President U Thein Sein receives Finnish Minister for International Development

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives a delegation led by Ms. Heidi Hautala, Minister for International Development of Finland, at the Presidential Palace, here, at 3 pm today.

Present at the call together with the President were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and officials.

They had a cordial discussion on capacity building for national race development and Myanmar and assisting in total lifting of economic sanctions for economic development of Myanmar and regaining of Generalized System of Preference, promoting diplomatic ties and further strengthening friendships between the two countries at a high time for mutual cooperation.

MNA

The following is an unofficial translation of Press Release (4/2013) issued by Information Team.—Ed

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Information Team
Press Release (4/2013)
22 January, 2013
11th Waxing of Pyatho 1374 ME

Press release on the proceedings for enactment of “the Bill to amend the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law”

1. The Bill to amend the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law was approved at the fifth regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and it was sent to the President on 18-11-2012 to seek his approval. In accord with the provision of Section 106 (a) of the Constitution, the bill was sent back to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 23-11-2012 with the comments of the President in which the Bill includes provisions which are contrary to the Constitution and the democratic practices that ensure the three branches of sovereign power namely legislative power, executive power and judicial power are separated, to the extent possible, and extent reciprocal control, check and balance among themselves. (News reported on dailies issued on 28-11-2012)

2. The bill was under discussions again at the sixth regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and it was approved and sent to the President in accord with the provision of Section 106 (b) of the Constitution to seek his approval. Although the amendments of the provisions of the Bill were similar to the provisions originally approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the President signed and sent back it to the Hluttaw, in accord with the law, paying attention to the desires of the majority as Hluttaw representatives were in favour of the amendments. In order to make the massage known to the public, the full text of the translation of the message signed and sent by the President is as follow:-

“Reference (1) Message with the letter number 1/Pa Hta (meeting) 9/2012-79 dated 18-11-2012 sent by the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the President.

(2) Message with the letter number 107/3/8/President Office dated 23-11-2012 sent by the President to the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(3) Message with the letter number 1/Pa Hta (meeting) 9/2013-4 dated 15-1-2013 sent by the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the President.

1. I received the Bill sent back in accord with the Section 106 (b) of the constitution along with the message shown in reference (3) regarding the “Bill to amend the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law” with the comments of the President along with the message shown in reference (2).

2. Regarding the Bill, the comments was made that it is contrary to the provision that “existing law shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw” stated in Section 446 of Constitution and the provision that the three branches of sovereign power namely legislative power, executive power and judicial power are separated, to the extent possible, and extent reciprocal control, check and balance among themselves” stated in Section 11 (a) of the Constitution.

3. Deputy Attorney-General, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative, a Defence Services Personnel Amyotha Hluttaw Representative and a Defence Services Personnel Amyotha Hluttaw Representative discussed the Bill at the sixth regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the Bill with original provisions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as the majority was in favour of the Bill.

4. Whether it is in compliance with the Constitution or not is subject to the decision of the waiting-to-form Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. I signed the “bill amending the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law” approved by the majority of parliamentarians, giving respect to the wish of the majority and sent the bill back according to provision in Section 106 Sub-section (b) of the Constitution.

5. It is hereunder stated that regarding the effects of laws prescribed in chapter “Legislation” in the Constitution, provision in Section 198 Sub-section (a) should be paid special attention.

“198. The effects of legislations promulgated by different levels of Hluttaws and authorities of self-administered division/zones are as follows:

(a) If a particular provision in law enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Region Hluttaw, State Hluttaw, leading body of self-administered division, or leading bodies of self-administered zones or a specific law is contrary to a certain provision in the Constitution, what is prescribed in the Constitution shall hold valid.”

6. Therefore, it is here asked to proceed with “the law amending the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union” signed by the President.

3. The original provisions in the bill formulated by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the remarks of the President and the final draft of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are shown against each other below. (See page 8)
Mingun Pahtodawgyi Stupa attracts flock of foreign visitors

SAGAING, 21 Jan — Although visitors are not allowed to climb the upper part of Mingun Pahtodawgyi in Sagaing, local and foreign visitors have come in flocks around the pagoda and Mingun Bell.

The Mingun Pahtodawgyi was among the damaged religious edifices caused by recent Thabeikkyin earthquake in Sagaing Region. As cracks appeared on some parts of the pagoda, climbing the upper part of the pagoda is prohibited for the sake of visitors.

Arrivals of tourists were usual and the pagoda was being packed with visitors, a young woman who runs a souvenir shop near the pagoda said. "Several hundred visitors visit Mingun Pahtodawgyi daily."

Pakokku dwellers adopt healthy lifestyle in drinking water

PAKOKKU, 21 Jan — Parallel trends in regional economic development and increasingly growing sense of health-conscious forced local people to develop a culture of drinking safe water in Pakokku, thereby contributing towards a larger purified drinking water market share. Sale of purified drinking water is K 450 and an empty bottle is priced at K 4500.

A local who runs a delivery service said, Pakokku dwellers used to drink water from lake and rainwater. Since 2010, they changed their lifestyle enjoying healthy purified drinking water.

"The number of times electricians were called to make repairs reduced to ashes and 61 people killed in 923 fire accidents."

Bicycle hire shops doing a brisk trade

Pakokku dwellers adopted healthy lifestyle in drinking water while tourists flocked to Mingun Pahtodawgyi Stupa. Pakokku dwellers doing a brisk trade in bicycle hire shops contributed towards rural livelihood.

Y 2012 sees more nationwide fire outbreaks than previous year

YANGON, 21 Jan — According to the Fire Services Department (Head Office), the whole country encountered more outbreaks of fire in the last year. A total of 1219 fires occurred in 2012.

According to the Fire Services Department, 61 people killed in 923 fire accidents. As part of a drive for nationwide taking census process, responsible persons of ITBA together with Secretary of Central Census Committee Director-General Myint Kyaw and party made an inspection tour of Taung-O, Tataing villages in YeSagyo Township.

Mobile school library in Buthidaung Township

SITTWE, 21 Jan — Aimed at turning out good and able citizens, Head of Buthidaung Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin Y u Y u Nwe and staff organized a mobile school library at Basic Education Middle School No (1) in the township on 15 January and BEHS No (1) on 26 December. Plans are underway to make their second excursion to Popa Region.

ITAB officials observe preparation for taking census process in Pyinmana Township

PYINMANA, 21 Jan — While taking census nationwide in 1973 and 1983, UNFPA and UNDP contributed financial support, manpower and technology to Myanmar. As part of a drive for nationwide taking census process, responsible persons of ITBA together with Secretary of Central Census Committee Director-General Myint Kyaw and party made an inspection tour of Pyinmana Township where they oversaw preparations for taking census at Gyotpin Village.

Staff Officer U Aung Naing Oo of Pyinmana Township Immigration and National Registration Department and members of the township census taking committee explained preparation for taking census process there.
**Syrian opposition seeks Qatar backing for transition government**

**Hanover, 21 Jan— Germany’s centre-left opposition staged a strong challenge to Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservatives for power in a regional vote in Lower Saxony on Sunday, reviving its flagging hopes of defeating her in September’s national election.**

The Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens won by a single seat after a close race for power in Germany’s fourth most populous state. Merkel’s Christian Democrats (CDU) lost ground but their Free Democrats (FDP) allied defeated forecasts that they would be ejected from the state assembly in Hanover. **A one-vote majority can be very stable,** said Stephan Weil, Hanover mayor and SPD state premier candidate after a nail-biting six-hour wait for results that were too long to close the gap. The outcome will be a setback for Merkel, but the 58-year-old chancellor still enjoys high personal popularity for her leadership role in the euro crisis where she defended Germany’s economic interests. She might also cite the success of the SPD as a good omen for September polls she hopes will return her centre-right coalition. The SPD was boding the results, their own candidate for chancellor, Peer Steinbrueck, struggling to rally support after a series of gaffes. The SPD and Greens won 46.3 percent against 45.9 percent for the CDU and their Free Democrat partners — who previously cleared the two percent hurdle to enter the assembly with a vote of 9.9 percent-twice what had been expected. **Reuters**

**Taliban attacks police compound in Afghan capital, two bombers killed**

**Karachi, 21 Jan— At least four powerful explosions rocked western Afghan capital Kabil on Monday morning as a team of Taliban suicide bombers and gunmen raided police compounds in the area, police said. **The militants conducted a coordinated suicide attack against border police and neighbouring civil order police compounds located near the intersection of Deh Mazang in western Kabul on Monday morning,** a police official who declined to be named told Xinhua. At least two suicide bombers were killed in the explosion so far as they know in the attack, which took place at about 6 am local time Monday, he said. No casualty reports on the police were immediately available. The firing still could be heard in the area.

Meanwhile, the police official said that the militants numbered four to five and armed with suicide vests and weapons seized the four-story police traffic building and opened fire on border and civil order police compounds. Xinhua

**Obama could build a legacy by boosting trust with China**

**Beijing, 21 Jan— After his inauguration for a second term on Sunday, US President Barack Obama has little time to celebrate. A mong the tough tasks will be the management of Washington’s hugely complex yet extremely important relationship with China. Historically, the relations between the world’s two largest economies and between a dominant power and an emerging one had never been easy, and such relationships have only once in two decades — and he actually has a good chance of helping shape a new paradigm of inter-power relations and thus making it part of his legacy. Obama’s re-election last year was coincided with China’s leadership change, a phenomenon that has only once in two decades and brings an opportunity for fresh thinking on the relations between the two countries. China has proposed to build a new type of inter-power relations between Beijing and Washington, based on win-win cooperation, mutual trust and favorable interaction. It signals an attempt of Beijing to break the cycle of on-again, off-again ties between the two nations and change the historical pattern of the seemingly inevitable conflict between a rising power and an established one. Based on the record of his first term, one can be cautiously optimistic that the president is leaning toward the idea of enhancing the US-China relationship rather than seeking confrontation. For example, he has said for many times that Washington welcomes China’s rise and that Washington believes a strong and prosperous China can help bring stability and prosperity to the region and the world. **— Xinhua**

**French police traffic building and number four to five and suicide bombers were killed on Saturday the death toll reached 11. In total, at least 17 people were injured in a hand grenade blast in Baldia area of Karachi on Sunday, local media reported.**

**People gather around a damaged vehicle at the blast site in southern Pakistani port City of Karachi, on 20 Jan, 2013. At least one person was killed and four others were injured in a hand grenade blast in Baldia area of Karachi on Sunday, local media reported.**

**Angiers, 21 Jan— The horrible hostage crisis at a remote Algerian gas field facility, which drew international attention over the past week, seems to have reached a break-off after the Interior M inistry announced on Saturday the death toll from both the attackers and the hostages. However, a deeper look leaves several questions unanswered. The assault group, which was “heavily armed” according to the Interior Ministry, intruded into Algeria from the eastern border, Niger or Libya could be their origin, but how could they managed to penetrate into a gas field and orchestrated massive abductions?**

**Question marks linger over Algerian gas plant terror attack**

**It’s hard to tell how the armed group infiltrated in a supposed secured zone,” said Salim Kela, a professor at the Faculty of Political Science in the University of Angiers, told Xinhua, adding that only a private security firm was hired to secure the Tiguentourine gas field complex.**

**Though admitting that the Algerian authorities bear some responsibility in the terror attack given their failure to stop the infiltration of the armed men, Kela said: “The gas facility is located in a wide desert remote area, and the militants are equipped with high-tech communication devices and heavy arms.”**

**German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers her speech during an election campaign with Lower Saxony’s Christian Democratic state governor David McAllister (CDU) (not pictured) in Stade, on 17 Jan, 2013.**

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**Chinese Ambassador to Russia Li Hui delivers a speech at a performance staged by Chinese students studying in Russia, at the Chinese Embassy in Moscow, Russia, on 20 Jan, 2013. The performance was held here on Sunday in celebration of China’s traditional Spring Festival and the upcoming Year of the Snake. **

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**German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers her speech during an election campaign with Lower Saxony’s Christian Democratic state governor David McAllister (CDU) (not pictured) in Stade, on 17 Jan, 2013.**

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**German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers her speech during an election campaign with Lower Saxony’s Christian Democratic state governor David McAllister (CDU) (not pictured) in Stade, on 17 Jan, 2013.**
Google says Wall Street estimates need adjusting

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Jan—Google Inc issued a rare advisory to Wall Street on Friday that analyst estimates for its fourth quarter financial results are flawed. The world’s No 1 search engine, which reports its quarterly results on Tuesday, said most analysts have not adjusted their estimates to reflect the pending $2.33 billion sale of the Motorola Home business.

The business must be presented separately from the results of Google’s continuing operations under US accounting rules, Google Treasurer Brent Callinicos wrote in a post on Google’s investor relations Web page on Friday. “As of this writing, a majority of Wall Street analysts who cover Google have not reflected the Home business as discontinued operations in their estimates,” Callinicos wrote. The discrepancy means the fourth-quarter net revenue that Google reports on Tuesday could appear to be less than the $12.34 billion average that analysts polled by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S are expecting.

Raymond James analyst Aaron Kessler says fourth-quarter net revenue estimate includes nearly $900 million from the Motorola Home business. “They’re saying that the headline number is going to be less than what most analysts have for Q4,” said Kessler.

The advisory is a rare move for Google, which believes its financial forecasts and typically has limited interactions with analysts. The company has in the past provided accounting advisers to analysts about the Motorola Mobility business, which Google acquired for $12.5 billion in May. Google bought Motorola Mobility primarily for its large portfolio of communications patents and its mobile phone business. In December, Google agreed to sell the Motorola Home television set-top box business to Arris Group Inc for $2.35 billion in cash and stock. Analysts expect Google to report adjusted earnings of $10.56 per share for the fourth quarter. “It’s a little surprising that they’re doing this the Friday before the report,” said Kessler. “They should have put it out a week ago if they wanted analysts to change their numbers.”

Doha, 21 Jan—Authoritarian regimes around the world are using technology from a Silicon Valley firm for Internet surveillance, filtering and censorship, according to a report by Canadian researchers.

The report this week from the University of Toronto’s Citizen Lab said devices from California-based security firm Blue Coat Systems were being used in China, Russia, Venezuela and other countries with “a history of concerns over human rights.”

“Our findings support the need for national and international scrutiny of Blue Coat implementations in the countries we have identified, and a closer look at the global proliferation of dual-use information and communication technologies,” said the report.

Internet service providers responsible for these deployments should consider publicly clarifying their function, and we hope Blue Coat will take this report as an opportunity to explain their due diligence process to ensure that their devices are not used in ways that violate human rights.”

Apple earnings need to overcome technical malaise

New York/San Francisco, 21 Jan—To those who study technical stock charts, Apple Inc looks broken.

Even though it is widely viewed to be undervalued after hitting an 11-month low this week and nine out of 10 brokers recommend that investors buy or hold the stock, Apple shareholders could still be in for more rough times if technical strategists are right.

They note that trading charts show few price points where investors can expect clusters of buying to support Apple’s shares. For example, the stock’s medium-term momentum, based on its 50-day rate of acceleration, has been on a downward slope since March, but has not hit oversold levels.

Ryan Detrick, senior technical strategist at Schaeffer’s Investment Research, said it is hard to find an entry point at current levels, calling the stock “broken.”

“There’s been a lot of technical damage, but at the same time it still looks like it’s in a downtrend,” Detrick said. “This could still be a name you want to avoid and could very well still underperform in our opinion.”

Apple has a chance to turn things around when it reports results for the December quarter on January 23. Investors are unusually nervous because of reports that Apple might be curtailing purchases of screens for its iPhone and iPad, which together account for over 70 percent of revenue.

Workers use their mobile phone in a vehicle on their way home in Yangon on 18 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Mobile revolution in Myanmar is on the cards, but too slow for many

YANGON, 21 Jan—Last week the government invited expressions of interest for two mobile phone licenses — a first step towards increasing mobile penetration from its current 5-10 percent to 80 percent in three years. That would lift it off the bottom of the world’s ladder of mobile use and put it on a par with neighbours.

In the meantime, users are chafing at the pace and price of adding connections. A year ago the informal technology conference Barcamp Yangon was buzzing with rumours of a SIM card that would cost about $6 — or 1 percent of its actual price at the time. That would lift it off the bottom.

A year on, Barcamp is back but the talk is much less dramatic: whether the state-owned operator might release SIM cards for its large portfolio of communications patents and its mobile phone business. In December, Google agreed to sell the Motorola Home television set-top box business to Arris Group Inc for $2.35 billion in cash and stock. Analysts expect Google to report adjusted earnings of $10.56 per share for the fourth quarter. “It’s a little surprising that they’re doing this the Friday before the report,” said Kessler. “They should have put it out a week ago if they wanted analysts to change their numbers.”

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Six foods rich of calculus

1. Green vegetable
2. Sesame paste
3. Dals
4. Bean products
5. Beans
6. Milk — Xinhu

Calcium content in food varies significantly, so it is important to consume "calcium rich" foods. The following foods, are rich of calcium:

- Beans
- 2. Sesame paste
- 1. Green vegetable
- and other "calcium rich" foods. The following table shows the calcium content in these foods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Calcium Content (mg/100g)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sesame paste</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dals</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bean products</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Newborn screening misses some deaf kids

New York, 21 Jan—New research provides further evidence that some babies who pass their newborn hearing tests are found to be deaf or hard of hearing as young kids.

Some of those newborns may receive passing grades incorrectly, researchers said, but others can be born with good hearing but develop progressive hearing loss as babies and toddlers.

"A parent or a physician may think, 'Oh, this child had passed the screen, so they must not have hearing loss,'" said Dr David Chi, the study’s lead author from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pennsylvania.

"Don’t depend on just the fact that (your child) passed the screen, especially if there are any concerns about hearing loss or speech concerns," he added.

Brokers trade on their computer terminals at a stock brokerage firm in Mumbai on 23 July 2008.—Reuters

Mumbai, 21 Jan—Earnings will continue to set the tone in Indian markets, with Larsen & Toubro Ltd (LART.NS), Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MRTI.NS) and Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL.NS) among the companies set to post October-December results.

The government’s decision to allow diesel price hikes should continue to help support shares although state-run oil stocks such as Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL.NS) that rallied on the news may be susceptible to profit-taking.

The Congress Party kicks off its three-day conference in Jaipur, with all leaders, including party chief Sonia Gandhi, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and top ministers attending.

The big event this month still remains the RBI’s policy review on 29 January, with most analysts expecting a 25 basis points cut in interest rates after RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao dented hopes for a 50 bps cut this week after calling inflation “still quite high.”

Sat. India’s ruling Congress party starts three-day conference.

Mon.: NTPC Ltd (NTPC.NS), Asian Paints Ltd (ASP.NS), Cairn India Ltd (CAIL.NS), Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC.NS) earnings.

Tues.: Hindustan Unilever (HUL.NS) earnings.

Wedns.: Reliance Communications Ltd (RCOM.NS), Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEE.NS) earnings.

Thurs.: Larsen & Toubro (LART.NS) earnings.

Fri.: Maruti Suzuki (MRTI.NS), Reliance Power Ltd (RPL.NS) earnings.

Nokia Siemens Networks to tap markets for 700 million euros

London, 21 Jan—Nokia Siemens Networks (NSN) is planning to raise as much as 700 million euros ($930 million) from public markets in the spring to pay down debt and fund investment, the Financial Times said on its website on Sunday, citing people familiar with the plan.

The high-yield bond will be the first time the Nokia and Siemens joint venture has tapped public markets, the FT said, and it will test investor appetite in the telecoms equipment maker ahead of a possible listing.
Cuba ready for International Book Fair

Havana, 21 Jan—Cuba is ready to welcome about 200 intellectuals and cultural officials from 30 countries and regions to the 22nd International Book Fair, to start here on 14 February, organizers said on Sunday.

Director of the Cuban Book Chamber Eduardo Fernandez said so far more than 2,500 square metres have been occupied by 134 exhibitors of 25 countries in the old fortress of San Carlos de la Cabana on the east bank of the Havana harbour.

The biggest delegation belongs to Angola, the honou- guest country of the fair, said poet Edel Moraes, member of the organizing committee.

Angolan writers and representatives of several artistic fields will attend the fair and more than 50 books on the African country, 18 of them written by Angolan authors, will be on show.

In genres of novel and poetry, Uruguay’s Mario Delgado Aparain, Italy’s Carlo Lucareo, Argentina’s Vicente Batiella, Spain’s Juan Madrid and Mexico’s Paco Ignacio Taibo II will participate in the activities.

US historian Aviva Chomsky is also expected to attend the fair. The organizing committee said that the fair takes place in Havana for 10 days before moving on to other cities in the sub-region for two more weeks.—Xinhua

Bad weather causes one death, 21 injuries in Portugal

LISBON, 21 Jan—Strong gusts and heavy rains have caused one death, 21 injuries and 46 people have lost their homes in Portugal at the weekend.

Between Friday morning and Saturday night, Portugal has been under a red weather alert, the highest in the scale. Winds reached 120 km per hour resulting from more than 9,000 emergency calls with the highest number reported in capital Lisbon.

The violent winds caused one dead and 21 injured, according to the Civil Protection National Authority. Local Press said that the deceased was 83-year-old man and died with head injuries after falling against the ground pushed by a gate brought down by the strong wind.

According to media reports, damage reported by farmers reached over 6 million euros (about 8 million US dollars) and five regions in the country are still suffering power cuts.

On Sunday the wind has been continuing to blow hard and the rain has not stopped although the severe weather alerts have gone down to green indicating no danger in most of the country.

Three regions in the north including Povoa do Varzim, Vila do Conde and Espinho reported damages over 5 million euros, according to a farmer’s association speaker interviewed by TSF news radio.

In the west agricultural damage may reach 1.5 million euros, according to the daily Publico.

The bad weather also has caused problems in the power supply and public transport sector.

Five regions in the country — Aveiro, Castelo Branco, Leiria, Coimbra and Santarem — continued Sunday without electricity.

The situation should return normal until the end of Sunday, according to M aria Antonia Fonseca, speaker of the power company EDP. Though, in an interview with the news radio TSF, she added that the work ahead would still be complicated.

The Portuguese railway company CP keeps in place on Sunday a warning about possible delays due to obstructed lines.

Strong winds caused changes in the final destination of at least 33 flights heading to Portugal on Saturday. Bad weather in other European cities also led to more delayed and canceled flights on Sunday.

The access to some marine ports was also suspended during the weekend.

The Civil Protection National Authority registered 6,018 incidents caused by falling trees and 2,425 caused by falling debris. The rains have also caused 534 flood occurrences and 279 landslides. (1 euro = 1.33 US dollars).—Xinhua

Senegal starts to send troops to Mali

Dakar, 21 Jan—A group of some 60 soldiers of the 500 men contingent that Senegal has decided to send to Mali as part of the multinational force of West Africa, left Dakar to Bamako on Sunday, local media reported.

Private radio RFM reported the movement but did not give details on the deployment schedule of the Senegalese contingent.

Senegal and countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have announced the dispatch of regional troops to help Malian government fight against the rebels who occupied the northern half of the country in March 2012 following a military coup.

The rebel groups, believed to be backed by the northern Sudan, are considered a threat to other countries in the sub-region.

On Wednesday, Senegal’s President Macky Sall, through a message to the National Assembly, urged the Senegalese from all sides to unite to support the mission of the contingent of 500 Senegalese soldiers to go to Mali.

According to the president, any threat affecting Mali would also be a concern of Senegal.

Under a UN Security Council mandate, the African regional bloc ECOWAS has decided to mobilize a multinational force of 3,300 troops to help the Malian government fight against the rebels who occupied the northern half of the country in March 2012 following a military coup.

The rebel groups, believed to be backed by al-Qaeda, were regarded as a threat to the regional security as well as Mali’s central government.

They attacked the government military stronghold of Kannon in central Mali on 9 January, posing a threat to capital Bamako. France, which took the rebels movement as a threat to its interest, quickly dispatched armed forces to the West African country to support the government forces to push back the rebels.

In the past week or so, the French forces have bombarded the rebels and helped the Malian government retake the two towns that the rebels had overrun recently in the battles. Troops from other member countries of ECOWAS are arriving to Mali group by group.

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White House says confident will pass some gun control legislation

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan—White House adviser David Plouffe said on Sunday that he felt there was support in Congress for some gun control measures, including universal background checks for gun buyers and limits on high-capacity clips.

“I’m confident of the measures you mentioned — clips, universal background checks — I think there are 60 votes in the Senate and 218 in the House, that the president would support,” Plouffe said on ABC’s “This Week,” citing the vote threshold to pass legislation in the two chambers. “We don’t expect it all to pass, or in its current form, but we think there’s elements of this that are absolutely critical,” he added.

Plouffe said that Obama last week proposed the biggest US gun-control push in decades, including a ban on military-type assault weapons and mandatory background checks for all gun buyers to prevent mass shootings like December’s Newtown, Connecticut, school massacre in which a gunman killed 20 children and six adults.

Gun advocates led by the powerful National Rifle Association have mobilized to fight Obama’s plan. With gun ownership rights enshrined in the Second Amendment of the US Constitution, gun restrictions have long been a divisive issue.—Reuters

Colombia’s FARC rebels end ceasefire

Havana, 21 Jan—A unilateral ceasefire declared by tying FARC rebels at the start of peace talks with the Colombian government ended on Sunday after the government refused to join the truce, the group said.

“With pain in my heart, we have to admit that we return to the stage of war that nobody wants in this country (Colombia) wants,” FARC lead negotiator Ivan Marquez told supporters before going into the latest session of the talks aimed at ending Colombia’s long, bloody conflict.

In The FARC, or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, declared the ceasefire when the talks began on 19 November in Havana, and gave the Colombian government two months to also lay down its arms.

“The fact is that the number of operations carried out by the group decreased significantly, the number of police and soldiers killed or injured decreased. The conclusion is that there was a relative compliance with the ceasefire,” Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said late on Sunday.

Santos said the FARC was involved in some violence during the ceasefire, but it was hard to tell whether the guerrillas were defending themselves or attacking.—Reuters

Residents participate in the Tacna International Carnival at the esplanade of the Government Palace in Lima, capital of Peru, on 19 Jan, 2013.—Xinhua

A display of 7-round handguns are seen at Coliseum Gun Traders Ltd in Uniondale, New York. (Photo by Reuters)
LOCAL NEWS

Yangon Region Government holds 56th Maha Convocation Ceremony

YANGON, 21 Jan—The 56th Maha Convocation Ceremony organized by the Yangon Region Government was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Ayehill, here, yesterday.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhagu Monastery of Mandalay Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa gave Sammodaniya to Dhammacariya examination. Secretary of SSM NC Chaunkhetgyi M onastery of Yangon A gga Maha Pandalita Saddhamma Jotikadhaja B haddanta K heminda delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained. Later, the congregation offered alms to members of the Sangha and nuns.

Before the ceremony, the Yangon Region Government offered alms to members of the Sangha and nuns of the Sangha at the three-storey building on Kaba Ayehill.

MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister meets ICRC President and party

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin met a delegation led by President Mr Peter Maurer of International Committee of the Red Cross at his office in Sittway on 17 January.

At the meeting, ICRC disclosed to cooperate in respective sectors of Rakhine State and discussed matters related to further cooperation.—MNA

Kayan Sluice Gate, Union National Races Village inspected

YANGON, 21 Jan—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe inspected the Kayan Sluice Gate in Thanlyin Township of Yangon Region this morning.

He then inspected the completion of Chaungku Bridge that links Thanapin Village and farmlands and then the Union National Races Village in Thakayta Township.

MNA

Kayan Sluice Gate, Union National Races Village inspected

Opening of Managed Cash Flow-SOP P review Workshop held

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the opening of Managed Cash Flow-SOP Review Workshop for fight against three major diseases took place at Royal Kumudra Hotel, here, on 18 January morning, with an address by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin.

At the workshop, the Union Minister said that monetary management and systematic spending play a pivotal role in practising clean government and good governance.

Then, Director and Representative Mr Sanjay Mathur of UNOPS made a speech. The workshop will last for two days.

MNA

MNL-2 to start on 15 February

Fire drill exercised at market in Nyaunglebin

Nyaunglebin, 21 Jan—Nyaunglebin Township Development Affairs Committee implements plans of fire preventive measures for its markets and organizes fire drills.

On 17 January, the fire drill was exercised in front of Nyaunglebin Market.

Township level officials, Region Hluttaw representative U Soe Pang and responsible persons of the market led by Township DAC Executive Committee U M Hla Thaung participated in the fire drill.—NLM

Players of Chin United FC that participated in the 2012 MNL League

Yangon, 21 Jan—Myanmar Football Federation will organize the MNL-2 as of 15 February. Two top clubs will have the opportunity to join the one-step league. The clubs may use foreign footballers and call four Asian player in line with the rules of MNL. The clubs will have the opportunity to play in the 1st or 2nd position, it will be a pivotal role in practising clean government and good governance.

The ceremony to draw the fixtures for the tournament was held at Myanmar Football Federation Office on 17 January.
Political openness

In materializing political changes with the momentum we have never achieved before, all the stakeholders meaning the government, the parliament, political parties, business society, civil society organizations, Tatmadaw, and especially the entire population, have been working with heart and soul in discharging their assigned duties. Here motherland always welcomes civil society organizations as vital forces in the national development undertakings. In this regard the civil society organizations should partake in the nation-building endeavours that meet the prevailing situation of the masses. The government on its part will relax the requirements for the registration of associations and restrictions on their activities letting political parties and civil society organizations operate freely and at full capacity.

Our belief is that even though we are facing a lot of challenges, the combined effort of all the forces of our country will certainly pave the way for success in all the reforms that are underway. So, we would like to see the civil society organizations intensifying their participation in the national development undertakings.

But civil society organizations will have absolute independent decision-making and do not need to agree with the government on everything. It’s just a clarion call for all civil society organizations to find common ground with the government in the areas of national development and restoration and promotion of eternal peace. In fact, dialogue and win-win compromises are the best means in dealing with a diverse array of issues and disagreements. So, we must seek conciliatory means, but not the confrontational methods.

In this way we can end our internal problems peacefully and eternally and find the nearest path towards national integration, a springboard towards a modern society through democratic reforms. We all believe that the problems peacefully and eternally and find the nearest path towards national integration, a springboard towards a modern society through democratic reforms. We all believe that the

as the backbone of our national integration.

UN chief hails Myanmar’s announcement of truce in Kachin

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Jan— UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday welcomed Myanmar government’s announcement of a unilateral ceasefire in Kachin and called on both sides to “make serious efforts to create conditions for sustainable peace” in the region. Ban said in a statement issued by his spokesman that he has been following the various reports from the ground on the implementation of the ceasefire.

Myanmar government announced Friday unilateral ceasefire with the ethnic Kachin Independence Army (KIA), saying that the government troops will stop military offensive against the area of Lakyayan starting Jan 19 at 06:00 a.m. (local time), according to a press release of the government aired by the state TV at night. The unilateral ceasefire was offered as security with the government force members as well as with the Myitkyina-Bahmo highway have been in place, said the release. Ban “calls upon both sides to make serious efforts to create conditions for sustainable peace in Kachin through enhanced confidence building measures and political dialogue,” the statement said.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, committee chairs meet

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann attended the coordination meeting of committee chairs at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex here this afternoon.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The committee chairs explained undertakings of each committee.

The Speaker’s concluding remarks brought the meeting to an end.—MNA

Press release on the proceedings for enactment of “the Bill to...”

(from page 1)

Original provisions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remarks of the President</th>
<th>Final draft</th>
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<tr>
<td>In the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law-(a) Section (6) shall be replaced as follows: “6. The President shall submit the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the list of three persons nominated by himself, three by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and three by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, totaling nine persons and the name of the one out of those nine nominated in coordination with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker to appoint as chairperson and seek the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s approval.”</td>
<td>As regards Section 2 Sub-section (a) of the bill, Section 321 of the Constitution states “The President shall submit the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the list of three persons nominated by himself, three by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and three by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, totaling nine persons and the name of the one out of those nine to appoint as chairperson and seek the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s approval.” The Hluttaw’s proposed amendment is contrary to the Constitution. Section 446 of the Constitution states that only provisions out of 22 legislations promulgated under Section 443 of the Constitution not going against the Constitution are valid and it automatically becomes invalid if and when it goes against the Constitution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sub-Section (i) after Sub-Section (h) of Section 12 shall be added as follows: “(i) Reporting the President or the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker or the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker who nominates him/her on his/her undertakings.”</td>
<td>As regards Section 2 Sub-section (b) of the bill, Section 12 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law prescribes the duties of the tribunal mentioned in Sections 322 and 323 of the constitution. The added provision in Sub-Section (i) is not included in the constitution. It would hamper the jurisdiction of the highest constitutional court. Otherwise, it means intervention in jurisdiction. It goes against freedom of jurisdiction embodied in Section 19 Sub-section (a) and Section 11 Sub-section (a) of the constitution. As it is the thing to preserve for flourishing of democracy, the provision should not be added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Section 23 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law shall be reordered as Section 24 and vice versa. The new Section 24 shall be as follows: “24. The resolution of the tribunal passed in line with Section 23 is final.”</td>
<td>The original provision of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Section 25 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law must be omitted.</td>
<td>The original provision of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is approved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Speaker’s conclusion remarks brought the meeting to an end.—MNA
President U Thein Sein attends Central level English Impromptu Talk Competition for students from universities, degree colleges, colleges for 2012-2013 academic year

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—President of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the awarding ceremony of the 2012-2013 academic year central-level English Impromptu Talk Competition for students from universities, degree colleges and colleges held at the City Hall here at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, rectors, instructors, student participants and officials concerned.

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye awarded the first, second and third prize winners of the post-graduate level impromptu talk competition, and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo, the first, second and third prize winners of the under-graduate level of the panel of judges.

President U Thein Sein posed for a documentary photo together with Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Union ministers, members of the panel of judges and prize winners and cordially greeted those present.

Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese PLA concludes visit

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the awarding ceremony of the 2012-2013 academic year central-level English Impromptu Talk Competition for students from universities, degree colleges and colleges held at the City Hall here at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, rectors, instructors, student participants and officials concerned.

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye awarded the first, second and third prize winners of the post-graduate level impromptu talk competition.

Next, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint presented gifts to members of the panel of judges and prize winners and cordially greeted those present.

Korean National Assembly Speaker visits Mausoleum, Shwedagon Pagoda

Yangon, 21 Jan—The visiting Korean goodwill delegation led by Korean National Assembly Speaker Mr Kang Chang-hee and wife visited Mausoleum here this morning.

The Speaker laid a wreath at the mausoleum and then visited National Museum (Yangon). The Korean delegation also visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening and donated cash for the pagoda.

Deputy Chief of General Staff of PLA Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo being seen off at the airport by officials.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—The visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo visited Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

They were accompanied by Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win from the Commander-in-Chief (Army)’s Office, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua and Chinese military attaché Senior Colonel Xiong Shawei and officials concerned.

The delegation enjoyed the luncheon hosted by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo.

They left Yangon for home by air at 3 pm today.

Korean National Assembly Speaker Mr Kang Chang-hee and wife visit National Museum.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Fundamental Rights of Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee Chairman receives Head of OHCHR Region Office for South-East Asia

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—Ms. Matilda Bogner, Head of OHCHR Region Office for South-East Asia and Mr. Heike Alesken, Deputy Head of OHCHR Region Office for South-East Asia called on Pyithu Hluttaw Fundamental Rights of Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee Chairman U Htay Oo at Hluttaw building this afternoon.

Human rights issues, legislative matters, works being undertaken at Hluttaw, national unity, peace and stability and international relations were discussed at the meeting.

MNA
Measures undertaken to legitimize Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan— Plans are underway to provide legal documents to remaining undocumented migrant workers through the coordination with the Thai government. The Thai Prime Minister agreed to extend the period for three months at the request of the Myanmar President. Five previous temporary passport issuance counters were then closed and it was allowed to run up to ten now. It was agreed to start issuing passports to Myanmar migrant workers ahead of 20 March, which would enable Myanmar migrant workers to take out passports at the nearest counters at low cost. In order to prevent increase in number of Myanmar migrant workers without documents while so doing, over new 40000 Myanmar workers were sent to Thailand under Myanmar-Thailand MoU. Measures are being taken to enable offsprings of Myanmar migrant workers to pursue education in Thailand.

So, efforts would be continued to legitimize Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand and to enable them to have the same human rights the Thai have. More labour attaches were dispatched to countries to which most of Myanmar migrant workers go including Malaysia and Kuwait. Myanmar has joined Global Migration Group in November last year, working toward its objectives.

U Win Myint of Pathein Constituency asked the Hluttaw to define the provisions about functions of political parties in Sections 64 and 232 in 2008 Constitution.

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung replied that the responsibility to define the provisions in the constitution rests on the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. So, it should be asked to the tribunal when it is reformed.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that the Hluttaw would put the proposal on record and would ask the constitutional tribunal under Section 325 of the constitution. The proposal would be proceeded when the constitutional is formed.

The fifth day regular session continues tomorrow.

Questions on rabies vaccine, doctor recruitment answered at Amyotha Hluttaw

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—Questions on production of rabies vaccine and recruitment of newly-grad doctors from remote areas were answered at fourth day of sixth regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin answered that the country’s rabies vaccine production met the demand and a total of 16725 units of vaccines were distributed to regions and states in 2011-2012 fiscal year in response to the question raised by Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No (6).

He said the ministry is not responsible for recruiting new assistant doctors and it was undertaken by the Union Civil Services Board. He said the capacity is the only criterion in considering the new recruits.

Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt put forward Bill amending the Limitation Act for consideration. U Maung Myint of Kayin State Constituency No (9) seconded the proposal to discuss the bill at the Hluttaw.

Eight MPs discussed the proposal of U Paul Htan Htai of Chin State Constituency No (3) urging the Union government to give special priority for health and education of remote regions than other relatively developed areas.

The parliamentary session continues 10 am tomorrow.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint at fourth day of sixth regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

KIA sets company hostel on fire

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—A seven-member group led by KIA arrived at Waingankabar Company Office in Maungtaw Township of Rakhine State at about 5.30 pm on 19 January and set company hostel on fire. A two-storey building in length of 100 feet was destroyed in the fire. A Pajero owned by the company was exploded by grenade according to the Ministry of Defence.

After releasing the press release (3/2013), it was the third attack on civilians by KIA.

MNA

KIA abducts five civilians

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—About 15 members of KIA battalion (5) abducted five civilians including four men and one woman from Salikiyaw log camp in Shwegyin Township at 3 am on 18 January, according to Kachin State government.—MNA
Hundreds of fishing boats went out to sea, leaving 27 fishermen with 27 fishing boats with 27 fisher residents. Fishing was also reported in some low-lying areas in the city, including parts of the city proper along the Davao river, said Jacob Obligado, commander of the army’s 10th civil-military operations battalion. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the tail-end of a cold front is affecting Mindanao, bringing light to moderate rainshowers and thunderstorms over the region.

Villocino said of the forced evacuation to prevent a repeat of last month’s disaster,"We’ve been implementing pre-emptive evacuation to prevent a repeat of last month’s disaster," Villocino said of the forced evacuation. A authorities said rescue teams have already been deployed to help evacuate residents. Flooding was also reported in some low-lying areas in the city, including parts of the city proper along the Davao river, said Jacob Obligado, commander of the army’s 10th civil-military operations battalion.

Cambodia’s garment workers to get pay rise for 2013

Phnom Penh, 21 Jan—Garment Manufacturers Association of Cambodia (GMAC) on Monday agreed to increase salaries for the workers in the kingdom’s garment and footwear industries, according to a press release after a closed-door meeting. The meeting was attended by Minister of Social Affairs Ith Samheng, Minister of Labour Vong Phearom, Minister of Labour Vong Souch and officials of GMAC’s president Van Sou Ieng, and representatives of trade unions in Cambodia.

"The meeting agreed in principle to discuss wage increase for the workers," the press release said. "All trade unions should meet among them to set a unanimous proposal on minimum wage for workers in order to negotiate with employers." It said the International Labor Organization would be a coordinator for this task. A according to the press release, all relevant parties will meet again on 26 February in order to decide the minimum pay rise.

Cambodia, Vietnam to sign agreement on civil justice cooperation

Phnom Penh, 21 Jan—Cambodian Justice Minister Ang Vong Vathana headed for Vietnam’s Ha Noi on Sunday afternoon for a 4-day official visit to strengthen bilateral cooperation in legal and judicial sectors. The visit is made at the invitation of Vietnamese Justice Minister Ha Hung Cuong. Sam Phraeesanmith, chief of cabinet at Cambodian Ministry of Justice, said on Sunday that the visit would be a chance for the two ministers to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation between the two neighbours.

"There will be a signing ceremony between the two ministers on an agreement on mutual legal assistance in civil matters," he said. "The agreement will further strengthen friendship relations and traditional cooperation between the two countries for mutual interest."

He said under the deal, both sides will provide mutual help in civil matters through exchanging services, court documents, outside-the-court documents, evidence collection and transfer, witness and expert summons, and civil registration documents.

In addition, the two sides will mutually recognize and allow the implementation of verdicts by courts and decisions by arbitrators.

Nine missing in Indonesia fishing boat sinking incidents

Jakarta, 21 Jan—Two fishermen and 27 fishermen went off the coast of Indonesia’s East Java Province on Sunday, leaving nine missing, local rescue said. The Juanda and Kepo-dang boats went out to sea at 9:00 pm local time on Saturday night and sank at 5:00 am on Sunday, said Ipung, a rescuer from the local Disaster Mitigation Agency. "Nine were missing while 18 fishermen were rescued," he was quoted by Indonesia’s portal kompas.com as saying, adding local rescue police officers had helped in the rescue effort.

Strong wind was to blame for the capsizing, according to survivors. Such boat accidents are common in Indonesia partly because of the poor safety standards.

Fourteen people were killed after a total of 9 houses were burned down on Monday morning in the southwestern Japanese Prefecture of Kagoshima, local Press reported. The fire broke out at a family’s home in Yakushima Town on the island of Yakushima in the prefecture at around 3:30 am local time and was tackled by local firefighters from the town’s fire department according to the local broadcaster KTS. The report said the initial fire further spread to nearby eight wooden houses built in the residential area of the town, and those buildings were then fully or partially destroyed by the fire.

The firefighters put out the fire by 8:00 am but they found the bodies of two people inside the wooden home. Although the victims have yet to be officially identified, they are believed to be members of the same family occupying the town’s fire department.

A joint police and fire department investigation is carried out to establish the cause of the blaze.

Death toll rises to three in China coalmine accident

Lupanshan, 21 Jan—As one more body was found on Monday, the death toll in Friday’s coalmine accident in southwest China’s Guizhou Province has risen to three, with 10 miners still missing.

Eighteen people were working in the mine shaft when the gas outburst accident happened on Friday afternoon at the Jinjia Coal Mine in the Panxian County of Lupanshan City. More than 40 rescuers, with the help of a hydraulic mucker, are working round the clock to pump gas out and searching for the rest 10 miners.

The state-owned Jinjia Coal Mine, under the Guizhou Panjiang Clean Coal Co Ltd, has an annual output capacity of 1.8 million tonnes of coal. The Guizhou provincial government has ordered a general overhaul of industrial work safety in Lupanshui City.

Two killed in house fire in Japans Kagosihama

Osaka, 21 Jan—Two people were killed after a total of 9 houses were burned down on Monday morning in the southwestern Japanese Prefecture of Kagoshima, local Press reported. The fire broke out at a family’s home in Yakushima Town on the island of Yakushima in the prefecture at around 3:30 am local time and was tackled by local firefighters from the town’s fire department according to the local broadcaster KTS.

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A joint police and fire department investigation is carried out to establish the cause of the blaze.

People play with pigeons in Harbin, capital of north-east China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 20 Jan, 2013. The temperature rise in Harbin enabled citizens to play with snow and ice in the outdoors.

New Delhi, 21 Jan—India is gearing up for a busy diplomatic week with the Foreign Ministers of three countries – Australia, Sri Lanka and Turkmenistan – visiting this week, sources said on Sunday.

While an Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr will meet Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid in the national capital on Monday to discuss issues like trade, investment and civil nuclear cooperation pact negotiations, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister GL Peiris will co-chair with Khrushid the 8th India-Sri Lanka joint commission meeting on Tuesday, the sources said.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister is also likely to meet Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, they said.

The Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, is scheduled to arrive in the national capital on Monday to participate in the 4th meeting of the India-Turkmenistan intergovernmental joint commission on trade, economy, scientific and technological cooperation to be held on Tuesday, the sources added.
In Amenas’ residents concerned over their future after hostage crisis

In Amenas, (Algeria), 21 Jan—Having breathed a sign of relief following the Algerian hostage crisis, residents in In Amenas voice concerns over the future of their small city, worrying about negative impacts of the terror attack.

An Algerian Special Forces stormed the gas field on Saturday, rescuing 685 Algerians and 107 foreigners. During the operation, at least 23 workers and 32 militants were killed, the Interior Ministry said.

For Mohamed B., 30-year-old owner of a 4x4 vehicle for rent, nothing seems to be shattered in his city. "Our city has been at physical danger, the man is dead. It will be as before in his city," he said.

"Our city has been attracting, for a long time, thousands of people from around the country and even from all over the world to work on gas projects," Mohamed told Xinhua on Sunday. "I have got a strong feeling that local economy will deeply suffer from the consequences of that terror attack." Although confident that neither his family or himself would be in physical danger, the man is planning to leave the city of In Amenas, "in case there are no jobs." Daud, a greengrocer in downtown In Amenas, is heartbroken that "the eternal peace we thought In amenas has seemed to be shattered in a short period of time."

Local residents are seen on a street in In Amenas, Algeria, on 20 Jan, 2013.

Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE NO (031)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (031) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Sports
Sports and Physical Education Department
(Invitation to Open Tender)

1. Open tenders for the following equipment for the 27th SEA Games are invited in Yangon:
   (a) Physiotherapy Equipments
   (b) Fitness Center Equipments
   (c) Fitness Testing Equipments
   (d) Rehabilitation Equipments
2. As for the rules of the tender and detail lists of the Equipments, please contact the medical sports division of the Ministry of Sports, Office No.31, Nay Pyi Taw, or dial 067-406036 or 067-422138 between 21.1.2013 and 27.1.2013. Please come in person to draw Tender forms.
3. Please submit the tenders at 16:30 hours on 28.1.2013 the latest. We will not accept any tender form that reaches us after the deadline.

Open Tender Invitation Group
Sports and Physical Education Department
Ministry of Sports
Office No (031)

MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES

Invitation for open tender to purchase equipments

1. Open tenders are invited to purchase the following equipments for the Ministry of Cooperatives.
   1. Computer
   2. Printer
   3. UPS
   4. Laptop Computer
   5. Copier
   6. Overhead Projector
   7. Computer and Office equipments
   8. Equipments for factory and workshops
   9. Equipments for laboratory
   10. Printer
   11. Computer
2. Open tender forms are available at the Office No. 16, Ministry of Cooperatives, Nay Pyi Taw, in office hours (9:30 am to 16:00 pm) from (23.1.2013) to (25.1.2013).
3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of the tender board at the Office No.16, Ministry of Cooperatives, Nay Pyi Taw from 10:00 to 11:00 hours. The overdue tenders will not be accepted.
4. The open tender forms and detail information are available at the following address.

Construction Scrutiny Committee and Procurement Scrutiny Committee
Office No. 16, Ministry of Cooperatives, Nay Pyi Taw
Ph: 410033, 410031

Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta said his film Shootout at Wadala will have protagonist Manya Surve, played by John Abraham, as the first shirtless mafia don in Bollywood.

“This is will be the first shirtless don. You will not get to see any one else like this in Bollywood. No one will be able to compete with him (John),” Sanjay Gupta told reporters during the first look launch of his film in Mumbai.

John Abraham will be Bollywood’s first shirtless mafia don

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan— Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta said his film Shootout at Wadala will have protagonist Manya Surve, played by John Abraham, as the first shirtless mafia don in Bollywood.

“This is will be the first shirtless don. You will not get to see any one else like this in Bollywood. No one will be able to compete with him (John),” Sanjay Gupta told reporters during the first look launch of his film in Mumbai.

John Abraham also put an action-filled performance at the promotional event. Asked if item numbers figured in the film, the director said that Bipasha Basu, Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra have been approached for them. “There are not three but four item numbers. We have approached few of them. But it’s in the process and it will be wrong to name anyone,” he said. The film also stars Anil Kapoor, Kangna Ranaut, Tusshar Kapoor, Manoj Bajpai and Sonu Sood.—PTI

Richa Chadda enjoying newfound fame

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan— With a string of films in her kitty and getting nominated alongside industry veterans at various award functions, Richa Chadda is on cloud nine after ‘Gangs of Wasseypur’. The actress is enjoying the new phase of her career to the fullest.

“I think it is a great start for me. I am working with some well-known directors. I think I started in a reverse way (from supporting actresses to lead role), but never expected such appreciation,” Richa told IANS.

“Normally it takes around five to six years for any actor to get to this position. I consider myself lucky to have been able to experience it at such an early stage,” she added.

The actress made her Bollywood debut with Dibaker Banerjee’s ‘Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!’ in 2008, but it was her role in Anurag Kashyap’s ‘Gangs of Wasseypur’ that gave her critical acclaim.

“Everything is designed to happen at a particular time. ‘Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!’ just happened. I wasn’t completely ready for films. Now I feel I am in a position to handle things in a more organized way,” said Richa.

Her powerful performance as Nagma in ‘Gangs of Wasseypur’ has earned her nominations at award functions too. Asked how much awards matter to her, Richa said: “It feels nice because there is so much competition in today’s times. The awards show that you have been accepted by the industry as well as by the audience.”

The actress currently has four films ‘Ram Leela’, ‘Tum Bin 2’, ‘Fukrey’ and ‘Ishqdaa’ in her kitty—all of which are glamorous roles. She admits they are all an enjoyable experience.

Hollywood actress Katie Holmes hires a dating coach

LOS ANGELES, 21 Jan— A actress Katie Holmes, who recently split from husband Tom Cruise, has hired a dating coach.

The actress is eager to move on after her split and is seeking professional help to boost her confidence around men, reports contactmusic.com.

“It was after her birthday at the end of December that Katie decided it was time to give her love life a different approach,” a source told Grazia magazine.

“She had one-to-one sessions and the occasional phone session, and she’s learning how to approach people, as well as dating and flirting tips to get her confidence back.”

“With a little bit of help, Katie now feels she’s armed with enough confidence to start dating again and taking that next step to finding a perfect partner,” the source added.

Don’t smoke

Kash: Shying away from paparazzi, Katie Holmes hired a dating coach. PTI

Grazia

PTI
**New Light of Myanmar**

**SPORTS**

**Penguins chase Lundqvist to dominate Rangers**

New York, 21 Jan — James Neal scored two goals as the Pittsburgh Penguins hammered the New York Rangers 6-3 on Sunday to make it two wins from two.

The Penguins, hoping to fulfill expectations this season after consecutive first-round playoff losses, knocked off Philadelphia in the season opener and followed it up with another dominant triumph on the road against New York.

Pittsburgh tallied three goals in the first period and held a 5-1 advantage in the goals in the first period and road against New York.

**Resurgent Kuznetsova downs Wozniacki to reach last eight**

Melbourne, 21 Jan — A resurgent Svetlana Kuznetsova stunned former world number one Caroline Wozniacki in a absorbing encounter on Rod Laver Arena to reach the quarter-finals of the Australian Open with a 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 victory Monday.

The former US Open champion, unseeded this year after an injury-disrupted 2012, prevailed in a highly competitive 75-minute third set and wrapped up her victory with a backhand volley at the net. The 27-year-old Russian made 41 unforced errors but 52 winners were enough to claim a place in the last eight for the third time in 12 appearances at Melbourne Park.

**Hamburg draws, Augsburg wins at German Bundesliga**

Berlin, 21 Jan — Hamburg were held to 1-1 draw at Nuremberg owing to the leveller by Tomas Pekhart while Augsburg defeated Dusseldorf 3-2 giving away a 3-0 lead to close the 18th round of German Bundesliga on Sunday.

Nuremberg’s Tomas Pekhart snatched Hamburg three points on home soil thanks to his equaliser at the 75th minute. The hosts started highly motivated against the “Hanseaten” but as soon as the match progressed the visitors took the reins.

Hamburg lurked for holes inside Nuremberg’s defence but yet they had difficulties to overcome the home sides bully. Thus both goalkeepers had little to do during the first half due to the lack of creativity by both teams. With beginning of the second half Hamburg dictated the pace on the pitch as Dutchmen Rafael van der Vaart and Arjotms Rudnev’s approach Nuremberg’s goal dangerously.

However, with 70 minutes into the match Dennis Aogo had set up with a cross for Arjotms Rudnevs, who won the air battle against Nuremberg’s Javier Pinola, to nod home Augsburg’s opener with 25 points.

whereas Hamburg occupy a disappointing 9th place with 25 points.

At the other match on Sunday, Augsburg wrapped their second win of the season following their 3-2 win over Dusseldorf. Sascha Molders brace and Jace Cheol Koo goal pioneered the way for the win even though Dusseldorf’s Steve Reisinger reduced the deficit with two consolation goals to ensure a thrilling closing period.

In the dying minutes of the match Reisinger again found the back of the net but referee Manuel Graefe denied the equalizer because of a supposed foregone foul play. Despite the win Augsburg remain in the drop zone on 17th position, with only 12 points out of 18 matches, meanwhile newly promoted Dusseldorf stays on 14th position with 21 points.

**Penguins winger James Neal (18) scored during the third period of their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York on 20 Jan, 2013.**

**Brian Gay wins Challenge in three-way playoff**

Brian Gay

La Quinta, (California), 21 Jan — Brian Gay clinched his fourth PGA Tour title in champion style when he beat fellow American Charles Howell III and Swede David Lingmerth in a sudden-death playoff to win the Humana Challenge in three-way playoff on Sunday. Gay, 41, sealed victory in fading light on the Palmer Private course at PGA West after striking a superb approach to five feet at the par-four 10th, the second extra hole, and coolly sinking the birdie putt.

Howell, bidding to claim his first title on the US circuit in six years, bogeyed the hole after ending up in the back left bunker in two, splashing out to nine feet beyond the pin and missing the par putt. PGA Tour rookie Lingmerth was eliminated at the first extra hole, the par-five 18th, where he bogeyed after hitting his second shot into water. Howell, with a solid two-putt, and Gay, who chipped to four feet, both birdied the hole.

“IT feels amazing,” Gay told reporters after securing the winner’s cheque for $1,008,000 and a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour.

**Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark in their women’s single match against Victoria Azarenka and Elena Vesnina.**

**resurgent Kuznetsova of Russia celebrates defeating Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark in their women’s singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 21 Jan, 2013.**

**South Korean speed skater Lee sets new world record in 500m**

Calgary, (Canada), 21 Jan — South Korea’s Lee Sang-hwa established herself as the fastest woman on skates on Sunday when she set a new world record in the 500 meters at the Essent ISU World Cup speed skating event in Albera. She came from China’s Yu Jing, who became the first female skater to go under 37 seconds a year ago. Lee shaved off 0.14 seconds off the Harbin sprinter’s mark to cross the finish line at the Calgary Olympic Oval in 36.80. American Heather Richardson (37.42) was a distant second in the 500m Ladies Division A race, while Margot Boer (37.54) of the Netherlands claimed the bronze.

Yu, who set her world record on the same ice at the World Sprint Championships, finished fourth in 37.66. On Saturday she won a bronze in the same event, the only medal China a won over the weekend. Veteran Wang Beijing (37.74) was seventh for a second straight day. “I didn’t expect the world record here,” said a surprised Lee through an interpreter. “I was hoping to set it next week in Salt Lake City (at the World Sprint Championships).” Richardson, who was tied for second overall in the Grand World Cup standings going into the weekend, also won her second gold medal in the 1,000m Ladies Division A race in as many days in 1:13.30.
AC Milan beat Bologna 2-1 to climb to sixth

Rome, 21 Jan -- Thanks to a brace from Giampaolo Pazzini, AC Milan beat Bologna 2-1 to climb to the sixth place in the Italian Serie A on Sunday. The Italy national team's top scorer this season scored both goals for Milan in the 82nd and 65th minutes. He doubled the Rossoneri's lead in the 65th minute. The victory was a record-equaling sixth in the 82nd minute before Rodrigo Palacio equalised in first-half stoppage time. Roma had the better chances to win it but both sides appeared to tire quickly as the game soon fizzled out in the second half. Roma head coach Zdenek Zeman and the quality of the players," said Stramaccioni. "They started out very strong and put us under real pressure in the first 20 minutes. After the break I saw a good Inter and I think the draw was the right result. We felt the absence of some of our players in attack," he said. AC Milan, who had carried over an unbeaten five-game winning streak into the clash, closed the gap on Serie A leaders Napoli to just two points. Napoli failed to make a breakthrough despite a nine-game unbeaten run going into the match and saw its lead cut to 12 points. It was AC Milan's first win in four matches and it moved the club into sixth place, four points behind leaders Napoli. "AC Milan's performance during the first half was better than the result," said Stramaccioni. "During the second half we played more and my players reacted well. If we continue like this, we will win many matches," AC Milan coach Zdenek Zeman said. Reuters

Thai Tourism and Sports
Minister dies at 72

BANGKOK, 21 Jan--Thai Minister of Tourism and Sports died of a heart problem on Monday morning, the Bangkok Post online reported.

Chumphol Silpa-archa, also a deputy premier, was pronounced dead at 9.39 am at Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok.

The chartthaipattana Party leader, aged 72, was sent to hospital after he collapsed from a heart problem on 17 December, the Bangkok Post online reported.

On 17 December, the veteran politician from central province of Suphan Buri was rushed to the hospital from Government House where he developed breathing difficulty and later passed out.

Chumphol is the younger brother of former Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa.

San Francisco 49ers’ Frank Gore (21) scores a second half touchdown past Atlanta Falcons’ Thomas DeCoud (28) and William Moore (25) in the NFL L NFC Championship football game in Atlanta, Georgia on 20 Jan 2013.– Reuters

49ers in Super Bowl after comeback against Atlanta

ATLANTA, 21 Jan—The San Francisco 49ers battled back from a 17-0 deficit to defeat the Atlanta Falcons 28-24 on Sunday and book their first trip to the Super Bowl in 18 years where they will face the Baltimore Ravens.

Running back Frank Gore scored two unanswered second half touchdowns as the 49ers, who came up one win short of reaching last year’s Super Bowl, booked their place in the 3 February decider in New Orleans.

Second year quarterback Colin Kaepernick, in just his ninth start, delivered a composed al-
round display, throwing for 233 yards and one touchdown while tight end Vernon Davis had 106 yards receiving for a San Francisco team which never lost faith despite falling so far behind. “We are tough, it is hard to break us. We aren’t going to give up,” said Gore. “We will keep fighting into the fourth quarter and until the game (clock) hits double zero.”

The victory was a record comeback for a team in an NFC Championship game and capped a pulsating encounter at a packed Georgia Dome. The 49ers, who had losing records in seven of the eight seasons before Jim Harbaugh took over as head coach last year, now have a chance to win a record-equaling sixth Lombardi Trophy, tying the Pittsburgh Steelers.
India to provide technical assistance to Myanmar agriculture, livestock breeding

**Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—** Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Villur Sundararajan Seshadri at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 2 pm today.

The meeting focused on providing Indian technical assistance to Myanmar in the sectors of agriculture and livestock breeding along with poverty alleviation tasks being undertaken, and the sectors of rail transportation, energy, and power supply.

Also present at the call together with the **Vice-President** were Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Kyaw, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Khin San Yi and officials concerned.

**MNA**

**Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses documentary photo together with Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Villur Sundararajan Seshadri.**—**MNA**

**SME, an engine for inclusive and balanced growth: Vice-President U Nyan Tun**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—** Small and medium enterprises have become the driver of the inclusive and balanced growth of a country, Vice-President U Nyan Tun said in his speech at the first SME Development Committee meeting at the government office, here, this afternoon.

The central committee and work committee for SME development were formed on 9 January to oversee boom of SMEs.

"SME constitutes more than 90 percent of developing and Asia-Pacific economies in 2001-2009," he said.

He stressed the need to encourage SMEs for economic growth of the country. He pinpointed rich resources, food and labour abundance for success of SMEs in Myanmar, saying there would be bigger challenges ahead.

He said Myanmar has fewer SMEs compared with neighbouring countries with less competitiveness. He called for revising laws and rules and regulations and drafting strategies and plans to develop SMEs in the country.

He urged the formation of Union and region/state government institutions and committees to gear up SME development while underscoring the need to invite public participation.

He said Monitoring and Evaluation system should be established for respective committees.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein, U Aye Myint, U Win Myint, Dr Ko Ko Oo and U Htay Aung, deputy ministers and departmental heads.—**MNA**

**Vice-President U Nyan Tun speaking at first SME Development Committee meeting.**—**MNA**

**Significant night temperatures (21-1-2013)**

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**MNA**

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