NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this evening.

They exchanged views on providing long-term assistance in education and health, humanitarian aids to Rakhine State, Aljazeera’s fabricated broadcast, stability in Rakhine State, trust-building in peace process, efforts for granting citizenship in accord with the laws and plans for cooperation with international organizations.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Thant Kyaw, U Kyaw Kyaw Win and Daw Su Su Hlaing and departmental heads.

MNA

Myanmar, China to promote trade

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian of the People’s Republic of China, at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

They held a cordial discussion on further promoting trade between the two countries, successful functioning of businesses based on amity, and more investments in the sectors of transport, electricity and infrastructures.

Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and officials from the President Office.

The Chinese Vice Commerce Minister was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and high-ranking officials.

MNA

Myanmar Archery Team crowns victory at fifth South East Asian Archery Championship

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—“Myanmar Archery Team has secured 251 medals—87 gold medals, 86 silver medals and 78 bronze medals—at International events since 1995. It has lifted nation’s pride and proved as one of the most successful teams in South East Asia. It should keep winning streaks in XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by our country”, said Union Minister U Tint Hsan at the fifth South East Asian Archery Championship and the XXVI SEA Games Trial Archery Competition Prize Presentation Ceremony at Wunna Theiddhi archery range yesterday evening.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, officials, athletes and coaches attended the ceremony.

Officials of Myanmar Archery Federation explained future tasks. Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and officials awarded winners.

Archer Ma Thin Thin Khaing, five-gold medalist spoke words of thanks.

Myanmar stood first among Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand earning nine gold medals, four silver medals and three bronze medals. Well-wishers donated cash to MAF.

MNA
Three KIA members return to legal fold

MAW LAM YIN GE YUN, 15 Jan — Three members of KIA group — two men with the rank of private and one ordinary private bringing along with arms and ammunition — returned to legal fold to local Tatmadaw columns on 13 January.

U Khin Aung Myint with the rank of ordinary private of a battalion under Laizya Headquarters of KIA, who live in Talawgyi village of Myitkyina, bringing along with one M 25 rocket launcher, one magazine, five caps, five shells and a set of camouflage and La Saing and Gam Aung with the rank of private of No (33) battalion of KIA bringing together with four China-made grenades to the Tatmadaw outposts at 11.15 am and 12 noon respectively.

A ceremony of Basic Education passenger buses which are upgraded in the village in Mawlamyine-gyun Township on 12 January.

Deputy Head of Mawlamyine-gyun Township General Administration Department U Hsan Linn Oo, Assistant Education Officer U Bo Gi and Village Administrator U Kyaw Htwe formally opened the signboard of the primary school.

Next, School Head Daw Aye Aye Sandalocalled for collaborative efforts for all-round development of the school.

Mawlamyine-Yangon express down-train derails near Bago railway station

MAW LAM YIN GE YUN, 15 Jan — A rail accident happened to the No. (36) express down-train bound to Yangon from Mawlamyine near Bago railway station at about 4 am on 12 January.

The train left the road knocked down by a motorbike on Mawlamyine near Bago railway station at about 4 am on 12 January. It is learnt.

The derailment left no injury and property damage, it is learnt.

Old woman crossing over the road knocked down by a motorbike

PYAY, 15 Jan — An old woman was knocked down by a motorbike on Bayintaung Street in Khitthaya Myohty ward of Pyay of Bago Region at about 7.30 am on 6 January and she was pronounced dead at the hospital due to serious injuries.

The motorbike driven by Zwe San of Kyaranka ward in Shwe Daung together with Zeyar Htet of Sanpya ward in Shwe Daung knocked down Daw Hla Yin (85 years) of Khitthaya Myohty ward while the latter was crossing over the street.

The road accident left the victim seriously injured and hurt motorcyclist and his companion with minor injuries. They were taken to the hospital and the 85-year-old woman died there.

Unhealthy foodstuffs incinerated in Kyaukme

KYAU KME, 15 Jan — A ceremony to destroy 3148 packets of 14 kinds of confectionery inappropriate for the people to eat was held at a compound near the Kyaukme Township Development Affairs Office in Ward-6 of Kyaukme on 12 January.

The unhealthy foodstuffs illegally imported from the neighbouring country were seized recently in the urban wards of Kyaukme and Naungpein village. They were incinerated by Head of Kyaukme Township Police Force Captain Tin Htay, Kyaukme Township Executive Office U Thaung Htaik and departmental personnel.

Pazundaung Yegyaw market to be upgraded soon

YANGON, 15 Jan — Aung Myin Pyae Son Company will take the responsibility for upgrading of Yegyaw Market of Markets Department under Yangon City Development Committee in Pazundaung Township, here, and the company will start construction work soon.

The newly-upgraded market will be an eight-storey building. Shop-keepers of the old market will be relocated on the ground floor. The first floor will include a supermarket, training centers and a parking lot with the capacity of 50 vehicles. Fifty apartments and a gymnasium will be included on the remaining floors.

Then the chairman of the company gave an account of the design of 27-storey building in which 376 apartments, offices and conference rooms and a parking lot with the capacity of 525 vehicles will be included. It is set to complete the construction work within two years.

One million cubic feet natural gas for passenger buses in Yangon

YANGON, 15 Jan — According to Chairman of All-Bus Line Control Committee U Hla Aung, passenger buses which are going to run bus routes in Yangon will be provided with one million cubic feet of natural gas.

It is the plan of Yangon Region Government that will cover all passenger buses waiting for supply of natural gas. City buses will be allowed to use natural gas, but taxies excluded.
Six security personnel killed in clash in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 15 Jan—At least six Pakistani security personnel were killed and 16 others injured during an armed clash with militants on Tuesday morning in the country’s northwestern region of Khyber Agency, local media reported.

Local Urdu TV channels, quoting official sources, reported that the clash was triggered when security forces started a search operation in the Bara Tehsil area of the Khyber Agency, one of the seven restive tribal regions of Pakistan.

The militants hiding in the area attacked security personnel and killed six of them, leaving 16 others injured including local people.

After the attack, the forces retaliated with full strength.

There were no reports about the number of casualties on the militants’ side.

On 4 January, at least 15 terrorists were shot dead and several others injured in an operation by security forces in Tirah Valley of the same region.—Xinhua

Train carrying army recruits derails in Egypt, 19 killed

CAIRO, 15 Jan—A military train carrying young recruits to an army camp derailed in a Cairo suburb on Tuesday, killing 19 people and injuring 107, Egypt’s Health Ministry spokesman said. The train was travelling from Upper Egypt to Cairo when it derailed in the Giza neighbourhood of Badrashin, a security source said, adding that the train was a military vehicle carrying conscripted youth on their way to an army camp.

The injured passengers were taken to hospitals. Officials at the health ministry spokesman, told the state news agency MENA.

There was no further information available about the identities of the 17 dead except the names of the hospitals to which their corpses were sent, published on MENA. “The Egyptian Ambulance Authority has sent 66 ambulance cars to the site of the accident to move the bodies of the injured and the corpses of the victims to hospitals,” Omar told MENA.

Egypt’s roads and railways have a poor safety record, and Egyptians have long complained that successive governments have failed to enforce even basic safeguards, leading to a string of deadly crashes.

West African army chiefs to approve Mali troops plan

BAMAKO, 15 Jan—West African defence chiefs will on Tuesday approve plans to speed up the deployment of African troops against Islamist rebels in northern Mali, with some regional soldiers seen arriving next week.

France has already poured hundreds of troops into Mali and carried out days of air strikes in a vast desert area seized last year by an Islamist alliance that combines al-Qaeda’s north African wing AQIM with Mali’s home-grown MUJWA and Ansar Dine rebel groups.

Western and regional security sources were taken to hospitals near the village.—Xinhua

Two eastern states join call for tighter gun control

ANNAPOLIS, 15 Jan—Maryland and Delaware have joined the push for a ban in the United States on assault weapons and some ammunition magazines after last month’s Connecticut school massacre.

Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden joined leaders of the mid-Atlantic state on Monday in announcing new gun control measures while his father, Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, was preparing national gun control proposals. The announcements from the two states exposed a widening divide over gun control between states with Democratic majorities and large urban areas, particularly along the east coast, and more rural states, many of which are represented by Republicans.

“Military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips designed for battle have no place on our streets,” said Beau Biden, echoing comments made by his father since a gunman killed 20 children and six adults in a school in Newtown, Connecticut on 14 December.

The Delaware proposals are due to be introduced in the legislature in the next two weeks.

Cuba’s new immigration law comes into effect

HAVANA, 15 Jan—Cuba’s much-anticipated new immigration law, which eases restrictions on leaving and entering the Caribbean island, went into effect on Monday.

The new law, has, for the first time in 50 years, removed the requirements for an exit visa and a letter of invitation to travel abroad, making it one of the most popular reforms enacted so far.

The law also extends the time Cubans can stay abroad, from 11 to 24 months, and the time Cubans residing abroad can stay in Cuba, from 30 to 90 days.

The “upgrade in immigration policy” brings Cuba closer to its goal of facilitating legal, orderly and safe travel and of “strengthening its relationship with its emigr- ees,” the official newspaper Granma said.

What the Cubans need is a visa and letter of invitation to travel abroad, making it one of the most popular reforms enacted so far.

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Apple cuts LCD panel orders for iPhone 5 on weak demand

NEW YORK, 15 Jan—Apple Inc has almost halved its order with suppliers of LCD panels for the iPhone 5 in the current quarter due to weak demand, the Nikkei reported on Monday.

Apple has asked suppliers Japan Display Inc, Sharp Corp and South Korea's Samsung Display Co Ltd, to cut supply, down from an initial plan to order about 65 million units in the quarter, the Japanese daily said.

Japan Display's plant in Nomi, Ishikawa Prefecture, where the iPhone maker has invested heavily, is expected to temporarily reduce output by 70 percent to 80 percent compared to the October to December period, the financial daily reported. Sharp's dedicated facility for iPhone 5 LCD panels in Mie Prefecture will lower production in January and February by about 40 percent from the October to December quarter, when it was near full capacity, the daily said.

Meet Cookoo, Pebble competitor smart watch with a long battery life

MUMBAI, 15 Jan—“Smart” watches that talk to cellphones have been around for some time, but they've been hampered by their high battery drain — usually needing recharging every few days. At this week’s International CES electronics trade show in Las Vegas, a startup launched a smart watch, the Cookoo, that runs for a year on a standard button cell.

What it is
The Cookoo is a somewhat bulky watch, most suited for the male wrist. It has analog hands to show the time, but the watch face can also display several digital indicators, prompted by Bluetooth signals from your smartphone. Aided by beeps and a vibration motor, it can tell you that someone is calling or that you missed a call. It can also alert you about new email or an appointment. The watch can also talk back to the phone, so you can use it as a remote release for the camera.

It works
A free app on your iPhone prompts it to send signals via the Bluetooth wireless technology to the watch. The reason the Cookoo can run for a year on a button cell is that it uses a new, low-energy flavor of Bluetooth, known as 4.0.

The caveats
Only a few devices have the chips necessary for low-energy Bluetooth connections. The app is for Apple devices only, so the watch is limited to talking to the iPhone 4S, the iPhone 5, the full-size iPad models released last year, the iPad Mini and the latest iPod Touch. Early reviewers on iTunes complain of the watch dropping the connection to the phone and running down the phone battery — problems that might be fixed with a software update.

Price and availability
ConnectiveDevice Ltd, which makes the Cookoo, sells it on its website for $130. AT&T’s flagship store, in Chicago, is also carrying it for the same price.

The competition
CES also saw the launch of the Pebble, a programmable smart watch with a fully digital display. Users can send different “watch faces” to it and make it perform a wider range of tricks than the Cookoo can, but it needs to be recharged every week.

Green nets threaten sea turtles in Australia:

MUMBAI, 15 Jan—Google has introduced the Chrome Beta channel for smartphones and tablets running Android 4.0 and above. The company's latest Beta channel for phones and tablets now joins its existing Beta versions of Chrome for Mac, Windows, Linux and Chrome for Android.

Version 25.0.1364.8 of Chrome Beta, which is now available in the Google Play Store will allow users to access and try out new features of the browser before they’re rolled out as stable.

Users must keep in mind that since the browser is in the beta phase, they are liable to come across bums and encounter various bugs. If a user you can, however, provide feedback regarding issues.

“You don’t have to just try it, they just use it, they just get it.”

Myanmar IT experts say that while the country’s alphabet is no more complex than some other Asian scripts, a failure to agree how to apply an international standard for language symbols called Unicode to existing versions of the computer font has made it difficult to bake the language into software.

The issue of fonts may seem a basic one, but reflects the challenges Myanmar faces in catching up with its neighbours.

Myanmar has one of the lowest mobile penetration rates in the world, with only 3 percent of the population owning a phone in 2011, according to the World Bank.

“Being able to sleep soundly is crucial to feeling well overall, and SleepPhones help by re-creating the bedding routine,” says Wei-Shin Lai, one of the inventors of the headbands.

The firm began selling the product in 2007, when Lai was working as a doctor.

“In 2007, I had trouble falling back to sleep after patient phone calls late at night as a family doctor. My husband suggested that I listen to something to take my mind off of patient concerns,” says Lai, the Daily Mail reports.

“Since I didn’t want to disturb my husband while he slept, I needed headphones or ear buds I could wear in bed. But there was nothing comfortable in the market so I came up with stuffing speakers inside a headband,” adds Lai.
Pedestrian safety programme prevents student injuries

New York, 15 Jan—Fewer kids were injured during early morning and after school hours once new traffic lights, pedestrian signals and speed bumps were put around New York City schools, according to a new study. Those fixtures were added through the Safe Routes to School programme, which received over $600 million from the US Congress in 2005 to improve kids’ ability to walk and bike to schools across the country.

“Pedestrian injuries for children, while the numbers have gotten better over the past decade or so, they’re still pretty dismal,” said Charles DiMaggio, who worked on the new study at Columbia University in New York. As a result of Safe Routes to School, the city’s Department of Transportation undertook safety improvements at the 124 New York City schools (out of a total of 1,471) with the highest injury rates in the city. For the new study, DiMaggio and his colleague Guohua Li tracked injury rates among 30 schools that had finished safety projects by early 2009. Between 2001 and 2010, they saw a 44-percent drop in the number of school-aged pedestrians who were injured in the hours just before or just after the school day from 8 injuries per 10,000 kids each year to 4.4 per 10,000.

In comparison, there was no drop in injury rates in areas without pedestrian safety projects they held steady over the decade at 3.1 annual injuries per 10,000 students. The researchers noted in the journal Pediatrics that if the programme was expanded, it could prevent 210 pedestrian injuries per year among New York City students. The deputy director of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership said the same infrastructure changes can positively affect kids’ general health, as well. “We’re reducing injuries to kids and when you reduce injuries, parents get more comfortable with their kids walking and biking,” said Margo Pedrosa, who wasn’t involved in the new research.

Physically active kids are healthier, she told Reuters, Health, and “one of the easiest ways to do that is to build it into a kid’s daily life. Taking that trip to school by foot or on a bike instead of the back of the car, we really urge parents to do it.”

Financial experts focus on Asia growth at forum in HK

Hong Kong, 15 Jan—The sixth Asian Financial Forum (AFF) kicked off here on Monday, attracting some 2,000 business and government leaders from around the world, spotlighting Asia’s fast-expanding role in the global economy.

Under the theme “Asia: Shaping the Next Global Landscape”, the two-day forum tackles several key issues on China’s opportunities, such as China’s agenda for reforming its financial system, trends and opportunities in the global use of renminbi and the China-ASEAN business partnership. The forum also discusses the future of the eurozone, global investment opportunities and challenges and risks in the world’s food and agriculture sector.

Chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region C Y Leung said despite the global financial crisis, Asia has achieved stable employment conditions and maintained prudent fiscal policies and continued to focus on fostering economic development. Leung said Asia is no longer simply a facilitator of inclusive growth and prosperity on the back of rising consumption and wealth creation. He said Asia’s growing middle class, including those on the Chinese mainland, is helping to support domestic demand which is essential for sustainable growth.

He said the forum is an important platform, not only for nations in this region, but also for countries around the world to get more involved in the growth of Asia, and Hong Kong will continue to play an important role in the Asian Century.”

Inflation slows to three-year low in December

New Delhi, 15 Jan—India’s headline inflation slowed down to its lowest level in three years, hardening expectations for an interest rate cut by the RBI later this month to boost an economy that is set to post its slowest growth in a decade.

The wholesale price index (WPI), India’s main inflation indicator, rose annual 7.18 percent in December, the slowest since December 2009 and lower than 7.4 percent rise estimated by analysts. Wholesale prices rose 7.24 percent in November.

The slowdown in the headline number was led by a moderation in the prices of fuel and manufactured goods. The annual reading for October was revised down to 7.32 percent from 7.45 percent, the government said in a release on Monday.

In an expectation of an interest rate cut, financial markets rallied after the data.

US stake sale of GM to revive image

Detroit, 15 Jan—The sale of the US Treasury’s stake in General Motors and a possible credit rating upgrade of the US automaker in 2013 will help distance the company from the stigma of its 2009 bankruptcy restructuring.

“We lose the stigma of ‘Government Motors’, GM Treasurer James Davlin said on Sunday during a speech at a conference of automotive analysts. “People will be more focused on the things that they should, which is our underlying operations.”

The US Treasury outlined plans last month to sell its GM stake over the next 12 to 15 months. Last week, Chief Executive Dan Akerson said he expects GM to earn an investment-grade credit rating in 2013.

Tata’s JLR to add 800 new UK jobs on China demand

London, 15 Jan —Jaguar Land Rover plans to create 800 new jobs at its Solihull factory in central England as demand for its premium cars rockets in China and elsewhere.

For the first time, demand from China outstripped that of Brazil as the world’s top two home market, with sales in China in 2012 rising more than 70 percent to 71,940 cars, JLR, owned by Tata Motors, said on Sunday that total global sales rose 30 percent to over 350,000 vehicles.

JLR said earlier this month that its outlook for 2013 was positive after UK vehicle sales rose almost 20 percent in 2012. Its biggest markets are the US, Russia and Germany. The expansion at the Solihull plant would support the introduction of new models in 2013, the company said.

Last week, Japanese carmaker Honda cut around 1,000 jobs at its plant near Swindon due to falling demand for its vehicles across mainland Europe.

A Prasanna, economist at ICICI Securities, Primary Dealership, in Mumbai. The RBI’s next policy review is on 20 January when it is widely expected to cut the policy repo rate, which has remained unchanged at 8 percent since April 2011, by 25 basis points.

In an anticipation of an interest rate cut, financial markets rallied after the data.

India’s 10-year bond yield fell to its lowest in 29 months, while the rupee strengthened against the dollar. The rupee strengthened as much as 0.46 per cent on Monday against the dollar. The rupee strengthened as much as 0.46 per cent on Monday. The rupee strengthened as much as 0.46 per cent on Monday.

Economic growth that once looked poised to hit double-digits has been stuck below 6 percent for the past three quarters, hurt by a combination of weak investments and consumer demand. The slowdown has constrained job opportunities for a bulging young population, a worry for the Congress-led ruling alliance as it prepares for a series of state elections and general election due in 2014. It has also buffeted government revenues, swollen the fiscal deficit and put the country’s investment-grade sovereign credit rating on the line.

This has bolstered calls for a cut in interest rates that are among the highest of the major economies. The RBI has, thus far, refused to budge on the interest rates citing high inflation. But, in December, it signalled a possible reduction in the rates in the January-March quarter.
Chinese, India agree to strengthen military ties

BEIJING, 15 Jan—Chinese and Indian senior military officials met in Beijing on Monday and agreed to strengthen ties.

Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of China’s Central Military Commission, met with Indian Defence Secretary Shashi Kant Sharma. Xu said China and India, being the biggest developing countries in the world, are important neighbors for each other.

He noted that the two countries have extensive common interests and developing friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation is in line with the common aspiration of the two peoples as well as global development.

He said that he believes that the two countries have enough wisdom and ability to handle their relationship and are able to pave a healthy and stable development path for it.

Xu said China attaches great importance in developing military ties with India and hopes to increase mutual strategic trust, enhance friendly communications and deepen pragmatic cooperation in order to promote the strategic partnership for peace and prosperity and make a possible contribution to world and regional peace and stability.

Sharma said India attaches great importance to developing its relationship with China and he is confident in the future progress of military relations between the two countries.

Clinton to testify on Benghazi attack on 23 January

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan—After a month’s delay for health reasons, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will testify before a congressional committee on 23 January to answer questions about the deadly attack on the US diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya.

Clinton was originally due to appear before the committee on 20 December but had to cancel after she suffered a concussion when she fainted due to dehydration. Doctors later found she had a blood clot in her head and hospitalized her for several days.

Lawmakers want to question Clinton about the attack that killed US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans on 11 September last year, and ask about the adequacy of security in foreign posts.

“Is it important to learn all we can about what happened in Benghazi because at the end of the day, it could happen again. After all, al-Qaeda plans attacks over and over again,” Royce said in a statement.

The attack in Benghazi, the first to kill a US ambassador in the line of duty since 1979, resulted in sharp criticism of the State Department.

An independent inquiry last month found widespread failures in both security planning and internal management in the department. The State Department’s top security officer resigned from his post and three other employees were relieved of their duties.

The controversy also cost Susan Rice, the US ambassador to the United Nations, her chance to succeed Clinton as Secretary of State.

Republican Representative Ed Royce, chair of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, said he wants Clinton to explain why the attack was not better anticipated and what failures or deficiencies need to be corrected to properly protect US diplomats and diplomatic facilities.

Japanese Embassy in Beijing issues advisory

TOKYO, 15 Jan.—The Japanese Embassy in Beijing has issued an advisory about the high levels of air pollution in the city. It urges Japanese nationals to stay indoors as much as possible, and to wear masks when going outside.

The embassy says the average level of PM2.5 airborne particles in Beijing is about 6 times higher than in Tokyo. But some monitoring stations recorded almost 50 times that figure over the weekend.

Japanese schools in Beijing say they cancel outdoor activities when pollution levels measured by the US Embassy exceed certain standards.

Japan and the United States control the level of PM2.5 particles through strict environmental regulations. The Chinese government set its own standards in February of last year after a wave of criticism both at home and abroad.

But public discontent continues to grow mainly in urban areas, as the government struggles to improve the situation.—NHK

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UN: Syria crisis should be sent to Intl Court

TOKYO, 15 Jan—A group of more than 50 countries, including Japan and France, has called on the UN Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

The UN Security Council met closed door to discuss the situation in Mali. The UN under-Secretary-General for political affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, briefed the 15-nation Security Council.

The Security Council meeting was called by France, which on Monday called for international support for its operation to help Mali quash Islamist rebels.

France, as the leader of the operation, has been fighting against the rebels who occupied the northern part of the country last week, the United Nations said here on Monday.

“It is feared that the number of people affected may be greater as it has been reported that some Islamist groups have prevented people from moving South,” the deputy UN spokesman, Del Buey made the statement just hours before the UN Security Council met closed doors to discuss the situation in Mali.

The UN Security Council authorized an African-led force to support the Malian government and the rebel group, Ansar Dine, failed to reach any deal in talks on a solution to the Mali crisis.

The Malian government forces have been fighting against the rebels who occupied the northern part of the country since a military coup in March 2012, when the democratically elected president was overthrown by mutinous soldiers.

In December, the Security Council authorized an African-led force to support the Malian government and the rebel group, Ansar Dine, failed to reach any deal in talks on a solution to the Mali crisis.

The Malian government forces have been fighting against the rebels who occupied the northern part of the country since a military coup in March 2012, when the democratically elected president was overthrown by mutinous soldiers.

In December, the Security Council authorized an African-led force to support the Malian government and the rebel group, Ansar Dine, failed to reach any deal in talks on a solution to the Mali crisis.
Buildings at Sagaing University under construction

SAGAING, 15 Jan—Under the permission of the Union government, Building Construction Special Group 6 of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction has completed construction of two-storey lecture halls, practical rooms, management buildings, faculty offices and staff quarters of Sagaing Uni-versity. At present, first year students are admitted and given lectures. Now, more staff quarters, university walls, archway and other buildings are under construction. In addition, the 30 feet wide road linking the chancellor road and lecture halls are being built by Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Maintenance Group and the works have been completed by 80 per cent. Moreover, plans are underway to grow flowery plants at the traffic islands and landscapes beside the pavements.

5% tax handed over to township DAC fund

MOGAN, 15 Jan—A ceremony to hand over cash obtained from the tax to Development Affairs Committee was held at the hall of Mogan Township General Administration Department on 6 January. At first, Township Administrator U Tin Swe made a speech. Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Kyaw Thet Naing handed over five per cent from the tax for third quarter to the fund of the townships to Executive Officer U Win Naing of Township DAC.

Police inspector refresher course commences

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—The police inspector refresher course of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force was opened at No. 1 Police Station of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force on 7 January morning, with an address by Police Force Police Col Aung Chan (a) Myo Aung, 27, under a lawsuit against Khan Chin Chan (a) Myo Aung, 27, of Padanma Street in No. 5 region of Lashio who was in possession of drugs for using pseudo-ephedrine in stimulant tablets under the law.—Myanma Alinn

Cash assistance to WVO members

GANGAW, 15 Jan—A ceremony to provide cash assistance to older members of Gangaw Township War Veterans Organizations and disabled members was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 30 December morning. Chairman of the township WVO Major Paw Tin (Rtd) and officials presented cash assistance to 12 elderly members above 75 years and 16 disabled members.—Myanma Alinn

KIA plants mine, arrests and opens fire at local people in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—A motorcycle rolled on the mine near Zarkan Bridge in Sumpabrum Township at 2.30 pm on 10 January. Driver of the motorcycle U Khin Maung Hsan of Phankhaing-I Village of Putao Township died on the spot. U Mee Kaw Khin on the back seat of the motorcycle from Namshewa Village of Myitkyina Township was injured at his left thigh with particle of mine. He is in critical condition of injury and is under the treatment at Sumpabrum People’s Hospital. At 1.30 pm on 12 January, about 30 members of KIA entered Shangaw Village of Waingmaw Township with arms and took about 30 villagers to the northeast of the village. Starting from 5 am on 13 January, KIA opened fire at the military column that was discharging security duty at the hill near Kahtayang Village of Phakant Township. Thus, Maung Karen Nor Naw of Kahtayang Village was injured at left thigh and right arm. At present, he is under medical treatment at Phakant Township Hospital. At 12 noon on 13 January, U Panar Tang (a) La Shein of Myohtit Village in Momauk Township, while working at lemon grass farm, five miles from the village, died in the gun fire by KIA group. His son and other farmer managed escape from the fire, according to the Kachin State government.

142-down train derails on Aungpan-Kalaw section

KALAW, 15 Jan—No. 2 upper class coach of Shweinyaung-Yangon 142-down train with locomotive GF 210 driven by U Htay Win and guard U Aung Soe derailed at mile post 375/56 on Aungpan-Kalaw railroad section in Lwe-an Village-tract of Kalaw Township at 12.30 pm on 7 January. In the incident, there was no injury of passengers. Six workers led by Supervisor U Khaing Win Maung, Assistant Supervisor U Tun Aung and Overseer U Than Maung of Myanma Railways made vigorous efforts to repair No. 2 upper class coach to be moved on the rail tracks. Thanks to their concerted efforts, at 4.15 pm, the repairing works were completed and the train continued its route to Yangon.

Winners awarded in Mandalay Mayor’s Mini-Marathon Championship

MANDALAY, 15 Jan—The Mandalay Mayor’s Mini-marathon Championship was held on 7 January, starting from Mandalay City Development Committee office. It was attended by Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung and region ministers. Mandalay Mayor Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun launched the race. The athletes parti-cipated in the 13-mile race. At Bahtoo Stadium, Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw U Hlaing, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, Chief Justice of the region High Court U Soe Thein, Mandalay Mayor Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun, Region Auditor-General U Kayin Win and officials presented prizes to the winners. Altogether 70 athletes took part in the open race and 1818 in the novice men’s and women’s race.

Over 3 million pseudo-ephedrine tablets seized in Lashio

Hsipaw, 15 Jan—Lashio Special Anti-Drug Squad of Shan State North, acting on tip-off, seized 10 bags containing 330,000 white pseudo-ephedrine tablets weighing 330 kilos, one bag of 480,000 tablets weighing 48 kilos totalling 3,780,000 tablets weighing 378 kilos worth K 75.6 million from the warehouse of feedstuff for poultry farm in Kaungtat Village of Hopeik Village-tract at 10 am on 2 January. Lashio Police Station No. 2 opened a file of
Another major political achievement

Myanmar has undergone a remarkable democratic transition over the past year that has captured the world’s attention. As the new government ushered in a period of prosperity, there are many positive developments which took place in the country over 2012, including the release of prisoners of conscience, the April 1 by-elections and the signing of ceasefires with several ethnic armed groups.

Meanwhile, most of economic sanctions that had been a severe impediment to economic growth have also been lifted. In the light of these achievements, the country will continue to show ongoing commitment to strengthening democracy, transparency, economic reform and the rule of law in 2013 and beyond. But such achievements do not mean making people’s democracy more extensive, fuller in scope and sounder in practice.

The government has signed a ceasefire agreement with KNU, in what appeared to be a major breakthrough in efforts to end a 63-year insurgency. This was a bolt from the blue in the time of the new administration. Hostilities ended with the successful conclusion of the peace agreement. Progress in the peace process is another major political achievement.

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 to carry out fire preventive and rescue and social works in case of natural disasters. Fire stations were being supplied with fire engines through five means. He expressed special thank to the donor and called for maintenance of fire engines.

After that, Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd U Kyaw Win explained the purpose of donation and handed over the documents related to the fire engines through Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko. Next, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko and Shan State Hluttaw representative U Sai Kyu spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, the Vice-President posed for a documentary photo along with those present. And he inspected fire engines and enjoyed demonstration of fire engines’ capacity.

The Japan-made fire engines will be allocated to Kyaunk, Tanyant and Nagmon village-tract of Lashio township one each and Auxiliary Fire Brigade of Yangon Region. Fire outbreaks account for seventy percent of disasters that occurred in the country. There are average fire outbreaks of 884.5 times per annum, which have caused a loss of K 5090 million.—MNA

Shwe Than Lwin Media donates fire engines

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and officials with Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd pose for a documentary photo.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Jan—A ceremony to donate four fire engines to Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs by Sky Net TV channel of Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd, was held at Fire Services Department, here, this morning, with an address by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

It was also attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi, deputy ministers, departmental heads, donor families and guests. In his speech, the Vice-President said that the donation had materialized thanks to his visit to Shan State (North) previous year. More than 1200 outbreaks of fire occurred across the country last year, causing a loss of over K 10.7 billion. The aim of Fire Brigade was to carry out fire preventive measures and rescue and social works in case of natural disasters. Fire stations were being supplied with fire engines through five means. He expressed special thank to the donor and called for maintenance of fire engines.

Also present at the call were Chairs of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Dr Khin Shwe, Col Maung Maung Htoo, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, Daw Khin Waing Kyi, U Win Naung and officials of Hluttaw office.

Humanitarian affairs, providing aids in accord with international laws, and cooperation for stability and peace in Rakhine and Kachin States were discussed at the meeting.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives ICRC President

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint welcomes President of ICRC Mr Peter Maurer at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Jan—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by President of International Committee of the Red Cross Mr Peter Maurer at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall here this evening.

In his address at the coordination meeting between the Ministry of Health and social organizations which are providing health care services to locals in Rakhine State held at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, yesterday, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin called for collaborative efforts to draw a plan for regular and special health care services to the victims of natural disasters and recent conflicts that make up the 20 per cent of the total population of Rakhine State.

The coordination meeting was held to get the information on progress of current health care services and to fulfill the needs, he added.

Next, officials concerned reported to the Union minister on health care services, disaster response and disease control tasks which are ongoing in Rakhine State.

Then those from UN agencies and local and foreign social organizations explained progress in health care services. —MNA

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and officials with Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd pose for a documentary photo.—MNA

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**NATIONAL**

**Myanmar’s culture to be learnt through traditional arts at Shwedagon replica in Luoyang, China**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called for showing Myanmar’s culture based on Buddhism and its traditional arts to the world through artistic works which are to be put to a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda at Luoyang, Henan Province, in China.

In his address at the coordination meeting on construction of a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda at Ministry of Religious Affairs here today, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham stressed the need for building the pagoda meeting international standards so that it can have strength and durability and can withstand the elements.

The meeting was also participated by Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Chairman of leading sub-committees for building the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, Vice-Chairman of the committee Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Winna Maung Lwin, Chairman of the working committee Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Hitaya and chairmen of the respective sub-committees.

As Chinese Buddhist monks requested the President during his visit to China in May last year to build a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda in China, arrangements were made to build the pagoda in Luoyang and the construction started in April, 2012.

The building would be completed in two years and it would be 108 ft in height. The pagoda is being built with the donations collected during last three days of the 48-day tour of a sacred tooth relic of Buddha for public obeisance in Myanmar last year.

Diamond orb, umbrella and other religious objects which would be fixed atop the replication of Shwedagon Pagoda and teak, jade, bronze Buddha images, great bronze bell have been completed by Myanmar artists.

Relics and religious objects which would be showcased in the cave of the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda in China would be displayed at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw for public obeisance before they are conveyed to China.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives ICRC President and party

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives a delegation led by President Mr. Peter Maurer of International Committee of the Red Cross — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by President Mr. Peter Maurer of International Committee of the Red Cross at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Present at the meeting together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo, U T Khun Myat, Secretary Dr Nay Lin and Hluttaw representatives and officials from the Hluttaw office.

At the meeting, ICRC side stressed the importance of parliaments to practice democracy and expressed their wish to cooperate in legislation and respective sectors. They also disclosed to promote Myanmar-ICRC cooperation.

C-in-C visits 2nd People’s Defence Force, AFTC

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — Myanmar’s Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited 2nd People’s Defence Force of Singapore yesterday evening.

Major General Ravinder Singh, the Singapore Army Chief, extended a warm welcome to the delegation.

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited military capabilities, Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary photo.

They also viewed Vocal Hanger Trainer Room and Radar and Tower Simulator Room. Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Singapore Air Force Chief exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary photo.

Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces Lieutenant General Neo Kian Hong hosted a dinner to the delegation at Shangrila Hotel in the evening.

**New Light of Myanmar**

Wednesday, 16 January, 2013
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Chinese Vice-Minister and party

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received visiting Chinese Vice-Minister and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua and senior officials.

Our visiting Chinese Vice-Minister and party were welcomed by Mr. Vijay Nambia, Special Advisor to UNSG, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann extends a courtesy call on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, at 11am today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed developments in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the future cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

Union FM receives Special Advisor to UNSG

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Mr. Vijay Nambia, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General, paid a courtesy call on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, at 11am today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed developments in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the future cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

US authors give lecture on literature

YANGON, 15 Jan—Award-winning poets and writers from the United States of America gave lecture on literature to faculty members and students at the Yangon University of Foreign Languages here today. Divided into four groups, the delegation led by Mr Christopher Merrill from University of Iowa and Director of International Writing Programme, gave talks on poetry, fiction, non-fiction and teaching English through literature.

Rail sections partially damaged by KIA mines

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Two mines went off simultaneously on the bridge No. 436 at Milepost No. 589 between Naba and Indaw Railway Stations on Myitkyina-Mandalay railway section and the bridge No. 1 BK on Naba-Katha railway section yesterday night.

The blasts partially destroyed the floor of Pier No. 2 of Bridge No. 436 and 15 sleepers and Pier No. 2 of the bridge No. 1 BK and 60 sleepers but there were no casualties. The damaged parts were already repaired this afternoon. As a result, the operation of Mandalay-

Myitkyina has come to normalcy.

KIO/KIA has been blowing up the railroads. The latest blast has added the number to 59—56 on Myitkyina-Mandalay section, two on Mandalay-Lashio and one on Naba-Katha section.—MNA

Mr and Miss Contest chosen from university/college

MANDALAY, 15 Jan—The Inter-University/College Mr and Miss Contest (Upper Myanmar) was opened by Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing on 9 January.

A total of 24 body-builders participated in the men’s senior and junior classes and 28 in the women’s physical culture contest. Myanma Alinn

17th ACCSM Chairmanship Training Course opened

YANGON, 15 Jan—The Training Course on 17th ACCSM Chairmanship in Myanmar 2013 organized by the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) in collaboration with Devawngse Varapakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs-DVIFA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand was opened at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning.

The Acting Rector delivered an opening address and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Isorn Pomontri extended greetings.

A total of 50 participants from Union Civil Service Board are attending the two-week training course where four modules focusing on International Meeting Management, ASEAN Meeting and Summit, Effective Communication Skills and Business Method will be presented.—MNA

Paper-reading session on cooperative network and role of banks held

YANGON, 15 Jan—Agricultural development must be given priority in pursuing rural development and poverty alleviation, Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan said at the paper-reading session on cooperative network and the role of banks in Cooperative Economic Centre here yesterday morning.

The Union Minister said assistance would be provided to families who owned less land to help them earn secondary income. He said loans would be disbursed constantly to rural population. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the papers at the session would contribute to rural development and poverty alleviation efforts.

Chairman of National Economic Public Corporation U Khin Maung Aye made discussions and exchange gifts.—MNA

Kayin New Year celebrated

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Kayin New Year Day was celebrated on the lawns of the Kayin state government office on 12 January morning, with an address by State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Aung Kyaw Min.

On the occasion, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min presented gifts to the respectable elderly, and awarded outstanding students who passed the matriculation exam with flying colours. The Chief Minister attended the Kayin New Year celebration held at Pyidaungsu Thiri Stadium organized by the state government.

The Chief Minister at 2 pm held a meeting with US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell and party at the state government office in the afternoon. During the meeting, the Chief Minister notified that they had planned programmes for regional development tasks thanks to fruitful results of peace making process in the region, and assured that the migrant Kayin workers would be enjoying comfort and convenience when they came back home. The US Ambassador assured that US would cooperate in the tasks.

In the evening, the Chief Minister, state ministers, departmental personnel, KNU Chairman General Mutu Sae Phoe and party enjoyed the Kayin New Year dinner.—MNA
**Vietnam, S Korea boost legislative ties**

HANOI, 15 Jan—Chairman of Vietnam’s National Assembly (NA) Nguyen Sinh Hung held talks with visiting Speaker of the Republic of Korea’s National Assembly Kang Chang Hee here on Monday to boost bilateral legislative ties.

Huong affirmed that Vietnam always attaches great importance to further develop the cooperative relationship with South Korea, proposing the two sides to continue maintaining leaders’ visits to promote mutual trust and understanding.

Haug expressed his hope to receive supports from the South Korean NA to expand the Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Vietnam, especially in the areas of infrastructure construction. Haug believed that with joint efforts, the Vietnam-South Korea Strategic Cooperative Partnership will develop well in the future to contribute to peace and stability in the region and the world at large.

Kang Chang Hee, for his part, said that Vietnam’s advantages in geographical, natural and human resources serve as a good foundation for promoting cooperation between the two countries, adding that South Korea is willing to share its experiences in economic and industrial development.

Kang said that South Korea expects the signing of the South Korea-Vietnam bilateral Free Trade Agreement to be conducted soon in a bid to expand comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. During their talks, the two sides also agreed to boost cooperation in the field of information technology.

**Indonesian parties pick poll numbers for 2014 elections**

JAKARTA, 15 Jan—Ten political parties qualified to run in Indonesia’s 2014 parliamentary and presidential elections picked their poll numbers on Monday as early conduct of the democratic election in southeast Asia’s most populous country.

The poll numbers were drawn by representatives of political parties at the General Elections Commission (KPU) office, a statement released by the KPU said.

The numbers will help voters remember the parties during the campaign and ballot casting.

A total of 560 parliamentary seats will be contested by those parties in 2014, followed by an election of a new president to replace Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono whose five-year terms will expire last year.

Philippine gov’t mulls options to protect websites

MANILA, 15 Jan—The Philippine government said on Monday that it is considering options to protect the websites of government agencies.

President Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said the government is keen on moving government websites from private web hosting service to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

A web hosting service is a type of internet hosting service that allows individuals and organizations to make their website accessible via the world wide web, provide data centrespace and internet connectivity.

Lacierda noted that government websites hosted by the DOST like those of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO) and Official Gazette (OG) were spared during the hacking spree last year.

Malacanang, the presidential palace, made the statement following the hacking of the National Food Authority’s (NFA) website on Monday by a group called Anonymous who was campaigning against the Cybercrime Law.

Oral arguments on the constitutionality of Republic Act 10175 or the anti-cybercrime law at the Supreme Court are scheduled for 15 January.—Xinhua

**Eight killed as truck turns turtle in Bangladesh**

DHAKA, 15 Jan—A fertilizer-laden truck turned turtle after colliding on a road divider in Bangladesh’s central Gazipur District, killing at least 8 people and injuring 3 others early on Monday, local police said.

Enayan Uddin, officer-in-charge in Kaliganj Police Station in Gazipur, told Xinhua over mobile phone that the passengers, mostly labourers, were buried under the fertilizer sacks as the body of the truck overturned after colliding on the road divider at around 3:30 am local time.

On receipt of information, he said, police rushed to the spot and recovered eight bodies.

All the three injured in the crash were rushed to a local hospital, he said, adding that the accident occurred most likely due to poor visibility cause by thick fog.

Gazipur is 30 kilometres north of capital Dhaka.

**S Korean Coast Guard rescues 14 Chinese sailors**

SEOUL, 15 Jan—The South Korean Coast Guard rescued 14 Chinese sailors from their fishing boat that sank in South Korean waters early on Monday, local media reported.

The Coast Guard dispatched two patrol boats after it received a rescue request at around 2 am local time from the 150-ton fishing ship that was sailing about 22 kilometres west of the island of Gageo, off the country’s southwestern coast, according to Yonhap news agency. The Coast Guard was able to move the ship to safety three hours after the accident occurred.

The boat is scheduled to leave for China when repairs are finished.—Xinhua

**Indonesia not to aggressively cut crude palm oil export tax**

JAKARTA, 15 Jan—Indonesian Trade Minister Gita Wirjawan said on Monday that Indonesia will not aggressively slash its crude palm oil (CPO) export tax as an effort to boost competitiveness of the country’s palm oil export by the country to overseas was small.

“Do we feel that we do not need to take a stand as aggressive as Malaysia,” said Wirjawan at the State Palace. The Minister hinted that Indonesia may take beneficial if Indonesia reduces its CPO export tax. “Malaysia has an interest to process raw palm oil from Indonesia, but the raw palm oil exported by Malaysia to overseas is not much,” said Wirjawan.

Indonesia trimmed export tax for CPO to 7.5 percent in January from 9 percent in December, according to the trade ministry.—Xinhua
Israel wiring Jerusalem schools with earthquake sensors

JERUSALEM, 15 Jan—In a project begun two weeks ago, the Jerusalem municipality is installing sensors in 130 schools to warn of potential earthquakes originating in the Jordan Rift Valley, an active fault zone, the project manager told Xinhua on Sunday.

"An unprecedented 50,000 students all over the city will benefit from the system, already used in Japan," the city said in a statement sent to Xinhua, noting that the system is based on wireless IP technology, monitoring specific frequencies common to earthquake microtremors.

The system, which will be installed throughout the city’s older schools, has already been introduced in 21 schools in both eastern and western parts of the city, Shmulik Mahalla, project manager and municipal engineer in charge of public structures told Xinhua.

In addition to local structural sensors, others are arrayed along 100 kilometers of the Syrian-African Rift to the north and south of the city, from Tiberias to Ein Yehav, the likeliest source of such an earthquake, according to Mahalla. At least two sensors have to go off concurrently for the system to register a tremor, in order to avoid false positives, Mahalla said.

In 2009, the Israeli Ministry of Education recommended installing the system, which is synchronized with the army’s national Home Front Command (HFC).

Local geologists have warned that the region is due for a major earthquake, and the HFC said smaller fault lines in Israel could also cause quakes.

During a visit to a school in Jerusalem during the readiness drill, Dichter said that teachers and students “were little bit nervous and didn’t know exactly what to do. But the second one was totally different,” he noted. “So I believe that practicing it the first time and the second time and the third time will make it a little more sure and secure for us to be prepared.”—Xinhua
Friends believe their relationship will be truly tested when they are forced to spend long periods apart on different film sets in the near future.—PTI
Murray and Federer fire up at Melbourne Park

Roger Federer

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan—Andy Murray’s campaign for a second straight grand slam title gets underway on Tuesday when he takes centre stage against Robin Haase in the first round of the Australian Open. Big things are expected of the 25-year-old Briton in 2013 after he finally shook the grand slam monkey from his back with his US Open triumph in his fifth major final.

The 53rd-ranked Haase is unlikely to be a pushover, however, having taken Murray to five sets at the 2011 US Open and beaten the Scot in their only other match at Rotterdam in 2008. “He likes playing on big courts,” said Murray in a news conference on Monday. “He tends to come out firing and going for big shots, playing extremely aggressive. So, I’ll need to be prepared for that.”

Roger Federer also faces a tricky start against Maria Sharapova

Andy Murray of Britain hits a return to Robin Haase of Netherlands. — Reuters

Sevilla sack Michel, replacing him with former Valencia coach Unai Emery

Madrid, 15 Jan.—Sevilla Football Club confirmed on Monday the decision to sack coach Miguel Gonzalez following a poor first half of the season, replacing him with Unai Emery. Miguel, who has previously coached Getafe, Real Madrid’s B-team and Rayo Vallecano, has paid the price for a poor opening 19 matches in which his side take just 22 points. Sevilla are currently just six points above the relegation zone, when the club’s ambition is unlikely to be a pushover, however, having taken Murray to five sets at the 2011 US Open and beaten the Scot in their only other match at Rotterdam in 2008. “He likes playing on big courts,” said Murray in a news conference on Monday. “He tends to come out firing and going for big shots, playing extremely aggressive. So, I’ll need to be prepared for that.”

Roger Federer also faces a tricky start against

Murray and Federer fire up at Melbourne Park

Roger Federer

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan—Andy Murray’s campaign for a second straight grand slam title gets underway on Tuesday when he takes centre stage against Robin Haase in the first round of the Australian Open. Big things are expected of the 25-year-old Briton in 2013 after he finally shook the grand slam monkey from his back with his US Open triumph in his fifth major final.

The 53rd-ranked Haase is unlikely to be a pushover, however, having taken Murray to five sets at the 2011 US Open and beaten the Scot in their only other match at Rotterdam in 2008. “He likes playing on big courts,” said Murray in a news conference on Monday. “He tends to come out firing and going for big shots, playing extremely aggressive. So, I’ll need to be prepared for that.”

Roger Federer also faces a tricky start against Maria Sharapova

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Patriots use element of surprise in Super Bowl pursuit

New York, 15 Jan.—“Just win, baby” was the famed motto of late Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis during his team’s heyday, but Baltimore Ravens linebacker Brendon Ayanbadejo thinks Tom Brady and the New England Patriots have gone too far. Ayanbadejo believes the Patriots, one win away from a second consecutive Super Bowl berth, are hitting below the belt with the way they run their hurry-up offense. “New England does some suspect stuff on offense. Can’t really respect it. Comparable to a cheap shot b4 a fight,” he tweeted during New England’s 41-28 win over the Houston Texans on Sunday. “That sets up an AFC title rematch with the Ravens. The hurry-up, or no-huddle offense, has been around for a while, but Ayanbadejo emphasized with a Houston defends. A Yanbadejo believes the Patriots, one win away from a second consecutive Super Bowl berth, are hitting below the belt with the way they run their hurry-up offense. “New England does some suspect stuff on offense. Can’t really respect it. Comparable to a cheap shot b4 a fight,” he tweeted during New England’s 41-28 win over the Houston Texans on Sunday. “That sets up an AFC title rematch with the Ravens. The hurry-up, or no-huddle offense, has been around for a while, but Ayanbadejo emphasized with a Houston defense caught out of position and in confusion when Brady quickly ran play. “Are you watching the game pats vs Texans?” Ayanbadejo tweeted. “If so you can’t see the snap of offense catch em b4 they set up. It’s a gimmick.”

But all is fair within the rules of the gridiron, however, and Ayanbadejo’s complaint is akin to a tight end moaning about a disguised defense showing a blitz formation before dropping back into zone pass coverage. “Shamer on Houston for not being ready and credit the Pats, who have cleverly retooled and thrived over a remarkable run that could bring them a sixth trip to the Super Bowl in the 12 years since the partnerships of coach Belichick and Brady. The big surprise of Sunday’s contest was how the Patriots made up for injuries during the game to key offensive players Rob Gronkowski and Danny Woodhead as third-string running back Shane Vereen scored three touchdowns to tame the Texans. The Patriots scrapped by last year’s AFC title game with a 23-20 victory over the Ravens, who had a potential game-winning touchdown pass dropped in the end zone and a 32-yard game-tying field goal missed.—Reuters

New England Patriots running back Shane Vereen (34) runs away from Houston Texans’ Brudie James (53) for a first down during the first quarter of their NFL AFC Divisional playoff football game in Foxborough, Massachusetts on 13 Jan, 2013. — Reuters

Djokovic delivers, Sharapova ruthless on opening day

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan.—Novak Djokovic served up only flashes of his best tennis on the opening day of the Australian Open but took a comfortable first step on the path he hopes will lead to an unprecedented hat-trick of titles at Melbourne Park in two weeks’ time.

Perhaps keeping energy in reserve for the battles that he ahead, the world number one’s workmanlike 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 victory over Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu on Monday summed up a day where the year’s first grand slam failed to really fire.

“It was a good performance for a first round,” said the top seed, who will play American Ryan Harrison in the second round. “There are some few adjustments that I need to make and get a little bit sharper on the court. But it’s expected in the first match you’re still not a 100 percent on the court.” While Djokovic only rounded himself when necessary, Maria Sharapova was ruthless as she swept aside any fears about her fitness with a thumping 6-0, 6-0 win over compatriot Olga Puchkova on Rod Laver Arena.

American Venus Williams and China’s Li Na, both former losing finalists, also enjoyed emphatic wins to breeze into the second round, while in-form fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska extended her perfect start to the year to 10 matches.

Upsets are often the catalyst that jolt a tournament into life but Argentina’s Juan Monaco was the first seed to fall in the early evening and his 7-6, 6-1, 6-1 defeat was as much down to hand and leg injuries as Russian Andrey Kuznetsov.

Lleyton Hewitt did his best to produce another shock in front of a partisan night crowd but eighth seed Janko Tipsarevic brought a rapid end to the Australian’s 17th appearance at his home open with a 7-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory.

A’s reward manager Melvin with two-year extension

New York, 15 Jan.—The Oakland Athletics rewarded manager Bob Melvin with a two-year contract extension after he led the team to a division title and was voted American League Manager of the Year, the team said on Monday.

The extension will keep Melvin, who led Oakland to a 94-68 record in 2012 that was a 20-win improvement over the previous campaign, with the A’s through the 2016 Major League Baseball season, the team said in a statement. It was Melvin’s first full year at the helm in Oakland. He was named interim manager in June 2011 before signing a three-year pact three months later.

Oakland Athletics manager Bob Melvin returns to the dugout out after taking pitcher AJ Griffin out of the game for tightness in his right hand during the second inning of their MLB baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays in Oakland on 4 Aug, 2012. — Reuters

Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return to Paul-Henri Mathieu of France during their men’s singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 14 Jan, 2013. — Reuters

New Light of Myanmar
Champion Azarenka into second round in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan — World number one Victoria Azarenka got her Australian Open title defence underway with an unconvincing 6-1, 6-4 victory over Romania’s Monica Niculescu on Rod Laver Arena on Tuesday.

The Belarusian did well to battle back to secure victory without going a third set after going 3-0 down in the second, but the way her first serve fell apart at times will only encourage her main rivals for the crown.

Second seed Maria Sharapova got her campaign off to a blistering start without losing a game on Monday and third seed Serena Williams followed suit with a similarly convincing win despite a tumble on Hisense Arena on Tuesday. Azarenka will perhaps reassure herself that she will be more battle-hardened after her 87-minute win over Niculescu as she prepares for a second-round tie against Eleni Daniilidou or Karolína Pliskova. — Reuters

World Future Energy Summit 2013 starts in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, 15 Jan — The three-day WFES 2013 with 20 national pavilions in the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center, was attended by 30,000 delegates from areas of the conventional energy (like oil and gas) and alternative energy industries (such as solar, wind and water power) — up from 26,000 delegates last year.

French President Francois Hollande and Argentina’s President Christina Fernandez delivered the key notes at the opening ceremony. The WFES also includes for the first time a “green jobs fair,” a platform for the people who aim to start a career in the solar industry, wind energy sector or bio-thermal energy industry.

According to global consultancy Ernst and Young, the total investment in renewable energy stood at 237 billion U.S. dollars in 2011. In addition, the conference will introduce the Sustainable Living Area “Estidama,” and showcase the “green home” of the future.

The first International Water Summit is co-located with WFES. — Xinhua

McGinley should be Ryder Cup captain, says McIlroy

ABU DHABI, 15 Jan — World golf number one Rory McIlroy wants Ireland’s Paul McGinley to be Europe’s 2014 Ryder Cup skipper, rather than Colin Montgomerie, with a decision on the captaincy due on Tuesday. Victorious 2010 captain Montgomerie has been linked to the position a second time for next year’s event in the eight-times European Tour order of merit winner’s native Scotland, something McIlroy disagrees with.

“I personally don’t feel like Monty has anything to gain over this,” the twice major winner said at a presentation unveiling him as the new Nike ambassador on Monday. “If we go to Gleneagles and lose he’s already a winning Ryder Cup captain. I’m fully behind Paul and I think Paul should get the job and hopefully he does.”

World number three Luke Donald also voiced his support for McGinley when the Englishman wrote on Twitter on Monday: “I hope Paul McGinley gets his chance, he’s been an amazing vice-captain and deserves an opportunity.”

McIlroy played under three-times Ryder Cup winner McGinley for Britain and Ireland at the 2009 Seve Trophy against continental Europe and said his captaincy was awe-inspiring. “He did an unbelievable job.” — Reuters

Poland strives for organizing Winter Olympics in 2022 with Slovakia

WARSAW, 15 Jan — President Bronislaw Komorowski said the organization of Winter Olympics in 2022 in Poland’s Krakow and Zakopane is possible only in cooperation with Slovakia in Bialka Tatrzanska, southern Poland, on Monday.

According to local media report, Komorowski said that he would meet the presidents of the Czech Republic and Slovakia in Poland’s Wisla next week to discuss the organization of 2022 Winter Olympics. He said the presidents of the two countries will gladly support the organization of the games in the Tatras Mountains if their countries’ governments embark on proper actions.

The final decision depends on consent of three countries’ governments.

Golfer Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland

In October, heads of Polish and Slovak Olympic Committees and the Krakow mayor signed a letter of intent on staging Winter Olympic Games in Krakow in 2022.

Serena twists ankle, but still double bagels Gallovits-Hall

Serena Williams of the US hits a return to Edina Gallovits-Hall of Romania during their women’s singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on Tuesday. — Reuters

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**News in Brief**

(15 January 2013)

Martyred soldier’s family ends fast

KHAIRAI, 15 Jan — Family of beheaded soldier Hemraj called off fast after visit by UP CM Akhilesh Yadav & top BJP leaders & assurances by Army Chief Gen Bikram Singh.

Sankranti celebrated in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, 15 Jan — A youth died here after his throat slit from the string of a kite being flown on the occasion of Makar Sankranti yesterday.

NC-Cong panel condemns attack

JAMMI, 15 Jan — Condemning the recent attacks on panchayat members, the Coordination Committee of National Conference and Congress on 14 Jan, 2013 said the coalition government in the state will take all the required steps for their security.

Two artillery shells found near Balasore

BALASORE, 15 Jan — Two artillery shells were recovered from a pond near Balasore town and taken to a safe place for examination by a bomb disposal squad of the Odisha Police on 14 January.

Bus falls off flyover, 12 injured

SAHARANPUR, 15 Jan — At least 12 people were injured on 14 Jan, 2013 when the bus they were travelling fell down from a 30-feet high flyover in Hospital Chowk area here.

He who laughs last laughs longest.
The New Light of Myanmar

Wednesday, 16 January, 2013

Exploration and production of sources of electricity, a key to industrial development, underway

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Jan—Eighteen representatives held discussion on the fifth five-year short-term plan (from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 fiscal year) (draft) at the today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

The plan (draft) aims to make a change in contribution ratio of agriculture sector, industrial sector and service sector between 2010-2011 fiscal year and 2015-2016 fiscal year. It is expected to increase the exports of K 15187.7 billion for 2015-2016 fiscal year that account for 9.0 per cent annual growth rate in 2015-2016 fiscal year and 29 per cent in Yagon Region, 8.5 per cent in Rakhine State, 8.5 per cent in Yangon Region, 3.9 per cent in Shan State, 4.4 per cent in Ayeyawady Region and 29 per cent in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The plan (draft) to increase the durabilty of rural health sector, a key to industrial development, underway. The Union Minister held discussion on high school drop rate that has reached 80 per cent and above among students in rural area and she called for more appointment of skilled and qualified health staff based on transportation and the area of the region and more opening of hospitals in the country based on the list of priority.

During the fourth five-year short-term plan, there was an average annual growth rate of 14.1 per cent in generating electricity which is a key to industrial development of the country and exploration and production of sources of electricity like hydropower and natural gas are being carried out.

U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No (6) said it was appropriate to set 95 baskets as per acre yield. He called for sooner completion of ongoing dam projects, effective maintenance of irrigation system and suspension of new projects.

Daw Thin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency discussed that three sectors of agriculture, meat and fishery and forestry were interrelated with industrial sector, pointing out the need of technology that could bring about equitable development in each sector. She called on the government to attend to the needs of farmers in agricultural sector.

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During the fourth five-year short-term plan, there was an average annual growth rate of 20.2 per cent in industrial sector.

U Maung of Rakhine State Constituency called for accuracy in facts and figures while implementing the projects.

Today’s session came to an end at 3.45 pm and the session will continue tomorrow.—MNA

Self-reliant rural health care center for Yesagyo dwellers

Yangon, 15 Jan—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung attended a ceremony to open and hand over a self-reliant rural health care center at Hsinchaung model village in Yesagyo Township of Pakokku District in Magway Region on 12 January. At the ceremony, the Union Minister said that the government is striving for development of the economy by adopting plans in economic, education, health and social sectors in cooperation with local people. The Union Minister urged the present to keep the durability of rural health care center.

Union Minister U Soe Maung presented certificate of honour to wellwishers. The Union Minister, head of the Health Department and Pakokku deputy commissioner formally launched the health care center.

The newly-opened health care center was constructed at a cost of K 35 million contributed by the wellwishers.

Then, the Union Minister met with township level departmental officials, ward/village administrators at township GAD and made a speech. He donated clothes and publications to local people through officials.—MNA

Kachin IDPs receives health care from Tatmadaw mobile team

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Jan—Tatmadaw mobile medical team provided medical services to Kachin internally displaced persons sheltering at the Catholic Church in Ward-3 and Kachin Baptist Convention in Ward-5 in Kutkai on 13 January.

The four hundred and ninety-nine Kachin people were forced to flee to Kutkai as refugees and of them, 113 who need health care received free medical checkups and health care treatment from the mobile team led by Maj Kyaw Kyaw under the arrangement of North-East Command. Besides, North-East Command also donated K$0,000 and 20 bags of rice to Kachin internally displaced persons from six villages in the region.—MNA

Slight earthquake hits 25 miles east of Mawlaik

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Jan—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, (about 25 miles east of Mawlaik), about 142 miles northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 17 hrs. 47 min 00 sec MST today, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.