President U Thein Sein receives ICRC President and party

NAI PYI TAW, 14 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by ICRC President Mr. Peter Maurer at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this afternoon.

Also present together with the President were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and departmental heads.

The visiting delegation was accompanied by ICRC Resident Representative Mr. Georges Paelisanu and officials.

The President said the frequent arrivals of ICRC groups contributed to better cooperation with the country. He praised the stance of ICRC as a non-aligned organization with no political intervention. Myanmar is a signatory to Geneva Convention, the backbone of ICRC, and adheres to the convention. He spoke words of thanks for ICRC’s ongoing activities for the betterment of correctional facilities.

The President vowed to make more cooperation with ICRC during his administration. The ICRC President for his part said that he was there to extend the area of cooperation with Myanmar in future. Distribution of humanitarian aids to the needy people was their top priority he added. He said ICRC was carrying out the tasks transparent in the host country. Coordination was being made with Myanmar Red Cross Society in Myanmar, he added.

Next, they held comprehensive discussions on further cooperation between Myanmar and ICRC, ICRC’s contribution to betterment of correctional facilities, distribution of humanitarian aids provided by ICRC in conflict areas.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses meeting to organize Union Day

NAI PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed the coordination meeting of the central committee for organizing 66th Anniversary Union Day at the Union government office here this afternoon.

The committee and 14 subcommittees have been formed for holding the Union Day. National races representatives will be invited to the ceremony, he said.

Management Committee Chairman Union Minister Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt reported to the Vice-President on formation of subcommittees and progress of works of subcommittees.

Those present at the meeting participated in discussion. The Vice-President coordinated works of subcommittees. The 66th Anniversary Union Day will be held overwhelmingly across the nation with objectives—For all the national races to perpetuate the Union, and to cultivate the Union Spirit,

For all the national races to live in unity and harmony,

For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation, For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law, For all national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Present at the meeting together with Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham were Union Ministers U Aung Kyi, U Thein Nyunt, U Myint Hlaung, U Ohn Myint, U Win Tun, U Than Htay, U Aye Myint Kyu, U Zeyar Aung and U Htay Aung, deputy ministers, and officials.—MNA

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day

- For all the national races to perpetuate the Union and to cultivate the Union Spirit

- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony

- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation

- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law

- For all national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.
Locals enjoy fruits of community forest plantation

Cooperatives Ministry disburses small loans to societies in Shan State (North)

Self-reliant school library for Mezavi village BEHS (Branch)

Crackdown on crimes in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

Earthquake-hit historic Htupayon Pagoda to be renovated in Sagaing

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Colombian govt’, FARC to resume peace talks in Cuba

BOGOTA, 14 Jan—The Colombian government and the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) are ready to continue their talks in Cuba on Monday to end the country’s five-decade-old armed conflict.

Former Colombian President Humberto de la Calle would head the government delegation.

Before leaving for Havana on Sunday, he said the new round of talks will be marked by the same sense of “responsibility and commitment” that have characterized the negotiations since 2012.

“We have all the willingness to make progress,” said de la Calle. “We would continue with the proposition, as instructed by President Juan Manuel Santos, that this process cannot go on indefinitely.”

The envoy said there was no strict timetable for agreements on each item of the agenda, but it was necessary to make progress.

The talks, suspended over the holidays, are to resume on Monday with the most important topics on agrarian reform and rural development.

“At this moment, we are already in deep, concrete discussions on each one of the specific topics,” said de la Calle.

Syrian troops kill scores of rebels, parliament works for national dialogue

DAMASCUS, 14 Jan—Syrian media said on Sunday that scores of armed rebels were killed nationwide during clashes with army troops, as the Syrian parliament was working to prepare for a national dialogue among all spectra of the Syrian people.

The Syrian army continued operations in several suburbs of the capital Damascus on Sunday, killing 18 rebels in Douma and another 12 in Harasta, the pro-government Shamb FM reported.

The radio said the army has called on residents in the surrounding of the Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees to evacuate their homes during the ongoing operations between local committees and armed rebels inside the camp.

Separately, army troops killed as many as 60 rebels in the countryside of the northeastern Aleppo Province, the report said, adding that those rebels were killed while trying to storm a cotton factory.

In the northwestern Province of Idlib, Sham FM said, 15 militants were killed in the Binshan town as the Syrian air force targeted armed groups’ gatherings at the Taftanaz airbase, which has recently been stormed by rebels and radical militants.

On the opposition side, the Local Coordination Committees (LCC) reported shelling by army troops on several hotspots nationwide as well as intense clashes with the rebels’ Free Syrian Army.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the National Reconciliation Committee at the People’s Assembly Omar Azzzi stressed that the committee will work on getting engaged in the political process and effectively contributing to make successful the implementation of the political programme outlined by President Bashar al-Assad to solve the crisis.

In a Press conference held on Sunday, Assad said the newly-established and democratically-elected committee will take part in all the ongoing preparations to hold the comprehensive national dialogue, considering it as a safe and the only way out of the crisis.

US forces helped France during Somalia rescue attempt

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan—The United States helped France last week during an attempted rescue of a secret agent captured by insurgents in Somalia, President Barack Obama confirmed on Sunday in a letter to Congress.

The French team was trying to free Denis Allex, held since 2009 by al-Qaeda-linked al Shabaab, but insurgents apparently killed their hostage during the raid, along with a commander.

The French defence ministry said that 17 Somali fighters also died in the fight.

“United States combat aircraft briefly entered Somali airspace to support the rescue operation, if needed.”

These aircraft did not employ weapons during the operation," Obama said in his letter to US lawmakers.

Obama sent the letter to Congress to fulfil his obligations under the War Powers Resolution, which requires him to inform policymakers within 48 hours of committing armed forces to military action without congressional authorization.

Obama said the operation was warranted to further US national security interests, and said US forces “took no direct part in the assault on the compound where it was believed the French citizen was being held hostage.”—Reuters

Nigerian security force arrests Boko Haram commander

MAIDUGURI, 14 Jan—The Nigerian military troops on Sunday said it arrested another leader of the Boko Haram sect in the northeastern city of Maiduguri.

The troops also said they arrested the Boko Haram kingpin among 10 commanders of the militant sect declared wanted and labelled as terrorists by the Nigerian military authority.

Spokesperson of the security troops known as Joint Task Force (JTF), Lt Col Sagir Musa said the “a high profile Boko Haram commander,” Mohammed Zangina who is also known as Musa “is the leader of the sect in the North Central part of Nigeria and Coordinator of most of the suicide attacks and bombings in Abuja, Kaduna, Kano, Jos and Potiskum.

“Mohammed Zangina, a high profile Boko Haram Commander and Share Committee member was arrested at about 12.30 am today (Sunday),” 13 January 2013 in the Government Reserved Area (GRA), Maiduguri.” Lt Col Musa said.

"Zangina was in Maiduguri to plan several deadly attacks against civilians and security personnel any moment from today," he added.

The spokesperson said from Cuba since the 58-year-old socialist president’s fourth and most serious cancer operation a month ago.

Chavez, who missed his own inauguration for a new, six-year term last week, has not been seen or heard from in public since the surgery.

Many Venezuelans are assuming his momentous 14-year rule in the South American OPEC nation could be nearing an end.

The joint presence of top Venezuelan officials in Havana inevitably deepens rumours that Chavez is at death’s door — and draws opposition criticism that Saul and Fidel Castro are giving instructions behind the scenes.

“We know which commander is giving the orders to Chavezista leaders,” opposition legislator Maria Corina Machado tweeted sarcastically, in a reference to the Cuban president.

Officials have been lashing “necrophilic” opposition for such criticism, and Chavez’s brother said on Saturday that he was improving daily and not in a coma as rumoured.—Reuters

Hugo Chavez’s condition improving

CARACAS, 14 Jan—Cancer-stricken Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez’s lung infection has been controlled and his medical state is improving more than a month after his latest surgery in Cuba, the government said on Sunday.

“Despite his delicate state — in recent days the general evolution and development has been favourable,” said the latest official health update, which was relatively positive compared to others but still illustrated the gravity of Chavez’s situation.

“The respiratory infection is controlled, though the commander-president still requires specific measures to solve breathing insufficiency — he is conscious.”

The communiqué, which gave no more details on his condition, came as the three most powerful state figures after Chavez gathered in Havana to check on him and meet with Cuban allies.

Vice-President Nicolás Maduro, Congress head Diosdado Cabello, and Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez have been shuttling to and from Cuba since the 58-year-old socialist president’s fourth and most serious cancer operation a month ago.

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**Science & Technology**

**Softbank to sell stake in eAccess to Samsung, others**

Tokyo, 14 Jan — Japan’s Softbank Corp (9984.T) is in final talks to sell its stake in eAccess Ltd, representing around 67 percent of voting rights, to Samsung Electronics Co (005930.KS) and 10 others, a source with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

The sale was seen as an effort by Softbank to hold a monopoly on spectrum allocation designated by Japan’s Communications Ministry, the source said.

Softbank, which is awaiting regulatory approval to buy a 70 percent stake in No. 3 U.S. mobile carrier Sprint Nextel Corp (S.N), bought Japanese rival eAccess last October as part of a push to expand globally.

**Skype founder browses globe for next tech earner**

London, 14 Jan — Niklas Zennstrom, co-founder of internet phone service Skype, believes the next hot tech business will just as likely spring from Istanbul or Sao Paolo as from Silicon Valley or the coolest districts of London.

And he is prepared to fly around the world to find it.

" Talent can pop up anywhere in the world, it’s not just one city block," the Swedish entrepreneur and venture capitalist said at the headquarters of his Atomico fund, based on upmarket New Bond Street in central London.

Zennstrom, who retains faint traces of a Swedish accent despite his years of globetrotting, is looking for start-ups ready to shift up a gear into new markets and has the experience, gained from growing Skype into a service used by millions around the world, to help them.

Skype was sold to eBay Inc in 2005 for roughly $1.5 billion, before being bought back by a consortium including Zennstrom in 2009 and then two years later sold out to Microsoft Corp for $8.5 billion, leaving him a multi-millionaire.

"If you have a product that works it’s important to scale (up) the business as quickly as possible," said Zennstrom, named by Time Magazine in 2006 as one of its 100 most influential people. "As entrepreneurs, usually you may not have that experience; how does Asia work? Europe? Latin America? Atomico, founded by Zennstrom in 2006, has invested in companies in northern Europe including Finland-based Rovio, developer of Angry Birds, and Hailo, a London-based startup that has developed an app that connects passengers with taxi drivers and has raised $20 million so far.

It also led a $105 million funding round for US online retailer Fab in July.

**Astronomers discover largest known structure in the universe**

New York, 14 Jan — Astronomers have discovered the largest known structure in the universe—a group of quasars so large it would take 4 billion years to cross it while traveling at speed of light. The immense scale also challenges Albert Einstein’s Cosmological Principle, the assumption that the universe looks the same from every point of view, researchers said.

The findings by academics from Britain’s University of Central Lancashire were published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society and reported on the society’s website on Friday.

Quasars are believed to be the brightest objects in the universe, with light emanating from the nuclei of galaxies from the early days of the universe and visible billions of light-years away. Since 1982 it has been known that quasars tend to group together in clumps or “structures” of surprisingly large sizes, forming large quasar groups or LQGs, the society said. This newly discovered large quasar group has a dimension of 500 megaparsecs, each megaparsec measuring 3.3 million light-years. Because the LQG is elongated, its longest dimension is 1.2 megaparsecs, or 4 billion light-years, the society said.—Reuters

**HC’s Meg Whitman made $15.4 million in fiscal 2012**

**WASHINGTON, 14 Jan —** As Vice President Joe Biden prepares a set of proposals to curb gun violence for delivery next week, he is taking a look at technology that would make it impossible for people to fire guns that they did not buy themselves.

At a meeting with video game industry executives on Friday, Biden said he and other officials would meet with experts to explore ways to limit how and by whom guns are fired.

"We will be meeting with technology experts because, to overstate the case ... a lot could change it, for example, every gun purchased could have it fired by the person who purchased it," Biden said during the meeting while reporters were in the room.

"That technology exists, but it’s extremely expensive. But if that were available with every weapon sold, there’s significant evidence that ... may very well curtail what happened up in Connecticut. Because had the young man not had access to his mother’s arsenal, he may or may not have done what he did," Biden said.

Biden is leading a task force drawing up recommendations on guns to give to President Barack Obama by next Tuesday following the massacre of 20 children and six adults at a Newtown, Connecticut elementary school by a gunman last month.

The gunman, Adam Lanza, 20, killed his mother before carrying out the shootings at the school.

So-called smart gun technology would allow weapons to recognize the fingerprints of a gun owner. According to the Violence Policy Centre, an organization that works to stop gun violence and reduce the risk of firearm injuries, the feasibility of such weapons is speculative.

Biden’s Friday meeting included representatives from companies that make “first-person shooter” video games such as “Call of Duty,” “Mental of Honour” and “Grand Theft Auto.”

Biden has met with several groups associated with the gun violence debate this week, including the influential National Rifle Association lobbying organization, which complained after a meeting with Biden on Thursday that the White House was trying to limit constitutionally protected gun rights.

Biden declined to comment specifically on the NRA’s criticism of their meeting. “I thought we had a very straightforward, productive meeting,” he said. “I don’t have any comment about what anybody said about the meeting.”

**Hewlett-Packard stock options & salaries set amid turmoil, and the company’s shares dropping by nearly 39 percent in the past year, has had investors putting the company’s board under intense scrutiny. Whitman is ranked 283rd on the Forbes list of the top 400 richest people in America, and 18th on the Forbes list of the World’s 100 most powerful women. That drop in stock price, too, has cut some of HP’s executive pay in the form of restricted stock awards from earlier years, according to the proxy filing.—Reuters**

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**Biden eyeing technology in gun violence fight**

US Vice President Joe Biden (3rd L) convenes a meeting with representatives from the video game industry in a dialogue about gun violence, in his office in Washington, on 11 Jan, 2013. Reuters
Japan PM says Bank of Japan must set 2 percent medium-term inflation goal

Tokyo, 14 Jan—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the Bank of Japan (BOJ) must set a 2 percent inflation target and make it a medium-term, not long-term, goal to show markets it was determined to pursue bold monetary easing to end nearly two decades of deflation. The government is negotiating with the BOJ to issue a joint statement this month to make the central bank accountable for achieving 2 percent inflation, double its current price goal.

“The BOJ basically says it sees 1 percent inflation as a loose goal. That doesn’t show it’s responsible to achieve it and doesn’t show its strong determination,” Abe said told public broadcaster NHK on Sunday.

“The statement must say clearly that 2 percent is the target. That would lead to fundamental changes” in the way it guides policy, he said. The BOJ set its current 1 percent inflation target last February and eased monetary policy five times in 2012.

Japan is stuck in its fourth recession since 2000 and its export-reliant economy is suffering from a strong yen.

Abe, who won a landslide election last December, has piled pressure on the BOJ for bolder efforts to beat deflation, threatening to revise a law guaranteeing its independence if its demands are not met.

Under intense pressure, the central bank will consider easing monetary policy at a rate review on 21-22 January and respond to Abe’s calls to double its inflation target, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a news conference at his official residence in Tokyo on 11 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

sources have told Reuters.

In the joint statement likely to be released on 22 January, the BOJ wants to clarify policy targets as a long-term goal without setting a specific deadline, to leave itself flexibility in guiding future monetary policy.

Abe, however, warned that making 2 percent inflation a “long-term goal” wasn’t good enough. “That’s too long. It should be a medium-term one. Otherwise markets won’t react,” he said.

The Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, the government’s top economic panel which the BOJ governor attends regularly, would call a meeting to focus on monetary policy and a timeframe, Abe said.

Abe also said he would meet with monetary policy experts on Tuesday, including his special economic adviser Koichi Hamada, to seek views on becoming the next BOJ governor.

“Basically, I’d like to choose someone who can implement bold monetary policy and who shares our views,” he said.—Reuters

Ford takes next step of Lincoln overhaul with luxury crossover

DETROIT, 14 Jan—Ford Motor Co (F.N) will unveil this week a luxury crossover designed to help the company gain a foothold in a fast-growing and profitable segment of the US luxury automotive market. At the Detroit auto show on Monday, the No 2 US automaker is unveiling a concept version of its Lincoln MKC, an entry-level luxury compact crossover that shares its underpinnings with the Ford Escape.

Ford is betting that a strong showing in this burgeoning segment will reverse a two-decade sales decline for Lincoln, a brand better known for the Town Car and presidential limousines.

The premium crossover segment has more than tripled in the last four years, Ford said. “It’s not a segment that’s been around a long time with entrants that have been there for 10-plus years,” said Kate Pearson, marketing manager for the Lincoln brand.

“This is still evolving, which really provides us an opportunity to come in and create something unique and differentiated and really grow our position,” she said. Last year, Lincoln sold a little more than 82,000 vehicles in the United States, slightly less than sales of the Ford Mustang, a retro muscle car last redesigned in 2005.

Many analysts said that while Lincoln’s lineup has improved in quality and design, the brand’s lackluster image remains an obstacle. The company is hoping to shed that image and take advantage of the momentum in the US luxury auto market, which Ford predicts will outpace the broader industry this year.—Reuters

France will ask EU to curb use of newer birth control pills

PARIS, 14 Jan—French health authorities will ask the European Union to restrict the use of newer types of contraceptive pills over concerns they might carry health risks.

France’s health minister Marisol Touraine said on Friday the newer pills, which have caught on because they reduce side effects from earlier versions such as weight gain and acne, should only be prescribed by specialist doctors to women who cannot use other types of contraceptives.

Dominique Maraninchi, head of France’s health regulator, said at the same news conference: “We will ask Europe not to suspend the pills but to modify prescription guidelines.”

While all oral contraceptives are associated with a risk of blood clots, a number of studies suggest the most recent third and fourth-generation pills carry a higher risk than their predecessors. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) states the risk is of an embolism, or blood clot, is twice as high for women using third and fourth-generation pills than for those using earlier versions, although it remains low.

However, the regulator said on Friday it was already well known that the newer pills carried a “very rare risk of blood clots”, and that there was no reason for women to stop using the contraceptives since there was no new evidence pointing to safety risks. The French government said last week it would stop reimbursing prescription costs of the third and fourth-generation pills and would restrict their use after a woman sued German drugmaker Bayer over alleged side effects.

Marian Larat, 25, sued over a stroke, caused by a blood clot, she suffered following use of a third-generation contraceptive pill.—Reuters

Kia’s rising star Schreyer to take charge of Hyundai group car design

SEOUL, 14 Jan—German designer Peter Schreyer, known as the creative brain behind the Audi TT, will oversee both Kia (000270.KS) and Hyundai’s (005380. KS) designs, the Hyundai automotive group said on Sunday, as the carmaker seeks to outdo German rivals Volkswagen and BMW.

Schreyer’s star is rising fast at the South Korean company, acquired by Hyundai Motor in 1998 during the Asian financial crisis, has been expanding sales at a faster pace than Hyundai Motor in markets such as the United States and Europe. Schreyer’s new appointments coincide with Hyundai Motor’s efforts to move up market and boost margins.

A Hyundai spokesman on Sunday cited the group’s need “to more clearly set

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Sun Life, Khazanah to buy Aviva/CIMB Malaysia insurance business for $563 million

Kuala Lumpur, 8 Dec.—A consortium of Sun Life Financial and Malaysian state investor Khazanah Nasional Bhd has agreed to buy British insurer Aviva plc’s Malaysian insurance joint venture with Cimb Group for about 1.7 billion ringgit ($563 million), sources said on Sunday, helping the Canadian company to expand its Asian footprint.

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The Ford Motor Company’s emblem is pictured at the company’s factory in Almussafes near Valencia on 5 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

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Dominique Maraninchi, head of France’s health regulator, said at the same news conference: “We will ask Europe not to suspend the pills but to modify prescription guidelines.”

While all oral contraceptives are associated with a risk of blood clots, a number of studies suggest the most recent third and fourth-generation pills carry a higher risk than their predecessors. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) states the risk is of an embolism, or blood clot, is twice as high for women using third and fourth-generation pills than for those using earlier versions, although it remains low.

However, the regulator said on Friday it was already well known that the newer pills carried a “very rare risk of blood clots”, and that there was no reason for women to stop using the contraceptives since there was no new evidence pointing to safety risks. The French government said last week it would stop reimbursing prescription costs of the third and fourth-generation pills and would restrict their use after a woman sued German drugmaker Bayer over alleged side effects.

Marian Larat, 25, sued over a stroke, caused by a blood clot, she suffered following use of a third-generation contraceptive pill.—Reuters

Kia’s rising star Schreyer to take charge of Hyundai group car design

SEOUL, 14 Jan—German designer Peter Schreyer, known as the creative brain behind the Audi TT, will oversee both Kia (000270.KS) and Hyundai’s (005380. KS) designs, the Hyundai automotive group said on Sunday, as the carmaker seeks to outdo German rivals Volkswagen and BMW.

Schreyer’s star is rising fast at the South Korean company, acquired by Hyundai Motor in 1998 during the Asian financial crisis, has been expanding sales at a faster pace than Hyundai Motor in markets such as the United States and Europe. Schreyer’s new appointments coincide with Hyundai Motor’s efforts to move up market and boost margins.

A Hyundai spokesman on Sunday cited the group’s need “to more clearly set

Sun Life, Khazanah to buy Aviva/CIMB Malaysia insurance business for $563 million

Kuala Lumpur, 8 Dec.—A consortium of Sun Life Financial and Malaysian state investor Khazanah Nasional Bhd has agreed to buy British insurer Aviva plc’s Malaysian insurance joint
New Zealand PM to highlight US cooperation in Antarctica

Wellington, 14 Jan — New Zealand Prime Minister John Key will visit Antarctica later this week to highlight cooperation between New Zealand and the United States on the ice and to study issues facing the region.

Key is to visit New Zealand science and environmental management programmes, view New Zealand’s historic research huts associated with historic journeys on the frozen continent, and participate in a ceremony celebrating the installation of Maori artwork at New Zealand’s Scott Base research centre on Ross Island in the Ross Sea.

“New Zealand has a history of ground-breaking exploration, scientific discovery and involvement in Antarctica, and I am looking forward to meeting the New Zealanders who work there,” Key said in a statement on Monday.

He will visit from 17 to 21 January would provide an opportunity to see first-hand the issues facing Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

Key would also visit US bases at the South Pole and McMurdo Station to reaffirm the close relationship New Zealand and the United States share on the ice.

“New Zealand and the United States have worked closely together in Antarctica for more than 50 years. Enhanced marine protection for the Ross Sea region, deeper research collaboration and improving the efficiency of our Antarctic programmes are among our current priorities,” said Key.

Australians own as many firearms as in 1996

Canberra, 14 Jan— Australians now own as many firearms as they did at the time the Port Arthur shootings in 1996, according to a new study by the University of Sydney revealed recently.

More than one million guns were destroyed in the aftermath of the Port Arthur massacre, but the research by Professor Philip Alpers, from the Sydney University School of public health, said Australians have steadily restocked and the number of firearms in the community now totals around 3.2 million.

In the Port Arthur massacre in Tasmania in 1996, a deranged gunman shot dead 35 people and wounded another 23. Then Prime Minister John Howard pushed through stringent national controls, banning semi-automatic rifles and pump-action shotguns and introducing more stringent licensing. In the guns buyback, Australians surrendered more than 700,000 firearms.

“What our research found was that a huge number of people gave in their guns for compensation,” said Alpers.

Gun imports increased after 1996 as people replaced banned guns, Alpers said. “It may be a problem, it may be a serious one, it may not be too bad, but we have yet to see.” The University of Sydney study’s findings will be used by the gun control task force set up by US vice-president Joe Biden in the wake of the Sandy Hook school massacre.

“Is this what the Americans are interested in — looking at this it’s almost Australia has turned into a public health laboratory in terms of reducing gun violence.” he said.

Three Chinese workers kidnapped in Sudan, one missing

Khartoum, 14 Jan— Three Chinese workers were kidnapped by militants in Sudan’s Darfur region on Saturday, and a Chinese engineer is missing there, officials with the Chinese embassy in Khartoum told Xinhua on Sunday.

The Sudan branch office of China’s 18 Bureau Group Co Ltd reported to the Chinese Embassy in Khartoum that a construction site of the road between El Fasher and Um Keddada in North Darfur State came under attack by a group of armed militants at around 2 pm local time (1100 GMT) on Saturday, according to an embassy official.

Three Chinese drivers who were transporting building materials were kidnapped by the militants along with several Sudanese workers, the source said, adding that another Chinese engineer went missing when inspecting along the road at about 4 pm local time (1300 GMT) on Saturday.

No group or individual has yet claimed responsibility for the incident. But Mohamed Saleimein Rabib, head of Kuma county of North Darfur State, confirmed the attack and kidnappings to Xinhua on Sunday.

The Sudanese army has arrived at the scene immediately after learning the news, and is now working hard to rescue the abductees and arrest the assailants, Rabib said.

The 168 km-long road between El Fasher and Um Keddada is named the “West Salvation Road” by the Sudanese government. Its construction began in January of 2010.

The Darfur region, located in western Sudan, borders Libya, Chad and the Central African Republic. Some local armed groups, citing the government’s negligence in the region’s development, have been launching anti-government attacks since 2003.

Figures from the Sudanese government show that almost ten thousands people were killed in the armed conflict while about three million were displaced.

Livni may join future coalition if it moves peace process ahead

Jerusalem, 14 Jan — Israel’s HaTnuva party leader Tzipi Livni said on Sunday that she may be willing to join Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud Beitenu party in the next coalition if his party Likud Beitenu commits to move the peace process ahead.

Livni, who recently created HaTnuva, said that Netanyahu’s party must engage in “real peace process and not just give negotiations lip service,” she told Israel Radio on Sunday.

Recent surveys hint that Netanyahu’s Likud Beitenu will lead the next government, while HaTnuva is predicted to obtain between five and nine seats at the general election, which is predicted to occur sometime this year.

Vocal in the past for a two-state solution to the conflict with the Palestinians, Livni said on Sunday that she is not interested in being a part of the new government unless something can be done to end the deadlock with the Palestinians.

She is not interested in being a part of the new government unless something can be done to end the deadlock with the Palestinians, the official reiterated.

China aims at becoming full IRENA member

Abu Dhabi, 14 Jan — China announced on Sunday that it aims at becoming a full member of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in 2013, a move which was widely welcomed. Currently, China has an observer status at the 145-member IRENA, which was founded in 2009 and headquartered in Abu Dhabi. The IRENA strives to increase the share of renewable energy like wind energy, solar energy, water power or energy from bio-garbage and geothermal sources by increasing the cooperation and knowledge between the member states.

Speaking at the sidelines of the third annual session of IRENA, Shi Lilian, the Deputy Director General of the National Energy Administration in China and a member of the Chinese delegation, said that his country is looking forward to becoming a member of the UN-related agency to promote its knowledge in renewable energy to the international community.

She said that China was investing on a large scale in renewable energy and was able to promote solar, wind and bio-energy.

The far right, director-general of IRENA, Aman Z Amin said that Beijing’s announcement to join IRENA was “fantastic and most encouraging.” — Xinhua
**MAI to run domestic flights**

YANGON, 14 Jan—Myanmar Airways International, which is one of the airlines in Myanmar, is projected to ply routes of domestic flights.

MAI runs its flights to Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay if it will receive permission. Moreover, MAI will fly to Bagan, Heho, Dawei, Kawthoung, Sittway, Loikaw, Myitkyina, Bhamo and Kalay with the use of ATR airplanes.

With regard to domestic flights, Ma Aye Mra Tha of MAI said, “We have submitted the proposal to the department concerned to be able to fly our airplanes for domestic flights. Arrangements have already been made to run the flights if we would receive the permission. Flying the domestic routes of Myanmar Airways International is aimed at ensuring safe and sound travelling of local passengers as our airlines is an international one. Moreover, we plan to provide aviation services to the foreign travellers along their routes.”

At present, Myanmar Airways International runs its flights from Yangon to Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Gaya and Guangzhou with the use of eight Air Buses.

*Myanma Alinn*

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**Sub-power station built in Haka**

Haka, 14 Jan—With the aim of supplying electricity at full capacity to the local people, extension of 110/0.4 KV, 100 KVA sub-power station with 1320 feet long 11 KV line and 5280 feet long 400 volt power lines started on 9 September in Myothit Ward of Haka, Haka District of Chin State and the works completed on 6 December.

*Myanmar Alinn*

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**Motorcycle thieves arrested in Zeyathiri Township**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Under the supervision of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, a squad led by SIP Win Naing of Yezin Police Force, while patrolling in its area to put down theft of motorcycles in Zeyathiri Township, inspected a suspect motorcycle together with Min Khant (a) A-1 of Thayawhan Village of Zeyathiri Township at 3.30 am on 27 November.

After the investigation, the squad could arrest Phyu Tin of Yonbinsaung Village and Kalay with the use of 13 motorcycles and two polyethylene bags.

*Myanmar Alinn*

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**Over 450,000 pseudo-ephedrine tablets seized in Tamu**

TAMU, 14 Jan—A combined squad comprising surveillance team of Tamu Police Station, Pantha Police Station Commander, Special Anti-Drug Squad and Tatmadaw men of Wito Outpost of No. 266 Infantry Regiment, acting on a tip-off, searched Kenbo 125 motorcycle driven by Maung Maung Oo from Tamu to Kalay near Wito Village on Tamu-Kalay Road at 3 am on 18 December. They seized 156,000 white pseudo-ephedrine tablets from two polyethylene bags.

According to the information, they waited for another motorcycle. At 3.10 am, they seized one more motorcycle driven by Tun Win from Tamu to Kalay and seized 156,000 pseudo-ephedrine tablets from two polyethylene bags. The authorities seized 153,000 pseudo-ephedrine tablets from one more motorcycle driven by Win Tun from Tamu to Kalay at 3.20 am.

Tamu Police Station opened files of lawsuits against Maung Maung Oo, 25, son of U Hsan Hmon of Zaydan Ward 4 of Tamu, Nauk Lein Zam, 38, son of U Taw Hin, Min Hauk Khok, 19, son of U Kan Min Tan, Tun Win, 23, son of U Paung Za Ka, Win Tun, 23, son of U Maung Pun, Aung Thu, 24, son of U Zo Ram Htar Hnar and Lal Ram Ngaik Maora, 22, son of U Lal Ramma of Zaydan Ward 4 in Tamu. In the case, the squad seized 465,000 pseudo-ephedrine tablets worth K 55.8 million.

*Myanmar Alinn*

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**New highway bus lines launched in Kalay**

KALAY, 14 Jan—As road transport meets improvement in Kalay of Sagaing Region, new bus lines are running their routes one after another to be able to serve the local people better transportation.

As of 7 January, Cherry Yadanar Grand Cabin (Aircons) Bus Line launched its maiden trips from the routes of Kalay-Mandalay and Tamu-Mandalay.

Bus fares are fixed at K 25000 per passenger at front seats of the bus on Kalay-Mandalay route and K 20000 for ordinary seats, K 30000 for front seats and K 25000 for ordinary seats on Tamu-Mandalay route.

*Myanmar Alinn*

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**Price of rice rising slight high at Yangon rice brokerage market**

YANGON, 14 Jan—Recently, over 30000 bags of rice arrived at Kaingdan No. 2 Jetty in Yangon. These bags of rice were transported from Kyommange. An interview was made with the crew of Myanma Alinn daily.

Joint Secretary of Brokerage Association U Tin Oosad, “Price of rice has been rising slightly high.”

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Bus fares are fixed at K 25000 per passenger at front seats of the bus on Kalay-Mandalay route and K 20000 for ordinary seats, K 30000 for front seats and K 25000 for ordinary seats on Tamu-Mandalay route.

*Myanmar Alinn*

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**Students actively and happily participate in School Family Day celebration on the lawns of Basic Education High School No 2 for 2012-2013 academic year in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 6 January.**

*Myanma Alinn*
Sacred Zwegabin Hill, the Symbolic Beauty of Kayin State

Several natural landscapes in Kayin State of Myanmar are dominated by a single hill range well known as Zwegabin Hill. Its sublime beauty and majesty can equate it with any sacred hill at home or abroad. Rising over 2700 feet above sea level and running north to south for a length of 20 miles, Zwegabin is a densely forested hill range, within the driving distance form Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State. A good motor road runs from Hpa-an to Don-yin-Maing Yan for about 8 miles to get to Tawpon village which lies near the foot of the hill on the west side. The first station where you prepare for the ascent is Su Khan Gyi where there is a monastery, a pagoda, zayats [rest houses] and a water well under the dense green foliage. After a brief respite begin an uphill journey of 3 and a half miles. The names of four rest stations on the ascent challenge the stamina of trained hikers and mountaineers—first Shwe Yon So station, meaning “Exhausted to the point of quick heart beating”, second Saing Tamaw station, meaning “a banteng would have to look up to climb”, third, “Do pin Khanguangja station” meaning “climb up slow and steady like Do pin bell”, and fourth “Maungyin Leint Kaya station” meaning “a goat-like monkey fell down station”. However, these names should not be taken literally. They simply exaggerate the arduous up-hill journey for you to collect enough strength and zeal.

For ascent on the east side of the hill, a six mile car road runs from Hpa-an to Naung Ton and then to Ohn Tabin village in Khalaunko village tract. After crossing the green fields you came to Thittha Taung village from where you begin your ascent. Like the names of the stations on the west ascent, the name of one of the two stations on this side of the up-hill journey exaggerates the arduousness. You might get when one is on a height. “Shwe yin Tone station” meaning “Heart shaky station”. But the name of the other station abates the speed of your heart beat. “Yey Kan gu station” meaning “a cavern with a water tank” station. With only two rest stations on the east side ascent, the west side ascent is much less arduous and tiresome and so, much used by pilgrims and tourists.

The flora of Zwegabin hill is noted for herbalistic qualities and fragrance, especially rare orchids particularly “Gamone-In” are much sought after for local and foreign markets. There is a saying in a rhymed couplet “Gamone Sone-Lin, Zwegabin” meaning “Zwegabin hill, Gamone orchids fill”. For fossils and minerals of this hill range prove that once upon a time, there was sea around it. They show pronounced marine characteristics. Rock formations, caves, caverns with running sub-terranean water bodies further confirm its maritime associations.

The name Zwegabin is corrupted from its original Kayin name “Do Kaywe Kabin”. “Do” means hill, Kaywe means to tie and Kabin means ship. The hill to which ships are tied. In other words, the hill off which foreign ships are anchored. Another name of this hill is Mon “Bandava Gir” has similar meaning. “Bandava” is an old Mon name “to tie” and “Gir” means a hill. Hence the hill where ships are tied or anchored. Some old Mon folks have their version of the meaning of Zwegabin. Zwegabin is a corruption of the original old Mon word “Pha wei Kaban. Pha wei means Bannya tree and Kaban means sour. So Phawei Kaban means Sour Bannya Tree [ie. its leaves are naturally sour]. They make good sailall or vegetable dish in traditional culinary art]. Pha wei Kaban means sour. Zwegabin hill means the hill with sour bannya trees growing wild be and evencly. The evidence belyes beyond doubt that Zwegabin hill was surrounded by sea in days of yore.

Like other sacred pagoda hills in the country, Zwegabin hill being a green hill, natural and sublime beauties, is bound to be wrapped up with mythology, folktales, history and of course Buddhism. Its legends are closely associated with those of its neighbouring sacred hills such as Kyaka Hti Yoe and Kelasa hills. The following is the Buddhist legend of Zwegabin hill with local myths and folklores woven into it.

Just about the time Gotama Buddha was about to be revealed, there was an old king called Sudana Nagara or the kingdom of Thaton, where Tsadhamma Raja and his chief queen Agga Mahethi Sri Kapa ruled. They had two sons, the elder son Tisa Dhamma (named after his father as he resembled his father) and the younger son Tisa Dhamma (named after his father as he resembled his father) and the younger son Siharaja (named after his father as he resembled his father) and the younger Siharaja (named after his father as he resembled his father). The elder son Tisa Dhamma got married to Naga Thuza, the daughter of the king of Naga Weikza. Then the elder to succeed him and the younger to be crowned. But due to their virtues and moral qualities acquired in their previous existences, they remained as a monk. They were enthroned to succeed the king of Sudana Nagara. Saint Gavampati, now a full-fledged monk visited King Naga Weikza to explain the story of his previous life when he died at 10 years of age and that he was brothers. He informed the king about the Buddha and his teachings. Through Ashin Gavampati, the king invited the Buddha to his kingdom for teaching. The king built a monastery for the Buddha and his disciples monks to reside. The Buddha, his disciples monks and Ashin Gavampati arrived. At the monastery the Buddha preached his teachings (Dhamma) for (see page 9)
Myanmar, Singapore to strengthen cooperation between two armed forces

Force of the Singapore Armed Forces, welcomed Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Singapore this morning.

At the meeting held at the ministry, both sides exchanged views on global and regional issues, strengthening mutual cooperation between the two armed forces and promotion of infrastructural development, training and exchange of visits of warships and matters related to the meeting of the Ministers of Defence of ASEAN countries.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party heard reports on upgrading measures of Singaporean Defence Forces and establishment of regional security presented by officials of the Singaporean Armed Forces at Joint Staff Conference Room. Yesterday evening, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party visited Gardens by the Bay and viewed round flower dome, cloud forest and canopy booths.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party also attended dinner hosted by the Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore and wife and met families of Myanmar Embassy in Singapore.

SACRED ZWEGABIN HILL, THE SYMBOLIC BEAUTY OF KAYIN...

(from page 8) days. Many listeners became Arahant (Saint) and the entire kingdom embraced Buddha Dhamma. On request by the hermits, the Buddha gave as his representations to venerate, six strands of hair from his head, two each to the three hermits—(1) Hermit Tsasa of Gisai Girih hill, (2) Hermit Sihah of Bandara Girih (Zwegabin Hill) and (3) Hermit Kelasa of Kelasa Girih (Kelasa Hill). They enshrinied each, one of the two hair relics in the pagodas built on the summits of their respective hill abodes. The remaining three hair relics were enshrined by Hermit Tsa, when he grew old, in a rocking boulder on the cliff of Paung Laung hill range. This hair relic Pagoda on a rocking stone is world renowned as Kayak Hti Yoe.

The hair relic Pagoda on the summit of Zwegabin hill was originally called Bandara Girih Pagoda. Today as the hill is commonly called Zwegabin, the pagoda is also called Zwegabin Pagoda. The original height of the Pagoda was 30 cubits. It was repaired and renovated by Sey—wingaba Sayadaw monk U Thiriyu in 1965, and by monk U Zagar in 1966.

There is a 7 cubit high pagoda named Thagya Phaya at the north-east corner of the lower precinct. Its legend is interesting. To the east bank of the River Than Lwin (Asakani Nadi River in those days) there was a big forest named Pa-an-wan (Pa-an wun). In a big cave (today Sadan Gu) there dwelt a Kayin hunter named “La Swé”. King Tsa Sakka stationed on a hill near Dohanma hill range to subdue the rebellion. To commemorate his conquest of the rebellion the king built a town “Zeya Myo” (the ruins of this old town are still visible near present day Kawkareik).

The King stayed at this town for 7 months. Hunter La Swé supplied game meat to the King who was so pleased that he rewarded La Swé with the fief of Pan-an wun forest, and also appointed La Swé “Governor of the town, and the title “Ladday Ba Ra”. He returned from Inwa, an old capital of Myanmar in the 14th to mid 16th centuries when the Portuguese and the Dutch alternately held sway in the seas of South East Asia, vying each other for space trade and Chinese luxuries for western markets. Today there glared martaban jars of old dating become top items of antique collectors the world over. Because in those days, these glared jars were exported form the port of Martaban at the gulf of Martaban and Tawpon villages.

There is a Martaban jar of super size and super storage capacity were much sought after commodities of Myanmar in the 14th to mid 16th centuries when the Portuguese and the Dutch alternately held sway in the seas of South East Asia, vying each other for space trade and Chinese luxuries for western markets. Today there glared martaban jars of old dating become top items of antique collectors the world over. Because in those days, these glared jars were exported form the port of Martaban at the gulf of Martaban and Tawpon villages.

The change of the hill abode is as the hill is commonly called Bandara Giri (Zwegabin Hill) and (3) Hermit Kelasa of Kelasa Giri (Zwegabin Hill). Today only three jars with dating survive. They are (1) the jar donated in 1869 AD by K San Hla and Ma Ngwe (2) the jar donated in 1869 AD on Fullmoon Day of Tabodeb by Ko OK and Ma Deik and (3) the jar donated in 1869 AD. Fullmoon of Tabodeb by Maung Ngwe Zin and Ma Chit.

Martaban jars of super size and super storage capacity were much sought after commodities of Myanmar in the 14th to mid 16th centuries when the Portuguese and the Dutch alternately held sway in the seas of South East Asia, vying each other for space trade and Chinese luxuries for western markets. Today there glared martaban jars of old dating become top items of antique collectors the world over. Because in those days, these glared jars were exported form the port of Martaban at the gulf of Martaban and Tawpon villages.

A Mountain Garden lies not far from Zwegabin hill. It is said that image of a dancing mountain appears from a vantage view point Zwegabin Hill, as you enjoy cool breeze. Approaching Pa-an, after seeing some time stone caves on either side of the River, majestic Zwegabin Hill suddenly appears your sight. As your watercraft twists and turns you are sure to catch different views of this sacred hill. It is said that at auspicious moment from a vantage view point Zwegabin Hill appears in your vision that image of a dancing Kayin couple in their gala costumes—the symbolic beauty of Kayin State.

(To be continued...)

— MNA
AL Chief urges to dispatch UN peacekeepers to protect Syrians

CAIRO, 14 Jan—Arab League (AL) Secretary-General Nabil al-Arabi said on Sunday the UN Security Council should dispatch peace keeping forces to protect the Syrians, stressing that the forces should not be sent in the meantime that the Council should dispatch peace keeping forces to protect the Syrians, stressing that the forces should not be sent amid violence shaking the two neighbouring nations amid violence shaking the two neighbouring nations.

Mansour, Lebanon’s foreign minister and the president of the AL Council’s current session, said that “The number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has reached 200,000 and 75 percent of them are children and women, which imposed a heavy burden over the required services in the country.”

Lebanon is looking for solutions to solve the refugee crisis and to alleviate their suffering until their return back home, Mansour added.—Xinhua

Nicaraguan VP spotlights Chavez’s leading role in L America

MANAGUA, 14 Jan—Reformers across the world identify with Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez’s leading role in Latin America, Nicaraguan Vice President Omar Halleslees said on Sunday. Halleslees said Chavez is not only a national leader in Venezuela, but a political figure whose influence has been extended to the whole region and the world at large. “Hugo Chavez not only belongs to Venezuela. Hugo Chavez belongs to all Latin America,” he said.

The clash between the security forces and the PKK members in the house took 20 minutes, and a senior PKK member was killed, the governor said. The efforts to establish relations with the group, including the al-Qaeda, were cut off. “So as to settle the issue, we are going to press the UN-AL joint special representative,” he added.

Senior PKK member killed in SE Turkey

ANKARA, 14 Jan—A senior member of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) was killed by the Turkish security forces in southeastern Turkey on Sunday, private Dogan news agency reported.

Acting on a tip-off, the Turkish security forces launched a security operation into a house in Nusaybin town of Mardin Province. Mardin Governor Turhan Ayvaz said that a PKK member was killed, a senior PKK member was killed, and four soldiers were wounded.

Three soldiers killed in attack in central Iraq

TIKRIT, 14 Jan—At least three soldiers were killed by gunmen near the city of Samarra in Salahuddin Province, which lies to the north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Sunday, a provincial police source told Xinhua. The attack occurred in the morning when gunmen opened fire and threw hand grenades at an Iraqi army checkpoint on a highway near Samarra, some 110 km north of Baghdad, a source from the provincial police command said on condition of anonymity.

Salahuddin is a Sunni-dominated province. Its capital city of Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, is the hometown of the former President Saddam Hussein. Violence in Iraq has decreased from its climax in 2006 and 2007, when sectarian conflicts pushed the country to the brink of a civil war, but tensions and sporadic shootings and bombings are still common across the country.
Beijing moves to curb prolonged haze pollution

BEIJING, 14 Jan—
Choked in dense smog for three consecutive days, Bei-
jing started emergency re-

Police arrest 6 men for gangraping housewife in northern India

NEW DELHI, 14 Jan—Indian police have arrest-
ed six men for allegedly gangraping a 29-year-old housewife on a bus in the northern state of Punjab Friday, a case almost simi-
lar to last year’s horrific gangrape of a 23-year-old medical student in the na-
tional capital, a police of-

HK airport traffic hits record high

HONG KONG, 14 Jan—
Passenger volume and air traffic movements at Hong Kong Interna-
tional Airport hit record highs of 56.5 mil-

China extends 200,000 USD in aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan

AMMAN, 14 Jan—China

HK airport traffic hits record high

Beijing moves to curb prolonged haze pollution

New annual records set by HK airport

HK airport traffic hits record high

HK airport traffic hits record high

China extends 200,000 USD in aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan

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HK airport traffic hits record high
The premises of paying for the vessel on 14.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (3) 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.

**SHIPPIING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE PTE LTD.**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV VINALINNEE STAR VOY NO (12148)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VINALINNEE STAR VOY NO (12148) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2013 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.

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

**SHIPPIING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S KOOKYANG SHIPPING KOREA**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV BANGKHONTHI NO (164)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (164) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) 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.

**SHIPPIING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPI KOREA**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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**Obama undergoes fitness exam at Pentagon**

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — President Barack Obama had a little personal fitness boot camp at the Pentagon on Saturday.

Obama, 51, participated in what the White House described as a fitness evaluation at a Pentagon clinic, part of the periodic medical examination of him that is coordinated by the president’s doctor.

He was at the Fit to Win Clinic inside the Pentagon. The clinic’s website says its objective is to enhance “military readiness and civilian wellness through fitness, nutrition, health education and positive lifestyle behavior changes.”

The White House provided few details but said “the results of the president’s periodic medical exam will be released before the end of the month.” — Reuters

President Barack Obama addresses a joint news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in the East Room of the White House in Washington, on 11 Jan, 2013. — Reuters

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**Three killed in train accident in southern France**

PARIS, 14 Jan — Three people were killed when hit by a train in the southern French city of Marseille, radio France Info reported on Saturday.

The accident occurred around 6:10 pm (1710 GMT) when the TER was leaving the station of St Joseph in the direction of Aix-en-Provence.

It clashed with the three victims, a girl and her parents, who were on the rail road at the time of tragedy, according to French railway company SNCF.

Police sources indicated that the victims is from a Romanian family, the man and the woman were in their thirties, with their five-year-old girl. Police department has opened an investigation into the accident. — Xinhua
The 38-year-old actor told E! News his mother revealed that his parents are newly single. His inspiration and he hopes to be a romantic, for sure.

The 38-year-old actor started the profession, [my mother said], 'I think most guys are deep down. I look at my parents, who have been married happily since 1963, and my grandparents are the same. Where in this world we have a few exceptions to that?'

Halle Berry

Halle Berry was just one of high profile stars who were celebrated at the prestigious event in Washington, DC, where Alicia Keys is performing along with a host of other R&B and soul stars.— PTI

Newly single Bradley Cooper’s mother will be his

Bradley Cooper’s mother will be his Oscar date

The 38-year-old actor told E! News his mother claimed his plus-one ticket for the Academy Awards on February 24 long before he was even nominated in this year’s Best Actor category.

New Delhi, 14 Jan—Silver Linings Playbook Bradley Cooper star— who won the award for Best Actor in a Comedy at the Critics Choice Movie Awards on Thursday (10.01.13) — has revealed he will walk the red carpet with his mother Gloria before the Oscars next month after recently splitting from his girlfriend of more than one year Zoe Saldana. The 38-year-old actor told E! News his mother claimed his plus-one ticket for the Academy Awards on February 24 long before he was even nominated in this year’s Best Actor category. He said: “Oh yeah, that was done. One night, when I started the profession, [my mom said]. ‘If you ever [get nominated], I am the date. She was freaking out.”

The newly single star recently revealed that his parents are his inspiration and he hopes to have a traditional family home like theirs. He said: “I would say I am a romantic, for sure. I think most guys are deep down. I look at my parents, who have been married happily since 1963, and my grandparents are the same. What guy wouldn’t want that?”

Ben Affleck

Ben Affleck upsets Spielberg at Golden Globes; Day-Lewis wins Best Actor

New Delhi, 14 Jan—Ben Affleck emerged as the giant-killer at the Golden Globes this year, winning Best Director and Best Picture—Drama for Argo, beating Steven Spielberg’s Lincoln, Kathryn Bigelow’s Zero Dark Thirty, Ang Lee’s Life Of Pi and Quentin Tarantino’s Django Unchained. This just days after he was snubbed for Best Director in the Oscar nominations.

Steven Spielberg’s Lincoln, which leads the Oscar race with 12 nominations, scored just one Globe for Daniel Day-Lewis who won Best Actor Drama. Zero Dark Thirty, also an Oscar favourite, won Best Actress—Drama for Jessica Chastain. Miserables scooped three Globes, the most this year, winning Best Picture—Musical/Comedy, Best Actor—Musical/Comedy for Hugh Jackman and Best Supporting Actress for Anne Hathaway. Les Miserables also won its face-off with Silver Linings Playbook, which won just a single Globe, Best Actress—Comedy/Musical for Jennifer Lawrence. The two movies will be facing off at the Oscars again.

Quentin Tarantino’s Django Unchained scored twice. Christoph Waltz picked up the first award of the evening—Best Supporting Actor, his second Globe for his second Tarantino movie after Inglourious Basterds. Tarantino also won Best Screenplay. Life Of Pi won Best Original Score while Adele won Best Original Song for Skyfall. Homeland blitzed the TV awards winning Best Drama Series as well as Best Drama Actress and for Armenian Dewie and Claire Danes, who won her third in a row Globe, and second in a row for Homeland. Jodie Foster received the Cecil B De-Mille Award for Lifetime Achievement from actor Robert Downey Jr.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SEA HONOUR NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA HONOUR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2013 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.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S SEA TRANSP SHIPPING CO. LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**NEWLY SINGLE BRADLEY COOPER’S MOTHER WILL BE HIS OSCAR DATE**

Halle Berry

Halle Berry honoured at Bet Awards

The 46-year-old actress was just one of high profile stars who were celebrated at the prestigious event in Washington, DC, where Alicia Keys is performing along with a host of other R&B and soul stars.— PTI

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12029N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12029N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S OSSIAN SHIPPING**

Phone No: 256908/256916/256921

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (331N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (331N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2013 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 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 EVER ABLE SHIPPING**

Phone No: 256908/256916/256921
Barca win again to make it 18 wins from 19 in first half of season

**Barcelona** won 3-1 away to Malaga to remain 11 points clear of Atletico Madrid and moved 18 clear of Real Madrid, while completing a quite incredible first half to the season. The win means that Barca have won 18 of their last 19 matches of the season, taking 55 points from a possible 57, scoring 64 goals and conceding 20.

The best news for Barcelona was that coach Tito Vilanova was back on the bench after his trip to New York during the week for a second-opinion on his cancer treatment. He sat alongside central defender Carles Puyol, who was rested with Javier Mascherano partnering Gerard Pique at the back for Barca. The pitch in the Rosaleda Stadium has not been in good condition all season, but that didn’t stop

**Manchester United** seven points clear after beating Liverpool

**Manchester United** went seven points clear at the top of the Premier League, for a few hours at least, after a 2-1 win over Liverpool at Old Trafford on Sunday. Goals from Robin van Persie and Nemanja Vidic gave United a 2-0 lead before Liverpool substitute Daniel Sturridge pulled one back for the visitors in this latest clash between England’s two most successful clubs.

Van Persie gave United a 94th minute lead when he swept in Patrice Evra’s cross from eight yards out. It was the Dutch striker’s 17th Premier League goal this term, and 21st in all competitions, since he arrived at Old Trafford in a £24 million ($39 million) pre-season move from top-flight rivals Arsenal. United made it 2-0 nine minutes after full-time when full-back Evra’s header from van Persie’s free-kick deflected in off centre-half Vidic.

But three minutes later Sturridge, on the start of the second half for Lucas Leiva, marked his Premier League debut for Liverpool with a goal when he followed up the rebound after David de Gea saved skipper Steven Gerrard’s shot from outside the box.

It was Sturridge’s second goal in as many games for Liverpool following his move from European champions Chelsea after he was on target in the 2-1 FA Cup win over Mansfield last weekend. However, Sturridge

**Golf: Oosthuizen up to fourth in world with one-shot Durban win**

*Durban, 14 Jan—World number six Louis Oosthuizen fired a six-under-par 66 to overhaul third-round leader Scott Jamieson and clinch the Volvo Golf Championships by one shot on Sunday, a victory that will move him to fourth in the rankings. Amieson had held a five-stroke advantage after 54 holes but seven birdies from the 2010 British Open champion Oosthuizen gave him a sixth European Tour win on 16-under 272 ahead of

**Manchester United 10 points clear after beating Liverpool**

**PTI**
**Rookie Henley wins by three shots at Waialae**

**LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan —** American Russell Henley, remarkably unflappable for a PGA Tour rookie, became the youngest ever champion at the Sony Open in Hawaii when he won his maiden title on the US circuit by three shots on Sunday.

Aged just 23, the fresh-faced Web.com Tour graduate displayed ice-cool nerves as he stormed home on five consecutive birdies to fire a seven-under-par 63 on the tree-lined layout at Waialae Country Club.

Co-leader overnight with fellow rookie and good friend Scott Langley, Henley fared eight birdies to a lone bogey to post a round 24-under total of 256 in the PGA Tour’s first full-field event of the season.

South African Tim Clark, bidding for his second title on the circuit, signed off with birdies on the last four holes for a matching 63 to secure second place.

First-round leader Langley fared with three bogeys on the back nine, carding a 70 to finish in a tie for third at 17 under with fellow American Charles Howell III (66).

Russell Henley of the US waves to the gallery after putting on the fourth green during the final round of the Sony Open golf tournament in Honolulu, Hawaii on 13 Jan, 2013.— Reuters

**Brady powers Patriots past Texans into AFC title game**

**NEW YORK, 14 Jan —** Tom Brady set a record for most playoff wins by a quarterback in leading the New England Patriots to a 41-28 win over the Houston Texans on Sunday to move one win away from a second consecutive trip to the Super Bowl.

Brady, who surpassed Hall of Famer Joe Montana with his 17th playoff win, completed 25-of-40 passes for 344 yards and three touchdowns in the divisional playoff, setting up a rematch of last year’s AFC title game with the Baltimore Ravens.

Brady led a balanced attack that was lifted by the play of reserve running back Shane Vereen, who rushed for one touchdown and caught a pair of TD passes after filling in for injured Danny Woodhead.

The Patriots, who will host Baltimore on 20 January, beat the Ravens 23-20 at home last year for the AFC title to earn their fifth berth in the Super Bowl since 2001.

New England tight end Rob Gronkowski, who was playing in his second game since breaking his forearm, broke his arm again on Sunday and is expected to miss the rest of the playoffs.

New England built an 11-3 lead early in the fourth quarter before Houston mounted a frantic comeback that produced a pair of touchdowns to draw within 10 points at 38-28 with just over five minutes to play.

The Patriots recovered an onside-kick and moved the ball into field goal range with kicker Stephen Gostkowski nailing his attempt from 38 yards to put the finishing touch on the victory.

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (C) celebrates with his teammates Ryan Wendell (L) and Logan Mankins (R) after he threw a touchdown pass during the fourth quarter of their NFL AFC Divisional playoff football game against the Houston Texans in Foxborough, Massachusetts on 13 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

**Venus thwarts Voskoboieva, Sharapova in her sights**

**MELBOURNE, 14 Jan —** Venus Williams took the first step towards a potential third round clash with Maria Sharapova with a 6-1, 6-0 thrashing of Kazakhstan’s Galina Voskoboieva at the Australian Open on Monday.

The 32-year-old Williams, who won her first tournament in almost three years in Luxembourg last October after battling injuries and illness, was simply too powerful for the 28-year-old, who had problems with her serve the entire match. The Kazakh often lost the ball in the sun during her toss, while on several occasions it drifted to the wrong side of the service line.— Reuters

**Alpine skiing: Extraordinary Hirscher wins in Adelboden**

**ADELBODEN, (SWITZERLAND), 14 Jan —** Austria’s Marcel Hirscher won his third World Cup slalom in succession on Sunday, fighting back from the disappointment of the previous day. With a blistering second run, the World Cup holder and leader came back from eighth in the morning leg to win in a combined time of one minute 51.75 seconds.

Beaten in Saturday’s giant slalom after a bad mistake on one of the last gates, Hirscher reassessed his supremacy and increased his lead in the World Cup overall standings to 126 points over Norway’s Aksel Lund Svindal.

“Obviously, it’s not the same outcome as yesterday. Sometimes you make the most of the opportunity and sometimes you push too hard,” Hirscher told reporters. “It has nothing to do with pressure as I handle it well when I’m leading after the first run. It’s just that today’s second run was extraordinary.”

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

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<td>8. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies</td>
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<td>9. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Physics)</td>
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**MYANMAR TV**

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<td>20. TV Drama Series</td>
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<td>26. Bakery World</td>
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**R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.**
Commission and European concurrently appointed as duties there. They were appointed and assigned representatives and consuls—totaling 40 were being kept consulate-general offices offices and four Myanmar the matter that 33 Myanmar for Foreign Affairs U Thant discussions on establishment message was put on record.

4th Waxing of Pyatho 1374 ME

Constitutional tribunal will have to settle many disputes in the future

Lack of power to pass final resolution may cause more problems

Lt-Col Myo Myint Oo makes discussion.

MNA

representatives held discussions on establishment of diplomatic ties with the Republic of Armenia.

Then Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Kyaw made clarifications on the matter that 33 Myanmar embassies, three Myanmar’s permanent representative offices and four Myanmar consulate-general offices totaling 40 were being kept open in foreign countries. Ambassadors, permanent representatives and consul-generals were being appointed and assigned duties there. They were concurrently appointed as officials for some countries and organizations totaling 38 including European Commission and European Union. The Hluttaw approved the establishment of diplomatic ties with the Republic of Armenia with a unanimous support.

Then those present held discussions on the comments of the President on the Bill amending the Auditor-General of the Union Law and the bill was approved as the approval of the Hluttaw for the Bill.

Next, the comments of the President on the Bill amending the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law were discussed.

The President’s comments on Section 2(a) of the Bill in which Article 321 of the Constitution says that “the President shall submit the candidature list of total nine persons, three members chosen by him, three members chosen by the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and three members chosen by the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw. And, it is also contrary to the judicial principle: to administer justice independently according to law: prescribed in the Sub-section (a) of the Section 19 of the Constitution. Besides, as it is also contrary to the Sub-section (a) of the Section-11 of the Constitution, the additional sub-section should not be prescribed, considering the fact of the essence of the democracy.

Regarding the Section 3 of the Bill, if Section 23 and 24 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union are amended and substituted, a final decision of the Constitutional Tribunal will relevant only to the decision of a court which is stated in the Sub-section (g) of the Section 12 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. It means that decisions of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union will not be final for the remaining cases and appeals can be made to the decisions. As the amendment is contrary to the fact that the resolution of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union shall be final and conclusive of the Section 324 of the State Constitution, it will be annulled, according to the Section 446 of the State Constitution.

Regarding the Section 4 of the bill, resolutions of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union shall take effect the approval of the Bill. The essence of the Section 25 is aimed at not occurring disputes over the effects of the resolution of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. If Section 25 of the Constitutional Tribunal is not prescribed, there would be disputes and defining. Therefore, it is found that the original Section 25 should not be revoked.

U Ye Tun of Hsipaw Constituency makes discussion.—MNA

He then discussed that provisions in the original law are still valid. Amending the constitutional tribunal law could make it conflicting with the constitution and may require amendment of the constitution.

Defence Services Personnel Aung Aung Moe discussed that the termination of Section 25 in the original law as the amendment bill proposes should be reconsidered by the Hluttaw because it would make the effect of resolutions of the tribunal ambiguous. The original Section 25 suggests that the resolutions of the tribunal affect respective regions instead of government which suggests, “The Basic Principles of the Union shall be the guidance in enacting laws by legislature and in interpreting the provisions of the constitution and other laws.”

He said the Basic Principles should be put into consideration. Amendment of a law conflicting with the constitution or prescription of an amendment bill should be made in accord with the provisions in the chapter of Amendment of the Constitution. Next, Deputy Hluttaw Speaker U Mya Nyein read out the report of the Joint Bill Committee. While seeking the approval of Hluttaw as regard Section 2(a) of the Bill, the bill was approved as the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the Bill.

While seeking the approval of Hluttaw as regard Section 2(b) of the Bill, the bill was approved as the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the Bill.

While seeking the approval of Hluttaw as regard Section 2(c) of the Bill, the bill was approved as the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the Bill.

While seeking the approval of Hluttaw as regard Section 4 of the Bill, the bill was approved by 186 yes votes, 370 abstentions and 37 no votes as the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the Bill.

Today’s session came to an end at 1.05 pm and the third-day session will continue tomorrow.

MNA