From Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Excellency,

On the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Republic of Myanmar’s Independence Day on 4 January 2014, I wish to convey my congratulations to you and the people of Myanmar on this auspicious occasion.

The government is striving for smooth transportation, potable water and electricity supply and promotion of education, health and economic sectors in rural regions with local and foreign assistance.

In his address, the President gave an account of the ceremony that a loan of Kyats 8,191,963 million, including farm equipment, fishing equipment, trucks, engines, generators, water pumps, sewing machines, trishaws and motorbikes will be provided to members of co-operatives societies in 26 townships.

He added that only when agriculture sector development, will development of rural region be possible. So emphasis should be placed on agriculture sector development, transforming the conventional methods to modern ones. This can thereby contributing to food sufficiency and higher income. He called on formation of cooperative associations in dealing with supply chain to ensure more success. He stressed the importance of cooperative associations in supply chain management for the sake of farmers.

He continued that capital loans and equipment will be handed over to the members under the program of the Ministry of Cooperatives, aiming at ensuring socio-economic development of rural people and facilitating the implementation of social, education and health sectors.

I am pleased there are plans for a commemorative summit in Myanmar to celebrate this long-standing and important partnership.

I am pleased Australian businesses are expanding their interest in trade and investment with Myanmar. I look forward to increasing links between our two nations, including through responsible and ethical business dealings.

I believe the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to grow in the coming year.

(See page 9)
7th Anniversary of TB Project of Myanmar Medical Association marked

YANGON, 24 Dec—As TB is threatening the people not only in Myanmar but also across the globe, the World Health Organization issued an emergency declaration that TB is a very dangerous infectious disease across the world said Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) Professor U Kyaw Myint Naing at the ceremony to mark the 7th Anniversary Ceremony of MMA at the office of Central Cooperative Union (Saya San Plaza) on Saya San Road in Bahan Township, on 19 December.

The TB control project has been launched since 2007 and it turns seven years now, he added. DOTS service started in Myanmar. However, Myanmar is one of the 22 most TB infectious countries, one of the 27 TB resistance countries and one of the 41 TV/HIV infectious countries, he noted.

The chairman stressed the need for those who assist in TB combating tasks and contributors to join hands in implementing the TB control project. At present, TB control project is being implemented in 119 townships, he added.

He disclosed that a plan is underway to extend TB control project to 122 townships in 2014, and urged those included in the project to actively join hands in the tasks.

Yangon Region TB Specialist Dr Tin Mi Mi Khang of National TB Control Project explained year-wise infection of TB disease in regions and states.

Dala, 24 Dec—In Myanmar traditions, Myanmar Buddhists initiate their boys into novicehood and men into the monkhood. Its the noblest ceremony for novitiation and ordination.

On 20 December, the novice-to-be procession ceremony was held in Arntgyi East ward of Dala. The boys of novice-to-be rode 15 horses. Their relatives gave them with the use of golden umbrellas. The local people enjoyed the procession of girls of nun-to-be, wellwishers and relatives were on board the bullock carts.

Gyongyonky Bridge on Thayet-Minhla Road completed by 75 per cent

MINHLA, 24 Dec—Gyongyonky Bridge located on Thayet-Minhla Road in Magway Region has been completed by 75 per cent.

Bridge Construction Special Group (4) and Pakokku Township Public Works started construction of the bridge from 22 July 2003.

It is of reinforced concrete facility. It will be 60 feet long. The 24 feet wide motorway will be flanked by 2.5 feet wide pedestrian lanes. The facility will withstand 60-ton loads. “We are building the bridge with the strength of skilled workers from Pakokku Township day and night. As the old bridge was deteriorating gradually. In the rainy season, the water from the creek inundated the floor of the bridge. The new bridge will be 8.5 feet higher than that of old one in water clearance. No one car needs to wait for passing the bridge. The local people can travel their trip conveniently passing the new bridge. Efforts are being made for timely completion of the construction task. Therefore, the works were completed by 75 per cent. The construction tasks will be finished in March 2014,” said Daw Kyi Kyi Than, Senior Engineer-2 of Bridge Construction Special Group No 4.

Donation

Blankets, sweaters donated to orphans

TACHILEIK, 24 Dec—Thai citizens donated blankets, sweaters and utensils worth Baht 100,000 to 170 orphan students of Shwetawngdan Parahita Monastic Education in Tachilek of Shan State (East) on 19 December afternoon.

Six Thai citizens on behalf of Thai Singh (Punjab) Meritulous Association of Bangkok of Thailand arrived at Tachilek from Maesai of Thailand through No.1 Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge.

They went to Hweye Village of Loidawkham Village-tract. At Shwe-daungtan Parahita Monastery, they donated offerterries to Abbot of the monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khamavudha who delivered a sermon, and shared merits gained.

The donation group left for Thailand through No.1 Friendship Bridge.

MMAL-Myaing Mo (Tachileik)
**WORLD**

Japanese troops in S Sudan reassigned from infrastructure building

JUBA, 24 Dec — Japanese troops participating in UN peacekeeping operations in South Sudan have suspended their infrastructure building work and started instead to provide support for displaced people seeking refuge from violence at UN facilities in the capital Juba.

Col Kenichi Igawa of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force recently told reporters that they were watching developments closely in the country mired in a growing conflict that could spiral into a civil war. They have no plans in sight to resume their original mission, Igawa, 45, said.

At two compounds for UN peacekeeping operations in Juba, around 20,000 people have taken refuge. GSDF troops are offering support to them by providing fresh water.

A base for the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, or UNMISS, near Juba International Airport, was lined with tents and beds brought on by asylum seekers. Some people could be seen selling goods on a sidewalk. Due to heavy traffic of displaced people, GSDF vehicles had to slow down on the road.

In Juba, fighting continued over a few days since 15 Dec, leaving hundreds of people dead. Amid a conflict between the largest ethnic group Dinka and the second-largest Nuer, looting and killing of civilians also took place. Many who fled to the PKO headquarters appear to be Nuer.

A 28-year-old Nuer man said necessities, including water and food, are in short supply but it is dangerous to go outside of the PKO compound.

**Storm damage deprives 240,000 homes of power in France**

PARIS, 24 Dec — Fierce winds and rain battering France’s west coast have caused damage depriving 240,000 homes of electricity, the country’s grid said on Tuesday.

Brittany and Norman-Portland are among the regions worst hit by winds reaching speeds of 130 km an hour and damaged outages, the state-run electricity distribution network, or ERDF, said.

France’s ERDF electricity distribution network company said it had launched emergency efforts to address the damage to the network before the country’s Christmas festivities start.

**Week-long Aleppo air raids kill more than 300**

BEIRUT, 24 Dec — More than 300 people have been killed in a week of air raids on the northern Syrian city of Aleppo and nearby towns by President Bashar al-Asad’s forces, a monitoring group said on Monday.

Many of the casualties, who included scores of women and children, were killed by so-called barrel bombs dropped from helicopters, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Syrian authorities say they are battling rebels who have controlled parts of Aleppo, Syria’s biggest city, and most of the surrounding countryside for the past 18 months.

But human rights groups have condemned the use of the improvised bombs — oil drums or cylinders which are packed with explosives and metal fragments, often rolled out of the aircraft carrying them — as an indiscriminate form of bombardment.

Rami Abdulrahman, director of the British-based pro-opposition Observatory, said 87 children and 30 women were among the 301 people killed in the Aleppo air raids since 15 December.

The United states condemned “the ongoing air assault by Syrian government forces on civilians, including the indiscriminate use of SCUD missiles and barrel bombs in and around Aleppo over the last week.”

In a statement, the White House also called on the Syrian government to “fulfill its November commitment to do more to facilitate the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, so that millions of Syrian men, women, and children have access to urgently needed services.”

**Freight wagon with nuclear waste derails at depot near Paris, no leak**

PARIS, 24 Dec — A rail freight wagon carrying nuclear waste derailed at a depot in Drancy, 3 km (2 miles) northeast of Paris on Monday, the mayor of the town said.

There was no leakage of nuclear waste, Jean-Christophe Lagarde said by telephone.

“This is a stop in Remilly, near Metz, in this file photo taken on 23 Dec, 2013. **Reuters**

**Philipine typhoon survivors struggle to salvage Christmas**

PALO, (Philippines) 24 Dec — Filipino mother Rhodora Tonningsen has grown used to doing without at Christmas.

Tonningsen, 43, a single mother of four, pried a battered, three-foot (one-metre) artificial Christmas tree from the bank of mud and debris thrown up by the storm by her tiny, partly damaged home in the town of Palo, and put it up on the front porch.

“I just washed it so we’ll have some semblance of Christmas, even if we’re in dire straits,” said Tonningsen, standing outside her home, now patched with corrugated iron also salvaged from the debris.

“We may be in ground zero, but it’s OK — as long as we are alive and our family is intact.” The 8 November storm was one of the strongest ever to hit land. It wiped out virtually everything in its path, killing more than 6,100 people. Another 1,800 are listed as missing.

More than four million people are homeless, celebrating Christmas in tents, evacuation centres, or in the ruins of their houses.

A train convoy of CASTOR containers, which carry radioactive nuclear waste, is seen during a technical stop in Remilly, near Metz, in this file photo taken on 24 Nov, 2011. **Reuters**

**People stand on the rubble of damaged buildings after what activists said was an air raid by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, in Aleppo’s al-Salihene District on 23 Dec, 2013. **Reuters**

**Members of Japan’s Ground Self-Defence Force examine people taking refuge at a UN peacekeeping mission base in Juba on 22 Dec, 2013, amid fighting in South Sudan. — Kyodo News**

**Children eat their free meals during Christmas celebrations at the town of Bisig, Tanaauan in Leyte province, central Philippines on 24 Dec, 2013, a month after Typhoon Haiyan battered central Philippines. **Reuters

**Waves crash over the breakwater of Saint Etieve harbour at Esquibien in Brittany as an Atlantic storm hits western France, on 23 Dec, 2013. **Reuters

**New Light of Myanmar**

Wednesday, 25 December, 2013
American jailed in UAE for YouTube parody video

ABU DHABI, 24 Dec—An American citizen was sentenced to a year in prison in the United Arab Emirates on Monday for posting a parody video on YouTube which poke fun at young Emirati men who imitate US hip-hop culture, his family said on Tuesday.

Shezanne Cassim, 29, has been detained in the United Arab Emirates since April after publishing the 20-minute “mockumentary” film.

In the video, which opens with a disclaimer stating it is fictional and does not intend to offend the people of the UAE, Emirati men described as “deadly gangsters” can be seen practising throwing sandals and wielding an ax, the cord used to keep in place traditional headscarves.

Cassim, an aviation business consultant, was charged with violating the Gulf nation’s cyber crime law which makes acts deemed damaging to the country’s reputation or national security punishable by jail time and heavy fines.

He was sentenced to jail by an Abu Dhabi court, and also fined 10,000 dirhams, said his family who live in the United States.

“The family is now trying to confirm whether the one-year imprisonment includes time served or means additional jail time,” they said in a statement.

Cassim’s lawyer and the US embassy in Abu Dhabi could not be immediately reached for comment. Court officials also could not be reached for comment.

Last month, an Abu Dhabi court jailed a man for two years for tweeting about a political trial, highlighting the sensitivity of Gulf Arab states to political dissent, criticism of senior officials and to comments they regard as blasphemous, especially on social media.

Cassim posted the parody video online last year.

The film, shot in Dubai’s Al Satwa area, just a few miles away from the landmark Burj Khalifa tower, remains available on YouTube.

Two Indians on trial alongside Cassim were given the same sentence, two Emirati defendants were sentenced to eight months in prison each and one Emirati was pardoned, according to activists.

A further three defendants were each given a one-year prison sentence in absentia and fined 10,000 dirhams.——Reuters

Astronauts ready for second spacewalk to repair station

CAPE CANAVERAL, 24 Dec—Astronauts aboard the International Space Station are planning a second and final spacewalk to fix the outpost’s cooling system early on Tuesday, a NASA official said.

NASA astronauts Rick Mastracchio and Mike Hopkins are expected to leave the station’s Quest airlock to fill with water, a condition that could have caused him to drown.

Suspect components in the spacecraft were replaced. As a precaution, Mastracchio and Hopkins also outfitted their spacesuits if the helmet were to be damaged.

“The suits worked as expected,” Frieling said.

An unrelated suit problem, however, prompted NASA to delay the second spacewalk from Monday to Tuesday.

Mastracchio, a veteran of seven spacewalks, apparently accidentally hit a switch once he and Hopkins were outside in the airlock on Saturday that allowed water to get inside his suit’s sublimator, a device that regulates the cooling system.

As a precaution, that spacewalk will be delayed for about a week, Frieling said.

Reuters

T-Mobile prepaid service to offer free Facebook access

NEW YORK, 24 Dec—GoSmart, the prepaid service of No 4 US operator T-Mobile US, said on Monday it would offer its customers free access to Facebook Inc whether or not they subscribe to its Internet service.

GoSmart said it hopes the offer will help the company attract customers and encourage some existing customers to spend more money on its service.

Prepaid services like GoSmart’s allow customers to pay for their service in advance rather than in a recurring monthly bill. Once a niche market segment, prepaid is becoming more competitive with bigger rivals such as AT&T Inc looking to expand there.

Customers who opt for GoSmart’s $25 per month talk only plan or its $30 talk and text plan will be able to use Facebook, but at slower speeds and these customers will not be able to click on links to other sites unless they pay for data. T-Mobile executive Gavin Dillon said while some of these customers would be content with using Facebook on slower speeds, it could entice others to upgrade to service plans ranging from $35 to $45 per month, which include data.—Reuters
Early start to weight gain tied to later heart risks

A new study suggests that kids who start rapidly gaining weight in childhood are more likely to have higher blood pressure and other signs of future heart trouble as preteens, a new study suggests.

“Kids who start rapidly gaining weight in childhood are more likely to have higher blood pressure and other signs of future heart trouble as preteens,” the new study suggests.

Researchers led by Dr. Satomi Koyama of Dokkyo Medical University in Mibu, Tochigi, Japan, followed 271 children born in 1995 and 1996. Kids had their weight and height measured at least once every year through age 12 during infant health checks and then physical exams at school.

From looking at each child’s growth pattern, the researchers determined when children hit their lowest BMI, the age at adiposity rebound. After that, they had their weight and height recalculated on at least age seven had an average BMI of 17 — the equivalent of the same boy weighing 87 pounds.

Boys who had their adiposity rebound at a young age also had higher triglycerides and blood pressure at age 12. Although their numbers were still in the normal range, they could hint at signs of future heart problems, the researchers wrote in Monday’s Pediatrics.

“Boys who had their adiposity rebound at a young age also had higher triglycerides and blood pressure at age 12. Although their numbers were still in the normal range, they could hint at signs of future heart problems,” the researchers wrote.

BlackBerry deal bolsters Foxconn’s makeover gambit

BlackBerry announced on Friday that Foxconn will help design the hardware for its future low-end devices as part of a 5-year deal, furthering the template for manufacturing specialists to scale the value chain. BlackBerry itself will remain focused on software technology.

“BlackBerry itself will remain focused on software technology,” BlackBerry announced.

Suzuki to start selling Hustler minivehicle in January

Chairman Osamu Suzuki, chairman of Suzuki Motor Corp, unveiled the Hustler minivehicle in Tokyo on 24 Dec, 2013. Suzuki Motor Corp said on Tuesday its new minivehicle the Hustler — which combines the characteristics of a mini wagon passenger car and a sports utility vehicle — will go on sale on 8 January 2014.

“Suzuki Motor Corp said on Tuesday its new minivehicle the Hustler — which combines the characteristics of a mini wagon passenger car and a sports utility vehicle — will go on sale on 8 January 2014.”

The gasoline-powered minicar offers a fuel economy of up to 29.2 kilometres per litre, with retail prices ranging from 1,05 million yen to 1.58 million yen.

“BlackBerry itself will remain focused on software technology,” BlackBerry announced.

The new model shares a common platform with Suzuki’s mainstream Wagon R passenger car but has more interior space and is equipped with safety systems to control its brakes on hills and snowy roads, the automaker said.

“We want customers to use the vehicle for having fun and adventures,” Chairman Osamu Suzuki said at a press conference in Tokyo, adding he hopes to boost sales of minicars with the new lineup at a time the industry is likely to face severe business conditions due to the sales tax hike in April. The company set a monthly sales target of 5,000 units.

Tokyo, 24 Dec — Su- zuki Motor Corp said on Tuesday its new minivehicle the Hustler — which combines the characteristics of a mini wagon passenger car and a sports utility vehicle — will go on sale on 8 January 2014. The gasoline-powered minicar offers a fuel economy of up to 29.2 kilometres per litre, with retail prices ranging from 1,05 million yen to 1.58 million yen. The new model shares a common platform with Suzuki’s mainstream Wagon R passenger car but has more interior space and is equipped with safety systems to control its brakes on hills and snowy roads, the automaker said.

“We want customers to use the vehicle for having fun and adventures,” Chairman Osamu Suzuki said at a press conference in Tokyo, adding he hopes to boost sales of minicars with the new lineup at a time the industry is likely to face severe business conditions due to the sales tax hike in April. The company set a monthly sales target of 5,000 units.

Spanish utility to sell stake in British nuclear venture to Toshiba

PARIS, 24 Dec — Span- ish utility Iberdrola said on Monday it will sell its stake in a British nuclear plant consortium to Japan’s Toshiba Corp for 50 million pounds. Toshiba will buy a 50 percent stake in NuGen, a joint venture between Iberdrola and French utility GDF-Suez.

The deal is subject to regulatory approval, Iberdrola said.

NuGen owns a site in West Cumbria, England, where it plans to build a 3.6 gigawatt nuclear power plant.

The British government plans to continue building nuclear power plants with antinuclear sentiment not so strong in the country even after the Fukushima accident in Ja- pan.

Hitachi Ltd acquired a British company last year, and is planning to build two nuclear plants in Britain.

Nikkei rises above 16,000 for 1st time in 6 years

Tokyo, 24 Dec — To- kyos nikkei index above 16,000 threshold temporarily for the first time in about six years, as continued gains on Wall Street and a weak- er yen bolstered investor sentiment. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average fin- ished the morning session 124.79 points, or 0.79 per- cent, higher than Friday at 15,993.21, after rising to 16,029.65, its highest in- traday level since Dec. 2007. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange was up 1.56 points, or 0.12 percent, at 1,263.20.

Japanese financial markets were closed on Monday for a national holi- day. Marine transport, rub- ber, and paper and pulp sec- tors advanced while food, utility and textile shares faced selling.

Tokyo stocks opened higher, tracking overnight gains in US shares, which lifted the 30-issue Dow Jones Industrial Average to yet another record closing high on upbeat US spending data.

The rally came on the heels of media reports that International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde said the Washington-based body would raise its 2014 US growth forecast.

It helps I think give us a better understanding of what this might be impact- ing in addition to obesity,” Dr Stephen Daniels said.

Daniels studies preven- tive cardiology at the Uni- versity of Colorado School of Medicine in Aurora, where he chairs the Pediatri- cians Department. Neither he nor DeBoer was involved in the new study.

Researchers led by Dr. Satomi Koyama of Dok- ky Medical University in Mibu, Tochigi, Japan, fol- lowed 271 children born in 1995 and 1996. Kids had their weight and height measured at least once every year through age 12 during infant health checks and then physical exams at school.

From looking at each child’s growth pattern, the researchers determined when children hit their lowest BMI, the age at adiposity rebound. After that, they had their adiposity rebound at a young age also had higher triglycerides and blood pressure at age 12. Although their numbers were still in the normal range, they could hint at signs of future heart problems, the researchers wrote in Monday’s Pediatrics.

“BlackBerry itself will remain focused on software technology,” BlackBerry announced.

The Canadian firm wants to produce many of the new phones in Indo- nesia — the first new model is code-named “Jakarta” — where Foxconn has been negotiating a business agreement for over a year to set up a manufacturing plant in Southeast Asia’s biggest economy — Reuters.

BlackBerry itself will remain focused on software technology,” BlackBerry announced.

The new model shares a common platform with Suzuki’s mainstream Wagon R passenger car but has more interior space and is equipped with safety sys- tems to control its brakes on hills and snowy roads, the automaker said. “We want customers to use the vehicle for having fun and adventures,” Chairman Osamu Suzuki said at a press conference in Tokyo, adding he hopes to boost sales of minicars with the new lineup at a time the industry is likely to face severe business conditions due to the sales tax hike in April. The company set a monthly sales target of 5,000 units. — Reuters
‘Parallel governments’ stoke polarized politics in Venezuela

CARACAS, 24 Dec — Opposition politician Ricardo Hernandez was elected mayor of Tariba, a small Venezuelan city near the border with Colombia, by a landslide.

But he didn’t have long to bask in his victory.

In the days after 8 December municipal elections in which the opposition won 75 mayoralties, Hernandez discovered that the company that collects trash had stopped working — apparently on orders of his predecessor, a member of the ruling Socialist Party (PSUV).

And, the new mayor says, the state government of Tachira, which is controlled by the PSUV, ordered the police in Tariba to hand over its firearms and vehicles to a state force.

Hernandez’ case is far from unique.

Across the OPEC nation, new office holders in the 49 mayoralties that passed to the opposition from the PSUV complain about what they say are efforts by President Nicolas Maduro’s central government to strip their powers.

The moves have included taking away responsibilities — including the management of parks, theatres and other cultural centres — and removing assets from local authorities.

In some cases, they have prompted critics to accuse ruling party officials of trying to undermine and bypass opposition mayors and governors by setting up “parallel governments.”

Hernandez, who won with 62 percent of the votes in Tariba, sees it as punishment for having defeated a PSUV candidate.

“It affects the population and the communities which are using those services,” the 37-year-old lawyer said this week during a rare meeting between Maduro and opposition politicians, appealing for an end to interference in his work.

But Jose Velma, the governor of Tachira state and a PSUV stalwart, denied there was any ill intent.

“Parallel governments.”

Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro (2nd L) sings the national anthem during a meeting with the opposition’s newly elected mayors and governors at Miraflores Palace on 18 Dec, 2013.— Reuters

AK-47 rifle inventor Mikhail Kalashnikov dies at 94

MOSCOW, 24 Dec — Mikhail Kalashnikov, the Russian designer of the AK-47 assault rifle which has killed more people than any other firearm in the world, died on Monday aged 94, officials said.

Kalashnikov, who was in his 20s when he created the AK-47, died in his home city of Izhevsk near the Ural Mountains, where his gun is still made, a spokesman for the Udmurtia province’s president said on state television.

No cause of death was given. Kalashnikov was fitted with a pacemaker at a Moscow hospital in June and had been in hospital in Izhevsk since 17 November, state media reported.

Sombre music accompanied tributes that led evening news reports on state TV, and President Vladimir Putin expressed “deep sympathy” for Kalashnikov’s loved ones.

A son of Siberian peasants who never finished school, Kalashnikov invented one of the Soviet Union’s best-known and most imitated products.

Shortly after fighting in World War Two, he created the AK-47, whose number stands for the year 1947. The “A” is for “avtomat” — automatic rifle — and the “K” for Kalashnikov.

Later versions of the AK-47 are still a mainstay of Russia’s armed forces and police more than 60 years after the original rifle went into service in the military in 1949.

At a Kremlin ceremony on Kalashnikov’s 90th birthday, then-President Dmitry Medvedev bestowed upon him the Hero of Russia gold star medal — and lauded him for creating “the national brand every Russian is proud of.” — Reuters

Flood kills 20, leaves 40,000 homeless in SE Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Dec — The death toll from flood caused by recent storms in Brazil’s southeast states of Espirito Santo and Minas Gerais has reached 20, local media reported on Monday.

Six people died in Espirito Santo and 14 in Minas Gerais, including several minors. Most were killed in flood-caused landslides that buried their homes, the reports said, quoting local Civil Defence authorities.

In Espirito Santo alone, 40,000 people have been left homeless due to severe flooding in the state capital Vitória and its metropolitan area. More than 6,000 homes were either damaged or destroyed by the storms.

In both states, entire neighbourhoods were flooded, several bridges were washed away by flood waters and several stretches of road were blocked by mudslides.

Espirito Santo state governor Renato Casagrande has declared a state of emergency in 45 of his state’s 78 towns. The National Security Force, a federal agency that often helps in cases of major disasters, was dispatched to the state to help relief and rescue efforts.

In addition, the federal government has sent a helicopter, portable bridges, army troops, mattresses and personal hygiene products for those left homeless.

Italy PM Letta pledges reform pact in January

ROME, 24 Dec — Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta promised on Monday to present a formal coalition pact in January with reforms ranging from an overhaul of the electoral law to cuts to bureaucracy and taxes.

Letta, appointed to head a grand coalition of left and right after last February’s deadlocked elections, said 2014 would be the year in which a new generation of leaders could launch reforms to pull Italy out of two decades of stagnation.

“I have been part of this change and I feel the full weight of responsibility,” the premier said in a National Day address to the nation.

“This generation will play a team game in a different way,” he said, shortly before the 2014 budget cleared its final parliamentary hurdle in a confidence vote in the Senate.

Letta was speaking shortly before the Senate completed a parliamentary approval for the 2014 budget after it cleared the lower house on Friday. He said a new pact for his coalition of this crisis arrival was part of an “unprecedented” generational change in Italian politics.

“This new generation will play a team game in a different way,” he said, shortly before the 2014 budget cleared its final parliamentary hurdle in a confidence vote in the Senate.

Letta was speaking shortly before the Senate completed a parliamentary approval for the 2014 budget after it cleared the lower house on Friday. He said a new pact for his coalition of this crisis arrival was part of an “unprecedented” generational change in Italian politics.— Reuters

Gov’t report drops word “deflation,” stops short of declaring its end

TOKYO, 24 Dec — The government dropped the word “deflation” in its monthly economic report on Tuesday for the first time in more than four years amid signs of growth in consumer spending, but it refrained from announcing the end of deflation as it has yet to confirm that prices are unlikely to fall back.

In its December report, the Cabinet Office said consumer spending — comprising about 60 percent of Japan’s gross domestic product — is “picking up,” raising its assessment of the category for the first time in eight months.

The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe left its basic economic assessment unchanged, saying the world’s third-largest economy “is on the way to recovery at a moderate pace.”

The government views continued price falls as on the verge of ending after Japan’s consumer prices in October rose 0.9 percent on year, the fastest growth in five years on higher energy prices amid the yen’s weakness.

The government said exports have been “in a weak (tome recently)” due to a strong yen, but strong in some emerging economies, using the same expression for the second consecutive month.

In November, it downgraded its view on exports, a major driver of Japanese economic growth, for the third straight month.

But it remained optimistic about the future course of exports, referring to the recent depreciation of the yen against other major currencies. — Kyodo News
ADB to link government, non-governmental organizations in expanding HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention

YANGON, 24 Dec.—The Asian Development Bank (ADB), spending funds from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, will provide a strategic link between Myanmar’s government and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) currently providing HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services in order to strengthen the provision of healthcare in remote, vulnerable, and hard-to-reach populations.

As Myanmar continues implementing social and political reforms, it must protect its people from inadvertent exposure to communicable diseases like HIV, tuberculosis, malaria,” said Gerard Servais, Health Specialist in Southeast Asia Department. “For the people of Myanmar, health care is a right. And if governments, and NGOs work together, they can ensure that right is fulfilled,” he added.

HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention services are no longer confined to urban areas. And international NGOs, alongside local NGOs and community-based organizations, provide the bulk of HIV services in the country, including prevention services, drop-in centers, clinics, and outreach programs. NGOs also support private sector provision of sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatment and distribute condoms and lubricants. In 2011, some 70% of ART was delivered by NGOs at clinics outside the public system.

Using a $10 million grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, ADB will establish innovative partnerships between government and NGOs to deliver better services in 739 villages in five townships in Mon, Kayin, and Shan states. It is projected that by 2017, communities will see strengthened health systems that can plan for and manage responses to HIV/AIDS and STIs, with the number of trained health service providers increasing by 30%, the number of patient consultations increasing by 80% and behavior change campaigns to help reduce exposure to HIV, STIs, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Dy Education Minister receives Vice President of The Ryukoku University

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec.—Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung received Vice President Mr Noriko Tanaka of The Ryukoku University in Tokyo of Japan and party at the Ministry of Education, here, this afternoon. They had a cordial discussion on signing MoU between universities in Myanmar and Ryukoku University and cultural exchanges among students.—MNA

Japan provides school-building in Mandalay region under GGP Scheme


The hand-over and opening ceremony was held at the Kangyi Village Basic Education Primary School in Mandalay Region.

Natural gas export to be suspended during pipeline construction

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec.—Construction on a natural gas pipeline network between the Platform of Yetagun Natural Gas Project of Myanmar and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) under the Ministry of Energy will be carried out from 1 January (at 6:00 am) to 15 January (at 6:00 am). Gas transportation to abroad will be suspended during the period.

Natural gas supply to power plants and industries consumption through a 20-inch Kanpau-Myainga lay pipeline will be temporarily suspended for 24 hours and a 24-inch Yadana-Yangon pipeline for 4 hours. During this suspension period, plans are underway to distribute natural gas to electric power stations and industries in Yangon.

Moe Thu

WORLD

27 killed in attacks across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec.—A total of 23 people and four suicide bombers were killed and 14 wounded, in separate violent attacks across Iraq on Monday, police said.

In one attack, gunmen broke into the office of Salahuddin satellite TV channel and the nearby Iraqia official television’s headquarters in Tikrit, the capital of SalahuDDin Province, killing five staffers and wounding three others, when four suicide bombers blew themselves up in the attack, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack took place in the afternoon in central Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, when the suicide bombers blew up a car bomb at the entrance of the four-story TV station building, the source added.

Fierce clashes broke out between the attackers and the guards, setting fire to the third and fourth floors of the building, he said. Iraqi security forces and reinforcement troops cordoned off the scene, while a police commando unit broke into the offices and took control of the building after a clash with the suicide bombers, he added.

Tikrit, the capital of Salahuddin Province which is dominated by Sunni, is the hometown of former President Saddam Hussein.

In another separate incident, four army officers and two soldiers were killed in a mortar barrage on a military base in Abu Ghabra area, some 25 km west of Baghdad, a police source told Xinhua.

The attack came as Iraqi security forces backed by helicopters were conducting a large-scale offensive against al-Qaeda militants in the volatile Sunni area that stretches from west of Baghdad through the province of Anbar to the border with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Al-Qaeda militants are believed to have been responsible for blowing up a booby-trapped shelter on Saturday in the desert area of Wadi Houran near the city of Rutba, some 370 km west of Baghdad, killing up to 15 soldiers.

On Sunday, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said that a Sunni anti-government sit-in camp in Anbar Province had become “a base for the leadership of al-Qaeda.” He urged protesters “to leave the camp so that al-Qaeda will stay alone.”

The Sunni MPs accused the government of marginalizing them and claimed that the Shia-dominated security forces indiscriminately arrested, tortured and killed their sons.—Xinhua

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw Announcement No (40/2013)

7th Waning of Nadaw, 1375 ME
(24th December, 2013)

Registration of Federal Union Party as political party allowed

Federal Union Party headquartered at No (15), left room, the sixth floor of the building on Hline River Road (Kamayut Railway Station Street) in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region has been allowed to register as a political party in accord with Section 9 of the Political Party Registration Law as of 24th December, 2013.

The registration number of the Federal Union Party is 71.
**New Light of Myanmar**

**ARTICLE**

**Historic Town “Sale”**

Maha Saddhamma Jetika dhaya
Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

**Wednesday, 25 December, 2013**

Generate healthy lifestyle through walking

The weather in Myanmar is now getting colder significantly as the cold weather has set in. Different parts of the country have been struck by an impact of cold waves one way or another. This has largely degenerated the condition of human’s health. As such a time, one of the remedial measures to be taken for better health care is to do exercise regularly.

Physical activities such as jogging or walking can alleviate the risk of developing diseases that are mainly caused by cold weather. Therefore, mass walk activities are being launched in some towns and cities to make the people known the benefits of walking. Walking for minutes at regular intervals during working hours would do a lot. But most of us often fail to do so once concentrated. Prolonged sitting or desk job can increase health risk and reduce the lifestyle.

Sticking to a regular exercise with jogging or walking high on the agenda will help us prevent the risk of developing acute diseases caused by cold weather. Quitting a smoking habit, avoiding risky consumption of alcohol, reducing salt intake and getting a better night sleep are also the tips for better health in life, for prevention is better than cure.

As blood temperatures one way or another. This has largely significantly as the cold weather has set in. Different kinds of cold waves one way or another. This has largely degenerated the condition of human’s health. As such a time, one of the remedial measures to be taken for better health care is to do exercise regularly.

Physical activities such as jogging or walking can alleviate the risk of developing diseases that are mainly caused by cold weather. Therefore, mass walk activities are being launched in some towns and cities to make the people known the benefits of walking. Walking for minutes at regular intervals during working hours would do a lot. But most of us often fail to do so once concentrated. Prolonged sitting or desk job can increase health risk and reduce the lifestyle.

Sticking to a regular exercise with jogging or walking high on the agenda will help us prevent the risk of developing acute diseases caused by cold weather. Quitting a smoking habit, avoiding risky consumption of alcohol, reducing salt intake and getting a better night sleep are also the tips for better health in life, for prevention is better than cure.

**Mangrove Rehabilitation Project to be implemented in Ayeyawady Delta**

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Dec—In cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has planned to implement “Mangrove Rehabilitation Plan for Enhancement of Disaster Prevention in the Ayeyawady Delta” project in Kadonkani Reserve Forest, Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Delta.

In cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has planned to implement “Mangrove Rehabilitation Plan for Enhancement of Disaster Prevention in the Ayeyawady Delta” project in Kadonkani Reserve Forest, Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Delta.

The project’s duration is four years from 2013 November to 2017 October.

In 2012, the grant agreement was signed between the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and JICA. According to the grant agreement, the Forest Department respectively signed Consultant Agreement with Kokusai Kogyo Co Ltd for project design formulation and monitoring and evaluation services for the project on 16 March, 2013 and Contract Agreement with Hazama Ando Corporation for actual implementation of activities at project site on 7 October, 2013.

Project implementation involves establishment of 2850 acres of mangrove forest plantation, construction of a cycling-shelter cum watch tower, provision of project support materials and formulation of a mangrove management plan as well as surveying of aquatic species so as to analyze the impact of the project on species diversity and population.—MNA

A sprawling town on the east bank of the Ayeyawady River is Sale, just 29 miles to the south of ancient Bagan. Commanding an important strategic location for trade, transport and communication, Sale had its role in the past, still has it at present and will continue to have it in future. Its past be speaks of its glories in its heydays as evidenced by many objects of tangible cultural heritage especially in the forms of monuments of some artistic and architectural marvels that attract pilgrims and tourists at home and abroad. Sale is, in fact, in the periphery of Bagan archaeological zones. It is a virgin field for excavation and research.

Sale is noted for four counts, namely (1) there is a big sitting Buddha Image of lacquered wicker work in a grand temple in the centre of the town, (2) closely is a world renown ancient teak monastery “Yout Soun Kyaung” (3) Sale is the birth place of a playwright U Ponnya of the celestial Kingdom.

The monastery is 150 feet long and 76 feet wide. As many of its decorative artworks have been vandalized and stolen only 45 panels survive today.

The spire on the roof of the shrine room has seven floors through which water flows in the figures of elephant, lion, bull, and horse heads through which water flows out. They represent Anawdathllaka Lake of Tavatimsa the celestial Kingdom. The head monk Abbot resides in the Sanu Saung, Saung Hla (or Saung pyan) is very specious. There are many gift and glass mosaic chests storing religious literature inscribed on palm leaf or written on folding parchments called parabike. Next to it is the main hall, the biggest and highest than other halls. A dividur call “marabine” screen makes another room called Kyt Thayey saung where all monastic holdings and dry ration are kept young monks and novices sleep in this large room. In day time it is a class room for teaching and learning Tripitakas, Dhamma literature. Religious ceremonies take place in this main hall. Two brick staircases to the east are for monks’ use and two to the west for laymen.

There is a bell with an inscription telling the history of the monastery. The donor U Bo Kyi was a wealthy generous young man who at the age of 29 years spent enormous amount of his wealth to build this monastery. In the inscription he says that he dedicated the big monastery for religious purpose—for all monks (Sangha). During the British Colonial Period, monk students increased. So a new additional monastery was built on the site between two brick staircases. The architects, masons and carpenters were the natives of Ta Nyaung village. Wood carvers were U Shan and Ko Shwe Pyi and their apprentices from Yey Zagyo District. (To be continued)
Foreign Heads of State...

(from page 1)

From Mr Mamnoon Hussain
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Excellency,

It is a great pleasure for me to convey Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close friendly relations. I am sure that these relations between our two countries will strengthen and flourish in days to come.

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

From Mr Muhammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Excellency,

On behalf of the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, it is my great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Myanmar our sincere greetings and warm congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It is important to acknowledge the friendly ties that bind us in friendship. I am confident that the existing friendly bilateral ties would be further strengthened in future.

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

From Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika
President of People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria
Excellency,

On the occasion of the celebration of your country’s National Day, I am very pleased to address to you, on behalf of the Algerian people and Government and on my own name, my sincere expressions of congratulations accompanied with my best wishes of health and happiness to Your Excellency and further progress and prosperity to your friendly people.

I would like to seize this opportunity to confirm to you my readiness to work, with you, to consolidate and promote the friendship relations between our two countries for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

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

Only cooperation, unity could contribute to rapid...

(from page 1)

He praised respective cooperative associations and microfinance scheme that could provide capital and equipment and create the market as an effective tool for poverty reduction.

Due to the lack of capital, some of the poor including the civil servants at lower level not only in rural areas but also in urban regions have to engage in such works like driving trishaws and motorbike on hire and sewing on commission. With mere hand-to-mouth subsistence, the poor including civil servants at lower level in rural and urban areas are unable to send their offspring to school and receive medical treatment when they are sick, as they have no extra money, being obliged to share the certain proportion of the rewards of their grease labour to the owners.

Measures are being taken by the Cooperatives Ministry to help them to own trishaws, motorbikes and sewing machines within a short period of time, providing capital loans to them. He stressed the need of shaping their lives themselves and respecting the goodwill of the government and working hard with honesty and repaying their loans in full on schedule.

The government is striving for smooth transportation, potable water and electricity supply and promotion of education, health and economic sectors in rural regions with local and foreign assistance. He stressed the importance of village administrators elected by people to be good and able ones for the development of rural villages. Only then, the rural of law and order, health and social development drive will be realized in rural villages, saying that no progress can be made without peace and stability, rule of law and unity. He called for collaboration and cooperation between authorities concerned and the committees for development of rural and urban areas.

The country has now started exercising people-centered administrative system. There are committees, organizations and MPs in every village and townships across the country. Cooperation and unity among these organizations and officials would contribute to rapid development of the country. All people and organizations need to stand on their own feet in an effort for development of their regions.

People need to effectively use their loans in their businesses as well as to repay their loans at due date. He highlighted the accountability of individuals, organization and cooperative society. He also urged those involved in microfinance scheme to make cooperation for smooth running of it. In conclusion, he called for cooperation and unity among these organizations and people.

Afterwards, the Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan touched upon rural development, socio-economic development and poverty alleviation tasks.

The Minister said a loan of more than K 10843.1948 million has been granted since October, 2012. A total of 1954 farm equipment worth K 1992.64125 million have been sold by installment. K 50 billion new loans will be disbursed to people who have not got loan in April, May and June next year. Plans are under way to increase the loan amount in 2014-2015 FY. The new interest rate is reduced to K 1.50 while the old rate amount to K 2.50.

Later, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung explained the facts about rural development and socio-economic development tasks.

At today’s ceremony, a loan of K 7621.15 million has been disbursed to 879 cooperative associations in 26 townships and 314 were provided with farm equipments, motorcycles, sewing machines and fishing gears worth K 657,453 million. After that, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan and the Chief Minister disbursed the microfinance loans to cooperative societies in the region. Then, Chairman of Central Cooperative Society and the Co-operative Bank Ltd handed over agricultural equipment to the local farmers.

After the ceremony, the President cordially greeted those present and looked round the booths, farm equipments and fishing gears on display. The President and party looked round the development of Pathein in a motorcade.

President U Thein Sein greets locals at the ceremony of rural development and socio-economic improvement.—MNA

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets Prime Minister...

(from page 16)

seen off by Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Coopera-
tion, Information, and Media of the National Assembly of Cambodia Mr Chea Meng Vun, responsible persons from the National Assembly of Cambodia, the Governor of Siem Reap Province and Myanmar Ambassador U Cho Tun Aung and officials at Siem Reap International Airport in Phnom Penh of Cambodia.—MNA
Rifle bullets, blank rounds found in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 24 Dec—Letpangon Village-tract administrator U Myint Aye, 45, son of U Thein Shwe of Yamethin Township handed over 33 decayed .303 rifle cartridges, two blank rounds and two bullets to Yamethin Myoma Police Station in Mandalay Region on 21 December. These bullets were found in digging the pits for construction of the earthen road linking Nyaung-chingon and Taywindaing villages under the leadership of the Sayadaw Bhaddanta Javana in October 2013.

The Sayadaw kept the bullets at his monastery temporarily and now these bullets have been handed over the police station through village administrator U Myint Aye.

Arrangements are being made to hand them over to No 3 Basic Military Training Depot.—Kyemon-Tha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Air-conditioned trains to stop over at all stations along Yangon circular railroad

YANGON, 24 Dec—Air-conditioned trains installed with rail bus engines will stop over at all stations along the circular railroad of Yangon according to the requests of the passengers, said Myanmar Railways.

The new train with six coaches assembled by Myitnage Carriage and Wagon Factory. One more train installed with six new coaches will be run along the circular railroad.

The list of stations will be announced for the public transportation. At present, number of passengers is growing day by day in rail transportation. The circular train take two hours and fifty minutes for the whole circular railroad.

Myanmar Railways helps ease traffic congestions of the Yangon City. Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

New water course dredged in Nerinzara River of Kalay Tsp

KALAY, 24 Dec—Under the instructions of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and assistance of Kalay District Management Committee Chairman U Maung Htoo, the new water course has been dredged on 21 December in Nerinzara River that eroded West Khontha Village of Kalay Township.

Thanks to dredging the new water course, the village does not need to remove from their place to other safer place. That is why the local people thank the local authorities for their contribution.

Kyemon-Joe Net

Four objectives of 66th Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe;
- All the national people to strive together for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- All the national people to participate in efforts for ceasing armed conflicts and gaining genuine peace;
- All the national people to work hard in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Rifle bullets, blank rounds found in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 24 Dec—Letpangon Village-tract administrator U Myint Aye, 45, son of U Thein Shwe of Yamethin Township handed over 33 decayed .303 rifle cartridges, two blank rounds and two bullets to Yamethin Myoma Police Station in Mandalay Region on 21 December. These bullets were found in digging the pits for construction of the earthen road linking Nyaung-chingon and Taywindaing villages under the leadership of the Sayadaw Bhaddanta Javana in October 2013.

The Sayadaw kept the bullets at his monastery temporarily and now these bullets have been handed over the police station through village administrator U Myint Aye.

Arrangements are being made to hand them over to No 3 Basic Military Training Depot.—Kyemon-Tha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Air-conditioned trains to stop over at all stations along Yangon circular railroad

YANGON, 24 Dec—Air-conditioned trains installed with rail bus engines will stop over at all stations along the circular railroad of Yangon according to the requests of the passengers, said Myanmar Railways.

The new train with six coaches assembled by Myitnage Carriage and Wagon Factory. One more train installed with six new coaches will be run along the circular railroad.

The list of stations will be announced for the public transportation. At present, number of passengers is growing day by day in rail transportation. The circular train take two hours and fifty minutes for the whole circular railroad.

Myanmar Railways helps ease traffic congestions of the Yangon City. Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

New water course dredged in Nerinzara River of Kalay Tsp

KALAY, 24 Dec—Under the instructions of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and assistance of Kalay District Management Committee Chairman U Maung Htoo, the new water course has been dredged on 21 December in Nerinzara River that eroded West Khontha Village of Kalay Township.

Thanks to dredging the new water course, the village does not need to remove from their place to other safer place. That is why the local people thank the local authorities for their contribution.

Kyemon-Joe Net
Japan NGO vows to continue aid to typhoon-hit Philippines

TACLOBAN, (Philippines) 24 Dec — The Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, a Japan-based non-governmental organization, on Monday concluded its medical assistance activities for this year in the typhoon-hit Philippines and pledged to return.

In the storm-ravaged city of Tacloban in Leyte province, AMDA president Shigeru Suganami told Kyodo News that continued aid is needed given poverty and hygiene issues there, and so his organization plans to dispatch members next year to areas devastated by typhoon Hayyan.

After the typhoon struck on 8 November, AMDA doctors from Japan as well as the group’s branches throughout Southeast Asia and South Asia entered affected areas including the central islands of Leyte and Samar to deploy aid.

The medical association of Fukuyama, Hiroshima Prefecture, which has sister-city ties with Tacloban, also dispatched medical personnel who worked together with the AMDA. The AMDA, based in Okayama, is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides emergency medical aid to people affected by natural as well as man-made disasters.

A government report released over the weekend showed that the death toll from Hayyan stands at 6,102, with 1,779 others still missing and more than 4 million people displaced.

India clears proposal to buy 262 Israeli missiles

NEW DELHI, 24 Dec — Indian Defence Ministry on Monday cleared a proposal to buy 262 missiles from Israel to arm the Barak-I anti-missile defence systems for the Indian Navy, said local media reports.

The defence system would be fitted on the navy’s frontline warships and the Indian Navy was running low on Barak missiles, said Hindustan Times online.

The proposal was shelved for several years as the country’s Central Bureau of Investigation was probing a kickback case of the missiles in 2006.

The defence acquisition council (DAC) cleared the $8.8 billion rupee (140 million US dollars) deal after the case is closed for lack of evidence.

More police deployed at Philippine int’l airport after deadly attack

MANILA, 24 Dec — The Philippine government has deployed more policemen at the vicinity of the Manila international airport following the deadly ambush last week of a mayor and three others, a senior government official said on Monday.

President Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters that the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has augmented the police personnel for the entire complex of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Pasay City, Metro Manila.

“We will see more police presence in the subject premises,” he said.

Four people, including Labangon Mayor Ukol Talumpa of southern province of Zamboanga del Sur, his wife, a relative, and an 18-month-old baby, were killed while five others were injured when two men aboard a motorcycle ambushed them at the arrival area of the NAIA Terminal 3 before noon last Friday.

Lacierda said the Philippine National Police has leads as to the whereabouts of the culprits.

While President Benigno S Aquino III did not give any deadline to resolve the case, Lacierda said that Aquino’s order was to “find the culprits as expeditiously as possible, making sure that we have the evidence to pinpoint the particular culprits.”

The attack took place at a time when Philippine airports are busy due to the influx of passengers who want to spend Christmas in their hometown or other tourist spots in the country.

Vietnamese gov’t defines tasks to realize 2014 socio-economic goals

HANOI, 24 Dec — The Vietnamese government on Monday defined major tasks to realize socio-economic targets set in 2014 at an online conference between the government and the country’s localities.

Among the targets set for 2014, Vietnam will strive to achieve a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.8 percent in 2014, and inflation to be kept at 7 percent, reported the e-portal of the Vietnamese government on Monday.

Besides, Vietnam targets an increase of 10 percent in export value with trade deficit accounting for 6 percent of the total export revenue, total social development capital making up 30 percent of GDP, poor household reduction by 1.7-2 percent, and 1.6 million new jobs to be created.

To meet the set targets, the government drafted nine preferential policies.

First, priority will be given to macroeconomic stabilization and inflation control by continuing to implement flexible monetary and tight fiscal policies, developing markets, boosting exports and controlling imports.

Second, the government is to ease difficulties for businesses, accelerate production by creating favorable conditions for businesses to easily access loans, and effectively carry out preferential policies.

Third, the government should speed up the implementation of three strategic breakthroughs of finalizing the socialist-oriented market economy system, rapidly developing human resources, and building a synchronized infrastructure system, along with restructuring the economy, renewing the growth model, and improving the quality, efficiency and competitiveness of the economy.
Egypt declares Brotherhood as terrorist group

CAIRO, 24 Dec — Egyptian Interim Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi on Tuesday declared Muslim Brotherhood, the country’s oldest and most influential Islamist movement, as a terrorist group, according to official news agency MENA reported.

The announcement came after a powerful explosion ripped through a security headquarters in Egypt’s Nile Delta city of Mansoura early on Tuesday, killing at least 14 people and injuring 130 others.

Most of the victims were police conscripts.

“The Brotherhood has shown its ugly face as a terrorist group and its acts will not weaken the Egyptian people’s determination to move forward,” Beblawi was quoted by his media adviser Sherif Shawqi as saying.

In October, the Egyptian authorities ordered to remove the Muslim Brotherhood from a government list of accredited non-governmental organizations. Earlier, a Cairo court also ordered to ban all activities of the Brotherhood group, seize its funds and freeze a panel to administrate its assets.

S. Korea, China to boost academic, youth exchange

SEOUL, 24 Dec — South Korea is planning to kick off programmes to boost scholars and youth exchanges with China in 2014 in a latest move to strengthen bilateral ties agreed by both presidents in the summit meeting in June.

South Korea’s foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Under this plan, humanities scholars from the two countries will be invited to conduct one-year joint research projects on mutual literature and history, according to the ministry.

Besides, teenagers of the two countries will have chances to attend joint forums and other activities related to issues of the Northeast Asian region. Another project aiming to boost cooperation and exchanges between cities of the two sides is also underway, the ministry said, adding that details of these programmes will be decided after talking with China.—Xinhua

Israel’s revenues from gas to reach 1 billion shekel by 2015

JERUSALEM, 24 Dec — Israeli Energy Minister Silvan Shalom said on Monday that the state’s revenues from its newly discovered gas fields are expected to double by 2015 and reach a total of one billion shekel (about 280 million US dollars).

In 2013, the state’s incomes from payment of gas royalties and tax are expected to reach 500 million shekel (about 140 million dollars), Shalom told the Knesset’s (parliament) Finance Committee.

Gas production, primarily from the offshore Tamar gas field, is already boosting Israel’s economy. “This year it contributed one percent to the growth,” Shalom said.

Today Israel produces electricity and pumps water using costly and polluting diesel and fuel oil. Shalom said that by 2015, the transition to gas-based production is expected to save the Israeli economy about three billion shekels (about 850 million dollars) per month. The saving will be achieved due to reduced costs of electricity and water.

Israel’s two largest gas reservoirs, named Tamar and Leviathan, were discovered in 2010 and are considered among the biggest gas discoveries in the Middle East in the last decade.

Tamar, a gas field with an estimated reserve of 10 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), began production in March and is operated by Texas-based Noble Energy. Last month, signs of natural gas were discovered at Tamar SW, a smaller gas field near Tamar.

The nearby Leviathan filed has estimated reserves of 19 Tcf, but production is not expected to begin until 2016 or 2017.—Xinhua

Brazil president unveils 6.8-pct minimum wage hike

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Dec — President Dilma Rousseff announced on Monday that the monthly minimum wage will be lifted to 724 Brazilian reals (306 US dollars) starting next month, a 6.8-percent increase.

In a message via Twitter, Rousseff said she has signed the measure into law after it was approved by Congress last week as part of the 2014 budget, in accordance with the country’s GDP growth and inflation-adjusted. The move is expected to inject an additional 46 billion reals (20 billion dollars) into the Brazilian economy in 2014, according to Sao Paulo’s Trade Federation of Goods, Services and Tourism.—Xinhua

A strong snowstorm sweeps most regions of the US, causing at least 10 people dead and at least 5 people injured. It is reported that over 18,800 flights were delayed and 1,598 flights were cancelled in the US. This photo shows Wisconsin covered with snow.—Xinhua
**entertainment**

New York, 24 Dec — From shooting down a helicopter to firefights, film director Peter Berg spared no details to recreate a tragic United States Navy SEALs mission in Afghanistan in “Lone Survivor,” an unflinching account of one of the worst losses of life in the history of the special operations force.

The film, which opens in limited theatres in the United States on Christmas Day and wider release on 10 January, 2014, is based on the best-selling book by Marcus Luttrell, the only man who lived to recount what happened during the covert June 2005 Operation Red Wings in which 11 SEALs and eight soldiers died.

Two-time Oscar nominee Mark Wahlberg plays Luttrell, a medic and a sharpshooter who was one of a four-man team dropped by helicopter in the rugged mountains near Afghanistan’s border with Pakistan on a mission to find a Taliban leader. The operation was compromised when three Afghan goat herders stumbled upon them, leaving the men with a moral dilemma that would lead to the deaths of their unarmed captives or their own.

“The dominant experience for me was the brotherhood that existed between these four men - the tragedy of their loss,” said Berg, the director of 2012’s action-adventure film “Battleship.”

Not long after releasing their Afghan captives and scampering further up the mountain hoping to be rescued, the SEALs are outnumbered by Taliban on three sides. They are forced into a firefight and to hurl themselves off steep cliffs, tumbling like rag dolls, slamming against boulders and trees, shattering limbs as bullets and rocket-propelled grenades whizzed by.

“We fought them for hours and hours until we ran out of bullets and we ran out of blood,” said Luttrell, who despite wounds and a broken back, crawled for miles and was saved by the kindness of an Afghan villager.

---

John Mayer to gift Katy Perry antique watch on Christmas

Los Angeles, 24 Dec — Singer John Mayer is reportedly planning to buy a rare watch as a Christmas gift for his girlfriend and pop star Katy Perry.

The 36-year-old has taken help of an antiques dealer to buy the timepiece, reports contactmusic.com.

“He has asked a friend who is a rare watch dealer to email him photos. John is a great giver, who finds unique presents,” a source said.

Mayer will have to go a long way to beat last year’s gift, when he got her a custom designed guitar covered in intricate designs, including her initials and the date they first met.

---

Nicole Scherzinger plans fashion range

Los Angeles, 24 Dec — Singer Nicole Scherzinger is reportedly planning to launch her own fashion career by designing a clothing range.

The 35-year-old is said to launch her own clothing range with British brand Missguided, and she is expected to snub a return to The X Factor.

“Missguided think she could be great for the brand and fashion is something she wants to get into. Nothing has been signed for next year’s X Factor and it’s likely that she won’t be going back, so it’s a great opportunity for Nicole to venture into new areas,” contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying.

“She wants to continue working in the UK (as she loves it here) and feels like an honorary Brit. She’s obviously going to be continuing with her music and this will be another string to her bow,” the source added.

---

Shah Rukh Khan loves working on holidays

Mumbai, 24 Dec — Bollywood Badshah, Shah Rukh Khan says he loves to work during holidays as it gives him a “strange sense of accomplishment.”

“Nothing like working during the season of holidays. Has a strange sense of accomplishment. Come on Day, Hit Me!” tweeted the King Khan of Bollywood on Monday.

On the work front, SRK is currently busy shooting for his romantic comedy Happy New Year. Directed by Farah Khan, the movie also features Deepika Padukone, Abhishek Bachchan, Boman Irani and Sonu Sood.—PTI

---

Beyonce surprises shoppers with holiday gift cards

Los Angeles, 24 Dec — Beyonce Knowles surprised Christmas buyers by making an appearance at a shop and treated some of them with gift cards.

The 32-year-old singer made an impromptu appearance at Walmart in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, on 20 December, where she was spotted pushing her own shopping cart and picking up a copy of her self-titled record, which topped the US charts, reported Us magazine.

Beyonce also bought a few toys, including a Barbie doll, which were apparently for her 23-month-old daughter, Blue Ivy Carter.

“It would be good to get a little toy or something for Blue. That would be cute for her — my baby,” Beyonce said, as she picked out a baby doll. The singer addressed the crowd by using the store’s loud speaker.

“Hello Walmart shoppers, testing Walmart shoppers. It’s Beyonce! And I stopped by the store today because my record has arrived. I want to give everyone a gift. For everyone in the store right now, the first USD 50 of your holiday gifts are on me. Merry, merry Christmas from Beyonce!”, she said.

The Halo hitmaker surprised 750 customers with USD 50 gift cards, enclosed within envelopes that read, “Happy Holidays from Beyonce.”

Wearing an aqua-coloured crop top and matching skirt with a leather jacket, the singer was in great spirits while greeting a huge number of her fans in the shop.

---

Nicole Scherzinger may not return to next year’s X-Factor.

---

Former US Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell poses for a portrait with his dog Mr. Rigby while promoting the film ‘Lone Survivor’ in New York, in this on 5 Dec, 2013, file photo.—Reuters

Beyonce made an impromptu appearance at Walmart in Massachusetts

---

Shah Rukh Khan.
Arsenal and Chelsea serve up bleak midwinter draw

LONDON, 24 Dec—A fixture billed as a pre-Christmas cracker was more ‘The Bleak Midwinter’ than ‘Jingle Bell Rock’ as Arsenal’s hopes of regaining top spot in the Premier League fizzled out in a turgid 0-0 draw with Chelsea.

Nine days after losing 6-3 at Manchester City and having seen their title rivals steal a march on them at the weekend, Arsenal found themselves stifled by a defensive Chelsea side and hardly managed a shot on target.

The home fans chanted “Boring, Boring Chelsea” on a rain-lashed night in north London but the visitors actually had the better of what few chances there were and will take greater satisfaction from a spirit-dampening encounter.

Both sides moved up a place in the table, Arsenal to second with 36 points, behind leaders Liverpool on goal difference, while Chelsea returned to the top four with 34 points, above Everton and Manchester City.

It could have been even better for Chelsea had Frank Lampard’s first-half volley hit the back of the net rather than the underside of the crossbar.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, who has never lost to Arsene Wenger in 10 meetings after Monday’s draw, appeared quite content to maintain his hold over the Frenchman.

“We controlled the game very well. There was one big chance for us and lots of half chances and for them one big chance and no half chances,” Mourinho told reporters.

“It was a tactical match. A match that Arsenal wants to win but doesn’t even want to lose and Chelsea wants to win but doesn’t want to lose,” Mourinho told Sky Sports.

“The (Chelsea) goalkeeper (Petr Cech) was not in the game, we controlled the game defensively. We let (Arsenal midfielder) Mikel Arteta play the ball from side to side, we were completely under control.

“Fans who braved a howling gale and driving rain might have wished they had stayed at home to watch the Christmas presents.”

Many home fans booed at the final whistle and their frustrations were shared by Wenger, who felt his side should have been awarded a first-half penalty when Theo Walcott was caught on the ankle by Brazilian midfield-er Willian.

Fellaini faces long Man Utd absence after wrist surgery

MANCHESTER, 24 Dec—Manchester United’s big-money signing Marouane Fellaini faces several weeks on the sidelines after having an operation on his wrist, manager David Moyes said on Monday.

Moyes, who also Fellaini’s boss at Everton before both moved to Old Trafford before the start of the season, said at a news conference the 26-year-old was unlikely to play again before the start of February.

“We think probably he will be out for six weeks but there’s a chance it could be shorter than that,” he told reporters.

Fellaini has also struggled with a back problem this season and Moyes said: “His back problem was just going to take time. He has a muscle injury in his back which wasn’t healing.

“That is maybe going to take longer than we expected so that’s when we decided to get the wrist done. He’s been unlucky.

“He does not feel 100 percent fit because of his wrist so he’s found it difficult.”

The two injuries mean the mop-haired Belgian midfield star could miss both legs of United’s Champions League last 16 clash with Olympiakos Piraeus in February and March.

Fellaini has struggled this season to replicate the form that persuaded United to pay Everton 24 million pounds for him in September. He has yet to score a goal in 11 appearances for the Premier League champions.

Moyes, though, gave an eminigous reply to a question about whether striker Robin van Persie could make a “miracle” return during the Christmas programme after being out of action since 10 December with a thigh problem.

“Well there are always miracles at Christmas time, so let’s hope there will be one for Robin (and the injured) Michael Carrick.

“That’s when miracles happen, so you just never know,” a beaming Moyes said.

England defender Baines may return for Everton on Thursday

LONDON, 24 Dec—England left back Leighton Baines is likely to make his comeback from injury in Everton’s Premier League home match against bottom of the table Crystal Palace on Thursday.

The defender has been out for five games since fracturing his toe in the 3-3 derby draw against Liverpool last month. “Leighton Baines is getting really close and I think it’s fair to say he’s ready to return,” England soccer player Leighton Baines that, depending how today and tomorrow go, he should be available,” Everton manager Roberto Martinez told a news conference on Monday.

“We have missed Leighton because you can’t underestimate his quality, experience and know-how,” Martinez praised. Baines returned to Everton a year ago from Lazio and scored one league game all season, were unbeaten in the five matches Baines missed.

Suarez dreams as race goes into festive overdrive

LONDON, 24 Dec—Few players have undergone the transformation from sinner to saint that Luis Suarez is experiencing this season and the prolific Uruguayan striker is now dreaming of winning the Premier League with Liverpool.

Liverpool went top of the table by beating Car-diff City 3-1 on Saturday, Suarez scoring twice to take his season’s tally to 19 goals from 12 league matches ahead of the busy Christmas holiday pro-gramme which offers no let-up in the title race.

The Anfield club visit fellow contenders Man-chester City on Thursday before travelling to Chelsea on Sunday and Suarez, who missed the opening five matches of the season fol-lowing a ban imposed last season for biting an oppo-nent, is a man reborn.

“It is my dream, I hope to win the league and a big trophy with Liverpool,” he was quoted as saying on the club website (www.liver-poolfc.com) on Monday.

Suarez signed a new four-year contract last week and according to the Daily Telegraph newspaper is scoring goals “to make the likes of (former Anfield stars) Ian Rush, Roger Hunt and Robbie Fowler appear like they were occa-sional marksmen”.

The race for the title reaches the halfway stage with four rounds of match- es over Christmas and New Year including the weekend programme which conclud-ed on Monday with Arse-nal’s 0-0 draw with Chelsea at the Emirates.

Arsenal, who led the way from mid-September until Liverpool went top on Saturday, remain second behind The Reds on goal difference.

With Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho extending his unbeaten run against counterpart Arsene Wenger to 10 matches, Liverpool head into Christmas as the top side for the first time since 2008.

Unlike Germany where there is an unofficial ‘win- ter champion’, no such ac-colade exists in England but historically it is no bad thing to top the table at this time of the year.

The last team at Christ-mas in the 21 completed Premier League seasons has won the title 10 times. Seven of the last nine champi-ons, and all of the last four title winners, were first on 25 December.

The last team to be first at Christmas and miss out on the title were Liverpool in 2009.

Froome extends contract with Team Sky

LONDON, 24 Dec — Tour de France champion Chris Froome has strengthened his ties with Team Sky by agreeing a new deal with the British cycling outfit.

“This has been an incredible year for me and I’m delighted to finish it off by signing a new contract with Team Sky,” the 28-year-old Briton said in a statement on Monday.

“I’ve been with this team since the start and I know this is the right place for me to continue to grow.” The Kenyan-born rider won the Tour de France for the first time in July, emulating the 2012 success of fellow Briton Bradley Wiggins.

Team Sky also extended the contracts of other members of their team including Peter Kennaugh, David Lopez and Ian Stannard.
Nigerian president food poisoning case adjourned to Tuesday

BANJUL, Dec 24—The food poisoning trial involving Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, his delegation and Gambia’s five-star hotel Coco Ocean has been adjourned to Tuesday.

The Nigerian president was said to have been served with food that had been preserved for a long period, causing him food poisoning during his two-day state visit in Gambia in November.

On Monday, police prosecutor Superintendent Touray appeared at the Kanifing Municipal Council together with defence lawyer Edward Singhathe, but Magistrate Tabally who should preside over the case was not seen for the proceeding of the case.

He was said to have travelled to the capital less than 9 km away from the Kanifing magistrate court.

The defence counsel for plaintiff, Edward Singhathe, was also informed at the court house that his client, Ayoub Aliris, chef of the hotel, was arrested again for the second time after released from the police custody.

The plaintiff was said to be under the custody of the National Intelligence Agency, but was later transferred to the State Central Prison Mike Two.

On Thursday, police charged the chief of Coco Ocean with negligence and food poisoning the Nigerian president and his delegation.

Aliris denied the charges when he appeared at the Kanifing court before Principal Magistrate Sheriff Tabally.

A police charge sheet stated that he unlawfully or negligently cooked prawns served to President Jonathan and his entourage as a starter during a special lunch hosted in honour of the visiting Nigerian head of state.

Sherwood in charge at Spurs until end of 2014/15

LONDON, Dec 24—Tottenham Hotspur have given the inexperienced Tim Sherwood the chance to stamp his mark on the ambitious London club by naming him on Monday as head coach until the end of next season with their sights on the top four.

The Premier League club have promoted their former midfield player from his role as youth development manager to replace Andre Villas-Boas, 36, exactly a week after the Portuguese coach was sacked following a humiliating 5-0 home loss to Liverpool.

“We were extremely reluctant to make a change mid-season, but felt we had to do so in the club’s best interests,” chairman Daniel Levy said on the club website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com). “We have a great squad and we owe them a head coach who will bring out the best in them and allow them to flourish and enjoy a strong, exciting finish to the season.

“We are in the fortunate position of having within our club a talented coach in Tim Sherwood. We believe Tim has both the knowledge and the drive to take the squad forward.”

A technically highly-rated coach, the 44-year-old Sherwood won the Premier League as captain of Blackburn Rovers in 1995 before joining Spurs four years later and staying until 2003 before returning five years later to join the coaching staff.

Sherwood was brought back to the club by former Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp who said this week: “...let’s hope Tim can get the job, he has great knowledge of the game. They have got a boy on their books who knows the game inside out.”

Sherwood takes over a team on which Spurs spent more than the 100 million euros they got for Gareth Bale from Real Madrid in the close season on internationals like Roberto Soldado, Paulinho, Erik Lamela and Christian Eriksen.

Chairman Levy is known to be short on patience, having sacked seven managers during his time at the club, but Sherwood will hope his brand of attacking football can deliver a top four finish and a place in next season’s Champions League.

That was the minimum requirement that chairman Villas-Boas had on him when he arrived from Porto after a 3-2 win at Southampton on Sunday to leave Tottenham seventh in the standings, six points off leaders Liverpool and north London rivals Arsenal.

That result helped his claims to be given the top job on a permanent basis and Sherwood is the combative midfielder who played nearly 100 games for the club before joining Portsmouth, now has a chance to show what he can do in his first job as head coach.—Reuters

Photo taken on 21 Dec, 2015 shows the San Giorgio Maggiore island in Venice, Italy. Venice is located in northeastern Italy and it’s the capital city of Veneto region. Being separated by canals and linked by bridges, Venice is famous for its beautiful view and architecture. The city with its lagoon has been listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1987.—Xinhua

Tim Sherwood gestures during their English Premier League soccer match against Southampton at St Mary’s stadium in Southampton, southern England on 22 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

Redknapp who said this week: “...let’s hope Tim can get the job, he has great knowledge of the game. They have got a boy on their books who knows the game inside out.”

Sherwood takes over a team on which Spurs spent more than the 100 million euros they got for Gareth Bale from Real Madrid in the close season on internationals like Roberto Soldado, Paulinho, Erik Lamela and Christian Eriksen.

Chairman Levy is known to be short on patience, having sacked seven managers during his time at the club, but Sherwood will hope his brand of attacking football can deliver a top four finish and a place in next season’s Champions League.

That was the minimum requirement that chairman Villas-Boas had on him when he arrived from Porto after a 3-2 win at Southampton on Sunday to leave Tottenham seventh in the standings, six points off leaders Liverpool and north London rivals Arsenal.

That result helped his claims to be given the top job on a permanent basis and Sherwood is the combative midfielder who played nearly 100 games for the club before joining Portsmouth, now has a chance to show what he can do in his first job as head coach.—Reuters

BANJUL, 24 Dec—The food poisoning trial involving Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, his delegation and Gambia’s five-star hotel Coco Ocean has been adjourned to Tuesday.

The Nigerian president was said to have been served with food that had been preserved for a long period, causing him food poisoning during his two-day state visit in Gambia in November.

On Monday, police prosecutor Superintendent Touray appeared at the Kanifing Municipal Council together with defence lawyer Edward Singhathe, but Magistrate Tabally who should preside over the case was not seen for the proceeding of the case.

He was said to have travelled to the capital less than 9 km away from the Kanifing magistrate court.

The defence counsel for plaintiff, Edward Singhathe, was also informed at the court house that his client, Ayoub Aliris, chef of the hotel, was arrested again for the second time after released from the police custody.

The plaintiff was said to be under the custody of the National Intelligence Agency, but was later transferred to the State Central Prison Mike Two.

On Thursday, police charged the chief of Coco Ocean with negligence and food poisoning the Nigerian president and his delegation.

Aliris denied the charges when he appeared at the Kanifing court before Principal Magistrate Sheriff Tabally.

A police charge sheet stated that he unlawfully or negligently cooked prawns served to President Jonathan and his entourage as a starter during a special lunch hosted in honour of the visiting Nigerian head of state.

Xinhua

LONDON, Dec 24—Tottenham Hotspur have given the inexperienced Tim Sherwood the chance to stamp his mark on the ambitious London club by naming him on Monday as head coach until the end of next season with their sights on the top four.

The Premier League club have promoted their former midfield player from his role as youth development manager to replace Andre Villas-Boas, 36, exactly a week after the Portuguese coach was sacked following a humiliating 5-0 home loss to Liverpool.

“We were extremely reluctant to make a change mid-season, but felt we had to do so in the club’s best interests,” chairman Daniel Levy said on the club website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com). “We have a great squad and we owe them a head coach who will bring out the best in them and allow them to flourish and enjoy a strong, exciting finish to the season.

“We are in the fortunate position of having within our club a talented coach in Tim Sherwood. We believe Tim has both the knowledge and the drive to take the squad forward.”

A technically highly-rated coach, the 44-year-old Sherwood won the Premier League as captain of Blackburn Rovers in 1995 before joining Spurs four years later and staying until 2003 before returning five years later to join the coaching staff.

Sherwood was brought back to the club by former Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp who said this week: “...let’s hope Tim can get the job, he has great knowledge of the game. They have got a boy on their books who knows the game inside out.”

Sherwood takes over a team on which Spurs spent more than the 100 million euros they got for Gareth Bale from Real Madrid in the close season on internationals like Roberto Soldado, Paulinho, Erik Lamela and Christian Eriksen.

Chairman Levy is known to be short on patience, having sacked seven managers during his time at the club, but Sherwood will hope his brand of attacking football can deliver a top four finish and a place in next season’s Champions League.

That was the minimum requirement that chairman Villas-Boas had on him when he arrived from Porto after a 3-2 win at Southampton on Sunday to leave Tottenham seventh in the standings, six points off leaders Liverpool and north London rivals Arsenal.

That result helped his claims to be given the top job on a permanent basis and Sherwood is the combative midfielder who played nearly 100 games for the club before joining Portsmouth, now has a chance to show what he can do in his first job as head coach.—Reuters

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua
Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets Prime Minister of Cambodia

Thingangyun Tsp enjoy electricity supply

YANGON, 24 Dec — With an increase in the number of housing complexes in the commercial city of Yangon, Laydaunukkan, Ward of Thingangyun Township also saw construction of high-rise buildings in the whole ward and electricity supply has become necessary for the buildings.

So, the township electrical engineer, staff and Thingangyun Township Administrator U Hla Myint performed installation of more transformers, power lines and digital metre boxes in accord with the policies of the Ministry of Electric Power. Recently, a 315 KV transformer was set up at the top of Kandaw street in the ward so as to have access to electricity supply for a housing complex between the third and fourth lanes to have access to electricity supply.

Likewise, electricity supply works are underway in each and every ward of the township under the leadership of the township administrator. 

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan gives address at second coordination meeting of Leading Committee for hosting 7th ASEAN Para Games.—MNA

Leading Committee for Organizing 7th ASEAN Para Games meets

International roaming service accessible to Myanmar phone users

To provide the internet Roaming services, which would help GSM/WCDMA subscribers of Myanmar to get access mobile phone services in foreign countries and GSM/WCDMA subscribers from foreign countries to get access the services in Myanmar, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) and Orange Company of France signed the International Roaming Services Agreement on 20 Dec, 2013. As a first phase, GSM/WCDMA subscribers of 64 operators from 33 countries including ASEAN countries would be able to access the communication services in Myanmar.

Meanwhile, the international roaming service for Myanmar GSM/WCDMA users are on trial run in seven countries and date on which international roaming service would be enabled in foreign countries would be announced for GSM/WCDMA phone users of Myanmar.

China commits $6.5 billion for Pakistani nuclear projects

ISLAMABAD, 24 Dec — China has committed $6.5 billion to finance the construction of a major nuclear power project in Pakistan's port city of Karachi as it seeks to strengthen its influence in the region. Pakistan officials say they have a deal with a Chinese company on the project, which aims to provide power to the city of 1.5 million people.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif broke ground on the $9.59 billion project last month but officials have provided few details of how they plan to finance it.

Arrangement for media to cover AMM (Retreat)

International roaming service accessible to Myanmar phone user — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and party were welcomed by Governor of Siem Reap Province Mr Khim Bun Song and officials at Siem Reap International Airport in Phnom Penh. The governor of Siem Reap Province hosted a dinner to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and party at Sokha Hotel.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker visited Angkor Wat temple on 22 December morning. The Myanmar delegation left there by flight at 1:25 pm LST. They were (See page 9)

Leading Committee for Organizing 7th ASEAN Para Games meets

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivers address at second coordination meeting of Leading Committee for hosting 7th ASEAN Para Games.—MNA

International roaming service accessible to Myanmar phone users

China commits $6.5 billion for Pakistani nuclear projects

ISLAMABAD, 24 Dec — China has committed $6.5 billion to finance the construction of a major nuclear power project in Pakistan's port city of Karachi as it seeks to strengthen its influence in the region. Pakistan officials say they have a deal with a Chinese company on the project, which aims to provide power to the city of 1.5 million people.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif broke ground on the $9.59 billion project last month but officials have provided few details of how they plan to finance it.

Arrangement for media to cover AMM (Retreat)

International roaming service accessible to Myanmar phone users

China commits $6.5 billion for Pakistani nuclear projects

ISLAMABAD, 24 Dec — China has committed $6.5 billion to finance the construction of a major nuclear power project in Pakistan's port city of Karachi as it seeks to strengthen its influence in the region. Pakistan officials say they have a deal with a Chinese company on the project, which aims to provide power to the city of 1.5 million people.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif broke ground on the $9.59 billion project last month but officials have provided few details of how they plan to finance it.