SMEs lie at the core of national economic growth in developing countries and some developed countries: President U Thein Sein

President U Thein Sein delivers an address at Small and Medium Enterprises Development Central Committee meeting at Presidential Palace.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Chairman of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Central Committee President U Thein Sein called for encouraging and protecting domestic small and medium enterprises as he addressed the committee meeting at Presidential Palace here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, central committee members Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, region/state chief ministers, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and others.

The President stressed the need for invitation of foreign investments during the course of economic reforms as a prerequisite for economic development before capital and technology and human resources are sufficient. He called for higher competitiveness of small and medium business at home through enhancing capacity and productivity in order not to harm interests of citizens. Like other developing countries and some developed countries where small and medium enterprises lie at the core of national economic growth, they account for major proportion of respective industrial zones established and it is small and medium enterprises that run the national economic mechanism today, noted the President making clear the overall objectives of forming small and medium enterprises development central committee and work committee.

The President urged the work committee to proceed with establishing a cluster of organizations in respective industries as necessary, citing the wide range of small and medium businesses from agriculture, education and health to hospitality, retailing and financial services.

The President warned against the challenges of foreign investment influx and free trade agreement of ASEAN Economic Community, and called for (See page 7)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Investigation Commission
Press Release No. 1/2013
14th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(11 January 2013)

1. The third plenary meeting of the Investigation Commission was held at I-12 Hall in the Hluttaw’s compound at 13.00 pm on 10 January. The meeting accessed the commission’s functions and coordinated the future work programmes.

2. Two experts who are well-informed in mining and legal affairs have been appointed under the arrangement of the President Office in order to be able to thoroughly review the contract signed between Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and Wanaung Co as to Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project. A team led by the Commission chairman together with the experts on 9 January held a discussion with the chairman of UMEHL and party over the contract and other matters.

3. The Investigation Commission in its full capacity has formed the Myanmar Environmental Science Group inclusive of experts of various fields and assigned duty to it to review whether international provisions for environmental conservation and relevant technologies are being applied in the aforesaid copper project.

4. The MESG from 24 to 30 December 2012 made a field trip right down to Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project and Sabatauung and Kyesintaung Copper Mine Project and studied about—
   (a) Ecology
   (b) Social aspect and cultural heritage
   (c) Project management and development analysis

5. Besides, the MESG since 4 January 2013 also reviewed the existing baseline ambient air status in the surrounding areas of the projects, and on 10 January presented a preliminary report to the commission.

6. The Deputy-Director-General of General Administration Department, member of the commission, from 8 to 10 January conducted a field trip to villages near Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project for study.

7. As the government is taking responsibility for medical treatment of patients who sustained burns in Letpadaungtaung incident, the commission continues to make coordination on fulfilling the requirements. All the warded patients at Mandalay General Hospital have already been discharged as they were fully recovered. The condition of Ashin Sijjana, one of the two monks, who underwent medical treatment in Thailand has improved significantly and he is now in a position to return to Myanmar soon. The condition of U Tikhañana has also improved but he still needs further medical attention, according to the commission.

Investigation Commission
11 January 2013
Landslide kills a gold panner

Indaw, 11 Jan — A landslide occurred at Imnidekon valley, one-mile south of Mawtike Village in Indaw Township of Katha District of Sagaing Region on 7 January. Zaw Win Naing of Tapaw Village of the township was killed by the landslide while he was panning for gold in the valley.

While Sub-Police Inspector Kyaw Mya Aung of Mawtike Police Station and party arrived there, the victim was buried beneath the landslide and found dead. Investigation into the case is ongoing.

Kyemon

Mawlamyine University organize first-aid course

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Jan — The opening of a first-aid course (1/2013) organized by the Red Cross Society (branch) of Mawlamyine University took place at the main hall of the university in Mawlamyine on 8 January.

Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint spoke on the occasion. A total of 500 students are taking the five-day course.

MNA

Mawlamyine International Exhibition & Car Show kicks off

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Jan — The opening of Mawlamyine International Exhibition & Car Show, organized by Myanmar Anawrahta Company, main sponsor, formally opened the exhibition and viewed round the booths.

A total of 140 booths from more than 100 companies will be displayed from 9 am to 9 pm at the exhibition that will be held up to 19 January.

Companies will offer discount ranging from 5 to 30 per cent to the customers including gift and lucky draw programme.

Personal goods, foodstuff.

MNA

YANGON, 11 Jan — An arson fire broke out in the bedroom of an apartment in Kyaukmyaung of Tamway Township, here, at about 4 am on 5 January.

The fire was started by an arsonist who set fire to the mattress in the bedroom of the apartment on the first floor of Building No (84) on Mawlhawgon street in the township. Two fire engines rushed there and firefighters put out the arson fire that caused slight damage. The arsonist has been detained in Taymyaw Police Station as he confessed his perpetration.

Kyemon

Counseling meeting organized

YANGON, 11 Jan — A counseling meeting was held at Kyanu Dhammayon on Shwegondine road, here, on 9 January.

Professor Daw Win Win Kyi of Bergen Community College, Yale University, the United States of America gave talks on counseling services and answered the questions raised by those present.

The meeting was attended by 130 trainee counselors from social welfare department and social organizations that offer counseling service to the people with different kinds of problems caused by health, worksite, natural disaster, social conflicts.

MNA

Information Centre for Industrial City opened

Mandalay, 11 Jan — A ceremony to make clarification on Myotha Industrial City Project to be jointly established by Mandalay Industrial Development Authority of Mandalay Region Government and TawWin Advanced Technology Co Ltd was held in conjunction with the establishment of Information Centre at the Hi-Tech A-1 (Log House) on 62nd Street in Pyi Pyi Gyun Township on 2 January morning.

The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint — Myanma Alinn.
Obama nominates Jacob Lew as Treasury Secretary

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—US President Barack Obama on Thursday picked White House Chief of Staff Jacob Lew as the next Treasury Secretary succeeding Timothy Geithner, a big step of shaping his economic team.

If confirmed by the Senate, Lew will become Obama’s second Treasury Secretary replacing Geithner, the last remaining major economic aide from Obama’s original economic team four years ago.

Lew, a budget expert, served as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in US President Bill Clinton’s cabinet from 1998 to 2001. During his tenure at the OMB, he helped the US federal government achieve budget surpluses for three consecutive years.

Lew served in the Obama administration as Deputy Secretary of State from 2009 to 2010 and as the OMB Director from Nov. 2010 to January 2012. He served as White House Chief of Staff from January 2012 to present.

Lew is the best person to continue Geithner’s work at the Treasury Department, Obama said during a White House nomination event.

“Lew has my complete trust,” stressed Obama, adding that “over the years, he has built a reputation as a master of policy who can work with members of both parties and forge principled compromises.”

“Jack has the distinct advantage of having been there—and succeeding—in some of the toughest jobs in Washington and the private sector. As a congressional staffer in the 1980s, he helped negotiate the deal between President Reagan and Tip O’Neill to save Social Security.”

Obama on Thursday picked Lew to succeed Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner as the next Treasury Secretary. If confirmed by the Senate, Lew will become Obama’s second Treasury Secretary succeeding Geithner the last remaining major economic aide from Obama’s original economic team four years ago.

US, Afghanistan discuss “last chapter” in war

aims: Panetta

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta and Afghan President Hamid Karzai discussed on Thursday the “last chapter” in building a sovereign Afghanistan that can provide its own security, including the nature of US involvement after combat troops withdraw in 2014.

Panetta said he and Karzai made “very good progress” on the issues they discussed, but he declined to say whether they had agreed on the size of any residual US force that would remain in Afghanistan to do counterterrorism operations and training once combat troops withdraw.

Panetta said both sides were committed to the goals approved at the NATO summit in Chicago in May, which calls for a continuing effort by members of the alliance to train, advise and assist Afghan forces.

116 killed, 235 injured as four blasts rock Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 11 Jan—Thursday marked a bloody day for Pakistan as four blasts rocked the country, leaving at least 116 people killed and 235 others injured.

Out of the four blasts, three hit Quetta, capital city of Pakistan’s southwest Balochistan Province bordering Afghanistan and Iran, while another hit a preaching centre in the country’s northwest District of Swat.

On Thursday afternoon, at about 3:30 pm local time, a bomb hit a checkpoint of Frontier Corps, a paramilitary force in Pakistan, at the Bacha Khan area of the downtown Quetta, leaving at least 12 including a FC member killed and 50 others injured. The injured include seven FC personnel and many kids and women.

The bomb was fired under a chassis of a vehicle parked nearby the checkpoint and an estimated 25 kg of explosives were used in the bomb, said bomb disposal squad officers.

The blast was so huge that it left a two-deep and eight-feet-wide crater on the ground, said eyewitnesses.

At least 13 vehicles including two FC pickups were also destroyed in the blast. The explosion also caused serious damage to the nearby shops, offices and homes as the checkpoint is set up at a densely populated area in the city.

About two hours later, there came a report saying a blast hit a preaching centre in the Swat District in north-west Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

The blast took place at around 5:40 pm local time inside a preaching center in Mingora, a small town in Swat District, which is some 115 kilometres north-west of the country’s capital Islamabad.

Hundreds of people were gathering inside the preaching centre for Friday prayers when the blast went off. Initial reports said that it was a gas cylinder blast, but local officials later confirmed it was a blast of terrorist nature.

Russia Navy to hold biggest-ever exercises in Mediterranean

MOSCOW, 11 Jan—Warships from all Russia’s naval fleets will gather in the Mediterranean Sea to hold the biggest-ever exercises, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Thursday.

"Russian warships are staying in the Mediterranean in line with their programme. They are preparing for the biggest inter-fleet exercises in the country’s history," the minister said after a secure video conference with President Vladimir Putin.

The Defence Ministry said earlier that an inter-fleet force, comprising ships from the North, Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific Fleets, would conduct exercises in the Mediterranean and Black Seas in late January under a plan for the Russian Armed Forces training in 2013.

Shoigu gave no further details as to the exact date range of the exercises.

"The main goal of the exercises is to practice the formation of a combined group of forces outside of the Russian Federation, plan its use and perform joint operations within a Navy group under the common plan," the Interfax quoted the press service of the ministry as saying.

Italy’s Berlusconi enters lion’s den to close gap ahead of vote

ROSE, 11 Jan—Seeking a fifth term as Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi took his election campaign into risky and unfamiliar territory on Thursday when he appeared on a television and radio programme run by some of his fiercest critics.

Desperate to close a wide gap with the centre-left by seven weeks before the vote, Berlusconi surprised many observers when he said he would attend a talk show hosted by a journalist who has made a career out of criticizing him.

"Immediate adjustment". "I have been campaigning furiously at the head of a coalition of centrist parties. The telescators authority AGCOM said that after two weeks of the campaign there had been an unacceptably uneven coverage of the parties contesting the election, and it called for an “immediate adjustment”.

President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai (L-R) and US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta stand for a full honours welcome at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, on 10 Jan, 2013.—Xinhua

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi appears on Santoro’s “Public Service” talk show on La7, a private channel he does not own, was the latest in a dizzying series of radio and television interviews he has done to try to close the gap ahead of the vote.

Most recent polls put Berlusconi’s centre-right at around 26 percent, trailing Pier Luigi Bersani’s centre-left which has a commanding lead at around 38 percent, with outgoing Monti’s centristis around 15 percent of the vote.

Monti shed his image as a non-partisan technocrat when he announced last month he would seek a second term in office and start campaigning furiously at the head of a coalition of centrist parties.

The telecommunications authority AGCOM said that after two weeks of the campaign there had been an unacceptably uneven coverage of the parties contesting the election, and it called for an “immediate adjustment”.

In particular, it said Monti was being given too much air time on the news programmes of two of Rai’s three channels and was also getting the lion’s share of coverage on private broadcasters Sky Italia and La7.—Reuters

Working staff gather at the site of explosion in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 10 Jan, 2013. A loud explosion rattled Tel Aviv on Thursday noon in what appears to be part of a feud between criminals, police sources confirmed to Xinhua. Two people were lightly injured. —Xinhua

Italy’s former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi appears as a guest on the Rai television show Porta a Porta (Door to Door) in Rome on 9 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Xinhua
This image contains text that appears to be from various articles and sections. Here is a breakdown of the contents:

1. **Application** talks about AMD's most promising executive hire by CEO Rory Read, who has been at the helm of the chipmaker since 2011. The hire is seen as crucial for AMD's future direction.

2. **Science & Technology** highlights the discovery of hardy earth microorganisms that could resist conditions on Mars. The study involved findings from the Mars Curiosity rover's soil sample analysis.

3. **Corporate News** covers a lawyer hired by Gold, a leading law firm, to handle a high-profile patent case for a client. The case involves semiconductor patents and is significant for both technology and legal industries.

4. **International News** features a story about a lawyer hired by Gold, a leading law firm, to handle a high-profile patent case for a client. The case involves semiconductor patents and is significant for both technology and legal industries.

5. **Business News** reports on a legal case involving Google and Microsoft, where the former has successfully appealed a patent exclusion order issued by the International Trade Commission (ITC). The case pertains to a mobile phone search engine.

6. **Corporate News** highlights a merger agreement between Rolls-Royce and Siemens, which will create the world's largest engineering and technology company.

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Boston declares health emergency amid US flu outbreak

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino addresses delegates during the second session of the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, on 5 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

BOSTON, 11 Jan.—With flu cases in this city up tenfold from last year, the mayor of Boston declared a public health emergency on Wednesday as authorities around the United States scrambled to cope with a rising number of patients.

US health authorities say the flu arrived about a month earlier than usual this year, and the flu strain making most people sick — H3N2 — has a reputation for causing fairly severe illness, especially in the elderly.

As a result, hospitals around the country have been forced to find additional space to treat the ill, and some have had to turn people away.

Mayor Thomas Menino said the number of reported infections in Boston is already 10 times higher than last season’s reported caseload, and said the city would begin offering free flu vaccinations on Saturday in an effort to stem the spread.

“The latest reports show an increasingly tough flu season,” Menino told reporters. He urged residents to get vaccinated, saying, “We are less than halfway through the flu season.”

Part of the alarm this year, experts say, is that the flu seems so much worse when compared to last year’s very late and very mild flu season, in which hospitalization rates were low.

“That is in the recent memory of many people. They can tend to underestimate the effects of flu, but it puts several hundred thousand people in the hospital every year. It can live up to 50,000 people every year, and there are certain groups — people with underlying medical conditions, the elderly and the very young — who are at risk for severe illness from flu,” said Dr Michael Jhung, a flu expert at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although it varies widely from year to year, the flu season typically starts in December, builds to a peak in January or February and fades away by late March or early April.—Reuters

UK retailer Jessops enters administration

LONDON, 11 Jan.—Camera specialist Jessops called in administrators PwC on Wednesday, becoming Britain’s first high street casualty following a tough Christmas for retailers.

The group, which operates from 192 stores and has around 2,000 employees, has seen demand for its digital products come under pressure from the rising use of camera phones and online rivals. Many British retailers have struggled recently as inflation, muted wages growth and government austerity measures squeeze household budgets.

PwC said Jessops core marketplace has seen a significant decline in 2012 and forecasts for 2013 indicate that this decline would continue. Joint administrator Rob Hunt said the directors, Jessops was not immediately available for comment. In 2012 a raft of firms fell into administration, a form of protection from creditors, including British electricals group Comet, Clinton Cards, Game Group and JJB Sports.

Last year Jessops’ Chief Executive Trevor Moore left to join fellow high street struggler HMV and in 2009 the firm managed to avoid administration after securing a debt-for-equity swap with its lenders HSBC.—Reuters

Detroit 2012 Jeep sales topped 700,000 worldwide for first time

DETROIT, 11 Jan.—Chrysler Group LLC’s Jeep brand sold more than 700,000 vehicles worldwide for the first time in 2012, an increase of 19 percent from the previous year, Chrysler said on Wednesday.

Mike Manley, head of the Jeep brand, said he expects 2013 sales to continue to climb as upgraded versions of Jeep’s biggest seller Grand Cherokee, as well as a new midsize Jeep SUV, are introduced.

Jeep’s 2012 sales of 701,626 topped the previous global high sales mark of 675,494 set in 1999. Among Chrysler’s four main brands, Jeep is the one that has the most global reach.

Grand Cherokee and Wrangler sales rose 94 percent, were up 29 percent in Europe and up 18 percent in Latin America. Jeep’s sales were up 13 percent in the United States at 474,131.

The new midsize Jeep SUV will replace the Jeep Liberty in the brand’s lineup. In the United States, Chrysler’s top-selling brand last year was Dodge, which sold 825,917 vehicles, up 16.5 percent. Chrysler Group is majority-owned by Italy’s Fiat SpA (FIA.MI).

Chrysler Group (CJDCQ.PK), 11 Dec.—For the calendar year 2012, the Grand Cherokee and Wrangler sales rose 94 percent, were up 29 percent in Europe and up 18 percent in Latin America. Jeep’s sales were up 13 percent in the United States at 474,131.

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Men stand outside a Jessops shop in central London on 9 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Lenovo entering ‘PC plus’ era, CEO says

LAS VEGAS, 11 Jan.—China’s Lenovo Group Ltd, on track to become the world’s No 1 personal computer maker, is leveraging on what it calls the “PC plus” era as the company ramps up its plant capacity in major markets including the United States.

PC demand growth has waned over the past year as more consumers flock to ever faster, portable and increasingly powerful tablets and smartphones for basic computing.

“While we don’t see a turnaround anytime soon,” said Hsu Jhong-Yuan, Lenovo’s Chief Executive Officer, “we are thinking in terms of an ‘PC plus’ era.”

Lenovo holds the lead, with a 15 percent market share, in the third quarter of 2012 compared to HP’s 15.5 percent.

Lenovo, a PC maker that made its name in China and has gained market share in the US with Windows 8 devices, appears any day to throw a force through aggressive pricing, overseas acquisitions and taking advantage of a fast-growing home market. Lenovo is lagging HP in PC shipments in the third quarter by less than half a percentage point, according to IDC, a consultancy. IDC placed HP at the No 1 spot with a 15.9 percent market share, marginally ahead of Lenovo’s 15.7 percent share. But Gartner, a rival to IDC, said Lenovo held the lead, with a 15.7 percent market share, in the third quarter of 2012 compared to HP’s 15.5 percent.

“Traditionally, in the PC world, the manufacturing sector of companies is moving to PC-related businesses. But PCs aren’t disappearing anytime soon.”

“We don’t live in a post-PC world,” Lenovo Chief Executive Yang Yuanqing Yang said in an interview in Las Vegas on Wednesday. “We are not entering the PC plus era.”

Yang said it is a post-laptop running Microsoft Corp’s Windows 8 that can be converted to a tablet PC by flipping the screen all the way backwards, and “Twist, another laptop that has a screen connected through a hinge.”

The two laptops have had brisk sales in the United States with Lenovo capturing 40 percent consumer market share in the $900 and above category.

Jessops CEO Yang Yuanqing stands after a news conference in Sao Paulo on 5 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

KFC’s parent apologizes to Chinese customers over handling of food scare

SHANGHAI, 11 Jan.—Fast-food chain KFC’s parent Yum Brands Inc apologized to customers in China over its handling of a recent food scare that has hit the company’s sales in its biggest market.

“We regret short-comings in our self-checking process, a lack of internal communication,” Su Jingshi, chairman and chief executive of Yum China, wrote on the company’s Weibo microblog.

Yum, which gets more than half of its revenue and operating profit from China, warned on Monday that bad publicity from the safety review of its chicken suppliers had hit sales in China harder than expected in the fourth quarter.

Subsequent findings by the Shanghai Food and Drug Administration found the levels of antibiotics and steroids in Yum’s current batch of KFC chicken supply were safe, though the watchdog found a suspicious level of an antiviral drug in one of the eight samples tested.

The scandal erupted when the official China Central Television reported in late December that some of the chicken supplied to KFC and McDonald’s Corp contained excessive amounts of antiviral drugs and hormones used to accelerate growth.

A spokesman for Yum told Reuters on Tuesday that the firm had stopped using the two suppliers before the official probe was announced, after its own random tests showed they were not meeting Yum’s own standards.

A woman walks past a KFC restaurant as a logo of McDonald’s is reflected on a door window, in Wuhan, Hubei province, on 18 Dec, 2012. —Reuters

PC world for one group: companies that do not innovate in PCs.

“In our industry many players think PCs have become a commodity product,” he said. “We have never thought this way.”

Lenovo, he said, has redefined the category with products like Yoga, a laptop running Microsoft Corp’s Windows 8 that can be converted to a tablet PC by flipping the screen all the way backwards, and “Twist, another laptop that has a screen connected through a hinge.”

The two laptops have had brisk sales in the United States with Lenovo capturing 40 percent consumer market share in the $900 and above category.

Lenovo CEO Yang Yuanqing stands after a news conference in Sao Paulo on 5 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

Lenovo vaulted into the PC market by buying IBM’s personal computer division in 2005. It has become a force through aggressive pricing, overseas acquisitions and taking advantage of a fast-growing home market. Lenovo is lagging HP in PC shipments in the third quarter by less than half a percentage point, according to IDC, a consultancy. IDC placed HP at the No 1 spot with a 15.9 percent market share, marginally ahead of Lenovo’s 15.7 percent share. But Gartner, a rival to IDC, said Lenovo held the lead, with a 15.7 percent market share, in the third quarter of 2012 compared to HP’s 15.5 percent.
Snow, rain to continue in S China

BEIJING, 11 Jan—Snow and rain will continue to sweep south China over the next three days, meteorological authorities said on Thursday.

From Thursday to Saturday, light to moderate snow or sleet will affect the provinces of Sichuan, Guizhou, Hunan and Yunnan, as well as parts of the Inner Mongolia autonomous region and northeast China, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) said.

Heavy snow will fall in western Hunan and the southeastern parts of north-east China, while the central and western parts of Guizhou will see freezing rain, according to the NMC. The NMC maintained a blue fog alert on Thursday morning, as visibility has been reduced to less than 1,000 metres in parts of Sichuan, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, Henan and Hebei provinces, as well as Chongqing municipality.

Blue alerts rank lowest in China’s four-tier colour-coded weather warning system.

US VP meets with advocates, opponents in push for more gun control

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—US Vice President Joe Biden this week met with both the National Rifle Association and gun victims in a bid to shape new firearms legislation just weeks after the massacre of 20 school children shocked nations worldwide.

A string of meetings on Wednesday and Thursday came just weeks after a gunman opened fire last month in the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, spraying classrooms of six and seven-year-olds with bullets from weapons including a Bushmaster AR-15 assault rifle. The massacre has sparked a heated debate between those who want to ban assault weapons and gun advocates who say automatic weapons are needed to protect against home invasions, robbery and murder.

Many Democratic lawmakers are calling on Congress to re-institute the 1990s ban on assault weapons, as well as close loopholes that allow buyers to circumvent criminal background checks.

Legislation aimed at an outright ban of certain weapons is likely to see stiff opposition from gun-rights proponents, but there is a chance that congressional Republicans will compromise on gun legislation, said Darrell M. West, director of governance studies at the Brookings Institution.

(“Republicans’) party base is opposed to meaningful legislation but the horrific nature of the Newtown killings may lead suburban legislatures and female representatives to reconsider their previous stance,” he said. “It may be possible to limit the sale of high volume ammunition magazines and to improve background checks so weapons don’t end up in the wrong hands.”

Republican strategist Ford O’Connell warned that Democrats will need to tread lightly if they want Republicans to compromise on firearms legislation, as any bill perceived as a naked power grab on guns is likely to fail.

Gun owners have long been skeptical of the government exercising what they view as too much control over their constitutional right to bear arms. Any bill seen as too heavy handed is unlikely to pass the GOP-controlled House of Representatives in a bitterly partisan Congress.—Xinhua

Central African Republic rebels agree in principle on cease-fire

LIBREVILLE, 11 Jan—
The rebel coalition Seleka attending talks here on the crisis in Central African Republic nodded head at a cease-fire on Thursday.

A Seleka spokesman said they agreed in principle on a truce of one week to see whether or not the government is worth trusting.

On the same day, President Francois Bozize arrived in Libreville, capital of Gabon, to attend the Summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the politically-military crisis that threatens to topple his regime, it was learned from diplomatic sources on Thursday in Libreville.

The presidents of the countries in the sub-region Denis Sassou Nguesso (Republic of Congo), Idriss Deby (Chad), Teodoro Obiang Nguema (Equatorial Guinea), and Ali Bongo Ondimba (Gabon) in Libreville.

According to the source, Cameron will be represented by deputy prime minister, while Burundi by its foreign minister and Sao Tome and Principe by the Minister of defence.

The presidents of the countries in the sub-region Denis Sassou Nguesso (Republic of Congo), Idriss Deby (Chad), Teodoro Obiang Nguema (Equatorial Guinea), and Ali Bongo Ondimba (Gabon) in Libreville. According to the source, Cameron will be represented by deputy prime minister, while Burundi by its foreign minister and Sao Tome and Principe by the Minister of defence.
SMEs lie at the core of national economic... (from page 1)

giving encouragement and protection to small and medium enterprises.

The President called for reviewing laws, and rules and regulations depending on such policies for small and medium enterprises development as encouraging their competitiveness, networking with international organizations for technology catch-up and capital transfer, market development, human resource development and increasing job opportunities and focusing on research and development works.

The President urged the work committee to draw up small and medium enterprises development plans to be suited to national plan and national comprehensive development plan to be formulated soon.

Small and medium enterprises account for 99.4 percent (126,237 in number) of overall industries across the nation totaling 126,958 in number with nearly 620,000 unregistered, said the President urging the region/state governments and respective ministries to record accurate facts and figures and report to the work committee.

In conclusion, the President called for accuracy of facts and figures, proper assessment of the success and failure of businesses to offer assistance as necessary, effective reduction of transaction costs in face of commodity influx under ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, high quality of products, formation of task forces as necessary, cooperation with local and foreign organizations to acquire technology and capital, and effective government-private partnership for continuous improvement.

Committee Secretary Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein elaborated on nature of small and medium enterprises and inbound investments, followed by discussions between Union ministers and region/state chief ministers. Their discussions ranged from formation of new villages to agricultural development.—MNA

Myanmar to see more investment opportunities (from page 16)

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Jan—A group led by Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein discussed investment opportunities with Vice Chairman Mr George Yeo of Wilmar Investment Holding Pte., Ltd and party of Singapore at the President Office, here this morning.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Soe Thein underscored sooner implementation of works in line with investment laws and bylaws while the visiting delegation focused on world-class hotels project, industries in Thilawa Industrial Zone, Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions as well as construction of fertilizer factory.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint, region/state chief ministers, deputy ministers and responsible personnel.—MNA

Mr. Mourad MEDELCI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, sends felicitations of Union FM Excellency,

I am very pleased to address to you my warm congratulations and my best wishes of health, happiness and success on the occasion of the national day celebration of your country.

I would like to seize this opportunity to assure you of my full availability to work, with you, for the development of the friendship and cooperation relations between our two countries.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Patron of MMCWA receives Vietnamese delegation

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, patron of MMCWA and Vietnamese delegation pose for documentary photo.—MNA

Please accept my sincere appreciation.

Greetings,

His Excellency,

Al Sabah, Amir of State of Kuwait,

Please accept my sincere appreciation.

Greetings,

His Excellency,

King Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jabar Al Sabah, Amir of State of Kuwait, felicitates President U Thein Sein His Excellency, Greetings,

I would like to convey my sincere felicitations to His Excellency on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my confidence that the continued evolution and development of friendly relations between our two countries and the two friendly peoples.

With my best wishes for Your Excellency’s continued good health and wellbeing and for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its friendly people progress and prosperity.

Please accept my sincere appreciation.

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Jan—Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and patron of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, received a Vietnamese delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the Viettelle Group from Vietnam Mr Nguyen Mahn Hung and Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Chu Cong Phung.

During the meeting, Mr Nguyen Mahn Hung said that Viettelle Group company would make investment in Myanmar and expressed their willingness to donate 500 sets of computers to basic education schools in the country as part of their assistance to the education sector and to donate US$100,000 to MMCWA.

Daw Khin Khin Win thanked the Viettelle Group for its investment in Myanmar and the current is exporting agricultural products including rice in raw.

As to the question of preventive measures against floods and distribution of seeds to flood-hit farmers, the deputy minister replied that funds have been sought for implementation of seven flood prevention projects in Bago Region, three in Ayeyawady Region, four in Yangon Region, one in Rakhine State and repair and maintenance works in respective regions and states in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Seeds reserves were established in regions vulnerable to floods and seeds could be distributed for 209,030 acres out of 278,582 acres of flood-hit farmland in 2012 alone. The cash would be injected into the education sector. She also briefed on the education, health and social activities of the association.—MNA
Because we are....

With the warm rays of the January Sun shining over the entire nation, hopes have flared up in Kayin State for lasting peace in the festive atmosphere of its New Year celebration following the fruitful peace negotiations between the President, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the KNU. The power of diplomacy, dialogues and engagement had almost ceased the gunshot there, to free the dove from the cage of doubts and discords and let it fly high in the clear Kayin skies.

In his message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the President noted the revival of the long-lost practice of finding solutions through negotiation in Myanmar society. There are basically two styles of negotiations—winning at any cost (competitive) and discussing for mutually satisfactory result (collaborative). Unlike the former, the focus shifts in the latter from efforts to beat the rival to defeat a problem and to find a mutually acceptable result. The latter is a win-win negotiation, yielding benefits to either side of the negotiation table whereas the former is I win, you lose attitude and would result in nothing except for confrontation.

In collaborative style negotiation, building trust is the first and most important step as mutual trust is the mainstream of win-win negotiation. Guns create fear and not the trust. Armed conflicts contribute chaos and not the rule of law. Acts of sabotage destroy and not develop a nation. Mine blasts kill and not cure. Finally, an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind, to quote what Gandhi had said.

Peace established or maintained at gunpoint would not last long and it is none other than a sham. The President said the government is determined to proceed with ceasefire agreements to enter into political dialogues and is currently working on the formulation of a framework for it. At the same time, we are obliged to do our fair share to end the gunshots, to end the loss of lives because we are also humans, because we are brothers, because we live on the same land and drink the water of same river and because we have once shared laughter and tears.

Mandalay stadium under construction

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint inspected Mandalay stadium construction site in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region on 9 January. In meeting with officials concerned at the briefing hall, the chief minister left instructions on timely completion of the construction works, worksite safety and greening tasks.—MNA

During the meeting, Mr Zsolt Nemeth said that Hungary sent the delegation to Myanmar to show its firm support for the reforms in Myanmar and Hungary was willing to provide necessary assistance to Myanmar when Myanmar became the chair of ASEAN in 2014.

He also pledged to cooperate in capacity building between the parliaments of the two countries. They also discussed matters on human resource development, lifting remaining sanctions against Myanmar, getting GSP cooperation in health, water utilization, agriculture sectors, maintenance of river system and hydro power generation. Also present at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Myint, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, officials of the President Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungarian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Denes Tomaj and high-ranking officials of Hungary.—MNA

Thai company to assist in Myanmar agricultural sector

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein greeted Minister of State for Hungarian Parliamentary Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Zsolt Nemeth.—MNA

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint holds discussion with Vice-President Mr Prasit Gamrong Chietanon of C.P Inter Trade Co Ltd.—MNA

Chietanon for his part said the company is one of the biggest rice exporters in Thailand and expressed his strong desire to assist in Myanmar agricultural sector.

Next, the Union minister, deputy ministers of Maha Bandoola Street and 31st Street, here, starting from 16 to 29 January. The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism will issue tourist guide licenses to the trainees who pass the two-week course. MNA

Course for tour guides with expired license on 4 Feb

YANGON, 11 Jan— The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been launching many courses for tour guides and implementing the four objectives laid down for convenience of tourists visiting the country.

As Myanmar, at present, sees an increasing influx of tourists, the ministry has planned to open the refresher course No. 4 on 4 February for guides whose licenses have expired.

Interested persons may submit applications with a copy of the old license to the tourism training school (No. 458/460) on the second floor of Yathar Condo at the corner and officials concerned answered the queries raised by the delegation. MNA
**New Light of Myanmar**

**NATIONAL**

**Foreign Heads of Government send felicitations to President U Thein Sein**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—The following are the messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Antonis C. Samaras, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Excellency:

On the occasion of the National Day of your country, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity, progress and welfare of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

From Raja Pervez Ashraf, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Excellency:

On behalf of the People and Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I feel pleasure to convey to Your Excellency our sincere greetings and warm felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close cordial relations. I am confident that the existing friendly bilateral ties would be further strengthened in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia His Excellency:

On behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia, I wish to express my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar, on this joyous occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Under Your Excellency’s able stewardship, the Myanmar people have many reasons to celebrate as they look ahead to the future with great optimism and anticipation. Malaysia will continue to be supportive of Myanmar’s efforts in achieving all of its national priorities. We stand ready to intensify our co-operation in all fields to support Myanmar as it advances further in its reform and takes on more responsibilities in ASEAN. I am confident that our excellent bilateral relations will further strengthen as Myanmar ushers in a new era of rapid transformation.

I would also like to express my deepest and sincere appreciation to you and the people of Myanmar for the warm reception and hospitality extended to me and the Malaysian delegation during my visit on 28-29 March 2012. My wife and I will always cherish the kindness and friendship we received from the Myanmar people. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend once again my invitation to you and Madam Daw Khin Khin Win to visit Malaysia in the near future.

Please accept Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence Kingdom of Saudi Arabia His Excellency:

I am pleased on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of your country, to express to Your Excellency, my heartfelt Congratulations and Best Wishes for good health and happiness and to the people of Myanmar the most Progress and Prosperity.

My Best Regards for Your Excellency.

From Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan Excellency:

On the 65th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, my warm congratulations.

Japan and Myanmar have enjoyed cordial bilateral relations as long-standing friends in the Asian region. I fondly recall my first-ever visit to your country in 1983, when I accompanied my late father who was the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the time.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the kind hospitality you personally extended to me during my visit a year ago. During our meeting I was impressed with the strength you will press ahead with political and economic reforms.

Japan welcomes the continued progress of reform in your country, and is committed to doing all that it can to support the reform efforts while strengthening bilateral relationship with Myanmar.

I wish you and your country great success and prosperity.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Excellency:

On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, it is my great pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency and to the people of Myanmar our warmest greetings and heartfelt felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It is my firm conviction that the existing close ties and intense cooperation between our two countries is a matter of great satisfaction. There exist enormous potentials for further deepening and widening our relations in various areas of cooperation. On this joyous occasion, let us take a fresh pledge to work together for the mutual benefit of our two people.

I wish you good health, happiness, and long life and peace and prosperity for the friendly people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia Excellency:

On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I have the great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and people of Myanmar, my heartfelt congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am very pleased to note that the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Myanmar have enjoyed long-standing close cooperation in all fields, bilaterally and in the framework of ASEAN. I would continue to work closely with Your Excellency to strengthen our warm ties for the benefits of our two countries and peoples as well as for building the ASEAN Community.

May I take this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for your personal health, happiness and greater success in fulfilling your noble tasks.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Excellency:

On the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the State, the Government and the people of Viet Nam and in our own names, we have the great honour to extend to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of Myanmar our warmest congratulations.

We would like to convey our sincere congratulations to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar on important achievements recorded in the last more than six decades. We firmly believe that, under your clear-sighted leadership, the people of Myanmar will achieve greater achievements in their cause of national construction and development, making Myanmar a prosperous country with an ever-increasing role in the region and the world.

We are very delighted to witness strong and rapid developments in the traditional friendship and multi-sided cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar recently.

More significantly, the frequent exchange of high-level visits has helped reinforce and strengthen mutual trust and understanding as well as bilateral existing fine cooperation between the two countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally. We are deeply convinced that, with the concerted efforts of our Leaders and people, Viet Nam-Myanmar relations will further blossom, moving towards a new height, in the interests of our people and for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the Asia-Pacific region. This occasion, we wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and success in your noble position.

From Dr Mannohman Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India Excellency:

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend to you my warm greetings and felicitations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

India and Myanmar enjoy close and friendly relations, based on the enduring foundations of shared history and common links of culture, religion and ethnicity. The joint initiatives taken by our two governments over the past year have significantly broadened our bilateral cooperation and deepened our multi-faceted relationship. I look forward to working closely with your to take our relationship to new heights.

I greatly appreciate your recent visit to India to attend the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit. Your presence not only enriched the proceedings of the Summit, but also gave us an opportunity to review our rapidly growing bilateral relations.

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for your personal well being and for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Furniture donated to basic education schools**

MOHNYIN, 11 Jan—The school furniture donation ceremony took place at three primary education schools in Mohnyin Township on 9 December.

At the ceremony, owned by Salin Hospital in Aungthabye Ward of Mohnyin retired District Law Officer U D Sim Ram donated 20 desks, 40 chairs and one wall clock to school heads of BEPSs in Ohnhsaingha and Lonjakung villages.

Ohnhsaingha Basic Education Post-Primary School in Bilumyo Village-tract was built in 2010-2011 fiscal year with K 19.5 million contribution of the Union government and K 10 million by the local people.

Lonjakung BEPS in Aungthabye Ward of Mohnyin was built by KIA, with K 20 million contributed for organizing the previous ceasefire period.

The school furniture donation ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Sai Win Win, wellwisher, members of the school committees and respective school heads.—NLM-001

MOHNYIN, 11 Jan—Arrangements are being made for organizing the literary talks in major towns of Kachin State in January 2013.

The enthusiasts will organize the literary talks at Abbot Training School in Myitkyina on 19 January, Ashaykyun Pariyatti Monastery in Mohnyin on 18 January evening and Namkaung Hall in Mogaung on 19 January.

This year, well-known writers Kyaw Yin Myint, Nay Win Myint and Nyi Pu Lay from Upper Myanmar would give literary talks to the enthusiasts, said Than Swe (Uttara Lamin) of Myitkyina who is an organizer for the literary talks.—NLM-001

Salin gets new repaved road

SALIN, 11 Jan—The 2080 feet long and 10 feet wide road that was previously transformed into service in Kyandaw-U of Salin Township on 1 January. It was built at a cost of K 12,788 million funded by Salin Township Administrator U Tun Thein and officials formally opened the newly-built road.

Myanmar Alinn
**Seized Argentine naval ship gets jubilant homecoming**

**M A R D E L P L A T A , 1 1 J a n — A n A r g e n t i n e n a v y s h i p w a s g i v e n t r i a n p h a n t o m h o m e c o m i n g o n W e d n e s -

day three months after it was seized in Ghana on be-

half of a hedge fund suing over defaulted government

bonds.**

The ARA Libertad, a tall sailing ship used as a training vessel, was de-

tained in the West African nation on 2 October due to a court order obtained

by NML Capital Ltd as it fights to get full repayment for the bonds in the company’s

claim against Argentina. The country’s efforts to put the 2002 debt crisis behind it

was seized in Ghana on be-

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**Philippines, Japan agree to enhance maritime cooperation**

Japan and the Philippines will continue to explore both short-term and long-term solutions to help Filipino healthcare workers to be accepted by Japanese healthcare institutions, del Rosario said. This will be carried out through the existing Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

“The Philippines wishes to maximize the opportunity to improve the Agreement and mutually reap its economic benefits,” del Rosario said. He also thanked the Japanese government for extending cash and relief goods to the victims of typhoon Bopha in southern Philippines, which left over 1,000 people dead.

The Japanese foreign minister also paid a courtesy call on Philippine President Benigno Aquino III at noon on Thursday. —Xinhua

**Senior CPC leader meets Portuguese delegation**

“China is willing to work with Portugal to enhance communication and strengthen cooperation to promote bilateral relations to a higher level,” he said.

Noting that the party-to-party relationship is a very important part of bilateral relations, Liu said the CPC attaches great importance to developing relations with the Socialist Party of Portugal and will continue to strengthen relations at all levels and exchange views on issues of common concern so as to expand common understanding, increase mutual trust and promote pragmatic cooperation in various fields.

Liu also briefed the delegation on the 18th CPC National Congress. —Xinhua

**Vietnamese, Lao parties hold 1st theoretical workshop to promote ties**

It is of further significance as it is held soon after the two countries concluded the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Year 2012 that marked the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam-Laos relations and the 35th anniversary of the Vietnam-Laos agreement on friendship and cooperation, said Huy Phong.

Cheuang Sophohone said the meeting is a valuable opportunity for researchers and scientists from both countries to expand mutual understanding, exchange of information and experience in their specific areas, contributing to consolidating and enhancing the role of their respective party’s leadership. —Xinhua

**Mongolian calligraphy awards promote traditional culture**

The award ceremony of a national traditional calligraphy competition was held here on Thursday as part of Mongolia’s push to promote and restore its culture.

Presenting the awards to winners, Prime Minister Norov Altanhuyag said the competition would further spark citizens’ interest in learning and using national traditional characters. —Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MATTYS VOY NO (1254)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATTYS VOY NO (1254) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.J.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 to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY- SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (325)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (325) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES.
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (19)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2013 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 to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S’PORE PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV JUPITER ACE VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV JUPITER ACE VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.J.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 to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: 1. STAR SHIPPING CO. LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV AN QING JIANG VOY NO (172)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN QING JIANG VOY NO (172) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (7) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO. LTD.
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Syria denounces peace envoy who hinted Assad must go

BERN, 11 Jan—Syria denounced international envoy Lakhdar Brahimi as “flagrantly biased” on Thursday, casting doubt on how long the UN-Arab League mediator can pur sue his peace mission.
The Syrian Foreign Ministry was responding to remarks by Brahimi a day earlier in which he ruled out a role for President Bashar al-Assad in a transitional government and effectively called for the Baathist leader to quit.
“In Syria... what people are saying is that a family ruling for 40 years is a little bit too long,” Brahimi told the BBC, referring to Assad, who inherited his post from his father Hafez al-Assad, who seized power in 1970 and ruled for 30 years.
The Foreign Ministry in Damascus said it was very surprised at Brahimi’s comments, which showed “he is flagrantly biased for those who are conspiring against Syria and its people”.
The ministry later said it was nevertheless still willing to work with the envoy to find a political solution to the crisis.
British Foreign Secretary William Hague warned that violence in Syria might worsen and said the international community must “step up” its response if it does. So far regional rivalries and divisions among big powers have stymied any concerted approach to the upheaval, one of the bloodiest to emerge from a series of revolts in the Arab world.
Russian and US diplomats, who back opposing sides of the war, will meet Brahimi in Geneva on Friday.

Xinhua

Residents evacuate their houses after being targeted by missiles fired by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad, in Aleppo’s al-Shaabah District on 9 Jun, 2013.—REUTERS

Syria denounced its peace envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, as "flagrantly biased" on Thursday, casting doubt on how long he could pursue his mission to broker a peace deal in Syria. The Syrian Foreign Ministry responded to comments by Brahimi, who earlier ruled out a role for President Bashar al-Assad in a transitional government, by calling his remarks "flagrantly biased" for those who were "conspiring against Syria and its people".

Brahimi's comments, which suggested that Assad should step down, were met with surprise by the Syrian government, which called for a "concerted approach" by the international community to the crisis in Syria. Violence in Syria has worsened, with regional rivalries and divisions among big powers hampering efforts to find a political solution.

Russian and US diplomats, who support opposing sides in the conflict, will meet Brahimi in Geneva on Friday to discuss the situation in Syria.

Xinhua

Residents evacuate their houses after being targeted by missiles fired by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad, in Aleppo’s al-Shaabah District on 9 Jun, 2013.—REUTERS

Scottish First Minister cleared of breaching ministerial code over EU interview early in 2012.

“arrest not found you (Salmond), or the Scot- tish government, to have breached the ministerial code in respect of any com plains made by Mr Stihler. I have thought recommend ed that the Scottish Gov ernment considers revis ing those parts of the code relating to legal advice,” concluded the independent report.

The report also noted that “the Edinburgh Agree ment was the appropriate moment to seek specific legal advice from the Law Officers ... it was only when the details of the refer en durn process became clear that you were in a position to seek such advice.”

Edinburgh, 11 Jan—Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond on Thursday was cleared of breaching ministerial code over debate concerning an independent Scotland’s future EU membership.

Salmond appointed vice-chancellor of Reading University David Bell, an independent adviser to the Scottish government on the ministerial code, to conduct the investigation following a complaint by Catherine Stihler, Scottish labor member of European Parliament.

Bell said the Salmond did not try to mislead vot ers or opposition parties on purpose, but had been partly responsible for giving precise answers in a BBC interview early in 2012.

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 Colin Farrell to be honoured at Oscars event

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan — Irish actor Colin Farrell is set to be honoured at a pre-Oscars bash next month. The 36-year-old Total Recall star will be celebrated at the eighth annual Oscar Wilde: Honouring the Irish in Film party at in Santa Monica on 21 February, reported E! online.

The father-of-two, who won a Golden Globe award for his role in In Bruges in 2009, is just one of a number of special honourees who will be celebrated at the prestigious event, which has previously recognised My Week With Marilyn star Michelle Williams, Bridesmaids actress Melissa McCarthy, Once Upon A Time star Sarah Bolger, Atonement actress Saoirse Ronan and ‘The Tudors’ star Jonathan Rhys Meyers.

The event was created by the non-profit US-Ireland Alliance to recognize the contributions of the Irish in film and television and as a glitzy networking event.—PTI

Kate Winslet’s husband wins UK photo court battle

LONDON, 11 Jan — British actress Kate Winslet’s husband won a court battle on Tuesday stopping The Sun newspaper printing photographs of him “semi-naked” at a private fancy dress party several years ago. Lawyers for Ned Rocknroll, 34, who married the “Titanic” star last month, argued that there was no public interest in The Sun publishing the pictures, that it would be a breach of his privacy and it could lead to Winslet’s children being bullied.

According to the Press Association, the judge, London’s High Court ruled in favor of RocknRoll and ordered The Sun not to publish the pictures pending any trial, adding that he would give the reasons for his decision at a later date. “We have stopped The Sun from publishing semi-naked photos of Ned taken by a friend at a private 21st birthday party a few years ago,” the couple said in a statement.

“The photos are innocent but embarrassing and there is no reason to splash them across a newspaper,” they added. “We recognize that in the internet age privacy is harder and harder to maintain. But we will continue to do what we can, particularly to protect Kate’s children from the results of media intrusion. “We refuse to accept that her career means our family can’t live a relatively normal life.”—Reuters

Adele’s Skyfall track is predicted to score a nomination for Best Original Song at the 85th annual Academy Awards.—PTI

Daniel Craig wants Adele to sing the theme of next Bond film

LONDON, 11 Jan — Actor Daniel Craig wants multiple Grammy winning singer Adele to sing the theme song for the next Bond film after her global smash with Skyfall. The 24-year-old singer would be the first repeat Bond singer since Shirley Bassey sang Goldfinger, Diamonds Are Forever and Moonraker, reported Daily Mirror online.

Craig, 44, has also reportedly pushed bosses at MGM to sign up Skyfall director Sam Mendes for the next film. “Daniel wants to keep the winning team. He loved Adele and wants her back along with director Sam Mendes,” a source said.

Adele’s Skyfall track is predicted to score a nomination for Best Original Song at the 85th annual Academy Awards. Adele, who gave birth to a son last October, will reportedly make her first public appearance at the award ceremony in February.—PTI

Filmmakers Steven Spielberg, Kathryn Bigelow and Ben Affleck, Tom Hooper and Ang Lee received nominations from the Directors Guild of America (DGA) on Tuesday, ahead of the Oscar nominations this week. Affleck, 40, landed his first Directors Guild film award nomination for Iran hostage thriller Argo. He loved Adele and wants her back along with director Sam Mendes, a source said.

Affleck, Spielberg, Bigelow among Directors Guild film nominees—PTI

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No=table abs=ent from the list this year was director Quentin Tarantino, whose latest film “Django Unchained,” a spaghetti western slave retribution tale, has been gaining awards buzz after landing five Golden Globe nods including best director. Filmmaker David O Russell also didn’t get a DGA nomination, despite his quirky comedy “Silver Linings Playbook” also building awards steam and going into the Golden Globe awards on Sunday with four nominations.—Reuters

Director Steven Spielberg speaks at The Hollywood Foreign Press Association’s (HFPA) annual luncheon to announce financial grants to film schools and non-profit organizations at the Beverly Hills hotel in Beverly Hills, California on 9 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

“Idol” judges Mariah Carey, Nicki Minaj play nice after feud

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan — New “American Idol” judges Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj shrugged off their widely publicized feud on Tuesday as a “trumped-up thing” that was merely a passionate difference of opinion over the TV talent show’s contestants. In their first big media appearance ahead of the hit show’s return to Fox television on 16 January, the two pop stars showered each other with praise while barely looking at each other.

A day after the airing of an ABC TV interview in which Carey said she hired extra security following threats reportedly made against her by Minaj last year, the “Hero” singer told reporters it was time to focus on the aspiring “Idol” stars. “This is a very passionate panel. There are a lot of strong personalities,” said Carey, who is reported-edly being paid $18 million to be an “American Idol” judge. “The fighting is what it is. This is ‘American Idol.’ It is bigger than some stupid trumped-up thing. It’s about the next superstar... The whole thing is con-voluted. It’s a distraction from the show and the contestants,” Carey said. Minaj, an outspoken 30-year-old rapper, called Carey one of her “favourite artists of all time.”—Reuters

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Neymar hints on new Santos deal

ROIO DE JANEIRO, 11 Jan — Brazilian sensation Neymar said on Thursday he could be convinced to remain at Santos beyond the 2014 World Cup.

"I don’t want to leave Santos right now," Neymar told a news conference as the El País newspaper.

"For now I prefer to stay at Santos, to be with my friends and family. I have a contract until 2014 and I want to fulfill it. I could even extend it. It’s something that could be negotiated," Neymar said after accepting the annual King of the Americas award for the best player in South America by a country judged by the English-speaking media.

Neymar won the King of the Americas award for the second consecutive season with 199 votes, ahead of Peruvian striker Paolo Guerrero, who finished 30 votes behind.

Brazilian sensation Neymar

Neymar hinted at a possible move to Europe, saying: "I haven’t ruled out anything. I’ll finish the current season and then decide." But he added: "I love Santos and I want to stay here." A move to Spain was never ruled out.

Manning puts winning streaks on line against Ravens

NEW YORK, 11 Jan — Peyton Manning, who has set a remarkable comeback with the Broncos, will be aiming to extend two big winning streaks when Denver hosts the Baltimore Ravens in the National Football League playoffs on Saturday. Manning and the Broncos are gunning for their 12th win in a row this season in the divisional round against the Ravens, a team he has beaten nine consecutive times, with eight of those coming with the Indianapolis Colts dating back to 2002.

"I'm 36-years-old and quarterback added to his winning streak against the Ravens with a 34-17 victory last month with a Denver team he joined after missing the entire 2011 season with the Colts after a series of neck surgeries. Manning picked up where he left off as one of the NFL’s preeminent quarterbacks after joining the Broncos, producing a vintage season with his second most touch-down passes (37), second most yards (4,659), second best completion percentage (68.6) and just 11 interceptions. "Peyton Manning is one of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history," Baltimore defensive lineman Haloti Ngata told reporters. "He has bounced back from injury. He has done a lot of great things for Denver. Hopefully, we can have a Peyton Manning a good week of practice and stop him." Denver (13-3), as the top-seeded team in the AFC, is coming off a bye, while the Ravens (11-6) defeated the Colts 24-9 last week in their wild-card playoff game.

Quarterback Joe Flacco threw for 282 yards and two touchdowns against the Colts and is the only quarterback in NFL history to win a playoff game in his first five seasons but he is still striving to get all the way to the Super Bowl. Flacco made many of his biggest throws to veteran wide receiver Anquan Boldin, who had 145 receiving yards in the second half against Indianapolis. "We’re looking forward to this," said Boldin. "I was hoping we’d get Denver again. This time we’ll make it different." —Reuters

Putting masterclass puts Jaidee three clear in windy Durban

DURBAN, 11 Jan — Thailand’s Thongchai Jaidee wielded a hot putter as he fired a seven-under-par 65 in blustery conditions to seize a three-stroke lead after the first round of the Volvo Golf Champions on Thursday. British Open champion Ernie Els of South Africa and compatriot Louis Oosthuizen, the 2009 rally champion, who trails by 42 minutes and 36 seconds behind.

"It’s a step that I will fill it. I could have no choice. Everyone has to play in this, and I enjoy it," said the five-times European Tour winner. "We play most of the time in Europe in conditions like this. Like Scotland, there is a lot of wind, and this is a links course - it’s almost the same."

Australian Open tennis tournament which begins on Monday, —Reuters

Qatari wins Day 6 auto race in Dakar Rally

SANTIAGO, 11 Jan — Qatari auto racer Nasser Al Attiyah won Day 6 of the legendary Dakar Rally on Thursday, behind the wheel of a Buggy.

Al Attiyah won the sixth stage of the rugged off-road race, between the Chilean cities of Arica and Calama, knocking French rival Stephane Peterhansel (Mmi) out of the lead. The Qatari competitor covered the day’s 455-kilometer tract in 3 hours, 32 minutes and 8 seconds, followed by Peterhansel. The 2012 rally champion, who trailed 8 minutes and 36 seconds behind.

Halfway through the rally, which kicked off 5 January in neighboring Peru and concludes 20 January in Chile, France’s Peterhansel holds the lead, followed closely by Al Attiyah, trailing by 1 minute and 18 seconds. In distant third place is South Africa’s Giniel de Villiers, the 2009 rally champion, who trails the Frenchman by 42 minutes and 31 seconds. Friday marks the seventh stage of the Dakar Rally, which features a 220-kilometre tract from the Chilean city of Copiapo, over the desert sand dunes of Calama, to the Argentinean Province of Salta.

"For now I prefer to stay at Santos, to be with my friends and family. I have a contract until 2014 and I want to ful-fil it. I could..."
Travel service development in Kalay

Kalay, 1 Jan—Kalay is situated in upper Sagaing region with a population of 400000. Visitor at home and abroad frequented there and their number stands at over ten thousands.

For the smooth transportation, the region is facilitated with airport, railway station and bus terminal. There are 40 Bus Lines in Kalay and the buses playing between Kalay and Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa, Tamu, Pakokku, Kalaywa, Haka, Falam and Taitan daily. For the convenience of travellers there are many Coaches. Luxurious cars and vans with best service. Taitan bus line makes up and down trip. From Kalay two coaches depart at 10 am. From Yangon two coaches depart at 2 pm. Travellers can go one day trip easily.

Argentine striker Barcos resigns with Palmeiras

Rio de Janeiro, 1 Jan—Argentina international striker Hernan Barcos has ended speculation about his future by resigning with Brazilian club Palmeiras until 2017.

The 28-year-old had been tipped to quit the club after shoot and 11 May, 2012.—Kyemon

NFL’s Junior Seau had brain disease from blows to head

NEW YORK, 11 Jan—Junior Seau, the 12-time Pro Bowl linebacker who killed himself last year, suffered from the same debilitating brain disease diagnosed in at least two other former NFL defensive players who also committed suicide, a study released on Thursday said.

Seau, 43, died in May after shooting himself in the chest at his beachfront house in his hometown of Oceanside, California. He played mostly for the San Diego Chargers and two other teams in a 20-year career in the National Football League.

A study of Seau’s brain by a team of independent researchers found he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, likely brought on by two decades of blows to the head as a football player, the report said. Increased awareness and knowledge about brain injuries have unsettled the National Football League, a $9 billion a year industry that rose to popularity largely from the speed and power of its athletes colliding with one another. The league has attempted to institute rule changes protecting player safety while still preserving the spectacle that fans enjoy.

CTE can be diagnosed only after death. Tissue from Seau’s brain was sent to the National Institutes of Health for analysis in July, at the request of Seau’s family, amid growing concern over the long-term effects of football-related head injuries. “The final diagnosis was findings consistent with chronic traumatic encephalopathy,” Dr. Russell Lonser, the head researcher on the case, told Reuters. Lonser is chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Ohio State University and led the study of Seau’s brain while he was at NIH.

Patients with CTE may display symptoms such as impulsivity, forgetfulness, depression, (and) sometimes suicidal ideation,” Lonser said in the report. Five neuropathologists who work for the government and three who were independent and not informed they were examining Seau—came to a consensus on the diagnosis by studying the accumulation of a protein called tau in certain areas of the brain, Lonser said.

And in stoppage time, shortly after Ba had had a penalty appeal turned down on his home debut, Swansea’s Danny Graham scored for the fourth match in a row after another Ivonic mistake. Now Welsh side Swansea will look to seal the tie in the second leg at the Liberty Stadium on 23 January, with the prospect of an improbable final against Bradford in their sights. “We’ve had some historic results already this season but to win here is very special,” Swansea manager Michael Laudrup told Sky Sports.

“Were had to defend a lot, they had a lot of possession but to be honest they only had three good chances all night,” the Denmark great added.—Reuters
Hluttaw urges UPMCC, KIO/KIA to build trust through negotiations which pay heed to voices of the people to be able to ease military tensions

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book at Pyithu Hluttaw hall.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Jan—The debate at second day of the first Pyithu Hluttaw session focused on armed conflict in Kachin State. The debate was submitted an urgent proposal by U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Constituency.

According to the request made in accord with Section 14th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME of the Union Election Commission, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann explained about Dawei Special Economic Zone a part of MoU between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Thailand signed in 2008 with a view to economic development of pan-Greater Mekong Sub-region and technology catch-up process from the special economic zone would contribute to comprehensive development of other regions.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw responded to the question of measures for socio-economic development of farmers for agricultural development that the ministry is helping farmers to be able to grow economically viable crops and get strong market, have access to GAPs, and use quality strains.

He added that Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank has planned to increase the amount of loans to rice and sugarcane growers. The ministry is also focusing on research and development and encouraging the establishment of private seeds production companies.

No plan to move Region offices in Sagaing Region to Sagaing: Dy Home Affairs Minister

Photo shows arrival of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives at Amyotha Hluttaw hall.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Jan—Sixth regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the second day today. With regard to the question of U Win Tint of Sagaing Region Constituency No.1, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint replied that there was no plan to move Region offices in Sagaing Region to Sagaing. Bill Committee submitted Anti-Corruption Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw. And Amyotha Hluttaw approved it and decided to submit it to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw so as to discuss two Hluttaw’s different points.

The Hluttaw Speaker informed the Hluttaw about the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Rules and Village or Ward-tract Administration Rules sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No.4 submitted the proposal on urging the Union government to establish Township Information and Public Relations Offices as Public Information Centres.

With respect to the proposal, Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency No.1 said that most of the democratic countries released government’s information at once. Myanmar saw more media freedom. And private newspapers were in circulation soon. People were going to have daily access to undertakings of government, political parties and other social organizations in a journal alone. No need to go to Public Information Centres to get access to information. So, he made an objection to the proposal.

U Paw Htan Htai of Chin State Constituency submitted the proposal on urging the Union government to carry out more development of education and health in the remote areas than other regions.—MNA