President U Thein Sein meets US Senator and party, discusses bilateral cooperation

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by US Senator Mr. James Mountain Inhofe at the Credentials hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Maung, U Soe Thein and U Win Myint, and departmental heads. The delegation was accompanied by Senator from Arkansas Mr. John Boozman, New Mexican Congressman Mr. Stevan Pearce, and Congressman from Florida Mr. Vernon Buchanan, Congressman from Minnesota Mr. Erik Paulsen and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in oil and gas sectors, forming committees for cooperation in implementing agreements on trade and other matters, promotion of social status of Myanmar through mutual economic cooperation, seeking potential for bilateral cooperation in agriculture, trading and energy sectors, cooperation between the two armies, giving trainings to Myanmar young officers of Myanmar armed forces, as well as further cementing relations between the two countries.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shaking hands with Senator Mr. James Mountain Inhofe of the United States of America.

Byline: Wai Yan Oo

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Government Office
Notification No. 6/2013
11th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(8 January, 2013)
Appointment of spokesman of the President

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut has been appointed as the spokesman of the President under Section 24, Subsection (a) of the Union Government Law.

By order,
Zaw Than Thin
Secretary
Union Government

A team of excavators of Spitfire fighters arrived in Yangon on 6 January to excavate Spitfire fighters believed to be buried by British troops in Myanmar. The 21-member team led by David Cundall on their first trip to Myanmar to unearth the fighters believes they would discover dozens of Spitfire employed by British forces in World War II.

The leader David Cundall said the team is hoping for unearthing dozens of Spitfire buried in Myanmar. They would begin the dig near Yangon International Airport.

The aviation enthusiasts have searched for the fighters for 17 years before they started the excavation.

About 30 fighters are believed to be buried in wooden boxes in Myanmar. They hope for excavating about 120 Spitfire fighters in Myanmar.

The excavation would take four to six weeks to complete.

Myanma Alinn: 8-1-2013
Trs: HKa

British team to unearth WWII Spitfires

Byline: Wai Yan Oo

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**New Light of Myanmar**

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Passenger buses of All Bus-line Control Committee involved in more than 270 road accidents in 2012**

**Yangon, 9 Jan** — According to the figures released by Yangon Region All Bus-line Control Committee, passenger buses of the committee were involved in 276 car accidents that claimed 111 lives and hurt 786 during the previous year.

There has been a slight reduction in the number of road accidents compared with the year 2011 when 98 people were killed and 1139 wounded in 358 road accidents.

Not only to reduce traffic accidents but also to raise the morale of bus workers, basic and multiplier courses are being conducted and bus workers are to take the courses alternatively.

**During the previous year, there were 26 cases in January, 26 cases in February, 17 cases in March, 10 cases in April, 21 cases in May, 31 cases in June, 26 cases in July, 25 cases in August, 23 cases in September, 28 cases in October, 26 cases in November and 17 cases in December.**

**Kyemon**

**Ahlawi bridge of Mandalay Palace under repair**

**Mandalay, 9 Jan** — Ahlawi bridge to the west of Mandalay Palace in Aungmyaythazan Town-ship of Mandalay is currently under repair by the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library (Mandalay Branch) under the Ministry of Culture. The bridge was built in the time of King Mindon and it is more than 154 years old. As the weather-beaten old bridge called for repair works, the department started the renovation works for the bridge. While the bridge is under repair, the traffic on the bridge will be suspended temporarily for worksite safety.

**Kyemon**

**Mandalay Mayor’s mini marathon attracts over 2000 participants**

**Mandalay, 9 Jan** — Mandalay Mayor’s Mini Marathon kicked off at 6.30 am on 7 January. Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moung fired the gun in the air to start the event in front of Mandalay City Development Committee Office on 26th Street between 71st and 72nd streets. A total of more than 2000 participants including foreigners took part in the mini marathon. They started the race in front of the MCDC Building and crossed the finishing line at the east gate of Bahtoo Stadium. Phyu Wah Thet stood first in the women’s (open) contest, followed by Myint Myint Aye and Saw Malar Nwe. In the mens’ (open) contest, first prize winner was presented K 1.5 million, second prize went to Thaung Aye and Maung Chat and Thein Hlaing Oo stood second and third respectively. Soe Naing, Khin Maung and Ye Win Naing won first, second and third prizes respectively in the amateur level men’s contest.

The prize presentation ceremony was held in the Bahtoo Stadium. In the amateur level, first prize winner was presented K 1.5 million, second prize winner K 1.4 million and third prize winner K 1.3 million. In the men’s and women’s (open) contest, first prize winner was presented K 1 million, second prize winner K 900,000 and third prize winner K 800,000.

**Kyemon**

**MR performs maintenance of railroad sections**

**Yangon, 9 Jan** — A twelve-member Myanmar national race student delegation led by General Secretary of Myanmar Basketball Federation U Kyaw Kyaw Win and Assistant Director Daw Ohnma Aung of Sports and Physical Education Department left here by air for the United States of America on 6 January. It was the first time for Myanmar youth delegation who was invited to study basketball skills there.

The national race students aged between 15 and 18 from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Shan, Mon, Rakhine, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Sagaing will take a two-week basketball course organized by NBA in Washington, North Carolina.

The 14-member delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by MBF Patron Daw Ni, Vice-President U Maung Maung Myint and executives.

**Kyemon**

**Decapitated wild elephant found in Hsinhmon forest reserve**

**Pathein, 9 Jan** — According to the information that a beheaded male wild elephant was found dead in Hsinhmon forest reserve in Ngayokekaung sub-township of Ngapudaw Township, a combined team led by U Kun Chit of Ngayokekaung sub-township forest department went there and conducted investigation into the case.

As it is believed to have been killed and beheaded by unscrupulous hunters, Pathein District forest department informed Ngayokekaung police station of the killing of the wild elephant. Further investigation into the case is ongoing.

**Kyemon**

**Myanmar national race basketball delegation leaves for USA**

**Yangon, 9 Jan** — An 18 member Myanmar national race student delegation will depart for the United States of America on 6 January. It was the first time for Myanmar youth delegation who was invited to study basketball skills there.

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**Kyemon**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Jan** — Under the leadership of the senior engineer (civil) of Division-5 Toungoo of Myanna Railways, a group led by the junior engineer (1) of Taikton area are carrying out substitution of sleepers with new ones, adjustment of rail tracks, laying of gravel and repair of approach roads of 20-foot and above bridges for maintenance of railroad sections between Kyunguang and Innkon railway stations of Yangon-Mandalay railroad.

They performed maintenance of Shwemyaung Hsinhmyau up-railroad section between mile post Nos (246/22) and (250/19) on 4 January.

**Kyemon**

**Naypyidaw International Exhibition & Car Show 2013 on 10 January**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Jan** — Naypyidaw International Exhibition & CarShow2013 will be held at the ground in front of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Pobbatthiri Township, here, from 9 am to 9 pm from 10 to 14 January.

Arrangements have been made to include booths of personal goods, foodstuff, electrical appliances and electronics and a playground for children at the exhibition organized by Myanmar Anawrahta company.

**Kyemon**
Republican senator threatens to block Obama’s CIA nominee

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—A Republican senator threatened on Tuesday to block the confirmation of President Barack Obama’s nominee to head the CIA until the administration provides more information to Congress about the 11 Sept. 2012, attacks on US facilities in Benghazi, Libya.

Senator Lindsey Graham said his objection was not directed at Obama’s CIA nominee — 25-year old agency veteran John Brennan — but was an attempt to extract information about the Benghazi attacks from the White House.

“If I do not believe we should confirm anyone as Director of the CIA until our questions are answered,” Graham said in a statement. Under Senate rules, any senator can put a hold on any nomination, blocking it from moving to a Senate floor vote.

In a written statement, Graham expressed frustration about what he called the “ever changing” stories told by administration officials about who was behind the Benghazi attacks in which four Americans were killed, including the US ambassador to Libya.

He complained that the officials offered conflicting explanations about why a reference to al-Qaeda was deleted from unclassified talking points that the White House used to shape public comments in the days following the attacks on the US diplomatic mission and a CIA base in Libya’s second-largest city.

“We were first told the Director of National Intelligence deleted the al-Qaeda reference in the talking points because they did not want to let al-Qaeda know we were monitoring them,” Graham said. White House spokesman Jay Carney said on Tuesday that the “highly politicized” Benghazi issue should not hold up Brennan’s nomination.

The president is focused on ensuring that those who are responsible for the deaths of the Americans in Benghazi should be brought to justice “not the political fascination of appearances on Sunday shows,” he told a News briefing.

Italy’s real election battle is Monti vs Berlusconi

ROME, 9 Jan—Italy’s election campaign is shaping up as a bitter contest not between right and left but between Silvio Berlusconi and outgoing Prime Minister Mario Monti to win the balance of power after the February poll.

The final lines were drawn on Monday when Berlusconi sacrificed his own candidacy for prime minister as the price for winning a crucial new alliance with his estranged allies in the devolutionist Northern League.

This alliance is aimed at blocking control of parliament by the centre-left, which opinion polls show as virtually certain to win the 24-25 February elections.

But if Berlusconi succeeds, Italy is likely to face renewed instability and legislative paralysis which could make it once again the biggest concern in the euro zone.

Italy narrowly avoided a Greek-style meltdown in November 2011 when Berlusconi, weakened by a sex scandal, was forced out as prime minister and replaced by Monti, who in large part Berlusconi gains the balance of power he could frustrate centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani in fulfilling his promise to steering Monti’s austerity and pro-European policies, which have brought Italy relative stability in the past year.

Most of the media owner’s biggest problem in implementing his strategy is Monti, whose centrist alliance has the same aim as Berlusconi: winning enough seats in the Senate to give it influence way beyond its likely share of the poll.

While the centre-left is almost certain to win the lower house, the real battle ground will be in the much less certain Senate contest.

And Berlusconi’s Elo Mosca, published in the financial daily Il Sole 24 Ore on Tuesday showed the Senate vote too close to call in three big regions which could be decisive in the February vote.

Insight: Aleppo misery eats at Syrian rebel support

Aleppo, 9 Jan—A crowded market stall in Syria, a middle-aged couple, well dressed, shuffle over to press a folded note, furtively, into the hand of an unidentified couple written. “We ask God to help the revolution and hopes that the revolution and hopes are with the sovereignty of President Bashar al-Assad forever.”

As government forces fight on in parts of Aleppo, in large areas that have been under rebel control for six months or more complaints are getting louder about Ciudad’s inability to stop the fighting, looting and a general lack of security and necessities like running water, bread and electricity in districts that have been pounded by tanks and hit by Assad’s air force. Recognizing that mistrust, rebel units have set up command and policing structures they see forming a basis of institutions which might one day run the whole country and which, meanwhile, they hope can show Arab and Western supporters that they have the organization to handle aid in the form of money and weapons.

Rebel commanders interviewed in and around Aleppo in the past two weeks acknowledged problems within the FSA — an army in name only, made up of brigades competing for recognition and resources. But they laid much of the blame on “bad apples” and opportunists and said steps are being taken to put things right.

“There has been a lot of corruption in the Free Syrian Army’s battalions — stealing, oppressing the people — because there are parasites that have entered the Free Syrian Army,” said Abu Ahmed, an engineer who heads a 35-man unit of the Tawheed Brigade, reckoned to be the largest in Aleppo Province.

Venezuela postpones inauguration for cancer-stricken Chavez

CARACAS, 9 Jan—Venezuela will postpone the inauguration of President Hugo Chavez for a new term due to health problems, the government said on Tuesday, another sign the socialist leader’s cancer may be bringing an end to his 14 years in power.

The 58-year-old former soldier who has dominated the South American OPEC nation since 1999 has not been heard from since surgery on 11 December in Cuba — his fourth operation since he was diagnosed with an undisclosed type of cancer in June 2011.

Government leaders insist Chavez is completely fulfilling his duties as head of state, even though official medical bulletins say he has a severe pulmonary infection and has had troubled breathing.

The government has called for a massive rally outside the presidential palace on Thursday, and allied presidents including Uruguay’s Jose Mujica and Bolivia’s Evo Morales have confirmed they will visit Venezuela this week despite Chavez’s absence.

“Chavez in Havana, Campaña and Sicilia the outcome of the vote is absolutely unpredictable,” said Roberto D’Alimonte, one of Italy’s foremost experts on voting trends.

“If he dies or steps aside, new elections would be called within 30 days,” the source said.

Before leaving for Havana in December, the president instructed his supporters to back Maduro in that vote if he were unable to continue.

Opposition leaders argue that Congress chief and Chavez ally Diosdado Cabello should take over, as mandated by the constitution if the president’s absence is formally declared.

Cabello has ruled out, saying the president’s continua in charge.

“Who could have believed the opposition would be screaming for Diosdado Cabello to be given the presidency of the republic?“ he said during a ram-bunctious session of Congress. “That’s crazy, the opposition is losing it.”

Meanwhile opposition deputies accused the Socialist Party of failing to follow Chavez’s instructions — a scene that would have been unimaginable before Chavez’s prolonged absence.
The Kraken wakes: first images of giant squid filmed in deep ocean

Tokyo, 9 Jan—A Japanese-led team of scientists has captured on film the world’s first live images of a giant squid, journeying to the depths of the ocean in search of the mysterious creature thought to have inspired the myth of the “kraken”, a tentacled monster.

The images of the silvery, three-metre (10 feet) long cephalopod, looming out of the darkness nearly 1 km below the surface, were taken last July near the Ogasawara islands, 1,000 km (620 miles) south of Tokyo.

Though the beast was small by giant squid standards — the largest ever caught stretched 18 metres (62 feet) long — the animal held no such terror.

“It was rather lonely.”

— Tsunehiro Kubodera, a Zoologist at Japan’s National Museum of Nature and Science, who led the team.

“These are the first ever images of a real live giant squid,” Kubodera said of the footage, shot by Japanese national broadcaster NHK and the Discovery Channel.

The key to their success, said Kubodera, was a small submersible rigged with lights invisible to both human and cephalopod eyes.

He, a cameraman and the submersible’s pilot drifted silently down to 630 metres and released a one-metre-long squid as bait. In all, they descended around 100 times.

“If you try and approach making a load of noise, using a bright white light, then the squid won’t come anywhere near you. That was our basic thinking,” Kubodera said.

“So we sat there in the pitch black, using a near-infrared light invisible even to the human eye, waiting for the giant squid to approach.”

As the squid neared they began to film, following it into the depths to around 900 metres.

“I’ve seen a lot of giant squid specimens in my time, but mainly those hauled out of the ocean. This was the first time for me to see with my own eyes a giant squid swimming,” he said.

“It was stunning, I couldn’t have dreamt that it would be so beautiful. It was such a wonderful creature.”

Until recently, little was known about the creature believed to be the real face of the mythical kraken, a sea-monster blamed by sailors for sinking ships off Norway in the 18th century.

But for Kubodera, the animal held no such terror.

“A giant squid essentially lives a solitary existence, swimming about all alone in the deep sea. It doesn’t live in a group,” he said.

“So when I saw it, well, it looked to me like it was rather lonely.”

Sharp ponders options to survive, isn’t in Intel talks

Sharp Corp is considering new ways to shore up its crumbling finances but is not talking with Intel Corp at the moment about any investment from the US chipmaker, a senior executive said on Monday.

Sharp executives said on Monday the pair were not in talks “at this moment.”

Sharp is fighting for survival after years of losses. Like other Japanese brands that spearheaded the 1970s electronics boom, it is wilting under stiffening competition and a strong yen.

In November, it said it may not be able to survive on its own after full-year net losses doubled to ¥5.6 billion.

To repay short-term debt and stave off failure, the maker of Aquos televisions snagged a ¥4.4 billion bailout in October from its banks. But it is now exploring further options.

“Our finances have been weakened considerably and we are considering ways to deal with that,” Sharp Vice President Kozo Takahashi told reporters at a roundtable briefing on the sidelines of the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Sharp’s shareholder equity ratio at the end of September was 9.9 percent half the minimum level generally considered stable by investors. Takahashi described that as “low.”

Takahashi’s comments on Monday indicated that no new agreement was imminent. He did not elaborate on Sharp’s funding options, except to say that any future cash injections might not be limited to just share offers.

Sony mulls battery unit sale in push toward core electronics

Sony Corp’s President and Chief Executive Officer Kazuo Hirai said he would consider the sale of Sony’s battery business as part of the Japanese electronics giant’s efforts to streamline operations, but has made no decision yet.

Hirai also told reporters on the sidelines of the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas that he would consider the sale of Sony’s battery business as part of the Japanese electronics giant’s efforts to streamline operations, but has made no decision yet.

Sony is historically reserved about selling units that extend to any business that aren’t reflective of core activities.

In November, Sony revised its forecast for full-year sales of handheld PSP and Vita game consoles to 10 million units, compared with a prediction each year to showcase upcoming products ranging from cellphones to giant televisions.

In the keynote, which was historically reserved for Microsoft Corp, Jacobs streamed a clip for an upcoming movie using his company’s new chip Snapdragon 800. Qualcomm is the world’s biggest maker of chips for cellphones.

He also showed how the chip, which will be available in the second half this year, would support mobile video games with a much greater level of detail than today’s most powerful phones. “This is console quality gaming on a mobile device,” Jacobs said.

The Snapdragon 800 chip can also support recording and playback of ultra-high-definition video, which has roughly four times the resolution of high-definition TV.
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**A worker pumps petrol into a customer’s car at a fuel station in Sidon, southern Lebanon,** on 25 Feb, 2011. — Reuters

**China Q4 GDP growth seen rebounding to 7.8 percent**

BEIJING, 9 Jan—China’s annual economic growth may have quickened to 7.8 percent in the fourth quarter, a Reuters poll showed, snapping seven straight quarters of weaker expansion, but the recovery is likely to be tepid and the economy may need continued policy support. The median forecast of 24 analysts polled is for gross domestic product to have expanded 7.8 percent in Q4 from a year earlier, quickerening from 7.4 percent in the third quarter — the weakest expansion since the depths of global financial crisis in early 2009.

**Americans think government could harm economy**

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — Last week’s “fiscal cliff” deal did little to ease fears among Americans that Washington could harm the US economy or their personal finances in the months to come, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Monday.

The online poll found that President Barack Obama gets more credit than his Republican adversaries for the agreement, which canceled across-the-board tax increases and postponed broad spending cuts that could have pushed the economy back into recession.

But the deal did little to instill confidence about the nation’s economic direction as Republicans and Democrats prepare for more showdowns over taxes and spending in the coming months, the poll found. “If you had to score it, the Democrats and especially Obama, came out better, but there’s a lot of uncertainty,” said Ipsos pollster Clifford Young. “There’s no clear winner from this.”

More than two-thirds of those surveyed said they were concerned that taxes could rise, or their benefits could shrink, while 81 percent said they were worried that the economy could take another downturn.

More than three in four said they were concerned that Congress would not be able to avert deep spending cuts to military and domestic programs that were postponed for two months by the fiscal-cliff deal, the poll found.

And 70 percent said they were concerned that the United States could default on its debt. Congress will have to raise its $16.4 trillion debt ceiling by early March to avoid a first-ever default, which would upend global financial markets.

Obama and Republican leaders initially hoped to resolve all of these issues in a “grand bargain” that would have combined tax increases and benefit cuts to put the country’s finances on a sustainable course, but in the end they had to settle on a smaller deal that left many issues unresolved.

**COPYING COMMON IN ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS**

NEW YORK, 9 Jan — Most doctors copy and paste old, potentially out-of-date information into patients’ electronic records, according to a US study looking at a shortcut that some experts fear could lead to miscommunication and medical errors.

“The electronic medical record was meant to make the process of documentation easier, but I think it’s perpetuated copying,” said lead author Daryl Thornton, assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Electronic health records have been touted as having the potential to transform patient data from indecipherable scrabbles into easy-to-read, searchable standardized documents that could be shared among hospital staffs and a patient’s various other health care providers.

**Infosys valuations trail Indian rivals**

MUMBAI, 9 Jan—Infosys Ltd (INFY.NS) is trading at a 36 percent discount to its 10-year median P/E, the widest gap among large cap Indian technology stocks, according to Thomson Reuters’ StarMine estimates.

The discount comes even as fiscal 2013/14 earnings growth projections across the four stocks profiled are around 5-6 percent as per StarMine estimates.

Infosys is due to post October-December results on Friday after issuing a series of disappointing growth targets last year. Infosys shares fell 16.2 percent in 2012 underperforming peer Tata Consultancy Services (TCS.NS) which rose 8.2 percent in the same period.—Reuters

**New Light of Myanmar**

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**New Light of Myanmar**
WFP says 2.5 mln people in Syria need food assistance

Geneva, 9 Jan—The World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday that around 2.5 million people in Syria are in need of food assistance but only 1.5 million can receive supplies from the agency. The agency’s main partner, the Red Crescent, is overstretched and has no capacity to expand further, according to WFP spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs.

She said WFP food reaches both government and opposition-controlled areas, but there are areas affected by heavy fighting that no one has been able to reach.

To feed those 1.5 million people, of which 85 percent are internally displaced persons (IDPs), WFP requires 15,000 metric tons of food each month for over 22 million U.S. dollars.

There are reports of shortages of bread, wheat flour and cooking gas caused by deteriorating security situation in the country, Byrs said—Xinhua

Syrian govt working on political settlement as NATO missile deployment coming

Damascus, 9 Jan—As Turkey is completing preparations to deploy NATO’s Patriot missiles along its borders with Syria, Syrian cabinet met here on Tuesday to find mechanisms to put into effect the fresh vision of President Bashar al-Assad on a political solution to the country’s 22-month crisis.

Germany began sending Patriot missiles to Turkey Tuesday, with a ship carrying the equipment leaving the northeastern German seaport Lubeck- Travemuende for Turkey. The ship, named “Sae- cia Sanewos” and loaded with 300 vehicles and over 130 containers, will arrive at Turkey’s Iskenderun Port on 21 January, according to a German statement issued on Monday. The two Patriot batteries will be deployed about 100 km from the Turkish Syrian border. Together with another four batteries from the United States and the Netherlands, the Patriots deployment is in response to Turkey’s request to NATO against possible missile threats from Syria.

All six batteries will be under NATO’s command and scheduled to be operational by the end of January. The Patriots are able to intercept missiles or aircraft. The Turkish government requested in November that its national air defense be reinforced with the support of NATO air defense elements, after several artillery shells from Syria struck a Turkish border town and killed five civilians one month before.

The missiles’ pending deployment has raised the ire of the Syrian government and its allies, despite the reparative statements by NATO members that the measure is “purely defensive.”

In Damascus, meanwhile, Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi said on Tuesday that the cabinet is meeting in the framework of implementing the presidential commissioning toward finding mechanisms and putting into effect the ideas and the national program which were included in Assad’s speech for solving the crisis in Syria.

In a Press statement, al-Zoubi said the discussions going on at the cabinet session deal with all the details of the crisis in the country is going through, adding that the internal and external political situation, the current challenges and the capabilities available are all on the table.

He affirmed that “all opposition forces are invited to participate in a national dialogue that is based on respecting national sovereignty and the rejection of foreign interference in all its forms as well as the acts of domination and guardi-anship over the national de-cision.”

He reiterated that the discussion is addressing all aspects, ranging from stop-ping violence and terrorism to issues concerning econo-my, public freedom, human rights and detainees, as well as the details and essence of the national dialogue and how and with whom it should be conducted.

The minister described the discussion as “long, comprehensive and difficult as there are many views, suggestions and concepts,” pointing out that there will be a cabinet committee to start contacting all political and societal forces and figures so as to pave the way for holding the national dialogue conference—Xinhua

Flu claims seven lives in US state of Arkansas

Houston, 9 Jan—Influenza is growing more widespread in the US state of Arkansas this season and has claimed seven lives there so far, state health au-thorities said Tuesday.

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) said reports of large numbers of flu infections and hospitaliza-tions are coming in from all regions of the state in this flu season, according to the website of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Health experts said officials expect about 1.5 million Arkansans to get vaccinated against the flu. The vaccination reportedly prevents roughly 80 percent of recipients from getting the flu.

This is the worst influenza season in Arkansas since 2009 and that it’s “hit early and hard,” health officials said.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned that Influenza activity would be increasing across most of the US.

“Reports of influenza-like illness (ILI) are reaching what have been peak levels during moderately severe seasons,” said Joe Breese, chief of epidemiolo-gy and prevention at the CDC’s influenza division.

More than 200,000 people are hospitalized due to influenza each year, according to the CDC.

Xinhua

Pakistan PM congratulates Obama on re-election as US President

Islamabad, 9 Jan—Pakistan Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on Tuesday extended his warm con-gratulation to US President Barack Obama on his re-election as president.

In his message, the prime minister said that Pakistan has always placed the high premium on its relations with the United States.

He said that they con-sider a strong and abiding relationship with the United States to be mutually bene-ficial to their peoples. At the regional and global levels, they share the same strat-egic objectives of peace, prosperity and security, the prime minister said.

The prime minister said that he was looking forward to continuing to work with President Obama and members of his administra-tion in the second term to add further substance and value to this very important and beneficial relationship, a statement from the PM of- fice said.

He said that they were particularly keen to deepen trade, economic and sci-entific collaboration with the United States and such broad-based cooperation will indeed generate mutual goodwill and further the shared interests of the two countries. The prime minis-ter wished the US president success and continued pro-gress and prosperity of the American people—Xinhua

Pupils wait to get nutri-tious lunch at Longdong Primary School in De’e Township of Longan Aut-onomous County of All Nationalities, southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 8 Jan, 2013. Nutritious lunch has been provided for over 11.6 million pupils and students of elemen-tary and middle schools in 40 counties and districts of the region.—Xinhua

160,000 people penalized for disciplinary violations

Beijing, 9 Jan—More than 160,000 people were punished in China for dis-clipinary violations in 2012, according to official figures released Wednesday.

Disciplinary inspection organs last year launched inves-tigations into more than 155,000 such cases based on tip-offs from the public, of which more than 153,000 have been concluded. As a result a total of 160,718 people were punished. The investigations have led to the successful recovery of 7.83 billion yuan (around 1.24 billion US dollars) in economic losses for the country.
Plan underway to upgrade Workers’ Hospital soon

Yangon, 9 Jan.—A plan is underway to upgrade Workers’ Hospital which is reliable for the workers for their health care services.

“Workers’ Hospital will be upgraded soon. Mainly, a plan is underway to construct the patient wards for accommodating more and more patients. Moreover, efforts will be made to facilitate the hospital with necessary machinery to be able to have characteristics of modern hospital. The department concerned will seek international assistance as the hospital is reliable one for the workers,” said an official of Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

Although the Workers’ Hospital is giving good cleanliness and care to the patients, most of the workers consider to receive medical treatment at the Yangon General Hospital, Insein General Hospital, Sanpya Hospital, Yangon East and West General Hospitals, said a GP who gives health care services to the workers.

At present, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security plans construction of the new structures and modern medical equipment to be facilitated at the hospital though the extended buildings have not been constructed yet and the master plan drawn.

Myanma Alinn

Charges for passing of vehicle to be collected on new Strand Road

Yangon, 9 Jan.—The 5.069 miles long new Strand road was constructed from old Thiri Mingala Market in Kyimyindine Township to Thanlyetsoon of Botataung Township as of early 2011.

The new road is 48 feet wide concrete facility. It was built by Asia World Co to withstand 100 tons of loads.

A plan is underway to collect charge for passing of vehicles as of February 2013. These vehicles will be allowed to pass the new road from 1 to 31 January free of charge, according to the announcement of the Yangon City Development Committee.

The vehicle of under 14 feet long will be charged as K15000 and the vehicles of above 20 tons K4000.

The old Strand road will be allowed for small vehicles and passenger buses, not for trucks with loads.

New strand road was built with the purpose for container vehicles, the trucks with logs and the vehicles with loads at the jetties. Moreover, the specific car park is under construction for the trucks with loads beside the new Strand Road.

Myanma Alinn

Funeral Service Association (Yangon) marks 12th anniversary

Yangon, 9 Jan.—The Funeral Service Association (Yangon) held the 12th anniversary at its office on Bo Ba Htoo Road in Ward 42 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 1 January.

At 9 am, the eye surgical operation theatre was opened.

In the afternoon, Chairman of the association U Kyaw Thu and official presented prizes to those who contributed the best to the association in 2012.

After that, entertainment was performed, and social Oscar award presented to the outstanding persons.

Myanma Alinn

Vocational course concludes

Bago, 9 Jan.—Shwe Hti Tachilek-Taunggyi passenger bus line was launched at the highway bus terminal in Ward 1 of Bago Township on 1 January morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Ko Win of Bago Township cut the ribbon to launch the bus line sprinkling with scented water. He cordially greeted the passengers and presented gifts to them.

After the ceremony, five buses started their route for Tachilek.

The bus line uses 20 High Ace, Light Ace and Cobra 415 buses that will ply the Tachilek-Bago route.

Myanma Alinn

New bus line launched in Kengtung

Kengtung, 9 Jan.—Shwe Hti Tachilek-Taunggyi passenger bus line was launched at the highway bus terminal in Ward 1 of Kengtung on 1 January morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Ko Win of Kengtung District cut the ribbon to launch the bus line sprinkling with scented water. He cordially greeted the passengers and presented gifts to them.

After the ceremony, five buses started their route for Tachilek.

The bus line uses 20 High Ace, Light Ace and Cobra 415 buses that will ply the Tachilek-Kengtung-Taunggyi route.

Myanma Alinn

Labutta gets new gravel road

Labutta, 9 Jan.—A ceremony to inaugurate a new gravel road was held at its archway on the road, namely Bo Yazar, in ward 10 of Labutta on 2 January.

The training course will give trainings on basic and advanced tailoring and knitting works to the trainees. —Myanma Alinn

Tube-well launched rural area

Myothit, 9 Jan.—With the assistance of Department for Progress of Rural Region, a four-inch diameter tube-well was launched in

Tube-well launched rural area

Myothit, 9 Jan.—With the assistance of Department for Progress of Rural Region, a four-inch diameter tube-well was launched in the compound of Basic Education High School (Branch) in Myothit Township on 2 January. —Myanma Alinn

New building donated to monastery

Natmauk, 9 Jan.—A ceremony to share merits for donation of new school building was held at YwaU Monastery in Tamalabning Village of Natmauk Township, Magway Region, on 30 December.

The building’s wellthewiser was U Khin Maung Than-Daw Khin Yu May of 5/4 Ward in Shwepyitha Township.

The two-storey building was 25 feet high, 73 feet long and 40 feet wide constituted with 26 rooms. It costs about K100 million. The wellthewiser donated one set of solar battery worth K860,000 for supply of electricity for the monastery round the clock. The water tanks will also be built for the monastery, spending K3 million. —Myanma Alinn

School Family Day observed in Bago Region

Bago, 9 Jan.—The School Family Day of Bago Region was observed at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Bago for 2012-2013 academic year on 3 January, with an address by Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win.

Bago Region Education Director U Saw San Yin reported on the purpose of holding the School Family Day. The patrons of Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and the Region Women’s Affairs Organization donated K100,000 each to the ceremony.

Officials presented prizes to the winners in the region level contests.

The students presented songs and dances to those present.

Later, the Chief Minister and party viewed the booth of the ceremony and book show. —Myanma Alinn
Thursday, 10 January, 2013

Parliament must guide the country to democracy

The sixth regular session of the parliament has just kicked off, with major pieces of legislation such as national plan and budget for the coming fiscal year, special economic zone law and Myanmar citizen investment law expected to be put on table. Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, predicted before the session that the sixth session of the parliament would be a long and busy one. Media law and telecom law are among the legislations expected to be submitted by the government as the country is shaping a well-regulated market economy.

More and more lively and intense discussions were seen in the previous sessions than the earlier ones. The stronger discussions are likely to break out in the current session. As parliamentarians, including the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, toured around their constituencies and the country, they would be able to represent the opinions of the constituents and the entire people. On his tour to Ayeyawady and Bago Regions, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker repeated his call for mass participation in the legislation which is the major political process of the country.

The Hluttaw session also coincides with the ongoing conflict between the government troops and Kachin group in Kachin State, the conflict-prone least development northern part of the country and with convincing signs of improvement in engagements with other ethnic groups, with respective peace deals reached between the government and 10 of 11 ethnic groups at each level. The President also invited Karen National Union to the parliament to strike the lasting peace deal, which is the last of the peace process. We need to watch and wait which role the parliament would play in ending the armed conflicts in Kachin State.

The parliament will also have to pass some laws crucial to the road to democracy and the economic growth of the country in this session. The discussions would become more heated than those in the sessions before, with more sharp divides to become tangible. It would be a promising sign for the success of the country’s democratic transition. The widely accepted attitude in the political process of our country is “setting aside differences”. It does not mean shutting up when we think of the differences. For the spread of democratic practices in our country, we need to frankly speak out our different views, pick out the best one and work in unison. The parliament is expected to become a model of this trend for all the organizations in unison. The parliament is expected to become a model of this trend for all the organizations in unison. The parliament is expected to become a model of this trend for all the organizations in unison. The parliament is expected to become a model of this trend for all the organizations in unison.

Union Minister calls for pragmatic approaches against corruption and bribery

喃喻坪远

The Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi called for pragmatic approaches in the fight against corruption and bribery as he addressed the Workshop on Prevention of Corruption jointly organized by the ministry and Sustainable Development Initiatives Ltd (SDI) on 7 January morning.

The Union minister U Thaung Htaik and officials awarded the winners. The Union Minister presented gifts to doyen sports journalists. The Union Minister and officials held a press conference on preparation on the SEA Games and training of athletes.—MNA

Health research paper reading session continues

喃喻坪远

Myanmar Health Research Paper Reading Session continued for third day in Yangon this morning.

Resource personnel read out papers and answered queries raised by those present at the session followed by an academic seminar. MNA

Winners of SEA Games article and short story contests honoured

喃喻坪远

The Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan thanked contestants of XXVII SEA Games article and short story competitions at the prize presentation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theiddhi Stadium this morning. Deputy Minister for fashion magazine but rather published a near pornography. He also said under-40 percent contents of Media One, The Farmer, the Ad World, the Myanmar, the High Speed Car, the New Blood and the Aesthetics journals were appropriate with applied genres.

After a round of discussion, license to “Seduction Sex Education” magazine was decided to be revoked and six other journals to be warned against their irrelevant contents and to be monitored for one month.

Chairman of the supervisory committee Union Minister U Aung Kyi’s concluding remarks brought the meeting to an end.

CODE OF ETHICS GUIDES BEHAVIOURS AND FUNCTIONS OF JOURNALISTS: UNION INFORMATION MINISTER

Meeting of Printers, Publishers, Registration and Distribution Supervisory Central Committee in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Printers, Publishers, Registration and Distribution Supervisory Central Committee met at Information Ministry here this morning, attended by Union Minister U Aung Kyi and committee members.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of the supervisory committee Union Minister U Aung Kyi listed the responsibilities of the committee as checking the publications whether they meet the regulations and taking actions against printers and publishers that break the regulations. He called upon the media world for emergence of genuine, trusted journalism on Private Estate. There will be freedom of press while code of ethics must be observed on the other hand, said the Union minister who quoted the code of ethics of Society of Professional Journalism (SPI) of US as “seek and make known the truth, leave the least effects on parties concerned, act independently and be responsible”. He also urged to take example from the society of Professional Journalism, again quoting its values as “journalists must be honest and fair in collecting news and respect the news sources, parties concerned and peers; must let people know what they should without regret and commit and assume responsibility for what they report.” He stressed that behaviours and functions of journalists are to be guided by code of ethics though it is not a regulation.

Joint Secretary of supervisory central committee Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Ye Tint explained the functions of the committee, saying that the committee was formed on 20-4-2011. The committee has then relaxed censorship regulations step by step and all the publications were allowed to go publishing without pre-publication censorship of Scrutiny and Registration Department since 20-August, 2012. Only after they hit newstand, publications were asked to send to the department to keep as records.

The submission of applications by the printers and publishers has been made available on line and permissions were granted since November, 2012, the managing director said. He also said interim Myanmar Press Council was informed of unethical writings in periodicals as well. The council issued 15 fact code of ethics on 17-9-2012, encouraging the men of letter abide by code of ethics, he said. The managing director also said 220 magazines and 310 journals were in circulation in 2012. He also said one magazine and six journals went beyond the genres they originally admitted to, taking ‘Seduction Sex Education’ Magazine as an example which applied for host’s growth or vice versa? No idea! We just need to make our country more attractive.

Is tourist influx for host’s growth or vice versa?

Peace process.

Their Tun

MNA

Is tourist influx for host’s growth or vice versa?

No idea! We just need to make our country more attractive.

Peace process.

Their Tun

MNA
President U Thein Sein receives Laotian Public Works and Transport Minister and party

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister of Public Works and Transport of Laos People’s Democratic Republic Mr. Sommad Pholsena at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here at 4 pm today.

Present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Kyaw Lwin and officials concerned. The visiting delegation led by the Minister of Public Works and Transport of Laos was accompanied by Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nilath Sayarat.

They held discussions on sooner completion of Laos-Myanmar Friendship Bridge that would promote bilateral friendship and cooperation, and upgrading of the motorway that can lead to Vietnam and Cambodia via the bridge. MNA

General Hla Htay Win receives Deputy D-G of ONA of Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win received a delegation led by Deputy Director-General Dr Jim Hagan of the Office of National Assessments of Australia at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this morning. Also present at the call were the Chief of Staff (Navy) and senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office. The Australian delegation was accompanied by Senior Assessor Dr Carolyn Bull and Australian Ambassador Ms Bronte Nadine Moules.

They cordially exchanged views on participation of Myanmar Tatmadaw in current reform process of Myanmar. After the call, they posed for documentary photo.—MNA

Rehabilitation of displaced people in Rakhine State discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay held a meeting here this morning with officials from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office. An Indonesian delegation led by Foreign Minister of Indonesia Dr R M Marty M Natalegawa held talks at Rakhine State government office yesterday over the conflicts and losses in Rakhine State and rehabilitation of internally displaced people in the state.

During the meeting, the Indonesian foreign minister expressed his support for the Myanmar government and thanked the government for helping him understand more over the situation in the state. His visit was aimed at fulfilling the current needs of the displaced people of the two communities, he added.

He also pledged to assist in providing the basic needs such as food, education, health, economy and job opportunities of the displaced people of the two communities, and to overcome the potential challenges in coordination with the Myanmar government.

He also said that Indonesia would provide US$1 million as aid to the displaced people.

After the meeting, the Union minister and the Indonesian foreign minister visited Mingan and Ohndawgyi relief camps.

The Indonesian delegation left there for Yangon at 10.30 am.—MNA

Lanpi has high potential to become an eco-tourism destination: Union minister

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun together with Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thet Thein Zin, President of Italy-based Conservation of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (OKOS) Dr Rossella Rossi and experts visited islands along Taninthayi Coast on 6 and 7 January.

The Union minister and party visited Lanpi National Marine Park in Bokpyin Township in Kawthoung District.

The Union minister in meeting with officials and staff of the park, called for preserving the ecological balance of the place, noting its promising potential as a destination of eco-tourism. He also inspected conservation of natural mangrove forests in Bhiauw region of Lanpi Park.—MNA

Tencate Geosynthetic and Alliance Stars agree technical cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Tencate Geosynthetic Asia SDN BHD Company of Holland and Alliance Stars Engineering Company of Myanmar signed agreement on technical cooperation for improvement of irrigation systems at Myanmar International Convention Centre here this morning, in the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing then visited beans seeds production farm near Chaing Village in Dekkhaingyi Township. The Union minister on the occasion called for swift distribution of 2000 units of tillers and threshers to regions topping the list of priority in transforming mechanized farming from conventional one.

Pilot projects have been in full swing across the Union for transformation to mechanized farming and plans are under way to distribute 1300 viss of beans and pulses seeds that can yield 100 baskets of beans per acre. MNA
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No. 11/2013
12th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(9 January, 2013)
Formation of Central Committee and Work
Committee for Development of Small and
Medium Enterprises

Central Committee and Work Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises have been formed with the persons shown hereunder for further development of small and medium enterprises, pivotal for national economy development and promotion of social-economic status of the people.

1. Central Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises

(a) President
(b) Vice-President (1)
(c) Vice-President (2)
(d) Union Minister for Border Affairs
(e) Union Minister for Information
(f) Union Minister for Cooperatives
(g) Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation
(h) Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries
(i) Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology
(j) Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry
(k) Union Minister for Electric Power
(l) Union Minister for Energy
(m) Union Minister for Industry
(n) Union Minister for Commerce
(o) Union Minister for Education
(p) Union Minister for Health
(q) Union Minister for Mines
(r) Union Minister for Finance and Revenue
(s) Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development
(t) Union Minister for Science and Technology
(u) Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism
(v) Attorney-General of the Union
(w) Auditor-General of the Union
(x) Region/State Chief Ministers
(y) President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
(z) Union Minister at the President Office (3)
(aa) Union Minister at the President Office (5)

2. The duties and responsibilities of Central Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises are as follows:-
(a) To formulate and promulgate laws, regulations and procedures for SMEs development;
(b) To encourage under Section 36 of the constitution development of small and medium enterprises which take the major portion in such economic forces as State-owned and local organizations, cooperative associations, joint ventures, and private businesses.
(c) To ensure that government and private banks effectively provide financial capital required for SMEs development;
(d) To establish a network with respective local and foreign organizations to meet technical requirements;
(e) To encourage development of the markets of small and medium enterprises from rural to urban areas;
(f) To make small and medium enterprises as supporting industries for local and foreign investments to help healthy development of market chain;
(g) To plan for nurturing human resources required for SMEs development;
(h) To set up committees and subcommittees and assign duties as necessary.

3. Work Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises

(a) Vice-President (2) Chairman
(b) Union Minister at the President Office (5) Member
(c) Union Minister for Commerce Member
(d) Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Member
(e) Union Minister for Science and Technology Member
(f) Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Member
(g) Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Member
(h) Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology Member
(i) Deputy Minister for Electric Power Member
(j) Deputy Minister for Energy Member
(k) Deputy Minister for Education Member
(l) Deputy Minister for Health Member
(m) Vice-President Member

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Secretary

President Office
Notification No. (12/ 2013)
12th Waning of Nadaw 1374 ME
(9 January, 2013)
Formation of National Energy Management Committee and of Energy Management Committee

For ensuring the development of energy and electrical sectors, National Energy Management Committee and Energy Management Committee are formed as follow:-

1. National Energy Management Committee

(a) Vice-President (2) Patron
(b) Union Minister for Energy Chairman
(c) Union Minister for Electric Power Vice-Chairman

2. Energy Management Committee

(a) Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Member
(b) Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Member
(c) Union Minister for Industry Member
(d) Union Minister for Commerce Member
(e) Union Minister for Mines Member
(f) Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Member
(g) Union Minister for Science and Technology Member
(h) Dr Myint Soe, Senior Geologist of Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department under the Ministry of Mines Member
(k) U Win Khaing, Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society Member
(l) U Aung Myint, General Secretary of Renewable Energy Association Myanmar Member
(m) Deputy Minister for Energy Secretary

See page 11
Formation of National Energy Management ...  
(from page 10)

(n) Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Electric Power

(2) Duties and functions of National Energy Management Committee are as follow:-

(a) To formulate National Energy Policy based on energy demand and production and fulfillment of energy requirement on energy matters of the State,

(b) To formulate Energy Regulation for ensuring implementation of energy development of the State in accord with National Energy Policy,

(c) To supervise the facts and figures on energy for ensuring qualified and accurate statistics,

(d) To coordinate with Privatization Commission and Myanmar Investment Commission for changing the ratio between state-owned and private-owned sectors through privatization,

(e) For development of electrical sector, to fulfill the current requirements by laying down short-term plans,

(f) To lay down long-term plans based on sustainable development of industrial sector of the State and GDP to be able to meet the increased demand for electricity,

(g) To generate electricity with the use of coal as in many other countries as there has been greater demand for electricity and to use Clean Coal Technology (CCT) aimed at placing emphasis on environmental conservation,

(h) To strive for generating electricity depending on regions and topographical situation with the use of solar power, hydro power, wind power, geothermal, bio mass and bio fuel to be able to meet the public demand for electricity,

(i) To formulate necessary measures for adequate supply of energy for development of industrial sector,

(j) To take systematic measures in laying down development plans to be able to cover three sectors as energy, industrial and electrical sectors are mutually dependent,

(k) To prioritize and supervise oil and natural gas and natural resources to be able to meet domestic demands,

(l) To carry out oil and natural gas production through local and foreign investments in accord with international regulations,

(m) To sell value-added petrochemical products rather than unrefined ones,

(n) To coordinate natural gas and electricity generation in order to meet Urea fertilizer demand of the agriculture sector,

(o) To adopt convenient pricing policy for both consumers and investors depending on international prices,

(p) To explore environmental impact and social impact assessment ahead of the implementation and to release information the people should be informed of,

(q) To enforce energy sufficiency ambition in industry, transport and household sectors and cut energy wastages,

(r) To invite foreign and domestic investments in energy development and increase FDI in accord with international norms,

(s) To conduct necessary assessment to participate in civil nuclear energy activities in ASEAAN,

(t) To adopt National Energy Security Strategy that envisages the future generations, apart from the current energy issues,

(u) To make arrangement for drafting necessary law, rules and regulations to be able to implement in accordance with the National Energy Policy and National Energy Security Strategy

(v) To invite the President Office (3), President Office (5), Union ministers, representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw (Member of the National Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee) and (Member of the Mineral and Natural Resources Affairs Committee).

(3) Energy Management Committee

(a) Union Minister  
Ministry of Energy Chairman

(b) Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Member

(c) Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry Member

(d) Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Electric Power Member

(e) Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Energy Member

(f) Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Industry Member

(g) Director-General  
Ministry of Mines Member

(h) Director-General  
Ministry of Science and Technology Member

(i) U Pe Kyi  
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Member

(j) Dr Thein Tun  
Director-General (Retd) Ministry of Electric Power Member

(k) Daw Kyaw Kyaw Win  
Director (Retd) Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise Ministry of Energy Member

(l) U Thaung Win  
Chairman Energy and Renewable Energy Committee Myanmar Engineering Society Member

(m) U Win Kyiing  
Member of the Central Executive Committee Myanmar Renewable Energy Association Member

(n) The personnel nominated by the chairman  
Secretary

(4) Tasks of the Energy Management Committee are as follow:

(a) to participate in laying down the energy development policy and plans of the National Energy Management Committee

(b) to coordinate with authorities concerned for changing the ratio between state-owned and private-owned sectors through privatization,

(c) to systematically link the Energy Plan and Industrial Development Plan as the energy sector and industrial development, which are necessary for becoming an industrialized country, are depending each other,

(d) to adopt the reform plans to be able to upgrade the situation of selling raw materials of natural resources to producing and selling value-added products,

(e) to carry out check, recheck, counter check in the field trips as statistics, facts and figures are important for making policy making and decision making regarding the projects related to the energy sector; and to carry out feasibility study to be able to get the correct facts and figures and information

(f) to seek advices and cooperation from the responsible personnel involved in the energy sector so as to get yearly approximate energy demand in terms of short-term and long-term.

(g) to lay down objectives and adopt rules and regulations for short-term and long-term implementation in accordance with the energy development policy laid down by the National Energy Management Committee.

(h) to carry out yearly review over the weak and strong points when implementing objectives in accordance with short-term and long-term rules and regulations, and to rewrite the rules and regulations if necessary.

(i) to lay down objectives and strategies after making assessment to opportunities and limitations regarding the tasks for energy development.

(j) to devise plan to improve and modernize the investment of the Union government, foreign and domestic investment, region/state investment,

(k) to formulate environmental conservation laws and rules to regulate energy projects to minimize environmental and social impacts,

(l) to urgently recover losses caused by unprecedented natural disasters and adopt energy reserve policy,

(m) to adopt pricing policy and form pricing committee for purchase and sale of energy product,

(n) to set work procedures to allow local entrepreneurs to hold stakes in foreign investments in coordination with scrutinized companies and organizations,

(o) to lay down plans to attract foreign and domestic investments in renewable energy projects such as solar energy, wind power, geothermal energy, biomass and biofuel projects,

(p) to regulate energy development projects by foreign and domestic investors in accord with energy development rules and regulations,

(q) to seek technology and management assistance from experienced international organizations in cooperation with local experts, hire consultancies, and review and adopt management and technology standards and norms.

(r) to educate the staff and those from private sector through media or workshop with the support of foreign and domestic experts and send them to local and foreign technological trainings,

(s) to invest in energy development under the leadership of National Energy Management Committee, tapping utmost financial and technological assistsances from international monetary institutions,

(t) to gather information for effective use of energy, set plans and projects for effective utilization of energy, and adopt yearly, short-term and long-term objectives and rules and regulations for drafting the project,

(u) to gather information for effective use of energy, adopt plans and projects for effective utilization of energy, and coordinate implementation of the project, and

(v) to seek ways and means to implement generating electricity through civil nuclear energy sector in cooperation with regional and international organizations.
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No. 13/2013
12th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(9 January 2013)

Reconstitution of Myanmar National Culture Central Committee

1. In order to carry out renovation task with momentum after designating ancient cultural zones and to discover and preserve ancient cultural heritages, the Myanmar National Culture Central Committee has been reconstituted with the following persons:
   (a) Union Minister
       Ministry of Culture (Chairman)
   (b) Union Minister
       Ministry of President Office (1)
   (c) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Home Affairs
   (d) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Border Affairs
   (e) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Foreign Affairs
   (f) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Information
   (g) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Religious Affairs
   (h) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
   (i) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Education
   (j) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Construction
   (k) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Hotels and Tourism
   (l) Director-General
       President Office
   (m) Director-General
       Union Government Office
   (n) Director-General
       Union Attorney-General Office
   (o) Director-General
       Settlement and Land Records Department
   (p) Director-General
       Forest Department
   (q) Director-General
       National Archives Department
   (r) Director-General
       Fine Arts Department
   (s) Director-General
       Historical Research Department
   (t) Rector
       National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon)
   (u) Rector
       National Culture and Fine Arts University (Mandalay)
   (v) Rector
       Anthropology Department, Yangon University
   (w) Dr Toe Hla
       Vice-Chairman, Myanmar Historical Commission
   (x) U Kyaw Win
       Director-General (Retd), Ministry of Culture

   (y) Chairman
       Myanmar Traditional Arts and Crafts Association
   (z) Chairman
       Myanmar Artists and Artistes Association
   (aa) Dr Kyaw Latt
       Architect, Myanmar Architects Association
   (bb) U Hsan Oo
       Architect, Myanmar Architects Society
   (cc) U Than Myint
       Myanmar Engineering Society
   (dd) Deputy Minister
       Ministry of Culture
   (ee) Director-General
       Joint-Secretary, Archeology, National Museum and Library Department

2. The functions of the central committee are as follows:-
   (a) To designate regions out of ancient regions that should be regarded as cultural heritage regions
   (b) To make a list of ancient regions, ancient buildings and ancient artifacts that are assumed to be regarded as Myanmar cultural heritages by the government
   (c) To restrict the land use for residential buildings, roads, motor roads, farms for livelihood and other business in cultural regions and adjacent regions that need to be protected
   (d) To engage as necessary in formulating, amending and revoking laws and bylaws
   (e) To lay down policies for preservation of cultural heritages in cooperation with international governments and organizations
   (f) To engage in preservation, exposing and conducting research on cultural heritage regions
   (g) To lay down policies in uplifting national prestige and integrity, safeguarding cultural heritages and national characters and dynamism of patriotism
   (h) To preserve fundamental traditional cultures of Myanmar national races to ensure the youth are interested in and value and cherish traditional cultures of Myanmar national races;
   (i) To constantly observe, discover, preserve and promote traditional cultural performing arts of Myanmar national races, traditional arts of ethnic communities and ten arts and crafts and so forth;
   (j) To try for development and higher quality of cultural arts Myanmar national races;
   (k) To enable tangible and intangible cultural heritages in Myanmar to be put on world’s cultural heritage list;
   (l) To categorize the tangible and intangible cultural heritages recorded and submitted by respective departments into three classes—world’s cultural heritagelevel, national cultural heritage level and region/state’s cultural heritage level;
   (m) To set the levels of museums in regions and states depending on collected items on display, display pattern, level of educative performance of the museum to local people and structure of the museum building;
   (n) To discover and record cultural customs that are nearly extinction in order to safeguard and preserve traditional customs of national races;
   (o) To adopt policies for drafting and enacting law on establishment of national museum and other kinds of museums;
   (p) To adopt policies for drafting and enacting safeguarding national intangible cultural heritages;
   (q) To expand the numbers of historical site landmark gardens, archaeological site landmark gardens;

3. The Notification No. 30/2011 dated 20-4-2011 of the President Office was abrogated by this letter.

Sd/Thin Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT for YRG Authority Computer Training
Course opened

YANGON, 9 Jan—IT for YRG Authority Computer Training Course was opened at Yangon Region Government Office here this morning.

Ortheoecassion, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe called for the departmental personnel to apply e-Government system in IT Age.

The Region Chief Minister, Speaker of the Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win and Judge of High Court of the Region U Win Swe presented certificates of honour to sponsors of the course.

The 27-week course is being attended by the Region Government and state level departmental personnel.

Tower Chairman U Than Htut, Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe and Chairman of Great Father Land Co., Ltd U Kyaw Myint cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

The 23-storey Royal Hsuh Hoo Pan Tower is complete with classy offices, shopping mall, hotel, motel and two advanced cinemas.

Donate Blood

MRTV adjust evening news hours

NAW PTH TAW, 9 Jan—Myanmar Radio and Television, the state-run broadcaster, has changed its news hours in response to suggestions of viewers.

Long news broadcasting grind was subject to complaints of boring views which force MRTV to change its shifts. MRTV broadcasts local news for 15 minutes starting from 6 pm and 8 pm and for 30 minutes starting from 10 pm from 9 January as the oldest TV station in Myanmar is starting to redefine itself as Public Service Broadcasting.—MNA
Israeli media launches pre-election campaign ads

JERUSALEM, 9 Jan—Television campaign advertisements will begin in Israel Tuesday evening, two weeks before polling stations open across the country, with both veteran and new parties vying for the hearts and minds of voters in parliamentary elections that promise no major electoral drama.

State-owned Channel 1 and commercial television stations 10 and 2 each will broadcast one-hour nightly segments of campaign ads; Israel Radio on Tuesday began airing ads three times a day, while Army Radio will be airing them for the first time in the station’s history.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose Likud party is running on a joint ticket with former Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman’s Yisrael Beiteinu, will tout the foreign policy achievements of his government under the slogan “When Netanyahu speaks, the world listens,” Israeli Yedioth Aharonot daily reported early Tuesday.

Habayit Hayehudi (The Jewish Home), a new party that purports to offer a more hawkish alternative to Likud regarding settlement construction, will run short bursts of online video interviews with Internet viewers asked to share their view on the concept of a “Jewish home.”

The campaign ad of Tzipi Livni’s new center-left party Hatnua, which has had poor showings in recent public opinion polls, reportedly adopted a “hip and innovative” approach inspired by Youtube with the primary message to voters: “A Netanyahu government is the fear, Livni is hope.”

The Central Elections Committee, which sets the guidelines for pre-election campaigning and supervises their enforcement, this year allotted seven minutes of air time for each party in every one-hour broadcasting block. Among the Israeli Arab parties, Balad’s televised ad decisively attacks “the big-stick and anti-democratic legislation” of Israel’s radical right, while lawmaker Ahmed Tibi’s Ra’am-Ta’al party will court its constituents with the promise to work toward abolishing the state’s discrimination against Arabs and full social equality for the country’s “Palestinian minority,” according to Yedioth Aharonot.—Xinhua

Two birds play on branches in the aviary of Hong Kong Park in south China’s Hong Kong, on 8 Jan, 2013. The aviary, covering an area of 3,000 square meters, is located on a valley in the south of the park.—Xinhua

The design sketch shows the scenery of the “Yellow River Mother” cultural theme park, which is located in Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu Province. —Xinhua

Tunisia frees man held over attack on US consulate in Libya

TUNIS, 9 Jan—Tunisia has freed, for lack of evidence, a Tunisian man who had been suspected of involvement in an Islamist militant attack in Libya last year in which the US ambassador was killed, his lawyer said on Tuesday.

Ali Harzi was one of two Tunisians named in October by the Daily Beast website as having been detained in Libya over the violence in which Christopher Stevens, the US ambassador to Libya, and three other American officials were killed.

“The judge decided to free Harzi and he is free now,” lawyer Anoura Awled Ali told Reuters. “The release came in response to our request to free him for lack of evidence and after he underwent the hearing with American investigators as a witness in the case.” A Tunisian justice ministry spokesman confirmed the release of Harzi but declined to elaborate.

A month ago, Harzi refused to be interviewed by visiting US FBI investigators over the September 11 assault on the US consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi.

The Daily Beast reported that shortly after the attacks began, Harzi posted an update on an unspecified social media site about the fighting. It said Harzi was on his way to Syria when he was detained in Turkey at the behest of US authorities, and that he was affiliated with a militant group in North Africa.—Xinhua

What you can do today, don’t postpone until tomorrow.

The New Light of Myanmar

New Light of Myanmar

Thursday, 10 January, 2013

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CLAiMS DAY NOTICE
MV FU YANG SHAN VOY NO (104)
Consignee of cargo carried on MV FU YANG Shan VOY NO (104) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 and 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR/MSC COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAiMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAI VOY NO (487)
Consignee of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAI VOY NO (487) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 and 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR/MSC ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Crowds of Filipinos pray to statue for health, blessings

MANILA, 9 Jan—Hundreds of thousands of barefoot Filipinos circled around a black statue of Jesus Christ believed to bring miracles to the faithful, seeking answers to prayers in a day-long procession through old Manila on Wednesday.

Roman Catholic devotees flocked around the carriage with the wooden, life-sized statue known as the “Black Nazarene” as it crawled through the city, praying that a slight touch would bless them, healing their illnesses and those of their relatives.

Others participated to give thanks for answered prayers, such as a new job, a baby and even winning lotteries. “Everyone we prayed for, He granted,” said Girlyie Tan, a mother of four, as she squeezed through crowds to get closer to the statue. “My children -- they used to study in a public school, now they’re all in private schools.”

Outlookers threw white towels and handkerchiefs to those on the carriage for them to wipe on the statue, which depicts Jesus kneeling with a heavy cross, in the hope of carrying away some of its healing powers.

The procession has been celebrated in the capital of the Philippines, nearly 90 percent of whose population is Roman Catholic, for more than 200 years. The Black Nazarene is also paraded through the city streets on Good Friday.

It is not known why the statue, which was carved in Mexico, turned black. There are myths that the original statue donated by Spanish priests was burned as a fire erupted on the ship that carried it to the Philippines in the early 17th century. Police estimated that around 500,000 people gathered for an early morning mass, and about half of them walked behind the statue at the start of the parade. Crowds were expected to swell to an estimated 10 million as devotees from all over the country flocked to the annual festival.

Cornelio Cajampit has joined the procession every year for the last 15 years, ever since surviving colon cancer. “Even if it’s a struggle, I pray that my life be prolonged,” he said, adding that his health had improved since he began praying to the statue. “As long as I’m still capable, I will come to this feast.”—Reuters

The 125th Anniversary of the Hindu Temple Sri Sri Durga Bari, No.307, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon, which was founded in the year 1888 will be celebrated from 16th January 2013 to 21st January 2013 in a befitting manner.

The INAUGURATION CEREMONY will be held at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, the 17th January 2013.

All are cordially invited.

Celebration Committee

Advertisement & General

What you can do today, don’t postpone until tomorrow.
Dede could be next to join Corinthians

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 Jan — Vasco and Brazil defender Dede could be the next player to join Corinthians.

During a radio interview on Tuesday Corinthians Director Roberto de Andrade suggested the Paulista outfit could sign the 24-year-old if the circumstances were right. Andrade however reaffirmed his club are yet to make an approach for the player.

“We haven’t spoken to anyone yet, and we’ll wait for someone to come to us. If Vasco are interested in selling they can get in touch with us,” he said. Dede has been a long-term target for Corinthians and a number of European clubs in recent months after a string of excellent displays.

But owing to Vasco’s asking price and their unwillingness to part with their most prized asset an agreement has not been forthcoming.

The 41-year-old announced on Monday night that he is willing to make a return to coaching.

Among the speculations over Guardiola’s next destination, break his silence and hinted he hoped the Spaniard to take over from Massimiliano Allegri.

“I always tried to bring (Guardiola) to Milan, because over the last (few) years Barcelona played the best football. We contacted him, but he said he wanted to stay in a sabbatical,” said Berlusconi.

“He said that at Milan he can get a strong adoration towards me, and appreciation for the Lake Como, where I could offer a beautiful villa. At this moment, I have to say the percentage for him to come to Milan is very low.”

Donald to make Malaysian Open debut in March

MUMBAI, 9 Jan — World number two Luke Donald will make his debut at the Malaysian Open this year, organizers said on Tuesday.

The tournament, co-sanctioned by the Asian and European tours, is held at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club from 21-24 March.

“Donald’s presence, like many other top players we have had in the past, will not only draw the crowd but also strengthen Malaysia’s standing on the global golfing map,” said Megat Zafaruddin Megat Mohamad Nor, chairman of sponsors Maybank, in a statement.

Rory McIlroy, Louis Oosthuizen, Martin Kaymer and Charl Schwartzel are among the leading golfers who have played in previous editions of the tournament which this year will have an increased prize fund of $2.75 million, up $250,000 on 2012.

Johnson wins windswept PGA season-opener at Kapalua

TORONTO, 9 Jan — It required a lot patience and overtime but American Dustin Johnson opened the PGA Tour season with a comfortable victory at the windswept Tournament of Champions in Hawaii on Tuesday.

Johnson, who had a three-shot overnight lead, fired a five-under 67 for a 16-under 202 total on another blustery day at the Kapalua Resort to finish four shots clear of defending champion Steve Stricker (69). “Obviously it gives me a lot of confidence going into this year,” Johnson, the first player since Tiger Woods to win at least one tournament in six consecutive years straight out of college, told reporters. “I’m very pleased to come out and get a win this week. I played very good golf the last two days.”

“It’s tough when you have a three-shot lead to stay aggressive. I just hit a couple of bad drives that cost me a few shots but other than that I played really good golf today.”

The weather-hit event was trimmed to three rounds and forced to a rare Tuesday finish because of relentless howling winds. The elite field of champions from last year’s PGA Tour completed 36 holes on Monday after play had been abandoned the previous three days because of strong winds.

Stricker, who carded an error-free round, got to within a shot of his US Ryder Cup team mate with five holes to play but could not keep up the rally as Johnson went on to collect his seventh career title.

American cyclist has conducted since receiving his ban and being stripped of his seven Tour de France titles. “Armstrong will address the alleged doping scandal, years of accusations of cheating, and charges of lying about the use of performance-enhancing drugs throughout his storied cycling career,” the network said in a statement.

On Saturday, the New York Times reported that Armstrong hoped to persuade anti-doping officials to allow him to resume competition in athletic events that adhere to the World Anti-Doping Code, under which the Texan is currently subject to a lifetime ban.

ARMSTRONG interview

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Monaco players set 70-point tie-break record

NEW YORK, 9 Jan — A record of 70 points for the longest tie-break in professional tennis has been set at a Futures event in Florida when Monaco’s world number 636 Benjamin Balleret beat unranked compatriot Guillaume Couillard 36-34.

“We haven’t been able to find a tie-break that went longer than this,” the International Tennis Federation said on their Twitter account on Tuesday of the marathon tie-break which took place on Sunday. The record may not be official because of the lack of a chair umpire.

The previous record for the longest tie-break in a singles match was 38 points. It was reached three times, the latest in 1997 when Goran Ivanisevic beat Greg Rusedski in the decisive set of their encounter at the Queen’s tournament in London. Grand slam winners Bjorn Borg and Andy Roddick have also won 38-point tie-breaks during their careers.

Balleret and Couillard established the match in the first set of their qualifying third round game at the Plantation Futura event, the lowest category of professional tennis. Balleret, 29, reached a career high of 204 and in 2006 he played 17-times grand slam winner Roger Federer in the Monte Carlo Masters while Couillard, 37, represented Monaco in the principality’s Davis Cup outing against Morocco last April.
Alabama’s Saban shows down talk of move to NFL

MIAMI, 9 Jan -- University of Alabama head coach Nick Saban, showered with acclaim after a fourth national title, said on Tuesday he has no desire to return to the National Football League and that the college game is where he belongs. Saban’s Crimson Tide won their second successive national title on Monday and third in four years with a 42-14 hammering of Notre Dame. The win confirms the 61-year-old as the most successful active coach in college football -- he captured his maiden title with Louisiana State University in the 2003 season.

Then came an unhappy two seasons with the NFL’s Miami Dolphins that ended in 2006, but despite his well documented disappointment there has remained speculation that Saban could be tempted back into the pro game. With five NFL teams currently having vacancies for a head coach that speculation, not surprisingly, re-emerged following Alabama’s second consecutive championship. “How many times do you think I’ve been asked to put it to rest? And I’ve put it to rest, and you continue to ask it. So I’m going to say it today, that you know, I think somewhere along the line you’ve got to choose,” he said.

“You learn a lot from the experiences of what you’ve done in the past,” added Saban, before reflecting on the two seasons he spent in Miami after being tempted out of the college game by then Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga. “I came to the Miami Dolphins, what eight years ago for the best owner, the best person that I’ve ever had the opportunity to work for. And in the two years that I was here, had a very, very difficult time thinking that I could impact the organization in the way that I wanted to or the way that I was able to in college,” he said before highlighting some of the reasons he preferred working with student athletes. “It was very difficult for me, because there’s a lot of parity in the NFL, there’s a lot of rules in the NFL. People say you can draft the players that you want to draft; you can draft the players that you want to draft. I was able to in college,” Saban explained before re-emphasizing his belief in the college game. “I was able to in college,” Saban said.

More withdrawals hit Australian Open warm-ups

SYDNEY, 9 Jan -- Gilles Simon, Radek Stepanek and Kei Nishikori all pulled out of Australian Open warm-up events on Wednesday as fields at the tournaments in the week running up to the year’s first grand slam continued to be depleted by injury. Frenchman Simon, who sustained a neck injury playing doubles on Tuesday, and Czech Stepanek withdrew from the men’s draw at the Sydney International, while Japan’s Nishikori was forced to pull out of the Kooyong Classic with a knee injury.

Nishikori was the second player to withdraw from the eight-man field at Kooyong before the tournament got underway on Wednesday with Argentinian Juan Monaco blaming a hand injury for his pull-out on Tuesday. “The week before the slams, players don’t want to take any risks, which is normal but sad also for this one because Sydney is a very nice tournament and deserves to have a very nice draw,” Sydney second seed 2011 champion Simon told reporters.

“We just try the maximum to be ready and if we feel it’s too difficult to be on the court ... I mean, for me today, there is no point in me going out and losing 6-2 6-2 6-2,” Simon added.

Fish vendor dies in C Philippine robbery

ILOILO CITY, 9 Jan -- A fish vendor died while two others were seriously injured in Tuesday’s robbery at the central Philippine Province of Iloilo, police said on Wednesday. Police Chief Inspector Danilo Delos Santos said that based on related reports, the victims were on their way home when two groups of motorcycle riding men waylaid them and tried to rob them. The victims tried to fight back but they were shot by one of the suspects. The suspects then ran away leaving the victims injured. The two injured are being treated at the Western Visayas Medical Centre. The police is investigating the incident. —Xinhua

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan -- The year of 2012 marked the warmest year on record in the contiguous United States and also the second most extreme year on record for the country, according to US federal data released on Tuesday.

Scientists of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that the year of 2012 in the US consisted of the fourth warmest winter, a record warm spring, the second warmest summer and a warmer-than-average autumn. Although the last four months of 2012 did not bring the same unusual warmth as the first eight months of the year, the September through December temperatures were warm enough for 2012 to remain the record warmest year by a wide margin. The average temperature for the contiguous US for 2012 was about 12.9 degrees Celsius, which is almost 0.6 degrees above the previous record set in 1998 and nearly 1.8 degrees above the 20th century average, according to the records dated back to 1895.

The average precipitation total for the contiguous US last year was 674.9 mm, 65.3 mm below average, making 2012 the 15th driest year on record for the country. The NOAA’s US Climate Extrme Index also indicated that last year was the second most extreme year on record for the country. The index, which evaluated extremes in temperature and precipitation, as well as landfalling tropical cyclones, was nearly twice the average value and second only to 1998.

The federal agency said last year saw 11 natural disasters that created at least $1 billion dollars in damage, including droughts, heatwaves, major wildfires, and hurricanes Sandy and Isaac. —Xinhua

Oakley challenges Nike over McIlroy move

LONDON, 9 Jan -- American sunglasses maker Oakley has launched legal action to try to retain its sponsorship of world number one golfer Rory McIlroy who is set to become the new face of sportswear giant Nike. US PGA champion McIlroy is poised to rubber-stamp a 10-year deal with US company Nike worth as much as $250 million according to media reports.

Nike is set to supply the 23-year-old Northern Irish clubs and have its name or logo on his clothing in an exclusive deal. However, Oakley, owned by Italy’s Luxottica, is challenging the move and started legal action in its home state of California last month. “Oakley’s contract with Rory has a right of first refusal that permits us to retain Rory as an Oakley endorser by matching any offer he receives covering our products,” the company said in a statement to Reuters.

“It is a concern that Oakley is challenging the US Open champion,” said a source earlier on Tuesday that its five-year sponsorship with 2011 US Open champion McIlroy had ended, the latest indication that confirmation of the Nike deal was imminent. “Jumi-

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New Light of Myanmar

Thursday, 10 January, 2013
Speaker urges MPs to coordinate, cooperate with authorities to help address challenges of people

During today’s meeting, five foreign visits paid by the Deputy Speaker and MPs of Pyithu Hluttaw were put on record. Four questions were raised and answered.

U Win Sein, Chairman of the Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, reported on the answers of the respective ministries by mail to the remaining questions of the fifth session.

During the previous session of Pyithu Hluttaw, out of starred 341 questions, 85 questions were raised. Pyithu Hluttaw have received answers to 244 questions, out of the remaining 256 starred questions, so far from the respective ministries and there are only eight questions which have not yet answered.

Pyithu Hluttaw have received answers to 247 questions, out of non-starred 256 questions, from the respective ministries and there are only nine questions which have not yet answered.

During today’s session, the Chief Justice of the Union submitted a bill revoking the Custodian of Movable Property Act 1945 and Daw Tin Nwe Oo of the Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency a bill revoking the 1933 Municipal Law.

The Bill Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw discussed the Disaster Management Bill, treasury bonds bill, a bill amending the transfer of property act, a bill revoking the Custodian of Movable Property Act 1945 and a bill revoking the 1933 Municipal Law.

Regarding the Disaster Management Bill submitted by the Union Government, U T Khun Myat, Chairman of the Bill Committee, said that the Disaster Management Law would help to carry out rescue, rehabilitation and environmental conservation tasks speedily and independently in the country.

There are eight chapters and 20 sections in the bill. The law is aimed at setting up national level committee and regional committees to speed up the disaster management tasks systematically and effectively in an attempt to reduce losses and damages caused by disasters, encouraging coordination and cooperation among governmental departments, NGOs and INGOs and overseas organizations to carry out disaster management tasks, encouraging conservation of environment when it is damaged by disasters and assisting in education, health, socio-economy and livelihood of the people.

The second day session continues tomorrow. 

Proposals calling for cultivating of democratic practices in BEHSs, fully lifting of US sanctions against Myanmar submitted

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Jan—In his greetings at the sixth session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will discuss the important national projects and budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and approve the tax bill, said Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann. In his opening address of the sixth regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw here today, Thura U Shwe Mann also called for coordination and cooperation between the Hluttaw representatives and authorities responsible for administration and judiciary to help settle challenges of the people apart from discussions, submitting proposals and legislation at the Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives take affirmation in the presence of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Jan—In his greetings at the six-day session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint urged those present to strive for completion of ongoing tasks at the Hluttaw session where it is planned to pass of National Planning Bill and Union Government Budget Bill. Pyithu Hluttaw representatives of respective committees would be allowed to focus on their committee-wise matters after the Hluttaw sessions, he added.

The Speaker called on Hluttaw representatives to shoot short-to-the-point questions in accord with the provisions stated in Amyotha Hluttaw Bylaw 126 (e) in which those concerned are to reply short answers.

Moderate earthquake hits 19 miles west of Htamanthi

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Jan—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.9 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, about 19 miles west of Htamanthi, about 240 miles northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 8 hr 11 min 22 sec M.S.T today, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced.

An Amyotha Hluttaw representative takes affirmation at Amyotha Hluttaw. —MNA