Education promotion, investment in the future: President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—President U Thein Sein accepted Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Technology Management by Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University (BSRU) at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this evening.

BSRU President Associate Prof Ponlasit Noochoochal and party paid a call on the President before the ceremony.

The meeting was also attended by Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Khum, Union Ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

The President thanked the university for presenting him the honorary doctorate degree and called for cooperation between BSRU and Fine Arts and Culture Universities of Myanmar.

The BSRU President expressed his wish to improve the people-to-people relations and inter-university cooperation.

The honorary degree acceptance ceremony was attended by Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Khum, Union ministers, deputy ministers, rectors, pro-rectors and students.

President Associate Professor Ponlasit Noochoochal of BSRU said in citation: Southeast Asian countries gear forward to ASEAN Community in 2015 which all the sectors are strategically and systematically fine-tuning the cutting-edge circum-stances. As part of the region, the country’s vital reformation in the political, economical and social aspects.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand are inevitably encountering the new challenge. U Thein Sein, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is one of the most influential leaders in ASEAN countries effortfully conducting the new university under the Prime Minister U Thein Sein is publicly mentioned especially on the international technology cooperation reinforcement.

The President said in his words of thanks:

I would like to first of all wish you “Mingalabar” and a very Good Afternoon. I am very grateful to the Chairman of the University of Council, Prof. Dr. Prayong Jutha for presenting me the Degree of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in technology Management.

I regard this honorary degree as recognition for the strenuous efforts we have made regarding the democratic transformation and the development of the State. Our citizens are laying a unique historic milestone of transition. We are marching to the democratic goal but we are yet to each our development target.

We have to make great effort in the future to transform these differences into different kinds of forces for our nation. We need to strive in order that our people have the practical benefit of people-centred reforms laid down by the government.

A new political culture has been introduced to the people to have sustainable development and fair democracy. However, we still need to train our people to have higher capability as society as a whole so that these practices will become traditions and customs.

In observing the present situation, it is found capacity building is necessary in every sector of our country. Nation building and capacity building should be carried out simultaneously as improvements need to be made in different sectors. 

(See page 7)
Kyemon

2 Thursday, 24 January, 2013

**Central Level English Impromptu Competition for undergraduates of University/Degree Colleges/Colleges continues**


**Spousal quarrel causes house fire in Kayan Township**

Yazoo, 23 Jan — A housewife set fire to the village in Kayan Township after her husband and other family members argued over who should have cooked dinner.

**Fuel bowser overturns on Zalun-Hinthada road**

Kyaukme District Deputy Commissioner U Soe Naing said the incident occurred near the Kyaukme Asia World Tollgate on Mandalay-Muse Road in Kyaukme District on January 23. The incident resulted in a tow truck driver escaping death. A motorbike plunged into the 20-foot deep riverbed at about 2:30 pm on 15 January. The fuel bowser driver fled the scene while his colleagues tried to stop the vehicle.

**Motorist escapes death in Kyaukme**

Kyaukme District Deputy Commissioner U Soe Naing said the incident occurred near the Kyaukme Asia World Tollgate on Mandalay-Muse Road in Kyaukme District on January 23. The incident resulted in a tow truck driver escaping death. A motorbike plunged into the 20-foot deep riverbed at about 2:30 pm on 15 January. The fuel bowser driver fled the scene while his colleagues tried to stop the vehicle.

**Smuggling illegal hardwood**

A car crash between the two vehicles occurred on the road between Yaman and Sai Dala villages on January 21. The driver of the vehicle was injured and the vehicle was damaged. A motorbike plunged into the riverbed at about 2:30 pm on 15 January. The fuel bowser driver fled the scene while his colleagues tried to stop the vehicle.

**Docket impromptu competition in Kayaw Township**

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**Kyaukmyint Township**

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**WORLD**

**Obama to sign short-term debt limit bill**

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan.—The White House on Tuesday said they welcomed the House Republicans’ proposal of a short-term extension of debt limit and the President would sign the bill if it could reach his desk.

They also said, “We want to see the debt ceiling sort of removed from the process of the very important debates that we have over what we pay for, how much revenue we bring in, how we get our fiscal house in order,” said Carney.

**Bolivia’s president says Venezuela’s Chavez in therapy, eyes return**

La Paz/CARACAS, 23 Jan.—Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez is undergoing physical therapy to hasten his return from Cuba after surgery there last month for the cancer jeopardizing his 14-year rule, Bolivian President Evo Morales said on Tuesday.

The comments by Morales, a fellow leftist and close friend of Chavez, added to positive signals from Venezuelan officials that the president was improving and may be able to return from Cuba, where he had surgery on 11 December.

He has not been seen or heard from in public since then.

“I communicated with Cuba and, brothers and sisters, we have good news about our brother, President Hugo Chavez. He is already undergoing physical therapy to return to his country,” Morales said in a speech to parliament in La Paz.

—Xinhua

**Netanyahu turns to Iran after narrow election win**

JERUSALEM, 23 Jan.—Hawkish Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed victory in Israel’s parliamentary election, shrugging off surprise losses to centre-left challengers and vowing on Wednesday to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. However, Tuesday’s vote, which also decided government borrowing authority until May, and set a deadline for the House and Senate to pass a formal budget.

Netanyahu, who himself embarked on a new term this week with great ambitions.

Exit polls showed the Israeli leader’s right-wing Likud and the ultra-nationalist Yisrael Beiteenu would remain the biggest bloc in the 120-member assembly, but with only 31 seats, 11 fewer than the 42 the two parties held in the last parliament. If the exit polls compiled by three local broadcasters prove correct — and they normally do in Israel — Netanyahu would be on course for a third term in office, perhaps leading a hardline coalition that would promote Jewish settlement on occupied land.

But his weakened showing in a vote which he had called nine months early in the hope of a strong mandate for his struggle with Iran, could complicate his efforts to forge an alliance with a stable and substantial majority in parliament.

—Reuters

**Russia says it is not planning full Syria evacuation**

MOSCOW, 23 Jan.—Russia said on Tuesday it had started evacuating scores of citizens who wanted to leave Syria but denied that the move was the start of a mass exodus. Two senior diplomats played down the significance of decision, announced on Monday, to send aircraft to bring Russians home almost two years after the start of the revolt against Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad.

“We are not talking about a full evacuation ... It is not planned that everyone will leave,” Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Denisov said, according to Russian-run news agency Itar-Tass.

“We are helping those who want to leave,” Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said on the sidelines of a meeting in Moscow between Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Lebanese President Michel Suleiman.

Russia has been Assad’s most powerful foreign protector, vetoing three UN Security Council resolutions aimed to push the president out or press him to end the bloodshed. —Reuters

**Top US commander in Afghanistan cleared in Pentagon inquiry**

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan.—General John Allen, the commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, was cleared by Pentagon investigators of allegations of professional misconduct over email exchanges with a Florida socialite, US officials said on Tuesday.

The decision by the Defence Department’s Inspector General helps lift a cloud that has hung over Allen when he served and has two daughters, ever since he became indirectly ensared in the scandal that forced David Petraeus to resign as CIA Director in November.

It could also reassure the four-star general’s military colleagues — although a US official told Reuters that, as of late Tuesday, no decision had been made on whether to proceed with Allen’s nomination to become the top US military commander in Europe.

President Barack Obama put that nomination on hold when the investigation was announced in November, even as he expressed confidence in Allen’s ability to serve out the final months of his command in Afghanistan.

“With the investigation having only recently concluded, no decisions have been made on moving the nomination forward,” the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But it’s entirely possible that it could move forward in the days or weeks ahead.”

The Pentagon inquiry centered on emails between Allen and Jill Kelley, a Tampa, Florida resident who knew Allen when he served as the No 2 officer at the US military’s Tampa-based Central Command from July 2008 to June 2011.

The Kelley-Allen emails surfaced when the FBI investigated Kelley’s allegations of receiving anonymous, harassing emails from someone else about Petraeus. Those emails led the FBI to uncover an extramarital affair between Petraeus and his biographer, Paula Broadwell.—Reuters
Scientists convene to study impact of Gulf of Mexico oil spill

HOUSTON, 23 Jan—More than 1,000 scientists and public officials gathered Monday in the US state of Louisiana to review the short and long-term effects of the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference, the largest of its kind, is looking into the effects of pollutants resulting from the spill and its effects on natural systems in the gulf and along the shoreline, and on the people who live and work there, according to news website NOLA.com.

The conference was kicked off by Thad Allen, the federal government’s former national incident commander during the BP oil spill in 2010. Allen discussed his experience in coordinating oil spill response and what research was needed to improve the response from a management perspective.

Allen even though the US government and industry attempted to clear some scientific issues likely to be raised during a major oil spill response, sometimes those efforts were not as adequate, such as the approval of dispersants and the use of burning of oil as much as possible from reaching the shoreline, Allen said. Responders also were ill-equipped to deal with health issues, ranging from concerns about the quality of testing to seafood safety, to the suicide of an Alabama boat captain participating in the Vessel of Opportunity program, he added.

To overcome many of these problems, Allen suggested the Oil Pollution Act be amended and other laws be changed to develop a more unified structure that could work across legal and political boundaries.

Allen also recommended scientific information collected before and during the response be released to the public, in order to avoid misunderstanding about the effects on the environment or public health.

During the three-day conference, hundreds of scientific presentations will be made, ranging from socioeconomic effects of the spill to developments in dispersant science and technology. A public forum was planned for Tuesday on the gulf’s ecosystems and prospects for recovery.

The 2010 blowout of BP’s Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico triggered an explosion that killed 11 rig workers and dispersed the worst oil spill in US history. —Xinhua

Google to kill passwords and bring physical keys embedded with smart chips

NEW DELHI, 23 Jan—Search giant Google is set to kill off passwords and is experimenting with USB keys, mobile phones and even jewelry that can act as a physical ‘key’ to give users access to their account.

The firm’s security experts including an Indian are set to publish their findings next month, the ‘Daily Mail’ reported.

In the upcoming issue of IEEE Security & Privacy magazine, Google’s Vice President of Security Eric Grosse and engineer Mayank Upadhyay will detail what is being tested inside a ‘smart chip’ embedded inside it.

Along with many in the industry, we feel passwords and simple bearer tokens such as cookies are no longer sufficient to keep users safe,” the pair write in their paper, according to Wired.

To log, users simply place the tiny Universal Serial Bus (USB) drive into their computer. The firm is also believed to be experimenting with wireless chips that are already built into some mobile phones, and can even be built in jewelry. “We’d like your smartphone or smart-card-embedded finger ring to authorise a new computer via a tap on the computer, even in situations in which your phone might be without cellular connectivity,” the team writes.

“One option uses a tiny USB key called a YubiKey. When the user plugs the key into a latop, they are automatically logged into all of their Google accounts — without ever having to type in a ‘password,’ they explain.

“Another option uses a ‘smart-card-embedded finger ring to authorise a new computer via a tap on the computer,” they said.

The firm is also believed to be addressing the obvious problem that with system users losing their ‘key’ and is thought to be developing a simple system to replace them.

However, the pair admit that they will have to rely on websites to support the scheme. “Others have tried similar approaches but have achieved little success in the consumer world,” they write.

“Wealthy to recognise that our initiative will likely remain speculative until we’ve proven large scale acceptance, we’re eager to test it with other websites,” they say. —PTI

Government to auction 700MHz spectrum for 4G services in 2014

NEW DELHI, 23 Jan—The government on Monday said it will auction spectrum in 700MHz band, which is used for offering high-speed Internet services through fourth generation technologies, in 2014.

“We are going to auction the 700 band in any case by 2014,” Telecom Minister Kapil Sibal said during the commissioning of country’s first lab for making measurement of non-Ionising Radio Protection (ICNIRP) limit of 2 watts per kg measured over 10 gram of tissue as well as the recently adopted 1.6 watts per kg measured over 1 gram of tissue. Sibal also commissioned a Next Generation Network (NGN) lab in TEC, which serves the objectives of testing and certification as well as network related study for any Internet Protocol (IP) based equipment. —PTI

Tokyo, 23 Jan—Japanese telecom giant NTT DoCoMo has officially announced the LG Optimus G Pro smartphone as the company’s next flagship device.

The smartphone launched as part of the company’s Spring 2013 line-up will be available in Japan, starting April.

Launch details for other regions are pretty much in line with what we reported a day ago, according to news website NOLA.com.

The Optimus G Pro L-04E features a 5-inch full-HD (1920x1080) display and comes with Android 4.1.2 Jelly Bean out of the box. It houses a 13-megapixel rear camera and a 2.4-megapixel front camera.

Under its belly, the smartphone is powered by a snappy 1.7 GHz quad-core Snapdragon S4 Pro processor with 2GB RAM. It has internal storage of 32GB with microSDXC expansion support, LTE support and comes with a 3,000mAh battery.

The new smartphone will compete in the same league as the recently launched Sony Xperia Z (and ZL), Huawei Ascend D2 and the unannounced HTC M7, and Samsung’s Galaxy S IV.

NTT DoCoMo has also announced 11 more devices as part of its NEXT series.

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Samsung’s T9000 smart refrigerator runs on Andoid, includes apps like Evernote and Epicurious

MUMBAI, 23 Jan—Refrigerators are getting smart.

A new model released earlier this month runs apps to help users browse recipes, create shopping lists and manage the expiration dates of items like yogurt and milk.

The T9000 refrigerator by electronics company Samsung has a 10-inch Wi-Fi-enabled touchscreen and includes apps such as Epicurious for recipes and Evernote for note-taking.

“The fridge, because it’s the hub of the family and the kitchen, is now another access point without having to drag around your tablet or have your phone with you in the vicinity of where you’re cooking or entertaining,” said Warner Doell, a vice president in the home appliance division at Samsung Canada.

The display enables users to keep up with the news, weather and even Twitter from the fridge door. It can also replace handwritten calendars with Google Calendar integration, and run slide shows of photos, according to Doell.

Shopping lists can be created on the fridge with the Evernote app, which will provide a quick list of items that can be found at Epicurious.—PTI

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“The fridge, because it’s
China says top 10 steel mills to control 60 percent of capacity by 2015

BEIJING, 23 Jan — China, the world’s largest steel producer, aims to bring around 60 percent of total steel capacity under the control of its top 10 steel mills by 2015 as part of a wide-ranging plan to restructure its industries.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) announced on Tuesday it would encourage big state firms to acquire smaller rivals in a variety of industrial sectors, including automobile and machinery manufacturing as well as agriculture, metals and cement.

It said it would also seek to bring 90 percent of automobile production under the control of its top 10 firms by the end of 2015 as well as 90 percent of aluminium production capacity.

The government also plans to cut the number of firms involved in the exploitation, smelting and separation of rare earths over the next three years.

Around half of China’s total steel capacity is now owned by the 10 biggest steel firms following previous restructuring programmes, but Beijing has struggled to overcome obstructionist and red tape from local bureaucracies, or change the economic incentives that have allowed small and private mills to thrive.

“It is still quite difficult to consolidate and the key reason remains the local governments — they remain big supporters of steel mills,” said Henry Liu, head of commodity research at Mirae Asset Securities in Hong Kong. — Reuters

US power regulator to fine Deutsche Bank unit over energy trading

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan — US electricity regulators are expected to impose a $1.5 million fine as early as Tuesday against a Deutsche Bank unit over alleged manipulation of wholesale power prices.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) early Monday proposed a $1.5 million fine for DBKGr DE subsidiary over alleged power market manipulation, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing people with knowledge of the matter.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) earlier proposed that the energy-trading arm of Deutsche pay the fine and disgorgement of $123,198 in alleged ill-gotten profits last year, saying it manipulated California and New York wholesale power market prices.

Last week, the FERC requested a further extension in the legal deadline until 22 January amid the ongoing talks.

Deutsche Bank has disputed FERC’s allegations that it manipulated the market by deliberately losing money on physical transactions to profit in derivative markets.

The action is part of a larger crackdown by the regulator targeting electricity trading schemes that it says resemble the market manipulations that caused California’s energy crisis more than a decade ago, the Journal said.

The agency recently proposed a record $470 million fine on Barclays Plc (BARCL. L) for allegedly manipulating power markets in California and a six-month ban on JPMorgan Chase & Co’s (JPM.N) energy trading arm from some of the US power market.

Deutsche Bank’s US unit and an FERC spokeswoman could not be reached for comment by Reuters outside regular business hours. —Reuters

India raises import duty on raw gold to 5 percent

MUMBAI, 23 Jan — India, the world’s biggest buyer of gold, raised import duty on gold bars and ores to 5 percent from 2 percent, a day after increasing tax on processed yellow metal to 6 percent.

Most of the 100 tonnes of gold imports is consumed by MMTC/MMITC NS PAMP and Rajesh Exports(REXP.NS). India’s total annual gold consumption is about 900 tonnes.

Rising import of the yellow metal has been worriing the government battling with a record high current account deficit, which hit its highest of 5.2 percent to the gross domestic product in the September quarter.

Gold bars are displayed at a gold jewellery shop in Chandigarh on 8 May, 2012. —Reuters

Indonesia foreign direct investment breaks new record in 2012

JAKARTA, 23 Jan — Indonesia foreign direct investment (FDI) reached new level of 221 trillion rupiah (around 24.6 billion US dollars) during 2012, or 26.07 percent up from previous year of 175.3 trillion rupiah.

Chabib Basri, the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) chairman said global economy condition especially in US and euro zone still remains gloomy, and it encourages the flow of foreign investment to come to Indonesia. “Indonesia is still promising due to high economic growth,” he said here on Tuesday.

BKPM reported that cumulative investment from January to December 2012 reached 313.3 trillion rupiah, of which 92.2 trillion rupiah came from domestic direct investment (DDI) and 221 trillion rupiah from FDI. “The investment amount hit new historical record,” he said.

Five biggest sectors have contributed to FDI achievement in 2012, minimizing sector (4.3 billion US dollars), transport, storage and telecommunication (2.8 billion US dollars), chemical and pharmaceutical industry (2.8 billion US dollars), metal, machinery and electronic industry (2.5 billion US dollars), and motor vehicle and other transport equipment industry (1.8 billion US dollars). Chabib said natural resources are no longer foreign investors’ favorite due to declining of commodity prices. “They (investors) move to other sectors such as food and transportation,” he said. —Xinhua

Shares hit 20-month high as Japan promises open-ended easing

LONDON, 23 Jan — World shares hit a new 20-month high on Tuesday after Japan’s central bank promised to pump unlimited stimulus into the country’s economy to fight the threat of deflation and generate growth.

The Bank of Japan, which has been under intense political pressure to overcome deflation, hiked its inflation target to 2 percent and said that from 2014 it would adopt an open-ended commitment to buy assets. The move surprised markets, which had expected another incremental increase in its 1 trillion yen ($1.12 trillion) asset-buying and lending programme, though the delay until the easing measures kick in damped the impact and saw the yen edge higher against the dollar. “From 2014 onwards it’s positive ... (but) from now until then, they are not doing anything more aggressive to weaken the yen,” said Roy Teo, an FX strategist for ABN Amro.

Equity markets, particularly in Japan, have performed strongly in the run up to Tuesday’s meeting, and the confirmation of the plans was enough to lift the MSCI world index. MIWD 00000PUS 0.15 percent to a fresh 20-month high of 1352.54.

European shares, which have been testing two-year highs in recent days, saw a more subdued start as investors awaited a cue from US corporate earnings figures later in the day. —Reuters

Smoke-free laws linked to drop in child asthma attacks

LONDON, 23 Jan — Introducing laws banning smoking in enclosed public places can lead to swift and dramatic falls in the number of children admitted to hospital suffering asthma attacks, according to a study in England published on Monday.

Researchers at Imperial College London found there was a 12.3 percent fall in hospital admissions for childhood asthma in the first year after laws against smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces came into effect in July 2007. Similar anti-smoking legislation has been introduced in many other countries including in the United States where it has also been linked to a reduction in childhood asthma emergency admissions.

“The findings are good news ... and they should encourage countries where public smoking is permitted to consider introducing similar legislation,” said Christopher Millett from Imperial’s school of public health, who led the study.

Asthma affects more than 300 million people worldwide and is the world’s most common children’s chronic illness. Symptoms include wheezing, shortness of breath, coughing and chest tightness. In Britain, it affects one in every 11 children.

Before the ban on smoking in enclosed public places was implemented in England, hospital admissions for children suffering a severe asthma attacks were increasing by 2.2 percent a year, peaking at 26,969 in 2006/2007, the researchers found. That trend reversed immediately after the law came into effect, with lower admission rates among boys and girls of all ages. There were similar reductions among children in wealthy and poor neighborhoods, both in cities and in rural areas. —Reuters
German soldiers attacked in southern Turkey

ANKARA, 23 Jan — Seven German soldiers were attacked on Tuesday by a southern Turkish Province of Hatay by a group of activists who oppose the deployment of Patriot missile system in the country, local newspaper Today’s Zaman reported on its website.

The seven German soldiers are in Iskenderun town of Hatay as part of the NATO mission for deploying the missile system on the Turkish-Syrian border.

The soldiers were besieged on their way to a bazaar in the center of Iskenderun by 26 activists from the Turkey Youth Union (TGY), who tried to throw sacks on their heads, said the report.

The soldiers escaped from the attackers with the help of local people and were not hurt, said the report, adding that they took shelter in a jewelry shop.

After police arrived at the scene, the soldiers were taken to their hotel by security forces. The group of activists continued to protest and chanted various slogans. “We will not allow Turkey to be the center for attacks in the Middle East. We will not allow American and NATO soldiers to travel freely in this country,” the head of the group said. “Whether it was German or American soldiers whose heads we put sacks on, it does not matter.”

China expands Yangtze River shipping capacity

YICHANG, 23 Jan — The shipping capacity of the Yangtze River, China’s longest, has been vastly expanded as the result of decades-long efforts to dredge and deepen the river, an affiliate of the Ministry of Transport said on Monday.

The river’s main course saw its shipping volume top 1.78 billion tonnes in 2012, four times that of 2003 with an average annual growth rate of 10 percent, said Xiong Xuebin, Director of the Yangtze River Hydrographic Bureau, an institution affiliated with the ministry.

Xiong said the revamped waterway now allows heavier ships to reach the upstream city of Chongqing, even during periods of dry weather.

He said the depth of the river’s 370-km Chongqing-Yibin stretch has been increased to 2.7 meters from the original 1.8 metres.

Armenia imports more natural gas from Russia in 2012

YEREVAN, 23 Jan — The amount of natural gas Armenia imported from Russia saw a rise of 22.3 percent in 2012 compared with 1,699,1 million cubic meters in 2011, Armrusgasprom, an Armenian Russian joint gas company, reported recently. The volumes of gas consumption by electrical energy and industrial sectors grew respectively by 23.7 percent and 2 percent, reaching 231.9 and 254.7 million cubic meters accordingly.

US seeks long prison sentence for man who aided Mumbai plotters

CHICAGO, 23 Jan — David Headley, a Pakistani-American who admitted scouting targets for the deadly Islamic militant attacks on Mumbai in 2008 and later testified against the plotters, should face up to 35 years in prison, federal prosecutors said on Tuesday.

A prison term of 30 to 35 years for Headley “strikes a fair and just balance between the despicable nature of his crimes and the significant value of his cooperation,” prosecutors told the judge who is scheduled to sentence Headley on Thursday.

The attacks in Mumbai in November 2008 killed more than 160 people, including six Americans.

Headley pleaded guilty to 12 charges, including conspiracy to bomb places of public use and commit murder. The guilty pleas included plotting an attack on a Danish newspaper. He was arrested in October 2009 after pleading guilty in March 2010 he has been cooperating with US investigators ever since to avoid the death penalty and in exchange for a pledge that he would not be extradited to India, Pakistan or Denmark.—Reuters

British woman, 56, gets death for smuggling cocaine into Bali

DENPASAR, 23 Jan — An Indonesian court sentenced a middle-aged British woman to death on Tuesday for smuggling cocaine worth more than $2.5 million into the resort island of Bali.

Lindsay Sandiford, 56, was found guilty of smuggling 4.8 kg (11 lbs) of the drug hidden in the lining of her suitcase on a flight from Bangkok in May. Sandiford, who was accompanied by a translator, covered her face several times with a head scarf as she listened to the verdict being read out.

“It was not clear if she would appeal. Prosecutors had initially sought a jail term for Sandiford, taking into account her age. Indonesia has some of the strictest drug trafficking laws in the world, with many foreigners languishing in jail on Bali. The so-called Bali Nine were arrested in 2005 and found guilty of attempting to smuggle more than 8 kg of heroin into Australia. Their sentences ranged from 15 years’ jail to death.”

Africa pushes for control of peace efforts in war-ravaged eastern DR Congo

KAMPALA, 23 Jan — Chiefs of defence forces from Africa’s Great Lakes region and Southern Africa Development Community met here on Sunday to finalize a military strategy to eliminate negative forces in war torn eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Behind the scene negotiations indicate the intricate position Africa is in to stay in charge of the peace efforts in eastern DRC after what may be termed as failed international efforts to make the guns silent.

Dr. Busoga, a Pan Africanism and Africa being in charge of its future, Uganda’s Minister of Defence Crispus Kiyonga told the defence chiefs that they must remain united and stick to the continent’s long held view of providing solutions to its problems.

Kiyonga said in the face of regional efforts to end fighting in eastern DRC, there are opposing powers who still want to be in charge of pacifying the mineral rich central African country.

Following the flaring up of fighting in eastern DRC between the government troops and the M23 rebels, the Great Lakes region leaders intervened calling on member states to deploy a 4,000 strong Neutral International Force (NIF).

The force is supposed to fight the various local and foreign rebel groups holed up in the country.

Regional leaders are critical of the UN peacekeeping force in DRC (MONUSCO) accusing it of looking on as hundreds of thousands of Congolese are made homeless and others fleeing to neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda.

They keep citing the example where MONUSCO looked on as the M23 were capturing Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu.

Kiyonga said behind the door negotiations through the UN system indicate that some world powers are not enthusiastic of the regional efforts to end the crisis.

“We have succeeded to leverage the cooperation of the UN. However if we do not keep our line of thinking firmly this opportunity could be lost. The Chiefs of defence staff must not be found lacking in articulating the most feasible mechanism to ensure that the NIF concept is maintained and command and control and political accountability not lost,” he said.—Xinhua

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DENPASAR, 23 Jan — An Indonesian court sentenced a middle-aged British woman to death on Tuesday for smuggling cocaine worth more than $2.5 million into the resort island of Bali.

Lindsay Sandiford, 56, was found guilty of smuggling 4.8 kg (11 lbs) of the drug hidden in the lining of her suitcase on a flight from Bangkok in May. Sandiford, who was accompanied by a translator, covered her face several times with a head scarf as she listened to the verdict being read out.

It was not clear if she would appeal. Prosecutors had initially sought a jail term for Sandiford, taking into account her age. Indonesia has some of the strictest drug trafficking laws in the world, with many foreigners languishing in jail on Bali. The so-called Bali Nine were arrested in 2005 and found guilty of attempting to smuggle more than 8 kg of heroin into Australia. Their sentences ranged from 15 years’ jail to death.
Education promotion, investment in the...

(from page 1)
such as the media, economic system, market-oriented mechanisms and civic organization apart from the three main pillars: legislation, executive, and judiciary. Together with political, economic and social reforms, the efficiency of the people and international aid play a vital role in carrying out tasks for national reconsolidation and development. Moreover, the educational objectives of the State should meet the needs of national development plans. And the role and future of younger generation of the national races in the process of national reconsolidation must also be taken into account.

Promotion of education is the same as making investment in the future. But it must suit the new economic system of the State which is now being implemented. We must also switch from an economic system in which focus is made on exploitation of natural resources to a new technology-based economic system.

New generation youths are the future of the State. International aid and experiences must be utilized for the purpose of promoting education. Our country is still a developing country. New plans are under way for increasing the education budget with effect from coming fiscal year for the purpose of poverty reduction, development of rural areas and development of the state economy.

Our government has been reforming the higher education sector, and has been carrying out the tasks of education promotion for the practical utilization of vocational subjects. At the same time student-centered approach has been introduced for the reform of basic education sector through negotiations with those involved in basic education. In promoting the participation of the private sector in education, we have encouraged the opening of many private schools by enacting the necessary law. We are striving for all children to complete primary education.

If we study the collaboration with BSRU, it is found that MoU between BSRU and Yangon National University of Arts and Culture under the Ministry of Culture was signed on December 6, 2010. BSRU has sent delegations of Thai students to the Yangon National University of Arts and Culture three times and the Yangon National University of Arts and Culture has sent Myanmar student delegations to BSRU twice in 2010. Moreover, discussions have been made to establish Centres of Excellence with cooperation between Yangon University and Johns Hopkins University in the United States, Mandalay University and Cologne University of Germany and Dagon University and Calcutta University in India. By doing so, youths will have the opportunity to exchange their experience and well-qualified educated youths will emerge.

In conclusion, as international support for the development of the education sector in Myanmar plays a vital role in the construction, development and maturation of the democratic practices of the State, I would like to request to BSRU for your further collaboration and support for the education sector.

BSRU established in 1896 has university offering courses in management and administration. It has become a royal university since 14 June 2004. —MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun to attend World Economic Forum

YANGON, 23 Jan—A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President U Nyan Tun to attend the World Economic Forum to be held in Davos of Switzerland.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar, charge d’affaires of Thai Embassy and personnel at Yangon International Airport.

Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Sein, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar, charge d’affaires of Thai Embassy and personnel at Yangon International Airport.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and wife host dinner to ROK delegation

YANGON, 23 Jan—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife hosted dinner to visiting delegation led by Speaker of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Mr. KANG Chang-Hee and wife at Thabin Hall of Hluttwun Building, here, yesterday evening.

Together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker UKhin Aung Myint, Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Hoet Aung are among the delegation members.

Minister U Myint Swe, region minister, Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar, charge d’affaires of Thai Embassy and personnel at Yangon International Airport.

Technical workshop on ASEAN Korea Forest Cooperation

NAV PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and ASEAN Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) jointly organized a technical workshop on ASEAN-Korea forest cooperation at Tongapuri Hotel here this morning, with a speech by Rector of University of Forestry Dr Myint Oo. ASEAN members and Korea signed an agreement on forestry sector cooperation in Bali, Indonesia in November, 2011. It was a milestone strengthening cooperation process between ASEAN countries and Korea based on mutual trust. The agreement framework will help speed up implementation in various sectors of environmental conservation. The AFoCo intends to serve as a medium to set up ASIA Forest Cooperation establishment. The seminar will continue till 25 January focusing on technical matters to boost cooperation in national level and sub-national level projects.—MNA

New gas turbine installed at Ahlon power station

YANGON, 23 Jan—Under the plan to meet electricity demand of Yangon in summer in time, one 40 MW Gas Turbine manufactured by GE Co., Ltd of the US arrived at Ahlon power station on 18 January. It was put on the foundation with the help of 200-ton capacity Crane on 22 January. The gas turbine is 80 tons in weight.

Responsible persons of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board, Myanma Electric Power Enterprise and Toyo Thai Public Co., Ltd supervised the installation of gas turbine at the power station.

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New Light of Myanmar

1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum: A Landmark and Historic Event

On Thursday, 24 January, 2013

Effective aids management will develop remote areas

In the past, we lived in a polarised world of nation states, north and south, east and west but today we live in an increasingly globalised world with multiple new partnerships between north and south, east and west and the emphasis is much more on building institutions, democratic governance and policy dialogue. Though we used to live in a fragile world and a fragile international framework, it is now the dawn of a new era, a new paradigm of global governance. This paradigm is being driven by the international donors who wish to help and partner with Myanmar in its reform process would like to know the priority sectors and areas in the country’s reform strategy and development plans. With the discussions and presentations made in one and a half days, it is intended to come up with the Nay Pyi Taw Accord which was envisioned with this intention to ensure effective cooperation between the government and the development partners.

It is obvious to see the multiple private-public partnerships between actors—civil society, private companies and research institutions. These trends together can create a significantly increased and much more predictable international financing framework for sustainable development in the coming decades. There will be new partners, new models, new approaches which also means that it has to move beyond the endless discussion on historic responsibility. Moreover, the trust, understanding, and cooperation become the primary areas to be achieved.

To take our country forward and build a better and more prosperous future for ourselves and for the generations to come, the several initiatives have been made and the result was that the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum was held in Myanmar for the very first time and foremost. It was held in the International Convention Center Nay Pyi Taw on 19 and 20 January 2013, which has been marked as landmark and historic event for Myanmar. This forum is being held mainly because the international donors who wish to help and partner with Myanmar in its reform process would like to know the priority sectors and areas in the country’s reform strategy and development plans. With the discussions and presentations made in one and a half days, it is intended to come up with the Nay Pyi Taw Accord which was envisioned with this intention to ensure effective cooperation between the government and the development partners.

After that, the Video Presentation on “Culture of Democracy and Social Reform and National Comprehensive Development Plan” was presented. In his Opening Address, the President stressed how the remarkable progress made by Myanmar in the past two years, providing a very clear rationale for this first Forum. The importance of engaging all stakeholders for the development and using the Paris Declaration Principles, was also pointed out and again the participants’ presence here today was the proof of the efforts to involve and reach a wide range of players. He also emphasized his efforts to promote peace and political dialogue with ethnic groups especially with the Kachins.

An Observer

To prevent fire outbreaks, we need fires, energy in this dry season!

Administrator

Shwe Ko Oo

What do we have to do, Sir?

Kham, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Economic Ministers from States and Regions, representatives from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, representatives from 57 partner countries (including embassies, resident representatives of UN agencies, delegates from ASEAN member countries, representatives from global donors, development partners and international organizations), senior officials from respective ministries, civil society, national and international NGOs, and the private sector, altogether 656 participants attended this forum.

In his Opening Address, the President stressed how Myanmar and its partners could build on and deepen the ambitious political and economic changes being introduced in the country to achieve “people-centered development” and how the government has committed to implement changes in line with the Framework for Economic and Social Reform (FESR) and asked partners to help Myanmar advance in its priorities. He also urged government, private sector, civil society organizations and international partners to work together systematically and transparently for Myanmar’s development.

He also highlighted the Three Waves of Reform and their positive impacts on international policies towards Myanmar over the past two years, providing a very clear rationale for this partnership with the President and the Vice-President.

The First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum was continued its second session with An Address made by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Htut Oo which highlighted the central importance of the FESR in guiding this cooperation, the work underway to prepare longer term plans and programmes, and the importance of not only financial resources but access to knowledge and experience were highlighted in the cooperation.

He also highlighted the importance of the partnerships between development lenders and grant donors to enhance the quality and inclusiveness of loan projects. Most importantly, Myanmar’s development cooperation at all times to exhibit the four key principles agreed at Basun-local ownership; focus on results, inclusive development partnerships and transparency and accountability to each other.

In realizing these principles, Myanmar has jointly developed the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for effective development cooperation which has been discussed and adopted by this forum.

After that, the Video Presentation on “Culture of Democracy and Social Reform and National Comprehensive Development Plan” was presented consisting of the participations to this Forum. The First Paper at this Forum was Myanmar Perspective Plan and Short Term Plan by Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Set Aung. His Presentation gave insights of NCDP and Three Reforms undertaken by the Myanmar government. Political Reform—Inclusiveness: Economic reform—People-centered Development; and Public Administrative Reform—on good governance and clean government transparency and accountability.

It was followed by the presentation on “The Framework for Economic and Social Reform (FESR)” by the second session of the Myanmar Development and Research Institute. He drew the attention of the participants by highlighting on 10 Reform Strategies and their challenges. Development partners expressed their appreciation for the excellence of the first two presentations, and congratulated the government on the quality of the FESR and the remarkable progress made so far in reforms.

Twelve interventions highlighted the timeliness of the Forum in considering how to support the reform efforts with increased cooperation. A conducive investment environment, focus on capacity development, regional cooperation, and engagement of all stakeholders by government were highlighted in the interventions. The links between socio-economic development and democracy and the importance of peace as a foundation for progress were also emphasized by several participants.

In this session, the importance of macro-economic stability, fiscal management, agricultural reforms, and development of infrastructure especially energy, as important elements for encouraging private sector development and providing the foundation for poverty reduction have been highlighted.

In the session 3, on “Culture of Democracy” was chaired by U Tin Htut Oo, the Chairman of NESAC. The Presenter was Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing (NESAC) and he expressed on promoting national harmony that responded to the compelling presentation of the complexity and
and making sure there is an overwhelming our efforts by cautioning against prioritization and sequencing challenges. The need for further dialogue. Both sides can off a process of broad-based forward this cooperation. Parallel sessions were as useful in many areas, importance was noted that balanced growth was also stressed as a prioritization and sequencing of goals, and of expanding partnerships to reach out to all stakeholders. These should include all ministries involved, for example Science and Technology and Industry, and all States and Regions to ensure balance development of the sector. Similar inclusive efforts are needed to develop cultural heritage. Internal coordination inside ministries and departments should be improved.

Agriculture: participants identified opportunities for significant economic gains for rural communities. They identified major needs in human resource development, extension, research and development, and proposed a special focus on social protection and landlessness. Environment and Mining: to effectively and efficiently develop the environmental sector a clear strategy, policies and regulations that guide also other sectors and stakeholders is essential. Land management and climate change, and controlling pollution due to the mining industry were highlighted issues. The strategy would also consider the criteria for prioritization of the many projects presented by the government.

Employment: participants stressed the importance of securing effective and inclusive employment, including for migrant workers (who are estimated to number 3 million in Thailand alone). GOM underlined its commitment to end forced labor. Participants noted that balanced growth is important for maximizing employment.

Hotels and Tourism: the sector’s huge potential for creating jobs was recognized, where it involves local communities and preserves culture and history. Sector inclusion is supported by resource development and the creation of tourist infrastructure. Partners stressed the need for systematic prioritization based on careful mobile analysis of regional experience. Electricity: participants agreed that increasing electricity supply and access is critical for economic growth and social development. They stressed the importance of efficient planning. With an effective regulatory framework, they noted efficient private investment can be expected. Efforts to improve energy efficiency and use of green approaches for remote areas were also stressed.

Health: participants agreed a vision of universal health coverage is essential for ensuring a safety net for all. This requires a partnership for health sector strengthening and a costed national health plan.

Communication: participants supported Government of Myanmar’s ambition to plan expanded mobile and internet access. They welcomed the strategy of Myanmar’s move to issue 2 new mobile licenses shortly. Participants emphasized the importance of access to communication technology for inclusive development, and noted that attention needs to be paid to the development of rice content as well.

Transport: partners supported prioritizing transportation needs based on a masterplan. They also urged greater emphasis on safety standards, vehicle registration, and road safety—on environmental and social considerations.

Social Protection: Government of Myanmar emphasized that it is making good progress for social protection, from being a provider of services to more of a regulator. Participants noted the importance of capacity building in this process. Myanmar’s effectiveness and use of foreign aid will help it use assistance more effectively, which ought to encourage further increases in ODA. The Government’s commitment to work with partners to develop further its foreign aid management policies and systems to make them more efficient and effective and it was agreed that ODA work would support this. Partners applauded the Government’s determination to become increasingly self-reliant in its development financing over time. They expected that budgetary allocations continue to shift to support key development priorities, particularly in chronically underfunded areas. It was agreed that the government would help to use assistance more effectively, which ought to encourage further increases in ODA. 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Participants emphasized that inclusive structures for reform through training and engagement held in 2011, in which Ministers from across the globe, from both developing and donor countries, government representatives, parliamentarians, civil society organizations and private sector representatives have come together for the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The Busan meeting follows previous conferences in Accra and Paris. These meetings delivered the Accra Agenda for Action and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The quality of aid would be judged on the extent to which the donors and is monitored against concrete targets agreed internationally such as the Paris Declaration (2005), the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Coopera- tion (2011). From the outset, we note that there are a number of important principles for the future role of development cooperation. The Forum culminated in adoption of the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation. The Accord presents series specific areas of cooperation. The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its international partners to promote transparency, collaboration, and local ownership and accountability in the management of development efforts. An Annual Action Plan would be prepared to advance the Accord and its measures monitored at subsequent meetings.

In conclusion, as an Observer, this kind of Forum is very informative and we are very passionate about our common challenges. The Forum also gave ample opportunities to see other stakeholders just do that as well. Lastly, in accordance with Myanmar government’s adoption of the Logo of this Forum, 1st MDCF is indeed a forum which calls for partnerships for action, implementation and success. In this regard, it is expected that those pledges made by great partners around the world at this Forum to change into actions with great enthusiasm.
Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Financial Advisor of City Bank

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received Financial Advisor Mr. Norberto R. Ong of City Bank of the Philippines and party at Room No (1) of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Hall, here, on 21 January. They held comprehensive discussions on sharing the Philippines’s experiences in banking service, basic measures for poverty alleviation, legislation on monetary and banking sector development and assistance by City Bank. Also present at the call were Secretary of Public Accounts Committee U Maung Too, member of Banks and Monetary Development Committee U Maung Maung Soe, member of Hluttaw Rights Committee U Aung Hsan and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

Workshop on budgeting State-owned enterprises concludes

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan—The workshop on budgeting State-owned enterprises continued for second day at Hluttaw Building here this afternoon.

Member of Amyotha Hluttaw Finance and Legal Affairs Commission U Han Shein, President of First Private Bank Ltd Dr Sein Maung, Ambassador (Retd) U Hla Maung and Professor (Retd) Daw Yi Yi Myint discussed such topics as plans for autonomy of State-owned enterprises, and budgetary principles in political, economic, financial and monetary points of view.

The workshop was attended by Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy speakers, committee members of two Hluttaws, ministers, parliamentarians and departmental heads.

Mandalay-Myitkyina train schedule change after series of mine blasts

Mohnyin, 23 Jan—After a spate of mine blasts on railroads and bridges not only in Mohnyin, Mogauk townships in Kachin State but also in Indaw Township in Sagaing Region, departure and arrival time of Mandalay-Myitkyina trains will see a change beginning 25 this month, announced at stations in Kachin State. The new timetable makes the up and down trains to run in daytime within Kachin State, probably to reduce the risks, the locals conclude.

Depending on the types of trains, it takes at least 18 to 22 hours to run from Mandalay to Myitkyina, over 300 miles long route. However, it takes half a day to the whole day to repair a damaged railroad section once a mine blast occurs, says an official.—NLM-001

PC Myanmar (Hong Kong) Ltd, Larsen & Toubro Ltd sign agreement on pipeline, rig construction

Yangon, 23 Jan — A ceremony to sign agreement between PC Myanmar (Hong Kong) Ltd and Larsen & Toubro Ltd on building of infrastructures for offshore rig in the block of Yetagun (North) project developed by PETRONAS was held at Park Royal Hotel, here, this morning. Responsible persons signed agreements and exchanged notes.

Installation of 11 kilometers long underground pipeline and construction of rig are included in the US$ 121 million contract deal.

KIA mine explosion on civilian vehicle leaves one injured

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan—According to the Ministry of Defence, a landmine planted by the KIA group exploded while a truck loaded with watermelons driving from Mandalay to Muse ran over it at a place between Nam-Um village and Forest Department Office on Muse-Lashio motorway at about 5.30 pm on 22 January. The driver of the mine-hit truck suffered injuries to his left chest and left wrist and he was rushed to Muse Hospital. After the Information Team of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Press Release (3/2013) on 18 January, the KIA group started to launch attacks on civilian targets on 19 January and the mine blast was the ninth time among the series of attacks.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives South Korean National Assembly Speaker Mr KANG Chang-Hee.

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received South Korean National Assembly Speaker Mr KANG Chang-Hee at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw complex here yesterday. The meeting focused on economic development and inter-parliamentary friendship.

It was also attended by Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Hluttaw Committee chairs and Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae-Yong and officials.

MNA
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR**
**MINISTRY OF ENERGY**

**Dated: 17th January, 2013**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS TO CONDUCT PETROLEUM OPERATIONS**

**IN MYANMAR ONSHORE AREAS (2013)**

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby invites sealed bids for Petroleum Operations to be carried out in Myanmar Onshore Areas on production sharing basis.

2. The following onshore blocks are available for bidding in this bidding round:-

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<th>No.</th>
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<td>PSC C1</td>
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3. All interested parties are cordially invited to submit “the Letter of Expression of Interest”, together with Company’s Article of Association (AOA), Memorandum of Association (MOA), Certificate of Incorporation, latest Annual Report and latest Financial Statement (or) Financial Report and Detailed Track Record, which are to be endorsed for authenticity by the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of Company’s registration (or) establishment or nearest, in sealed envelopes superscribed “Confidential” “Myanmar Onshore Blocks Second Bidding Round-2013”, to the following address not later than two (2) Months after the date of announcing of this invitation (17th January 2013):-

Director General
Energy Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Note: For further inquiry (and/or) information, please contact the following:-

(1) Director General
Energy Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tel</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>95-67 411 099/ 411 057</td>
<td>95-67 411 113</td>
<td><a href="mailto:myanmoe@optmail.net.mm">myanmoe@optmail.net.mm</a></td>
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(2) Managing Director
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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<th>Tel</th>
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<tr>
<td>95-67 411 055/ 411 056</td>
<td>95-67 411 125</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mogaepplan@energy.gov.mm">mogaepplan@energy.gov.mm</a></td>
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(3) Myanmar Embassies in respective Countries

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**Six dead in S Philippine flooding**

**MANILA, 23 Jan — Six people died while over 150,000 were displaced by flooding caused by torrential rains in southern Philippines, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Tuesday. The NDRRMC said in its latest report that five of the six fatalities died due to drowning, while one was electrocuted. Six were wounded while four others were missing. The provinces of Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley, and Davao Oriental as well as the cities of Davao and Tagum were the hardest hit by the flood. Of the 150,521 people displaced by the flooding, the NDRRMC said that about 48,661 of them are now in evacuation centers. A state of emergency has been declared in flood-hit areas.**

*Xinhua*
KBZ BANK LTD. is pleased to inform all that we have successfully opened Mingalazay (2)- Banyar Dala Road Branch Tarmwe Township, Yangon Division as 94th branch to date-effective 24.1.2013 All honored persons are kindly requested to come and enjoy our cordial banking services at our newest branch.

Contact Address:
Mingalazay (2)- Banyar Dala Road Branch
No. (267), Banyar Dala Road, Ayoegone Quarter,
Tarmwe Township, Yangon Region.
Phone: (01) 8619314/15/16/17/18/19
Fax: (01) 8619320/21/22/23
www.kbzbank.com
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKACHAI NO (117)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (117) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of a.w.p.t where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

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

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

ROLLING STONES FESTIVAL

London, 23 Jan—Veteran British rockers The Rolling Stones, who celebrated their 50th anniversary last year, were nominated for four NME music awards on Monday. The Stones, back in the limelight after a photo book, greatest hits album, documentary film and mini tour to mark their 2012 golden jubilee, were shortlisted for best live band, best book, music moment of the year and best music film.

They were one of four acts with four nominations each. The others were LA sisters Haim, an up-and-coming band tipped for the top by several industry polls, Australian rock band Tame Impala and British alternative hip hop artist M.I.A.

Music magazine NME’s nominations were decided by fans voting online, and the winners will be announced at The Troxy in east London on 27 February.

“When I first heard it was four things, I thought, ‘Ooh, blimey! That’s very nice!’” Stones lead singer Mick Jagger said.—Reuters
Chelsea left-back Ashley Cole has signed a one-year contract extension with English Premier League club Chelsea. "I am pleased I will be starting my eighth season at Chelsea," said Ashley Cole, who has been with Chelsea for 12 years. "I still want to win trophies. That desire and the will to fight always pushed me to play for Chelsea."

Djokovic's Double
Djokovic double-bagged her first two matches 6-0, 6-0, and then beat Venus Williams 6-1, 6-3 and Kirsten Flipkens 6-1, 6-0, beating Mona Seles' Australian Open record of losing 12 games before the semifinals. Heading to a historical three Australian Open titles in a row, defending champion Djokovic bounced back from a marathon five-set fourth-round match just 48 hours earlier when he beat Czech Tomas Berdych 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4 in a much easier way.

The Serbian world No. 1 showed little rustiness from that late finish to complete the quarterfinal in two hours 31 minutes. "It was a great performance. I was hoping to have a shorter match, who ever won tonight, as long as it didn't go over five hours," Djokovic joked.

Victory guaranteed Djokovic's 11th consecutive Grand Slam semifinals and his semifinal opponent will be Spaniard Ferrer, who fought back from two sets down to beat his Spanish Davis Cup teammates Nicolas Almagro 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6, 6-2. Almagro had never beaten his compatriot in 12 previous attempts but appeared set to put the record straight when he took the first two sets and was serving for the third at 5-4.

But the Spaniard wasted the opportunity and ailed twice more in the fourth set to serve out for the match as Ferrer fought to seal his progression.

Li Na to meet Sharapova in semis while Ferrer takes on Djokovic

Li Na to meet Sharapova in semis while Ferrer takes on Djokovic

Nagai to follow his dream to Belgium

Nagai to follow his dream to Belgium

Dwight Howard ejected in Lakers loss to Raptors

Dwight Howard ejected in Lakers loss to Raptors

Jets win 4-2 to keep Capitals winless

Jets win 4-2 to keep Capitals winless
**Books donated to public book corner in Dala**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — A ceremony to donate books to the public book corner at Dala Jetty by Dala Township Women’s Affairs Organization was held at the book corner on 19 January. Chairman of Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Aye Thanda Kyaw presented Hollow brand book shelf worth K 55000 and 119 books worth K 78400 to Head of Township Organization and Public Relations Department Daw Hla Hla Nwe.

Next, Assistant Director U Myint Swe of Yangon Region IPRD, Township Administrator U Tun Tun Win and the chairperson of Township WAO formally opened the public book corner. Township WAO and wellwishers will donate books and publications to the book corner weekly.

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**Federer skips Switzerland’s Davis Cup opener**

**London, 23 Jan—** Davis Cup champions the Czech Republic will not have to worry about facing Roger Federer in the opening round of their defense after he was left out of Switzerland’s team for the Geneva tie.

The 17-times grand slam champion, still contesting the Australian Open where he will face Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the semi-finalist David Ferrer, who is not in Spain’s squad to play in Canada.

Former US Open champion Del Potro said last month that he would not be playing Davis Cup this year.

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**Yamauchi, Britain’s 2nd fastest woman marathoner, retires**

LONDON, 23 Jan — Mara Yamauchi, winner of the 2008 Osaka Marathon and an Olympian for Britain, announced Tuesday on her blog that she will retire from racing and resume her career in the foreign service.

The 39-year-old Yamauchi, who is married to a Japanese national, has extensive connections with Japan, having served for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the British Embassy in Tokyo. Her 2 hours, 23 minute, 12 second time in the 2009 London Marathon is the second fastest time recorded by a British woman after the 2:15:25 world record of countrywoman Paula Radcliffe.

Yamauchi represented Britain at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where she finished sixth.

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**Ronaldinho vows “to give everything” to Brazil’s cause**

RIIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Jan—Two-time FIFA World Player of the Year Ronaldinho has vowed to “give everything he has” to re-establish his place in Brazil’s national team.

Ronaldinho was recalled to Brazil’s squad on Tuesday by new coach Luiz Felipe Scolari for next month’s international friendly against England at Wembley.

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**F Marinos forward Ono joins exodus to Standard Liege**

TOKYO, 23 Jan—Forward Yuji Ono agreed in principle on Saturday to a Japanese forward Ono joins exodus to Standard Liege.

He is the second J-League forward to move to the Belgian first-division club this week, following the transfer of Nagoya Grampus’ Kensuke Nagai on Thursday. Japan goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima currently plays for the Belgian club.

The 20-year-old Ono has scored nine goals in 79 league games for F Marinos—Kyodo News

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**File photo of Brazilian soccer star Ronaldinho.**

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**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

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**RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Jan—** "All good things must come to an end..." and so it is for my career as an elite athlete and marathon runner. After careful thought, I’ve decided to retire from elite competition, and finally hang up my racing shoes," she said in a post on her blog.

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**Ronaldinho was very important, it to Brazil's cause.**

Ronaldinho told media at Atletico’s team’s hotel. Ronaldinho has denied the claims.

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**Coach Ronaldinho to put his off-field controversies aside and especially the fans.**

Ronaldinho represented Brazil at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where she finished sixth.

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**Roger Federer of Switzerland spearhead the Czech challenge in the tie taking place from 1-3 February.**

Roger Federer of Switzerland in tatters in June 2011 after he quit Flamengo and sued the club for unpaid wages.

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**F Marinos forward Ono joins exodus to Standard Liege.**
NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—The sixth-day Pyithu Hluttaw session was held with seven questions answered.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein responded to the questions about measures being taken to fight against the inflation once salary of service personnel increased that financial and monetary policies were being formulated to avoid the inflation. Depending on the slowdown in economic growth, a coordinated flexible interest policy was being made. Stability in commodity prices and foreign exchange rate proved that ongoing measures were effective.

U Win Maung Lae of Pathein Constituency submitted a proposal that judges, clients and witnesses have to take the oath for ensuring the reliable and credible jurisdiction. Union Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt discussed the proposal and the proposal was documented.

Next, U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency submitted a Bill amending the Union Judiciary Law, and member of Bill Committee U Thein Tun Go read out the report of the committee.

Today’s session came to an end in the afternoon and the session continues tomorrow. MNA

**Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Nan Wah Nu participating in discussion.—MNA**

**MP urges to form Ayeyawady River Commission for eternity of Ayeyawady River**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—U Myo Min of Mandalay Region Constituency No(6) urged the Union government to form The Ayeyawady River Commission (ARC) to ensure eternity of Ayeyawady River, the national river of Myanmar, citing that Ayeyawady River contributes to all-round development of all Myanmar citizens.

He called for formation of an establishment to be constituted with people from all walks of life and various organizations, taking an example of The Mekong River Commission (MRC) to make sure effective inter-coordination.

In response to the question about current plan for maintenance of Lanpi National Marine Park in Kawthoung and future plans for long-term conservation, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung said the ministry will stick to the long- and short-term plans adopted for sustainability of bio-diversity in Lanpi Park with consistency.

U Tin Yu of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read the report of the committee on Vacant, Fellow and Virgin Land Management Bylaws sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments, suggesting approving those amendments.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (5) expressed his views on the bylaws that they can guarantee poverty reduction enabling the landless and true growers to use the vacant, fellow and virgin land to emerge as a result.

Amyotha Hluttaw approved the bylaws as supplemented and amended by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Constituency No (8) urged the Union government to start atomic power generation as Myanmar is a member of ASEAN as well as IAEA. U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No (12) seconded the proposal and the Hluttaw approved to discuss it.

U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6) urged the Union government to inspect the impact of earthquake on government infrastructure. U Sai Tin Win seconded the proposal and the Hluttaw approved it for debate.

The seventh day session continues tomorrow. MNA

**Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint. MNA**

**Drug baron shot dead in Tachilek as five surrender**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—The local militia and military columns while conducting patrol in Tachilek engaged with the remaining five headed by Kyabe from the gang of drug lord Sai Naw Kham. In the attack, Kyabe, the apparent baron was captured dead along with three mines, one grenade, 17 M-79 shells, one package of stimulants tablets containing 2500 pieces, 300-ft-long wire, eight 44-mm shells, six telephone mines, one home-made mine, two blocks of TNT, 0.5 kilos of sulphur, six detonators, 150-ft-long wire, one M-22 magazine and 84 bullets and one bullet-proof jacket.

Namphon villager, Kyawke, subordinate of Kyabe surrendered to the military column on 20 January evening along with one 9-mm pistol, one magazine, and eight bullets. The other members Kyawke, Panat, Kyabushi and Machawke also surrendered to the military column.

One carbine, one magazine and eight bullets, one M-79 launcher, five AK-47, five magazines, 205 bullets, eight 40-MM grenades, one mines, one block of TNT, three detonators, 200-ft-long mine wire, one RPG, two shells and one caap were further seized from them, said the Ministry of Defence. MNA

Above 150 golfers to play in Zaykabar Myanmar Open

YANGON, 23 Jan—Myanmar Golf Federation met the press on Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2013 to be organized by Asian Tour and Myanmar PGA in Ottara Hall of Karawaik Palace here on 18 January.

Myanmar Golf Federation’s Vice-Presidents U Aung Kyi, U Min Thein and U Tint Oo and General Secretary U Aung Hla Han attended the press briefing.

A total of 130 international golfers and 24 local professional golfers will participate in the event. The first prize winner can fetch US$4,000, the second US$3,000 and the third US$ 1,800 and the 65th position winner, US$ 500. Zaykabar Co Ltd, AMC, Srixon, Tiger Golf, 100plus and INETOL will sponsor the event with 5 Network as media partner.—MNA