Programme

9:00 pm
33. News
34. Documentary
35. Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance
36. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

12-2-14 07:00 am ~ 13-2-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Myanmar Union Day
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture
* Local News
* Short Trip With Steve (Mon State)
* World News
* Will you feed the pigeons
* Local News
* Crocodile Keeper
* World News
* Photographer: Kyaw Win Hlaing (YUC)
* Local News
* Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas
* World News
* Dhamma School
* Local News
* A Visit to Htam Hsan Cave: A Miraculous Place
* World News
* Brilliant Woman "Dr Mya Thidar Sway Tin"
* Local News
* Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations-Lacquareware Making
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art
* Local News
* Beautiful Mon Choral Dance
* World News
* The Photographer (Portiature) "Aung Kyaw Moe"
* What Have You Done …. For the Natural Environment?
* In The Studio: May Phyu Phyu

A man tries a bow at the 2014 Toronto Sportmen's Show, in Toronto, Canada, on 8 Feb, 2014. The show is held from 6 February to 9 February.
XINHUA

Cuiaba World Cup stadium 95% complete

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 Feb — Brazil's Arena Pantanal World Cup stadium reached 95% completion on Monday following the installation of 100 solar panels on the venue's roof.

The stadium in the western city of Cuiaba is earmarked to be ready by mid-March, almost three months after the deadline set by world football's governing body FIFA, Folha de S Paulo reported.

The first match at the venue will pit local club Mixto against Brazilian giants Santos in the first phase of the Copa do Brasil on 2 April.

According to local officials, the photovoltaic panels will convert the sun's radiation into electric energy to power the venue's hot water system.

When complete, the stadium will boast a capacity of 43,500 spectators.

It will host four World Cup group matches between 13 and 24 June.

Xinhua

Six terrorists detained in northern Afghan city

KUNDUZ, (Afghanistan), 11 Feb — Police personnel launched an operation and arrested six anti-government militants in Kunduz province with Kunduz city as its capital, 250 km north of Kabul on Tuesday, provincial police chief said.

"Acting upon intelligence report, police personnel raided a house in Zarkharid area of Kunduz city this morning and arrested six terrorists including the ring leader Mohammad Ali," Ghulam Mustafa told newsmen at a press conference here.

A number of arms and ammunitions including explosive devices were also seized by police during the operations, the official further said.

Mustafa also emphasized that all the arrested militants had received training in Pakistan and had order from Taleban leadership to conduct terrorist attacks in Kunduz Province.

Taleban militants fighting the government have yet to make comment.

Afghan officials often blame Pakistan for supporting Taleban militants, a claim rebuffed by Islamabad as baseless.

Xinhua

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

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The New Light of Myanmar

Wednesday, 12 February, 2014

President calls for collaborative efforts of national race affairs ministers in sweeping reforms

President U Thein Sein meets national race affairs ministers.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — President U Thein Sein called for collaborative efforts of the ministers for national race affairs in implementing the political, economic and administrative reform processes needed for realization of the common goal of the people for ensuring peace and stability and socio-economic development in meeting with them at the Presidential Palace, here, today.

The President said a sweeping reform process is taking place in the country. Political reform process is encouraging the political parties and the entire people to take part in the political process and a series of negotiation in order to end the armed conflicts. Rural development and poverty alleviation schemes, rural electrification, availability of drinking water and better road network in rural areas, measures for attracting investment inflows and relaxation of economic sanctions, exemption of customs duties and debt reliefs, creating a competitive market economy and a floating foreign exchange rate, setting up industries and factories for job creation and developing private sector are being implemented in the economic reform process. The administrative reform process allowed the country to work on the people-centred approach with the formation of support committees.

He added the government is tackling challenges which are unpredictable with all its might. — *MNA*

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends dinner hosted by German President and wife

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends dinner hosted by President of Germany Mr Joachim Gauck and wife Mrs Daniela Schadt.—MNA

YANGON, 11 Feb— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended a dinner hosted by President of Germany Mr Joachim Gauck and wife Mrs Daniela Schadt to the German citizens and German entrepreneurs in Myanmar at Chatrium Hotel, here, this evening.

It was also attended by Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Zeyar Aung and U Aye Myint Kyu, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and region ministers, departmental heads, the German Ambassador to Myanmar and wife, Myanmar and German entrepreneurs and guests.

The German President extended greetings. Next, the German President and wife hosted a dinner to Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and guests.

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Arrangements being made for winners in entrance exams to have opportunities to attend BTech, BE

(News on page 9)

Photo shows ceremony to commission Clinic Boat Swimming Doctors-2 into service.
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100 ft Clinic Boat Swimming Doctors-2 put into service

YANGON, 11 Feb— German President Mr. Joachim Gauck's wife Mrs Daniela Schadt and party commissioned a 100ft Clinic Boat Swimming Doctors-2 into service at the Myanma Shipyards here this morning.

On the occasion, Mr. Juergen Gessner, Chairman of Foundation Stiftunglife of Germany, explained the facts about the clinic boat Swimming Doctor-2.

The clinic boat is 100 ft long, 25th feet wide, 7. 5 ft high and four feet draught. The boat installed with 30 KW generator has two 179 KW engines. It is worth K 350 million.

It has three patient rooms, one emergency operation theatre, one lab, one dental clinic and one medical store. The clinic boat would serve in Ayeyawady delta region providing medical services to the people.

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