Myanmar, Russian Federation focus on further cooperation in human resource development, technology, research works on health, education

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this evening.

Also present together with the President were Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and departmental heads. The Russian delegation led by the Foreign Affairs Minister was accompanied by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vasily B Pospelov.

Both sides held comprehensive discussions on fostering amity and friendship between the two countries, human resources development and technology and further cooperation in research works in the areas of health and education.— MNA

Myanmar-Russia FMs hold talks

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr Sergey Lavrov, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, held talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here today.

During the talks, they discussed matters relating to strengthening of the existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. The discussion focused on enhancing cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, information, culture and sports, health, education, science and technology, defence and security, tourism, mining and energy, human resource development and capacity building.

Moreover, the two ministers also exchanged views on regional and international issues. The Union Minister also briefed his counterpart on the implementation of democratization and the efforts on national reconsolidation in Myanmar.

The two foreign ministers met the press at Myat Taw Win Hotel. The Union Minister hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting Russian delegation at the hotel.— MNA

Fresher welcome of University of Forestry (Yezin) held

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan — “Learning alone is not enough and it needs to apply theories and experience in actual practice,” said Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, at a fresher welcome of University of Forestry for 2012-2013 Academic Year, at the University yesterday evening.

University of Forestry (Yezin) has turned out 986 B. Sc (Forestry) graduates, 17 Post-graduate diploma and 35 master degree holders from 1992 to 2011-2012 academic years.— MNA

KIA group returns to legal fold

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan — A KIA group returned to the legal fold along with arms and ammunition on 14 January.

A 7-member group from Brigade-4 of KIA led by Capt Ram Sai with the rank of captain contacted the military troops carrying out security activities near Mong Haung Village in Kutkai Township and returned to the legal fold along with one M-25 rifle, three KO rifles, one M22-rifle and three grenades used with one M-25 rifle, according to Ministry of Defence.— MNA

Photo shows KIA group returning to legal fold.— MNA
Press meets on Medical Research Conference held daily

**Yangon,** 16 Jan—Press meets on Medical Research Conference organized by Medical Research Department (Laver Myanmar) at its office, here, from 7 to 11 January were held daily.

A responsible person of the conference said that brief clarifications on the papers read out daily at the conference were made at the press meets in order to inform the people of the conference through media. For further information, media men would be able to interview the resource persons after the conference. A total of 88 research papers and 26 posters were submitted to the conference and 12 seminars were also conducted at the conference which is annually held. This year’s conference saw more research papers ever than before, it’s learnt.

Kyemon

Availability of self-reliant electricity in Thabyekon village

**Nay Pyi Taw,** 16 Jan—The population of Thabyekon village in Zabuthir Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is 3818 people—1820 men and 1998 women. There are 1242 houses there. Arrangements are being made for availability of electricity on self-reliant basis at the village where local people lack electricity since the time of their ancestors.

**Agricultural loans disbursed in Maubin Township**

**Maubin,** 16 Jan—A ceremony to disburse agricultural loans to 480 members of Linn Shwe Agricultural Syndicate at the farmhouse of members of Linn Shwe syndicate was held at the farmhouse of Linn Shwe syndicate. Agricultural loans to 480 members of Linn Shwe Syndicate were presented by a representative of Linn Shwe syndicate at the occasion.

Kyemon

Pakokku becomes good breeding ground for goat, sheep

**Pakokku,** 16 Jan—Pakokku district of Magway Region sees more breeding of sheep and goat that is suitable for the climate of the region in open season. According to an official of Pakokku District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, there were 280000 heads of goat and sheep in the region—580000 in Pakokku, 510000 in Yezagyo, 370000 in Pauk and 200000 in Seikkyin in 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Kyemon

International hot-air balloon riders enjoy breathtaking panorama of Mandalay

**Mandalay,** 16 Jan—Jointly-organized by Golden Express Tour and 28-member hot-air balloon riders from Britain, France and Germany led by Mr. Peter Blaser of Switzerland, the 15th Hot Air Balloon Ride was conducted at the designated places—Mandalay Hill, U Pein Bridge and Taungthaman Lake—in Mandalay on 1 January.

In the morning, hot-air balloon riders set off from their journey from U Pein Bridge and made a landing on Mandalay ring road after enjoying a breathtaking panorama of Mandalay. In the evening, their hot-air balloon took off from Swan Hotel and landed in a field, north of Mandalay Hill after enjoying an aerial view of Mandalay.

The hot-air balloon they used is 2000 cubic metres in size and 300 kilograms in weight. The hot-air balloon riding team arrived in Mandalay, Bagan and Inlay region in the last week of December since 1998. This year was the 15th hot-air balloon ride for them.

Kyemon

Corrigendum

Please read “Yangon Equestrian Club” and “Yangon Equestrian Club Chairman” instead of “Myanmar Equestrian Federation” and “Myanmar Equestrian Federation President” which appeared on column 4 on page 2 of this daily issued on 13-1-2013.—NLM
Explosions kill 83 at Syrian university as exams begin

BEIRUT, 16 Jan—Two explosions tore through one of Syria’s biggest universities on the first day of student exams on Tuesday, killing 83 people and wounding dozens, a monitoring group said.

More than 50 countries asked the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday to refer the crisis to the International Criminal Court, which prosecute people for genocide and war crimes. But Russia—Assad’s long-standing ally and arms supplier—blocked the initiative, calling it “ill-timed and counterproductive.”

Each side in the 22-month-old conflict blamed the other for Tuesday’s blasts at the University of Aleppo, located in a government-held area of Syria’s most populous city.

Al-Qaeda’s Syrian affiliate said the university was one of the targets of its ‘‘terrorists.”—Reuters

Syrian security personnel and civilians gather at the site where two explosions rocked the University of Aleppo in Syria’s second largest city, on 15 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

US welcomes French military action in Mali

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—The United States welcomed the French military action in Mali and said it was providing support to the French forces, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said on Tuesday.

French President Francois Hollande said the French forces in Mali will increase from the current 750 to 2,500. During a visit to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, French President Francois Hollande said the French forces in Mali will increase from the current 750 to 2,500. On Friday, Paris confirmed its military operations in Mali to back the government forces in fighting the rebels, who briefly seized the central town of Konna and threatened the southern part of Mali, including the capital Bamako.

Right now, the Malian military claims it has regained control of Konna with support of the French army. It has vowed to continue to uproot the rebels in cooperation with the former colonial power of France and regional countries.

Nuland noted that Washington supported the immediate deployment of the African-led international support mission, primarily from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). She also urged the government of Mali to move forward on a political transition process. In terms of the US support to French troops, Nuland said Washington was already providing intelligence to the French military, and was considering helping them airlift forces into Mali and refuel their jet fighters.—Xinhua

17 killed, 133 wounded in bomb attacks in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan—Up to 17 people were killed and 133 wounded in two bombs targeting offices of Kurdish parties in northern Iraq on Wednesday, the source said.

In one of the attacks, a suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden truck into the entrance of the office of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), headed by the regional President Masoud Barzani, in the capital Baghdad on Wednesday. A local police source told Washington Post an estimated 20 people were killed and 28 wounded in the attack. Plans for a meeting between the president of Iraq and the US president have been canceled. The bill was the second of two steps House Speaker John Boehner said he would take to meet the demands of relief for those affected by Sandy. The House voted on 4 January to pass a 9.7-billion-dollar legislation that would make payments to insurance claims related to Sandy. The federal government has handed the Congress a $2.1 billion relief bill that would provide over 60 billion dollars to those affected by Sandy, which struck late last year. The Senate swiftly passed it, but the House was criticized for its delay.

A tourist takes photos on the Qianmen Street in Beijing, capital of China, 16 Jan., 2013. Beijingers saw their first sunshine in seven days, with a cold front dispersing the lingering smog in the city.—Xinhua

Two young models present entries of the 13th Hong Kong Fashion Week for Fall/Winter which lasts from 14 to 17 January at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.—Xinhua

US House OKs 50-blnd-US aid for Superstorm Sandy

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—US House of Representatives Tuesday night passed a $50.7-billion-US-dollar bill that would aid those affected by Superstorm Sandy.

In a 241-180 vote, the House adopted the measure which would provide 17 billion dollars in immediate disaster funds for worst hit states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.
**Windows 8 fails to reignite PC market**

**Mumbai, 16 Jan**—India is among the nations hit by a cyber espionage that has been targeting diplomatic, governmental as well as scientific research organisation at least for five years, according to a Russian cyber security firm.

Termed as ‘Red October’, the campaign (named after the famous novel ‘The Hunt For The Red October’ by Tom Clancy) has significantly hit Russia, Kazakhstan, India, Azerbaijan and Belarus, among others. Kaspersky Lab said in a report on Monday.

The cyber espionage campaign ‘Rocca’ (short for Red October) has infected hundreds of victims worldwide across eight categories: Government, Diplomats/embassies, Research institutions, Trade and commerce, Nuclear/energy research, Oil and gas companies, aerospace and military.

The earliest evidence indicates that the cyber-espionage campaign was active since 2007 and is still active at the time of writing (January 2013),’ the firm said.

Based on Kaspersky Security Network (KSN), the list of countries that have seen most number of infections is topped by Russia at 35. It is followed by Kazakhstan (21) while India, Azerbaijan and Belarus witnessed 15 infections each.

Other nations impacted include Afghanistan (10), Armenia (10), Iran and Turkmenistan (7 each), Ukraine, Vietnam and the US (6 each), Pakistan (5) and Brazil (4).

Only countries that have seen more than five infections have been included in the list.

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**Russia to launch spacecraft to Moon in 2015**

**Moscow, 16 Jan**—Russia plans to launch an unmanned space vehicle to the Moon in 2015, federal space agency Roscosmos said on Tuesday.

“`Tables have dramatically changed the device landscape for PCs, not so much by ‘cannibalizing’ PC sales, but by causing PC users to shift consumption activity to a personal tablet, and perform creative and administrative tasks on a shared PC.```"
A man wipes the logo of the Dell IT firm at the CeBIT exhibition centre in Hannover.

**NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Jan—** Dell Inc is in talks with private equity firms on a potential buyout, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters, confirming reports that sent shares in the world’s No 3 PC maker soaring 13 percent to nearly a eight-month high.

The firms are now holding discussions on a deal with billionaire Chief Executive and founder Michael Dell, who owns about 14 percent of the company, according to one source with knowledge of the matter.

The Wall Street Journal cited unidentified sources as saying TPG and Silver Lake could team up on an offer, possibly in conjunction with other investors such as pension funds. JP Morgan Chase & Co was also involved in the negotiations, it added.

The first source told Reuters any potential deal could be structured as a management-led buyout with Michael Dell at the helm. Talks had progressed for two to three months, hearing up in late 2012, and a deal could be reached in six weeks, the Journal cited sources as saying.

Dell, which has steadily ceded market share to Hewlett Packard and China’s Lenovo, declined to comment on what it called rumours and speculation.

The company has lost 40 percent of its value since last year’s peak, and is trying to reinvent itself as a seller of higher-margin services to corporations — an internal overhaul that might be conducted away from public scrutiny.

Some analysts say taking Dell private, an idea that has surfaced sporadically in past years, makes sense.

But others pointed to the sheer expense of such a deal, an outsized debt burden of some $45 billion and murky prospects as a major player in a PC market that’s dwindling with the advent of tablets such as Apple Inc’s iPad. — Reuters

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**Boeing, engineers set to resume contract talks on W ednesday**

**SEATTLE, 16 Jan—** Negotiators representing 23,000 Boeing Co (BA) engineers are due to restart contract talks on Wednesday after digested the full terms of the company’s latest offer, delivered by email on Monday afternoon. But prospects of an agreement over a new contract seem as far away as ever, even as the US Federal Aviation Administration opens an investigation into the safety of Boeing’s 787 aircraft, which will require thorough scrutiny of Boeing’s engineering operations.

“The documents just came in two minutes ago, so we haven’t even had a chance to look at them,” said Ray Goforth, Executive Director of the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), on Monday.

“The negotiating team intends to spend tomorrow looking at them and then we will be meeting with the company at 1 pm Pacific time (2100 GMT) on Wednesday.”

The latest offer, made on paper on Friday, and delivered in full electronically on Monday afternoon, boosts raises for professional workers by 5 percent in each of the first two years of the four-year agreement, and 4 percent in each of the remaining years.

**NEW JERSEY, 16 Jan—** Wal-Mart Stores Inc (WMT), the world’s largest retailer, said it plans to hire more than 100,000 veterans in the United States over the next five years, a move supported by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Most of the veterans will be placed in the company’s stores and clubs, and some will be employed in distribution centres, Wal-Mart US Chief Executive Bill Simon said in a speech to be delivered on Tuesday at the National Retail Federation conference.

The retailer will start issuing job offers to veterans from Memorial Day in May. The offers will be given to any honourably discharged veteran within his or her first twelve months off active duty.

“Hiring a veteran can be one of the best business decisions you make ... veterans have a record of performance under pressure,” Simon said in the speech, a copy of which was provided to Reuters. Wal-mart said in a statement that it had spoken with the White House about the hiring commitment and First Lady Michelle Obama’s team had expressed an interest in working with the retailer.

“As our wars come to an end and our troops continue to come home, it’s more important than ever that all of us — not just government, but our businesses and non-profits as well - do our part to serve those who have served us bravely,” Michelle Obama said in the Wal-mart statement.

Wal-mart U.S is the largest retail chain and the largest private employer in the United States, with about 1.3 million employees. “We believe Wal-mart is already the largest private employer of veterans in the country, and we want to hire more,” Simon said.— Reuters

**Coca-Cola to air US commercials addressing obesity**

**NEW YORK, 16 Jan—** Coca-Cola Co will air a two-minute commercial on US cable television on Monday that highlights its efforts in fighting obesity, as the soft drink industry faces increasing pressure from local governments and critics.

The commercial mentions how Coca-Cola sells about 180 low- and no-calorie drinks, works to produce better-tasting low-calorie sweeteners and has introduced smaller can sizes.

It also reminds viewers that “all calories count no matter where they come from” and that “if you eat and drink more calories than you burn off, you will gain weight.”

This is not the first time Coca-Cola has used advertising to address this issue, but it is a first for television. The move comes as New York City bans on the sale of sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces (0.5 liter) in places like restaurants, movie theaters and stadiums. In November, voters in two California cities rejected local measures for soda taxes.

The commercial will air on Monday on CNN’s “The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer,” FOX News’ “The O’Reilly Factor,” and MSNBC’s “The Rachel Maddow Show.” It will air on Tuesday during other shows as well.

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**Dell in talks to go private, shares surge**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Jan—** Dell Inc’s stock opened on Monday above $32 for the first time since July as anticipation about upcoming products and financial results underscored Wall Street’s renewed confidence in the online social network.

Facebook will on Tuesday host its first major Press event at its headquarters in Menlo Park, California, since its troubling initial public offering in May, triggering a guessing game among technology observers and online fans for about what it could unveil — everything from a smartphone to a search engine.

“There’s a lot of speculation. Nothing to me seems to be that certain,” Jeffers & Co analyst Brian Pitz said. “If I were to bet, I’d think it was something that was ad-platform related. I’m not convinced on the phone,” said Pitz, citing previous comments by Facebook’s leaders including CEO Mark Zuckerberg that making a smartphone would be the “wrong strategy” for Facebook.

In an email to reporters last week, Facebook invited the media to “come and see what we’re building” without providing details.

Some analysts said the stock’s recent gains — about further growth in 17 percent since the start of the year may have more to do with the company’s upcoming fourth-quarter financial results, slated for 30 January.

“The stock is up because they have driven a dramatic increase in the ad load of their mobile app which is giving investors hope that they exceeded expectations,” BTIG analyst Richard Greenfield said.

Shares were down about 1.3 percent to $31.30 in mid-Amex trading.

The world’s No 1 social network with 1 billion users, Facebook became the first US company to debut on stock markets with a value of more than $100 billion. Its value subsequently plunged by more than 50 percent on mounting concerns about slowing revenue growth and the challenges of making money as users shift from personal computers to mobile devices. Facebook surprised Wall Street in the third quarter by announcing that mobile ads accounted for 14 percent of its total ad revenue. Some analysts expect the company to report further growth in its nascent mobile ad business for the fourth quarter.

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**Facebook shares rise in buildup to mystery event, earnings**

The Facebook logo is seen on a screen inside at the NASDAQ Marketsite in New York on 18 May, 2012.

**NEW YORK, 16 Jan—** Facebook Inc’s stock opened on Monday on 22 Nov, 2012.

The Facebook logo is seen on a screen inside at the NASDAQ Marketsite in New York on 18 May, 2012.

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**Business & Health**

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**New Light of Myanmar**

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**Thursday, 17 January, 2013**
Foreign Heads of State/Government send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

**NAV PYI TAW,** 16 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Dr Babaram Bhattarai
Prime Minister of Nepal
His Excellency,

On the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the government and people of Nepal, and on my own, I extend to Your Excellency, and through you to the people of Mynamar my sincere congratulations.

I wish Your Excellency’s good health and happiness as well as progress and prosperity of the people of Mynamar.

I am confident that the friendly relations existing between our two countries will grow further in the years ahead.

From Dr H Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia
Your Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure and honour to convey my sincere felicitations to Your Excellency, and through Your Excellency, to the Government and people of Mynamar on the happy occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Mynamar.

Mynamar and Indonesia enjoy a long-standing cooperation, both on bilateral and multilateral levels, and I have every confidence that the relations between our two countries will continue to grow, and I look forward to working closely with you towards that direction.

Please kindly accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration and my best wishes for your continued good health and well-being.

From Mr Tomislav Nikolić
President of the Republic of Serbia
Excellency,

On the occasion of Independence Day, I extend, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Serbia and on my own behalf, the most cordial felicitations and best wishes for the overall growth of your country and the well-being of the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Mynamar.

I warmly believe that the cooperation between Myanmar and Serbia will further develop with our joint endeavours and on the basis of the mutual interest of the two people in the forthcoming period.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate my best wishes for Your Excellency’s health and happiness as well as the well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of Mynamar.

From Mr János Áder
President of the Republic of Hungary
Your Excellency,

I would like to congratulate Y our Excellency on behalf of my Government and on behalf of the Mynamar people and the people of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Mynamar.

I believe that the relations between Turkey and Mynamar which have intensified recently will further progress with mutual efforts and on the basis of the mutual interests of our two people.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for Your Excellency’s health and happiness as well as progress and prosperity of the people of Mynamar.

From Dr Rais Yatim Yatid
Prime Minister of Malaysia
His Excellency,

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 65th Anniversary of Independence Day.

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

From Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
Prime Minister of Luxembourg
Excellency,

In the name of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and in my personal name, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your Nation’s National Holiday.

The bilateral relations between Luxembourg and Myanmar have been considerably strengthened over the past year, 2012, was marked by the visit to Mynamar of Luxembourg’s Foreign Minister H.E. Jean Asselborn, in February, followed by the formal establishment of diplomatic relations on 31 July. I furthermore remember with great pleasure our meeting that took place in Vientiane last year.

I am therefore confident that we will be able to keep up the pace to further intensify our bilateral relations in 2013, to the benefit of both our Nations. In that spirit, let me reiterate my invitation to you to pay a visit to Luxembourg in the near future.

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

From Mr Tony Tan Keng Yam
President of the Republic of Singapore
Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Republic of Singapore, I extend my warmest wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 65th Anniversary of the independence of Mynamar.

Under Your Excellency’s leadership, Mynamar has undergone a remarkably democratic transition over the past year, that has captured the world’s attention. I congratulate Your Excellency on your efforts to achieve peaceful national reconciliation and improve the lives of the Mynamar people. As a long-standing friend and neighbour, Singapore supports Mynamar’s further integration with the international community. Singapore will continue to cooperate closely with Mynamar to deepen our ties and promote our shared interests, including our common goal of achieving a prosperous ASEAN Community by 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency continued good health, peace and success in the years ahead.

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

Refresher course, basic course conducted for bus workers

**YANGON,** 16 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

employees learn from ICDP, CDRT projects to improve skills

**NAV PYI TAW,** 16 Jan—Workshop on Sharing Experience and Lessons Learned of Integrated Community Development Project(ICDP) & Community Development for Remote Townships (CDRT) projects was opened at the Ministry of Border Affairs on 14 January.

The workshop was conducted with the assistance of UNDP to improve the capacity of employees of the departments of the Ministry of Border Affairs. A total of 60 employees from Mynamar Border Affairs and Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development are participating in the three-day workshop which is led by nine experts from UNDP as resources persons. The Mistry of Border Affairs and UNDP have been jointly operating the ICDP project (2003-2012) and CDRT (1994-2012) to improve the education, health water supply, roads and bridges and livelihood of the people. **—** MNA

Refresher course, basic course conducted for bus workers

**YANGON,** 16 Jan—All Private Bus-line Control Committee conducts the basic training course for bus workers. The refresher course for bus workers who have discharged two years duties at bus lines was conducted once two weeks as of 22 January 2012. So far, from the course No1/2012 to the course No 12 have been opened to provide training to 1232 bus workers. Basic courses have been conducted to bus workers from the course No 1/2011 to 14/2011. So far, a total of 1359 bus workers have attended the course. In 2013, the basic course No 15/2013 was opened on 13 January. M Yanma Amin

Employees learn from ICDP, CDRT projects to improve skills

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Myanmar poised to join top ten countries of highest tourist arrival

Nav Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—As the global countries are interested in affairs of Myanmar, the visits of globetrotters are rising high day by day. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism expected that the arrival of tourists in Myanmar would be increasing gradually.

As the visits of tourists are on the increase year after year, we expected this year’s number of tourist would be higher than that of previous years. At present, globetrotters who arrived at Yangon International Airport hit over 2300 daily,” said an official of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

According to the report, if the trend continues at the same pace, the tourist arrival will include in the top ten countries of highest tourist arrival countries across the world.

Respects paid to older musicians

Yangon, 16 Jan—The respect paying ceremony to older musicians of Myanmar Music Organization (Central) was held at Maha Santi Sukha Monastery in Natchaung Ward of Tanuwai Township on 10 January.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Hte, Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint, directors, chairman and secretaries of associations, members of Township Music Organization and welcomers.

Chairman of the organization (Central) U Tin Oo Lay gave a speech and accepted cash donation. Those present presented cash assistance and gifts to the older musicians. On behalf of the older persons, Pianist U Sein Thaung gave words of advice.

The donation at the ceremony amounted to K 13,518,100 and 100 US dollars.

On 9 January, the book corner was opened with the supervision of Township Information and Public Relations Department Head Daw Khin Win Kyi.

Public book corner set up in Salinngyi

Salinngyi, 16 Jan—A public book corner was set up at No. 12 apartment, north of Myonna Market in Salinngyi of Monywa District for rising reading habits of the local people.

On 9 January, the book corner was opened with the supervision of Township Information and Public Relations Department Head Daw Khin Win Kyi.

Village BEHS (Branch) upgraded in Natogyi Township

Pyayebwe, 16 Jan—A ceremony to put the upgraded Basic Education High School (Branch) into service was held in Londaw Village of Natogyi Township in Sagaing Region on 7 January morning.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun

Pyayebwe, 16 Jan—A ceremony to put one set of computer to Basic Education M iddle School (Aungtha) of Pyayebwe was held on 9 January morning with the aim of improving education standard of the students.

On behalf of the donor, U Thaung Htein explained the purpose of donation and handed over one set of DELL computer worth K 700,000 donated by U Nyein Chandra and Daw TinTinAye family and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees U Aung Naing Oo who returned a certificate of honour.

Cetana night school opens at Selkpyu BEHS

Pyayebwe, 16 Jan—A Cetana night school was opened at Basic Education High School in Selkpyu of Magway Region for students who will sit for the matriculation examination in 2012-2013 academic year.

The school is aiming at raising pass rate of the students. Students from Selkpyu BEHS will teach 100 students in respective subjects from 6 pm to 9 pm daily as of 8 February.

"Thanks to reform of the education and tourism industry, the visits of tourists in Myanmar would be increasing gradually. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is discharging duty to check commodities onboard the vehicles in Salinngyi day and night. Officials and staff members of Township General Administration Department, township media, Township Chamber of Commerce and members of Myanmar Police Force assist in tasks of the mobile team," he continued.

For the tourists with the social and business purposes, accommodation is ready to serve them with 19014 suites.
Corporate Social Responsibility

As Myanmar has kept its door wide open to foreign investors, a number of multinational corporations have entered, perhaps returned after decades of absence, the country. Myanmar has become the latest battleground of so-called ‘Cola World’ between US soft drink giants Coca-Cola and Pepsi. General Electric, Visa, Master Card, Standard Chartered and Western Union represent the big names’ return to Myanmar.

Isolated by sanctions, the country had no choice but to deal with a handful of foreign companies and suppliers which might have unconvincing records of business ethics. With a wide range of choice being open to us, now is time to talk about the ‘Corporate Social Responsibility’ which we gave less priority in the past.

As the global strategic advisory group International Standardization Organization (ISO) suggests, CSR is “a balanced approach for organizations to address economic, social and environmental issues in a way that aims to benefit people, communities and society.”

It covers various issues ranging from human rights to working environment, from environmental aspects to consumer issues and social development.

In Myanmar, Foreign Investment Commission chaired by the Union Minister at the President Office oversees incorporation of foreign companies and foreign investments which are said to be assessed by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development ahead of the approval of the investment by the commission. Decisive actions against unethical businesses, transparent manners of assessment and consumer awareness measures are required.

As for local businesses to which CSR is mostly unknown, they need to start developing self-regulating mechanism, guaranteeing that their products and services are environmental- and social-friendly and creating better working conditions for their employees.

The government also needs to do its part to devise necessary pieces of legislation, develop monitoring mechanism and initiate prosecutions against the breach of social responsibilities by local or foreign corporations.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets outgoing UNFPA Resident Representative

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received outgoing UNFPA Resident Representative to Myanmar Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Ahad, who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at his office, here, yesterday.

They exchanged views on UNFPA’s assistance programme in Myanmar for 2013-2015.

Traditional New Year Festival of Naga held

Traditional New Year Festival of Naga

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—Annual new year festival of Naga ethnic people took place in Lahe in Naga Self Administered Zone shoulders of Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, the chief minister, the commander of North-West Command, representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and National Planning and Economic Development Commission.

Wednesday, 17 January, 2013

ITAB holds first meeting for countrywide census taking

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—First meeting of International Technical Advisory Board (ITAB) for countrywide census taking process (2014), was held at Royal Kumudra Hotel, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of Central Census Commission Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi.

In his speech, the Union Minister said that nationa-wide census taking process is aimed at getting the exact number of population that is crucial for country development and drawing plans. With the assistance of UN, close cooperation is being made with UNFPA so as to meet international standards in taking census nationwide. He urged ITAB members to share their experiences.

Officials from UNFPA, Population Department and ITAB discussed preparations for census taking, financial affairs and use of technology and machines.

UNFPA, Population Department

Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun attends Naga New Year Festival 2013

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin visited Kamaa People’s Hospital in Kamaa Township of Magway Region on 13 January and donated K 1 million for provision of tap water.

He then met local people at Kyauksaung Village and presented publications contributed by the Information Ministry to schoolchildren from Kyauksaung and Tawmagon villages.

He visited Kyauksaung Village Basic Education Middle School, Yenantha Village Station Hospital, Taunghti Village Library and Kyaukme Village Library.

Well-wishers presented publications and two sets of Sky Net receiver for village libraries.

MNA

Notebooks, publications donated for villages in Kamma Township

Yangon, 16 Jan—Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe visited Kamaa People’s Hospital in Kamaa Township of Magway Region on 13 January and donated K 1 million for provision of tap water.

He then met local people at Kyauksaung Village and presented publications contributed by the Information Ministry to schoolchildren from Kyauksaung and Tawmagon villages.

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MNA

Damaged bridge repaired

Two mines went off simultaneously on the bridge No. 436 at Milepost No. 589 between Naba and Indaw Railway Stations on Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad section and the bridge No. 1 BK on Naba-Katha railroad section on 14-1-2013. The damaged parts were already repaired on 15-1-2013.

MNA

Well-wishers presented publications and two sets of Sky Net receiver for village libraries.
**Vice-Senior General M in Aung Hlaing visits CNB, holds talks with Singaporean Defence Minister**

**MTV EXIT-alike shows to come, says Union Minister**

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—Public awareness activities against human trafficking such as MTV EXIT would continue to be organized, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko said at the meeting of the central anti-human trafficking committee.

**Yangon Region Chief Minister undertakes development tasks**

Yangon, 16 Jan—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Myint and Region Finance Minister Daw San San Nwe attended the opening ceremony of Lanekone concrete bridge at No.21 Ward of Shwepyitha Township, here, yesterday. After that, the Chief minister inspected completion of road that links from No.4 Road to Y yangon-Pyay Road. He also attended a ceremony to donate cash and kind by Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization and Matal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee to Mental Hospital in Dagon Myothit (East).

**KIA group abducts villagers, extorts money from vehicles on Waingmaw-K-anpeiktee motorway**

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—A 25-member KIA group abducted 45 villagers—nine students, 15 farmers and 31 others—of Ubyit village of Ah lam village-tract in Myitkyina Township at about 1 pm today. It is learnt that young men with the age between 13 and 40 were among the abducted.

According to the state government, a 25-member KIA group stopped vehicles at a place between mile post Nos (37) and (18) on Waingmaw-K-anpeiktee motorway in Waingmaw Township and extorted K 100,000 per truck, K 50,000 per small vehicle and K 10,000 per motorbike from about five trucks, eight small vehicles and five motorbikes at about 9 am yesterday.

**Regional development tasks looked into in Pakokku, Yesagyo**

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung meets local people from villages in Yesagyo Township. —MNA

The price of Myanmar rice was low due to low quality in the past. Socio-economic status will be high if agricultural sector in the region is promoted. Therefore rural people are to join hands with related organizations in region in transforming into mechanized farming. At the meeting, the Union Minister presented sports gear to the locals.

Next, he inspected bean plantation in the irrigation area of Wahyathasi river water pumping station (2386 acre), and looked round storage of water and maintenance of Sinchaung Reservoir. —MNA

**Centre of Excellence for Business Skills Development Project launched**

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—The Centre of Excellence for Business Skills Development was launched at Yangon Institute of Economics (Kamayut) today with an address by Deputy Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint. The Centre of Excellence will provide a welcome opportunity to Myanmar youths to be equipped with the competencies they need to be successful in the future. The Ministry of Education and UNESCO will jointly-organize the Centre of Excellence with the sponsorship of Pepsi Co. —MNA
WASHINGTON, 16 Jan— President Barack Obama met with Cuban leader Raul Castro at the White House on Monday morning in the latest official visit to the capital since tensions eased between the two nations.

The meeting took place two days after the inauguration of President Obama, during which he expressed his desire to improve ties with Cuba. The two leaders discussed various issues, including the ongoing crisis in Libya and the situation in Syria.

In a joint statement released at the conclusion of the meeting, the presidents said they had agreed to work together to address these pressing issues and to strengthen bilateral relations.

Obama also expressed his support for the Cuban people and committed to lifting the embargo on Cuba. He also praised the progress that has been made towards normalizing relations between the two countries.

The meeting was part of a broader effort by the Obama administration to improve relations with Cuba after decades of tension between the two nations. The two leaders also discussed the ongoing crisis in Libya and the situation in Syria.
Ministry of Information

Mynarma Radio and Television

Invitation for Open Tender

1. Open Tenders are invited to purchase motor vehicle for 2012-13 fiscal year at Mynarma Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.

2. The application forms for the open tender are available at the Mynarma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) in office hours (9:30 to 16:30) daily from 17-1-2013 to 18-1-2013.

3. The forms are to be submitted in the presence of the tender board at the Mynarma Radio and Television Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) between 9.30 and 16.30 on 19-1-2013. The overdue tenders will not be accepted.

4. The open tender forms and detailed information are available at the following address:-

Motor Vehicle Purchasing Committee
Mynarma Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)
Ph: 067-79079, 79135

Japan’s PM makes first overseas visit to three Asian countries

Tokyo, 16 Jan—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday left for three Southeast Asian countries as his first overseas trip after he was elected as Japan’s Prime Minister last month.

The four-day trip will bring Abe to Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, said Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adding the three countries are “part of the growth centre’ of 21st century to lead global economic growth.”

—Abe will hold talks with leaders of the three countries, focusing on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment and infrastructure. The ministry emphasized that Japan will enhance partnership in politics and security with Vietnam and Indonesia through Abe’s visit.

—Abe’s visit follows the separate trips by Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso to Myanmar and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida to the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei earlier this month.

—The high-level overseas visits have covered major countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), indicating Abe’s new government put great importance on the region.
CLAIRSMEDAY NOTICE
MV MAJESTY VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAJESTY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2013 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: CLIPPER PROJECT SHIPPING LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIRSMEDAY NOTICE
MV CEC FANTASY VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CEC FANTASY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: CLIPPER PROJECT SHIPPING LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIRSMEDAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (871)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (871) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2013 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

China’s Internet users reach 564 mln
Beijing, 16 Jan—China added 50.9 million Internet users in 2012, bringing the total to 564 million at the end of last year, official data showed on Tuesday.

The mobile Internet surfing population increased 18.1 percent to 420 million, with mobile phones becoming the primary channel for Web surfing, the China Internet Network Information Centre reported.

The number of people using a mobile phone to shop online increased 1.36-fold in 2012 from a year ago.

By the end of 2012, the number of online shoppers had reached 242 million, an increase of 24.8 percent year on year.

Meanwhile, the risks of phishing websites and online fraud can not be underestimated, according to the report.

Micro-blogging surged, with the number of users rising 58.73 million to 309 million, the report said.

Xinhua

Singapore’s new private home sales hit record high in 2012
SINGAPORE, 16 Jan—A record total of 22,684 new homes were sold in 2012 in Singapore, according to the statistics released on Tuesday by the Urban Redevelopment Authority. This is higher than the previous record of 16,292 units sold in 2010. A total of 16,027 new units were sold in 2011.

The latest statistics also confirmed a rebound in the demand for new private residential property in Singapore in December, which had prompted harsh cooling measures on 11 January.

The statistics released on Tuesday by the Urban Redevelopment Authority showed that 1,410 units of new private homes were sold in December, up by about 30 percent from November’s 1,087 units.

With the executive condominiums included, the sale of new homes came in at 2,259 units in December.

Market analysts are expecting the market to remain subdued for a period of time to come, following the comprehensive set of measures announced over the weekend, including higher extra buyers stamp duties and further restrictions in the down payment and loan-to-value requirements for certain groups of buyers. Despite that, officials said they expected the demand to remain strong given the low interest rate environment internationally.

Xinhua

What you can do today, don’t Postpone until tomorrow.
KBZ BANK LTD. is pleased to inform all that we have successfully opened Mandalay (12) - Manawhari Branch as 93rd branch to date-effective 17.1.2013.

All honored persons are kindly requested to come and enjoy our cordial banking services at our newest branch.

Contact Address:

Mandalay (12) - Manawhari Branch
No. (D-2/71), 62nd Street, Between of Manawhari Street and Sein Pan Lan, Chan Mya Thazi Township, Mandalay Division.

Phone:  (02) 80155, 82145/46/47
Fax:     (02) 82143, 82144

www.kbzbank.com
Harrison says he could surprise Djokovic

Melbourne, 16 Jan—Novak Djokovic was well aware of up and coming American Ryan Harrison, even stating that he knew how to beat the 20-year-old, but his second round Australian Open opponent is sure he may be able to give the world number one a surprise on Wednesday.

Two-time defending champion Djokovic will meet Harrison, for the third time in their careers, on Rod Laver Arena, and said after his first round victory over Paul-Henri Mathieu that he felt he knew the American’s game and how to beat him.

Harrison, however, underwent intensive training, physical conditioning and scientific physiological testing during the off-season in order to help take his game to the next level. He was told to lose weight in order to ensure he was more effective right to the end of long matches and how to manage his nutrition better and his first round win over Santiago Giraldo had given him confidence to press on against the Serb, he said.

“It’s an opportunity. I have confidence in myself after all the work I have done during the off season,” Harrison told reporters ahead of the Djokovic clash.

“I feel different this year, mentally and physically I have put myself into a position where I feel that I’m going to go forward. I know that I’ve got myself into a better condition where I will be stronger and faster than the last time we played (in the second round at Wimble-
don last year).”

On top of that I’m going to try and play my game... to control my side of the net... and not get caught up in the hype of the situation and how good he is.

Sacramento mayor says working to keep basketball’s Kings in town

Toronto, 16 Jan—Sacramento’s mayor has won consent from the NBA to submit a proposal that would keep the Sacramento Kings from leaving town, a spokesman said on Tuesday, amid reports that an investor group was looking to take the Kings out of town.

The 11-time Grand Slam winner has had approval to request a counteroffer to the NBA before the NBA board of governors will meet next month.

“This morning I unveiled our ‘Playing to Win’ plan which is modeled on the successful strategy used by the City of San Francisco to keep the Giants and revitalize a section of the city’s downtown,” Johnson said on Tuesday.

Son, a former star for the NBA’s Cleveland Cava-
tiers and Phoenix Suns, said in a written statement released later in the day, “Over the next six weeks, we will put together a competitive ownership group, which will include local partners, that is committed to keeping the Kings in Sacramento and building a world-class entertainment and sports complex,” he said.

Johnson said the effort would culminate with Sac-
ramento once again going before the NBA board of governors to “demonstrate the strength of our city as an NBA market and the unique opportunity the Kings have to thrive in our community.”

Organizers: Nadal to make comeback at Brazil Open

Rio de Janeiro, 16 Jan—Former world No 1 Rafael Nadal will make his long-await-
ed return from injury at next month’s Brazil Open, tournament organizers confirmed on Tuesday.

The 11-time Grand Slam winner has not played since suffering a knee injury during his second-round loss to Lukas Rosol at Wimbledon in June last year. The event will be Nadal’s first in Brazil since he won the same tournament—his second career title—as an 18-year-old in 2005.

“I am very happy to be going back to play in Brazil,” Nadal told Spain’s TV3 on Tuesday. “I am especially happy to come back two weeks earlier than I had planned.

M an United agrees deal with two Chinese companies

London, 16 Jan—English Premier League side Manchester United on Tuesday agreed two three-year sponsorships with Chinese companies, China Construction Bank (CCB) and soft drinks manufacturer Wahaha.

As part of the agreement, United’s first Chinese bank, CCB will hold the rights exclusively to produce the official Manchester United branded credit card in mainland China.

United’s commercial director Richard Arnold said, “Manchester United has a huge following in China of 108 million.”

We know from our visits there, including the one to Shanghai last summer, that our Chinese followers have always been among the most passionate supporters.

“The conference and the team are not only to give fans an excellent spectacle, but also to open the door to more of our Chinese followers and to increase cooperation with CCB,” he said.

Johnson said the effort would culminate with Sac-
ramento once again going before the NBA board of governors to “demonstrate the strength of our city as an NBA market and the unique opportunity the Kings have to thrive in our commu-

Scolari rules out Brazil revolution

Sao Paulo, 16 Jan—Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said on Tuesday he would not make major changes to the team he inherited from predecessor Mario Menezes.

The Selecao’s friendly against England at Lon-
don’s Wembley Stadium on 9 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

den Broncos quarter-back Peyton Manning (C) is congratulated by head coach John Fox (L) and offensive coordinator Mike McCoy after he threw a long touchdown pass against the Pittsburgh Steelers in their NFL football game in Denver on 9 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari of Brazil gives the world number one a surprise during the off season.

“For the past 11 years...”

“Over the next six weeks, we will put together a competitive ownership group, which will include local partners, that is committed to keeping the Kings in Sacramento and building a world-class entertainment and sports complex,” he said.

Johnson said the effort would culminate with Sac-
ramento once again going before the NBA board of governors to “demonstrate the strength of our city as an NBA market and the unique opportunity the Kings have to thrive in our community.”

Scolari said during a press conference on 22 january.

“You are not going to see a new national team,” Scolari said during a press conference on 22 january.

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Kayin New Year celebrated in Thaton

Thaton, 16 Jan—Kayin New Year Day was observed in Taungson village of Thaton Township on 12 January. At the ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Saw Ba Thein read the message sent by the M on State Chief Minister and explained emergence of Kayin New Year Day in Sakaw and Kayin languages. Those presented donated offerings to older persons. Chairman of Township Kayin Literature and Culture Committee U Saw San Tin presented prizes to outstanding students. Later, the don dances were entertained to the guests. Kyemon

Former champions Dalian Shide in acquisition turmoil

YONGCHUN, (Chong-qing), 16 Jan—Eight-time champions Dalian Shide, club have to register for next season in order to keep their name in Chinese Su- per League despite financial problems following a failed acquisition.

Shide, once the most accomplished club in Chi- na’s top soccer league, had not been able to find enough financial support and asked for an acquisition by city rival Aein late last year.

But the acquisition ap- plication was negated by the Chinese Football As- sociation (CFA) for breaching

News in Brief

2nd administration would be as diverse as 1st term

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—Dismissing that 2nd term admin is looking as all make club with little diversity, Prez Obama, urged critics to wait till entire team in place before arriving any conclusion. “I’m very proud that in first 4 yrs we had as diverse, if not more diverse, White House & Cabinet than any in history,” Obama said.

UD M in to issue advisory on enhancing safety

NEW DELHI, 16 Jan—In the wake of the Delhi gang- rape incident, the Urban Development Ministry is set to issue an advisory to states for installation of cameras, GPS in buses.

Man gets ten-year RI for circulating fake currency

NEW DELHI, 16 Jan—A court has handed ten years of rigorous imprisonment to a man for possessing and circulating fake Indian currency notes, a CBI spokesperson said on 15 January.

Mumbai Police order probe into ‘hate’ poem

MUMBAI, 16 Jan—Mumbai Police have ordered an inquiry into a controversial poem published in the force’s in-house magazine about last year’s Azad M aidan protesters.

Employee commits suicide at Planning Comm office

NEW DELHI, 16 Jan—A 50-year-old Class IV employee allegedly committed suicide in Planning Commission office here this morning apparently depressed over his daughter’s illness, police said.

Security stepped up at Lahbagh for flower show

BANGALORE, 16 Jan—Concerned over women protection, the Karnataka police has deployed police and installed CCTV’s at Lahbagh Botanical Gardens that attracts large number of women during the flower show beginning from 18 January.

Wu Di makes tennis history for Chinese men

MELBOURNE, 16 Jan—History was made when Wu Di became the first Chinese man to have played a Grand Slam match here on Tuesday.

News Brief

Shide’s swaying at- tack also caused some trouble to clubs from lower leagues, such as Shanghai Shexin and Beijing Bax. If Shide quit the 2013 sea- son as they had planned, Shexin and Bax may keep their positions in CSL and China’s League (sec-
**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues discussion of National Plan**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Fifth five-year National Plan (2011-2012 FY-2015-2016 FY)(draft) was put on table at today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regular session.

U Nyunt Hlaing of Pyu Constituency recommended the increased cultivation of soya bean in addition to paddy as the crop’s high-protein residue in producing oil is the vital feed for the breeding industry. He also said cultivation of soya bean bears more profits for farmers than other beans.

Dr Mya Oo of Bago Region Constituency No (9) said the facts that the final year of the national plan coincides with the year that UN would assess whether the country achieves Millennium Development Goals and the poverty rate in rural areas is 29 percent and in urban areas is 13-18 percent should be put into consideration. He also said there are three years left to achieve the goals.

U Than Myint of Taninthay Region Constituency No (10) discussed forest replace-ment schemes must cover both extraction and damage caused by the production for environmental conservation and sustainable development. He said oil palm cultivation made the area plain.

Rakhine State Constituency No (6) U Khin Maung Latt called for granting loans to local prawn businesses and providing vocational aid packages to locals to engage in onshore fishing business.

Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No (8) said, “Policy should be laid to provide assistance when the paddy fields are subject to natural disasters.” He also demanded the prevention against inundation of paddy fields and the wider role of the University of Agriculture. He also stressed the need to issue estimated GDP and trade, export, import and tax ratios in transparent manners.

**SE A G ames stadiums nearing completion**

As XXVII SEA Games is warming up, the host Myanmar is accelerating construction of Indoor Sports Stadiums and other facilities. Some stadium has been completed and finishing touches are being put to some. We, Myanma Alinn news crew, visited construction sites of Zeyathiri Stadium, swimming pool and other sports facilities in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw. Here are excerpts of interviews with Zeyathiri Stadium construction project manager U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, executive engineer of swimming pool construction Daw Khin May Win, Indoor Sports Stadium construction project engineer U Khin Maung Kyi and Indoor Sports Stadium construction project manager U Myin Naing.

Q: When did the construction start and how far does it reach?

U Kyaw Kyaw Oo: The earthworks at the Indoor Sports Stadium started on 23 December, 2009. Foundation works started on 13 January, 2010. The construction has been completed by 98 percent. It will be handed over to department concerned soon.

Q: What is the capacity of the stadium and who designed it?

KKO: China designed the stadium and provided technical assistance for some parts. Myanmar engineers, staff and workers have undertaken the construction. The capacity is more than 30,000 and has a VIP room.

Q: Which rooms constitute the stadium?

KKO: The world-class stadium has recreation room of athletes, dressing room, VIP room, control room, audio control room for 142 soundboxes, media briefing room, gym, and CCTV room. It is almost completed.