Esteemed people,

I would like to greet all national peoples across the country on the auspicious occasion of the 66th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar governed by its own monarch had long been standing as a sovereign nation. In the 19th century, Myanmar fell under British colonial rule and lost her sovereignty. Today marks 66 years since Myanmar regained her independence through Union spirit, sacrifice spirit and the national spirits of all national peoples during the independence struggles.

Esteemed people,

Taking the lessons of the past events, all our people are to uphold our national duty: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty to continue standing as a sovereign state.

It is high time all national peoples seek every possible ways to reach genuine and eternal peace after ending the decade-long internal conflicts. Coordination is being made for signing a nation-wide ceasefire agreement.

Thanks to the restoration of peace and stability in the country, the government could lay down plans for development tasks and daily existences of people across the country. The government is making reforms in the political, economic and social spheres and in the government and private development to fulfill two desires of people: becoming a peaceful country under the rule of law and the socio-economic development of all people.

In economic reform, great importance is attached to the socio-economic improvement of the rural people, the poorest population of the country, while foreign investors are invited to obtain capital and technologies to revitalize the country’s economy. As a healthy and intelligent citizenry would shape the future of our democratic nation, we are initiating pragmatic efforts in national health development and the national education promotion.

Esteemed people,

As the nation develops, the international community respects our country and all its people more. Myanmar took over the chair of ASEAN from Brunei on 10 October, 2013. Chairing ASEAN is a major duty for Myanmar on the international stage. As it is a proof of confidence in the country’s political process and political developments, the duty is proudly assumed. The onus is on all national brethren to develop the nation as there are sound foundations for development.

Esteemed people,

To develop a peaceful, modern democratic nation, I hereby urge all the national peoples to implement the following 66th Anniversary Independence Day objectives dutifully and in harmony:

(1) living through thick and thin together in the Union;
(2) upholding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, and non-disintegration of sovereignty;
(3) participating in the peace process to end armed conflicts and ensure eternal peace;
(4) ensuring the peaceful, modern, discipline-flourishing democratic nation with the power of the people.
The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has conferred religious titles on the following donors of the Four Essentials to the Buddha—Kammathana Instructor Sayadaws, Mobile Dhamma yatti Lecturer Sayadaws, Vipassanadhura Patipatti Sayadaws, and Mobile Dhamma Patipatti Sayadaws, and has conferred religious titles on the following donors of the Four Essentials to the Buddha—Kammathana Instructor Sayadaws, Mobile Dhamma yatti Lecturer Sayadaws, Vipassanadhura Patipatti Sayadaws, and Mobile Dhamma Patipatti Sayadaws.

Agga Maha Pandalta Titile

1. Bhaddanta Nandasen Dhinindukha, Soe Monastery, Mon State
2. Bhaddanta Daw Dhammarat, Hinthada, Sittwe, Rakhine
3. Bhaddanta Wadda Magha, Kyaungmon, Mawlamyine, Mon State
4. Bhaddanta Daw Dhammarat, Hinthada, Sittwe, Rakhine
5. Bhaddanta Nandasen Dhinindukha, Soe Monastery, Mon State
6. Bhaddanta Daw Dhammarat, Hinthada, Sittwe, Rakhine
7. Bhaddanta Nandasen Dhinindukha, Soe Monastery, Mon State
8. Bhaddanta Wadda Magha, Kyaungmon, Mawlamyine, Mon State
9. Bhaddanta Nandasen Dhinindukha, Soe Monastery, Mon State
10. Bhaddanta Wadda Magha, Kyaungmon, Mawlamyine, Mon State

New light of Myanmar

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Notification No. 1/2014

4th Waving of Pyatho, 1375 ME

(4th January 2014)

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10. Bhaddanta Nandasen Dhinindukha, Soe Monastery, Mon State
Afghan president meets visiting US senators

KABUL, 3 January — Afghan president Hamid Karzai on Thursday met with the visiting US senators in the country’s Presidential Palace.

“President Hamid Karzai met with Senator John McCain, Senator Lindsey Graham and Senator John Barrasso in Arg this afternoon,” the presidential palace said in a statement.

The two sides discussed the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between Afghanistan and the United States, the matters about Bagram detention centre, and the situation in the region, the statement noted. In regards with the BSA, Karzai told the visiting delegation that the Afghans want to sign the BSA with the United States but they want to be assured that their demands are met and that the agreement brings peace and stability for the country, the statement said. The Afghan government in the past said that the United States must put an immediate end to military raids on Afghan homes and return nearly two dozen of Afghans held by US in Guantanamo base to the Afghan side before it would sign the accord.

Local analysts said if the two countries fail to reach the deal which governs the presence of US troops after 2014 pullout of the NATO-led forces, the United States will consider the complete withdrawal of troops, similar to the pull-out of US troops from Iraq two years ago.

Regarding the Bagram prison, which was handed over to the Afghan army in early last year, the Afghan leader said that the innocent prisoners would be released in accordance with the Afghan laws and perpetrators would be prosecuted and punished. Over the past one week, more than 650 Taliban inmates were released by a joint team set up by the government from Bagram prison, local media reported. —Xinhua

State of emergency declared in New York State ahead of winter storm

NEW YORK, 3 January — New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo on Thursday declared a statewide state of emergency as a major winter storm has already started to bring heavy snow, sub-zero temperatures and high winds across New York State. A state of emergency mobilizes resources to local governments that otherwise are restricted to state use only and allows the Governor to suspend laws and regulations that would impede rapid response.

The governor urged New Yorkers to avoid travelling and stay inside their homes until the worst of the storm has passed. “As this winter storm unfolds, bringing heavy snow and high winds to many parts of the state, I strongly urge all New Yorkers to exercise caution, avoid travel, and stay indoors,” Cuomo said.

The four New York City airports are open, but airlines are operating on a significantly reduced schedule, with more than 412 flights cancelled as of mid-afternoon. Crews are applying anti-icing chemicals to runways and taxiways to keep them free of ice, said the Governor’s Office.

In the event that some travelers become stranded, airport personnel are preparing cots, blankets and other essentials to assist customers. All air travelers are urged to check with their carriers before traveling to the airport. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority advises customers that cold temperatures and blowing snow may require suspension of some portions of the region’s bus and commuter train operations, in order to protect customers and employees.

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and New York Thruway Authority said plows are available statewide to clear snow and treat roads with salt and are sending additional plows to assist with snow operations in Long Island.

The workers are among 350,000 on strike, demanding higher pay.

Military police spokesman Kheng Tito said only one was killed and several were wounded.

Fire near JR station suspends shinkansen bullet train services

TOKYO, 3 January — New Year holiday travelers were affected on Friday as Tokaido Shinkansen bullet trains connecting Tokyo and western Japan cities were suspended for around five hours due to a fire along the railway in central Tokyo, operator Central Japan Railway Co said.

The fire broke out in a building near JR Yurakucho Station at around 6:35 am and extended to three other buildings nearby, prompting firefighters to deploy more than 50 fire engines.

It also burned transmission cables of East Japan Railway Co, which operates railway services in the Tokaido Shinkansen.

While the shinkansen operations were resumed shortly before noon, many passengers were stranded at each station before the “return rush” peaked in the afternoon, when reserved seats for shinkansen trains were all mostly fully booked, according to JR Central.

At Nagoya Station, Hiroto Yamada, a 32-year-old office worker who had planned to visit his wife’s family in Yamaguchi Prefecture, said, “As we were concerned about the health of our 1-year-old child amid this crush, we’re postponed our departure to tomorrow.”

At Shin-Osaka Station, a 42-year-old man who visitted Osaka with his family, said, “We hope we can return home by tonight because my wife needs to work tomorrow.”

The fire did not cause any injuries, according to firefighters. In the metropolitan area, meanwhile, the Yamanote Line was entirely suspended, and the Keihin-Tohoku and Tokaido lines were partially suspended due to the fire, before resuming operation by 1 pm, according to JR East.

A total of 125 trains were suspended, affecting 270,000 people.

Latvia becomes 18th eurozone country

BRUSSELS, 3 January— Latvia became the 18th eurozone country Wednesday in a manner to help the eurozone restore confidence after being pushed to the brink of collapse on the sovereign debt crisis.

Its joining the eurozone has a political effect that demonstrates the euro as still attractive even after the crisis, an analyst said.

Latvia is the first new eurozone member in three years to merge into the eurozone area, one of the three Baltic countries, introduced the euro in January 2011. Lithuania is seeking to become the last Baltic country to join the eurozone in 2015.


Ex-finance minister wins disputed Madagascar votes

ANTANANARIVO, 3 January — Former Finance Minister Hery Rajaonarimampianina won Madagascar’s run-off presidential election, the electoral commission (CENIT) said on Friday, but his main rival claimed the vote was rigged.

CENIT leader Beatrice Atallah said Rajaonarimampianina, the candidate backed by President Andry Rajoelina who ousted his predecessor in a coup in 2012, was declared the winner by a margin of 46.5 percent but has driven out investors cut airflows and sharply slowed the economy.

A disputed result could prolong the malaise on the politically volatile Indian Ocean island and delay restoring the external budget support needed to drive public spending and boost anemic growth. —Reuters

Cambodian forces open fire on protesters, at least three dead

PHNOM PENH, 3 January — At least three people were killed on Friday when Cambodian military police opened fire to try to quell a protest by garment factory workers, two witnesses said.

Two human rights workers who witnessed the chaos said three or four protesters had been killed as security forces armed with assault rifles and pistols shot at demonstrators who hurled rocks, bottles and petrol bombs outside a factory in the capital, Phnom Penh.

The workers are among 125,000 on strike, demanding higher pay.

Military police spokesman Kheng Tito said only one was killed and several were wounded.

A total of 125 trains were suspended, affecting 270,000 people.

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Panama presses Spain and Italy to resolve canal cost row

The consortium, known as Grupo Undos por el Canal, said the Panaman Canal Authority (PCA) had 21 days to respond to its demands during which work would continue, but the project would be suspended if that requirement was not met.

Just a few hours later, the PCA rejected the demand, hinting it could find others to complete the job. Shares in Sacyr, which heads the consortium, slumped 9 percent on Thursday.

Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli accused the companies of “greet ir-responsibility” and said they had endangered the massive construction project, which has been a major driver of the Central American nation’s economy.

Martinelli, who took power in 2009, said he expected Panama and Spain to uphold commitments to back the project which the countries’ leaders made to him during his first year in office.

“So I’m going to go to Spain and Italy to demand this from them, because a company should not be able to put such a high amount of overrun costs on a project that belongs to humanity,” he told reporters in Panama City.

Reuters

Death toll rises to Six in Beirut bombing

BEIRUT, 3 Jan — The casualties in a car bomb explosion in Bir El Abd neighbourhood in the southern suburbs of Beirut on Thursday rose to six killed at least and more than 70 injured, the health ministry said.

De Nul and Panama’s Constructora Urbana — said on Wednesday that $1.6 billion in cost overruns on the $3.2 billion plan to build a third set of locks for the canal should be met by Panama.

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Reuters

Female priest serves for temple in Nara for 5 decades

The Lebanese army said in a statement that the car bomb detonated at about 4:10 pm. local time (1210 GMT) in Haret al-Abd, near Haret Har拔, at about 4:10 pm. local time.

The statement added that the explosion was caused by a 20-km bomb placed within a SUV.

“It is a peaceful person in the world as I am allowed to live each day in the arms of the Buddha,” said the 83-year-old woman, who has served at the temple since 1961.

She recently compiled a photo book about her life at the temple known as a Buddhist statue designated as a national treasure. She said she hoped the photo collection, which is not for sale, will serve as “a useful reference to those who are destined to serve at temples” in the future.

Hinonishi Koston, whose grandfather was chamberlain to Emperor Mutsuhito in the Meiji era, said she had no hesitation to become a priest for the temple which has been served by daughters of the imperial

Finance

Pope Francis draws 6.6 million for Mass, other events at Vatican

ROME, 3 Jan — Pope Francis drew more than 6.6 million people for Mass and other papal events at the Vatican since his election in March 2013, Vatican Radio said, quoting figures released by the Pontifical Household on Thursday.

The sum is more than double the around 2.3 million attendances in the whole of 2012 for his predecessor Benedict XVI, according to Reuters news service, pointing to the strong popularity of the new pope.

Reuters

Chinese icebreaker stuck after helping in Antarctic rescue

The Snow Dragon, after helping in an icebreaker “roller-coaster” rescue operation, had helped rescue 52 passengers from a Russian ship stranded in Antarctic ice found itself stuck in heavy ice on Friday, further complicating the 9-day “roller-coaster” rescue operation.

The Snow Dragon had ferried the passengers from the stranded Russian ship to an Australian icebreaker late on Thursday. It now had concerns about its own ability to move through heavy ice.

The rescue, delayed due to weather and ice conditions, took around five hours to complete. It had been a “roller-coaster” rescue, said Greg Mortimer, one of three expedition leaders on the Akademik Shokalskiy.

Reuters

Sydney, 3 Jan — A Chinese icebreaker that helped rescue 52 passengers from a Russian ship stranded in Antarctic ice found itself stuck in heavy ice on Friday, further complicating the 9-day “roller-coaster” rescue operation.

The Xue Long (Snow Dragon) Chinese icebreaker, as seen from Australia’s Antarctic supply ship, the Aurora Australis, sits in an ice pack unable to get through to the MV Akademik Shokalskiy, in East Antarctica, some 100 nautical miles (185 km) east of French Antarctic station Dumont D’Urville and about 1,500 nautical miles (2,900 km) south of Hobart, Tasmania, on 2 Jan, 2014, in this handout courtesy of Fairfax’s Australian Antarctic Division.

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Reuters
China continues to support all peaceful efforts towards resolving crisis in South Sudan

ADDIS ABABA, 3 Jan — China likes to share its traditional wisdom of resolving conflicts towards peaceful resolution of the crisis in South Sudan, said Zhong Jianhua, Chinese Special Representative for African Affairs.

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua on Thursday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Special Representative said being concerned with the situation in South Sudan, China supports all peaceful efforts to resolve the crisis in that country.

"The purpose is to understand the situation; to show our concern and show our support for all the reconciliation efforts. So, I came here also to listen to the Ethiopian government, listen to AU, and also I heard that talks could be started here for both sides in South Sudan," he said.

"All the important country, in this area, all involve in the efforts to push for peaceful solution for this conflict. It is quite comprehensive visit for me, he said. Emphasizing that African problem must be resolved by African people, the Special Representative noted that China is keen to share its wisdom of solving conflicts to help Africans solve their problems in African way.

"And we show that we will be happy to be mediator. If any party has any message to want to bring to the other side, as long as it is towards a peaceful solution, we would be happy to do that. And of course, we have admitted that this is an African problem; it must be solved by the African people in African way. We fully respect that," he said.

The Special Representative underscored the need to have collective efforts for peaceful solution for the crisis and reconciliation in that country.

"All efforts are needed: all efforts are necessary. I think in this crisis, we need every party to join us, to join them, to push for peaceful solution; all are very, very necessary," he said.

The Special Representative also revealed that China is happy to work with others towards peaceful resolution of the crisis in South Sudan.

"We put forward our wish to meet with anyone who wants to meet with us. I think, we have been very warm welcome by all parties, all countries necessary. And as long as we can have our message be channeled to the parties we are satisfied," said the Special Representative.

Cyprus radio mistakenly airs New Year message from ex-president

NICOSIA, 3 Jan — Cypriot state radio publicly apologized on Thursday for inadvertently broadcasting the opening remarks of a New Year’s message from the country’s former president in the place of a message by current President Nicos Anastasiades.

The Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC), which runs both television and radio broadcasts, said in its apology that the mistake was realized within seconds early in the night of 31 December, 2013, and the transmission was halted. CyBC said in a statement that it was a “very serious” one and an inquiry was ordered to ascertain the cause.

CyBC sources dismissed allegations of foul play and said the erroneous message from former president Demetris Christofias was stopped within seconds. The message dated back to 2009. The error was spotted by listeners who poked fun at CyBC on social networks.

According to CyBC sources, the message was broadcast by mistake because a radio presenter clicked on the wrong heading of an item. They said that the old message, which should have been removed a long time ago, was erroneously left on the broadcast computer. Christofias did not contest re-election and was succeeded by Anastasiades who won the election in February 2013.

Algeria condemns Beirut bombing

ALGIERS, 3 Jan — The Algerian government on Thursday strongly condemned the deadly bomb attack that shook the Lebanese capital of Beirut, which left six killed and more than 70 others injured, APS news agency reported.

“Algeria strongly condemns the suicide car bomb that targeted on Thursday the southern suburbs of Beirut. While reaffirming full solidarity with the Lebanese government and people, Algeria extends condolences to the families of the victims, “ APS news agency quoted the Foreign Minister’s spokesman Aamar Belazi as saying.

Slovenian ex-president Turk bids for UN Secretary

LJUBLJANA, 3 Jan — Former Slovenian president Danilo Turk won on Thursday the approval of the cabinet to bid for the 2017-2021 post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Turk will have “adequate support” from the government during his candidacy for the top post of the Special Representative for peaceful resolution of the South Sudan, Xinhua Government Communication Office said in a Press release.

Turk, born in February 1952, served as Slovenia’s ambassador between 1992 and 2000, and then as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs from 2000 to 2005. He became president of Slovenia in December 2007, and held the presidency until the end of 2012.

Under the UN Charter, candidates for UN Secretary-General are put forward by geographical groups rather than individual countries.

The United Nations consists of five regional groups — Western European and Others, Eastern European Group, Latin American and Caribbean Group, Asia-Pacific Group, and African Group.

Unlike its counterparts that has at least one person elected as UN Secretary-General since the founding of the United Nations in October 1945, East European group has never had a Secretary-General in the global body before.

The incumbent UN Secretary-General is Ban Ki-moon of South Korea, who took office on 1 Jan. 2007. The five-year term is due to expire on 31 December, 2016. UN Secretary-General serves for five-year term that can be renewed indefinitely, although none so far has held office for more than two terms.

Commander of DR Congo forces killed

KINSHASA, 3 Jan — Colonel Mamadou Ndala, commander of military operations of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC), was killed on Thursday in an ambush by members of the ADF-Nalu, minister of media and spokesperson of the government told Xinhua. "Colonel Mamadou Ndala was killed; it is true," spokesman Lambert Mende said in a sad tone. He added that "these are ADF- Nalu who killed with two of his bodyguards. This is truly a great loss for the Armed Forces and the Republic."

Mende said that Colonel Ndala was on the way to Entebbi for the deployment of a battalion of commandos when his jeep was ambushed.

"According to a military source, five FARDC soldiers were seriously wounded in an ambush by the Ugandan rebel ADF-Nalu, before being taken to hospital Beni. According to the security manager of the UN Mission for Stabilization of Congo (MONUSCO), there is a high concentration of ADF-NALU rebels in the area where the colonel Ndala was killed."
**World manufacturing ends 2013 on a strong note**

**NEW YORK/LONDON/BEIJING, 3 Jan — Global manufacturing ended 2013 on a strong note, as major exporters like the United States, Japan and Germany all saw demand pick up, although China’s performance remained modest, surveys showed on Thursday.**

Years of loose monetary policy, along with soaring stock markets, appear to be bolstering economic confidence. That bodes well for a global economy that has struggled to shake off the effects of financial crisis and recession.

China’s growth rate fell to a three-month low, though the index was still above the 50 mark that indicates expansion. Weakness in global equity markets was blamed in part on the Chinese data, though markets were also taking a breather from recent gains.

US manufacturing activity grew in December at its swiftest pace in 11 months and the rate of job growth was the strongest since March, according to Markit’s Purchasing Managers’ Index.

Other US economic figures, including construction spending and the Institute for Supply Management’s purchasing managers’ survey, also pointed to steady gains in the world’s largest economy.

“We have had a whole string of strong ISM numbers. This is a gauge of sentiment and sentiment is improving,” said Scott Brown, chief economist with Raymond James in St Petersburg, Florida.

“Europe has turned the corner. It’s not contracting at least. The emerging markets are doing better. We are looking for growth to pick up once again in the new year and we have few headwinds to deal with, especially less fiscal drag.” The US Institute for Supply Management’s manufacturing PMI index dipped slightly to 57 from 57.3 in December, thanks to improved new orders and output. Euro zone manufacturing grew at the fastest rate since mid-2011 in December on brisk business in Germany and Italy. Markit Purchasing Managers’ Indices (PMIs) showed.

Add in the fastest growth in 7 1/2 years for Japanese manufacturing and no major slowdown in Chinese manufacturing output, and the stage is set for a solid start to the year.

“Looking ahead, the hope for the euro zone is that recent improved confidence will encourage businesses to lift their employment and investment plans as 2014 progresses, and will also encourage consumers to spend more,” said Howard Archer, the chief European and UK economist at IHS Global In-sight.—**Reuters**

**Asia shares roiled by risk aversion; yen rallies**

**SYDNEY, 3 Jan—Asian share markets were under water Friday, following a sudden reversal in very some popular, and thus crowded, trades sparked a bout of global risk aversion.**

The net result was a pullback in the euro, sterling, and stocks and a bounce for the yen, gold and bonds. Oil prices had also taken a spill, though for purely idiosyn-cratic reasons.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan shed 1 percent, with markets from Shanghai to Sydney all in the red.

The various moves seem to have been pulled from a sudden news flow, which was most likely upbeat with global manufacturing ending 2013 on a strong note as the United States, Japan and Germany all saw demand pick up.

The fly in the ointment was China where a measure of activity in the services sector eased back in December, just as one for manufacturing had on Thursday.

Electricians assemble a new Porsche 918-Spyder sports car at the production line of the German car manufacturer’s plant in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen on 2 July, 2013. **REUTERS**

**UK lawmakers criticize govt’s stockpiling of Roche drug Tamiflu**

**LONDON, 3 Jan — British lawmakers on Friday criticized government spending of 424 million pounds ($702 million) to stockpile Roche’s medicine Tamiflu, saying doubts about the drug’s effectiveness suggest it may not be money well spent.**

Parliament’s influential Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said it was “unimpressed and concerned” to discover that information on methods and results of clinical trials of the drug prescribed for influenza “had not routinely withheld”, and said there was a “lack of consensus over how well Tamiflu … actually works”.

“The case for stockpiling antiviral medicines at the current level is based on judgment rather than on evidence of their effectiveness during an influenza pandemic,” said Richard Bacon, a leading member of the committee.

He added that as well as spending more than 420 million pounds on stockpiling Tamiflu, an antiviral medicine, the Department of Health was forced to write off 74 million pounds of that as a result of poor record keeping, by the National Health Service.

“Before spending money in future to maintain the stockpile the (health) department needs to review what level of coverage is appropriate,” he said. Tamiflu has been approved by regulators worldwide and is stockpiled by many governments in case of a global flu outbreak.

Sales of the drug hit close to $3 billion in 2009, due to the H1N1 swine flu pandemic, although they have since declined.

But some researchers claim there is little evidence Tamiflu works, and have lob-bied since 2009 for Swiss drugmaker Roche to hand over all its data from clini-cal trials of the medicine. After a lengthy fight, Roche agreed last year that it would hand over the data to outside researchers at the Cochrane Collaboration, a non-profit group that reviews trial data to assess the value of drugs. —**Reuters**

**Relapse of ‘cured’ HIV patients spurs AIDS science on**

**LONDON, 3 Jan — Scientists seeking a cure for AIDS say they have been inspired, not crushed, by a major setback in which two HIV positive patients believed to have been cured found the virus re-invading their bodies once more.**

True, the news hit hard last month that the so-called “Boston patients” — two men who received bone marrow transplants that appeared to rid them completely of the AIDS-causing virus had relapsed and gone back onto antiretroviral treatment.

But experts say the disappointment could lay the basis for important leaps forward in the search for a cure. “It’s a setback for the patients, of course, but an advance for the field because the field has now gained a lot more knowl-edge,” said Steven Deeks, a professor from Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital, to announce at a conference in July that they may have been cured. —**Reuters**

**A pedestrian looks at an electronic board displaying various countries’ stock market indices outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 24 Dec, 2013.** —**REUTERS**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Saturday, 4 January, 2014**

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**3 Jan—Asian, 3 Jan — 6 New Light of Myanmar**
Ride service Uber, brash darling of Silicon Valley, stalks new markets

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 3 Jan —** Uber Chief Executive Travis Kalanick knows the value of a good controversy. After his startup company, which lets people summon rides at the touch of a smartphone button, provoked a flurry of social media outrage in December over pricing policies that can result in exorbitant fares, Kalanick addressed prospective New Year’s Eve customers.

“If you absolutely need a ride between 1 and 3 am, Uber will be very reliable.” Kalanick said in a YouTube video. “But it will be a pricey ride, and you just have to accept that.” The company’s pricing policies can sometimes result in fares that are eight times higher than usual. Like the message or not, plenty of people heard it — and fewer complaints emerged about Uber’s New Year’s Eve rates.

Kalanick has taken a similarly tough tack with regulators, local officials, taxi-company foes and emerging competitors as he moves to build Uber into a global force.

But it will take a lot more than a popular smartphone app, a loyal Silicon Valley following and a knack for turning free-market ideology into publicity to fulfill Kalanick’s vision of a “lifestyle and logistics” company that delivers far more than rides.

Uber has entered more than 60 markets, ranging from its hometown of San Francisco to Berlin to Tokyo. Leaked financials in December indicate that the company, which began connecting passengers with drivers of vehicles for hire about 3-1/2 years ago, is generating $200 million a year in revenue beyond what it pays to drivers.

Investors, led by Google Inc’s Google Ventures, have given Uber around $400 million and valued it at $3.5 billion. With a service that stitches together the buzziest categories in entrepreneurship — among them mapping, smartphone apps, and local services — Uber is widely seen as one of the hottest properties in Silicon Valley.

**China’s Xiaomi says to more than double smartphone sales in 2014**

Beijing, 3 Jan — Chinese budget smartphone maker Xiaomi plans to sell double the number of phones in 2014, more than double the number it sold in 2013, its chairman said on Thursday, reinforcing the company’s ambitions to outsell more expensive offerings from Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

Lei Jun, who is also co-founder of the tech firm, made the projection on Sina Weibo, China’s most widely used microblogging site, and it was reported on Xio-

am’s website.

“We again promise, we will at least supply 40 million phones in 2014,” he wrote. China is the world’s biggest market for smartphones.

Lei said privately held Xiaomi had sold 18.7 million smartphones in 2013, a 160 percent increase from 2012, and that sales revenues, including taxes, rose 150 percent to 31.6 billion yuan ($5.22 billion).

Xiaomi’s sales growth far exceeds projections for the global smartphone market, which is seen expanding at an annual rate of 18 percent a year until 2016, according to research firm Canalys.

Xiaomi’s cheap yet sleek phones are popular in China, where Samsung Electronics remains the market leader. Xiaomi’s handsets sell for between $130 and $410, much lower than the $740 price tag for the least expensive iPhone 5C model or a Samsung Galaxy Note II, which can retail for $570.

Xiaomi even managed to briefly rank sixth by market share in the second quarter of 2013, one notch above Apple.

Apple is poised to boost its sales in China after it signed last month a deal with China Mobile Ltd, the world’s largest mobile carrier by subscriber numbers. The deal could generate $3 billion in revenue in 2014 for the US firm.

**FireEye buys cyber forensics firm Mandiant for about $1 billion**

Boston, 3 Jan — Cybersecurity company FireEye Inc has acquired Mandiant Corp, the computer forensics specialist best known for uncovering a secrete Chinese military unit believed to be behind a series of hacking attacks on US companies.

FireEye shares jumped more than 20 percent after Thursday’s announce-

ment of the $1.05 billion cash-and-stock deal, which FireEye said closed on Monday. It unites two companies with relatively new technologies for thwarting cyber attacks, and brings together two of the most-respected executives in the security industry: FireEye CEO Dave DeWalt and Mandiant’s founder Kevin Mandia.

While sales of older anti-virus products have been on the decline, security experts expect strong growth in both FireEye’s cloud-based systems for detecting malicious software and Mandiant’s software that analyzes cyber attacks.

About a year ago the two companies entered into a technology development agreement that made it easier to deploy their products together. With the merger, FireEye will gain Mandiant’s team of forensics investigators.

“They have these very strong Navy ‘cyber’ Seals who respond to breaches and are very good at what they do,” DeWalt said about Mandiant. He had previously served as chairman of Mandiant’s board.

“My aim is to create the strongest security company in the world,” DeWalt said in an interview.

FireEye, which has yet to post a profit, said the acquisition will be immedi-

ately accretive to earnings and expects the combined company’s revenue to grow about 50 percent this year.

In comparison, Symantec Corp, the biggest maker of anti-virus software, has said it expects fiscal 2014 revenue to drop 5 percent to 4 percent.

Mandiant is best known for its forensic services. The company rose to prominence in Febru-

ary 2013 when it published a report detailing what it termed a major cyberattack by a Chinese military unit of the People’s Liberation Army and a long list of attacks on US companies. Beijing denied all allegations in the report.

“ariously,” Lansdorp said. “You have always wanted to be on Mars in order to appear in your own children’s textbooks. If you are going to go, you need a reason.”

If you “still faces daunting regulatory hurdles that have left it shut out of major markets such as Mi-

ami. Lawsuits, many from taxi companies, are piling up. Competitors such as Hailo, Sidecar and Lyft are coming on strong. And aside from publicity stunts involving delivery of ki-

tons, ice cream and Christmas trees, Uber has yet to provide anything beyond rides. Delays can “become an extremely complex thing,” said Kerry Rice, a digital media analyst at Needham. “It’s about the scheduling and the software and the ability to manage a fleet.” — Reuters

**Over a thousand candidates shortlisted for life on Mars**

The 1,058 candidates who got through to the first round come from all over the world. By far the largest number - 297 - are Americ-

ans, followed by 75 Canadian and 62 Indians.

They must now undergo rigorous tests, including simulations of life on Mars through camping with isolation, co-founder Bas Lansdorp said.

“The challenge with 200,000 applicants is sepa-

rating those who we feel are physically and mentally apt to become human ambassadors on Mars from those who are only looking for a mission much less seriously,” Lansdorp said.— Reuters

**New Light of Myanmar**

Saturday, 4 January, 2014
Sixty-six years on

Sixty-six years ago, 4:20 a.m. 4 January. Deep was the darkness in the cold morning, but it was just the darkest hour before the dawn in Myanmar. The entire people of Myanmar passed a sleepless night on 3 January 1948, being eager to witness the would-be historic moment of themselves and their motherland. It was completely dark in the streets, but glittering hopes were flaring up in their hearts.

At 4:20 a.m. on that 4 January, Myanmar people shed emotional tears as the Union Jack was lowered and Myanmar’s own national flag was run up the flagpole. For more than a century, they had waited for that day to free themselves from the yoke of colonial rule and to walk with their heads held high on their own soil.

Since then, Independence Day is celebrated annually in Myanmar. Writers give talks and newspapers feature articles and editorials on how important it is to preserve independence on this red-letter day. There also are games, shows and fairs as part of Independence Day celebrations.

But, has anyone seriously thought about the essence of independence?

Independence is like health; people do not know its value until it is lost. Again, it is as fragile as life. It can shatter all of a sudden. However, the overwhelming majority of Myanmar’s population today was born after independence and therefore don’t understand how bitter being subjected tastes.

Countless numbers of lives and limbs, innumerable drops of blood and immeasurable miseries—the price of independence was high.

But, is this hard-won independence real?

National brethren were united against colonial rule, but have then turned into foes in reconstruction of the nation. The lingering internal armed conflicts born with independence have claimed as many innocent lives as, or perhaps even more, than the independence struggle did.

Sixty-six years on, people are still fleeing for their lives.

Sixty-six years on, people are still fighting for their land.

Sixty-six years on, people are still searching for “a sense of security.”

Sixty-six years on ...

Final Sepak Takraw match concludes in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—The Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw tournament to mark the 66th Anniversary Independence Day took place at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium-3 here this morning.

In the final, the team representing the Ministry of Transport won over the team representing the Ministry of Construction while the team representing the Ministry of Home Affairs stood third after defeating the team representing the Ministry of Industry.

The prize presentation ceremony will be held tomorrow at the same venue.

Pipelines extension provides drinking water for Gangaw residents

GANGAW, 3 Jan—A ceremony to extend pipelines to deliver river water took place in Shoneshi Village in Gangaw Township yesterday as part of efforts for marking the 66th Anniversary Independence Day.

The extension work was financed with K 3 million from the Magway Region Government and K 10 million in local contributions.

The extended pipelines will bring easy access to safe drinking water for the local residents.

Local youth, students take part in campaign to save star tortoises

NATOGYI, 3 Jan—Forsters at the Mt. Minn Sone Wildlife Sanctuary, with the help of the Wildlife Conservation Society, are moving to protect star tortoises, which can each fetch up to US$ 20,000 on the international black market.

They have been giving educative talks to students and youth in Natogyi Township in the Mandalay Region and volunteers in 13 nearby villages are joining in the conservation project.

Star tortoises face a threat to their very existence overall and because of illegal exports they are already near extinction in the township.

Officials concerned are also launching a campaign to provide the endangered tortoises with a safe haven in the sanctuary and the Forest Department, working with the local youth and students, is increasing colonies of star tortoises in the region and raising awareness among the local people of the threat to tortoises.

Only cooperation will allow ... (from page 16)

Tarikao competitions that kicked off yesterday at a local school. It is tradition in Myanmar townships to mark Independence Day with street games such as Chinlong, a cane ball game, boxing and Chawtaingtetpwe, traditional pole climbing.

Tatkon Township marks Independence Day with sports events

TATKON, 3 Jan—As Myanmar marks the 66th anniversary of its independence from Britain today, Tatkon Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area has organized a number of sports events to celebrate.

Saya San Ward will continue holding Sepak Takraw competitions that kicked off yesterday at a local school. It is tradition in Myanmar townships to mark Independence Day with street games such as Chinlong, a cane ball game, boxing and Chawtaingtetpwe, traditional pole climbing.

Tatkon Township IPRD

Passport office opens in Haka

NA YA N G L E B I N, 3 Jan—As Myanmar Passport Issuing Office (Section) was launched in Haka in Chin State yesterday.

The branch has been established with a view to enabling accommodation and food for the people in Chin State without much cost.

Applying for a passport will cost K 25,000, inclusive charge Police Captain San Oo said.

He said it takes about 10 days to get a passport and reiterated that the new office will best the services for the convenience of the local people.

Plans are also underway to open similar branches in other states and regions.

Haka IPRD

Nyaunglebin gets new street

NYAUNG LEBIN, 3 Jan—To mark the 66th Anniversary Independence Day, a 4th street paved with gravel opened in Minte Ward, DaikU Township yesterday.

The 985-foot long street passes through Kyunson, Bamakungyon, Shankyungon, Okawin, Htetuikepak, Palakekwn and Pympone villages and will become main route for better transportation for the villagers. Resurfacing of the street was supervised by the DaikU Township Development Committee.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Tin Myint and Township Administrator MMAL-Khine Than Swe (101)

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Haka IPRD

ribbon to open the street. Department officials, residents of Minde Ward and members of social organizations attended the ceremony.

Nay Linn (Nyaunglebin)

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Nay Linn (Nyaunglebin)
**LOCAL NEWS**

**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

**66th Anniversary Independence Day 2014**

ASEAN Summits and related meetings will be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (1), Nay Pyi Taw

Photo: Kyaw Swe Moe (IPRD)

**Rare books donated to new village library in Kachin State**

MOHNYIN, 3 Jan—Rare books on history, literature and culture of Myanmar have been donated to a library in Mohnyin Township in Kachin State.

The Abbot of the monastery Bhaddanta Nandyia received the books on 30 December from a private donor on behalf of the Bawa Uyin Library which is located in the vicinity of the monastery.

The 850 books were printed in Myanmar from the 1960s to 1980s.—NLM-001

**New road to link 17 villages in northwest Myanmar**

KALAY, 3 Jan—A new road is under construction that will link 17 villages in the Kalay Township of the Sagaing Region in northwest Myanmar. Officials from the Kalay District Management Committee and the Rural Development Department inspected on 29 December the construction work met with local people.

Upon completion, the road will be eight miles long and benefit 17 villages on the eastern bank of the Myittha River in Kalay Township. It is being constructed by Htet Nay Lin Co in line with the instructions of the Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye. The villages that will be connected include Udu, Kinpanchon, Pauktaw, Indin, Shadaw, Hsnywa, Kokko, Yayshin and Mandar.

**Historic pagoda built on Independence Day has become tourist magnet**

SAGAING, 3 Jan—As Myanmar celebrates Independence Day today, one sight in the Mingun region gets special attention as it was built on the same day the country declared independence from Britain.

Pya Daw Hein Lutlatay Datu Pagoda located on Momeik Hill in Sagaing Township was built by a monk and over 60 disciples in the night from the 3rd to the 4th of January 1948, with the umbrella of the 14-feet high pagoda hoisted atop at 4.20 a.m. on 4 January when Myanmar regained Independence.

The pagoda which turns 66 today has in recent years attracted more and more visitors and pilgrims as the Mingun region is famous for its ancient cultural sites. Other places of interest in the area include the Mingon Stupa, Mingon Bell, Lion Statues, Myatheindan Pagoda, Settawya Pagoda, Momeik Hill and Dhammananda Monastery.

**Mohnyin officials urge calm as township elects reps for Myanmar’s general election**

MOHNYIN, 3 Jan—Officials in Mohnyin township have clarified that each township in Myanmar can only elect two representatives for next year’s general election, following protests by several township sub-committees that demand the election of their members.

Each political party is allowed to display one election poster in each village-tract, explained U Di Sim Ram, Chairman of the Mohnyin District Election Sub-committee in a meeting with political party members on 30 December. He added that according to the constitution, representatives cannot be elected on a sub-township level. Following the protest by several township sub-committees demanding their representatives should be able to run, District Law Officer U Bo Wai Lwin urged them to remain calm and abide by the law.

Among the protesters were members of the sub-committees from Mohnyin, Mogaung and Phakant Townships.

**Monywa University welcomes freshman students**

MONYWA, 3 Jan—Monywa University has welcomed freshman students of the 2013-14 academic year with an official ceremony. The rector and other staff made speeches to welcome the students and explained matters related to the science subjects taught at the university. Registrar U San Win Hlaing clarified academic affairs and faculty members were introduced to the new students. The ceremony was held at the convocation hall of Monywa University on 30 December.—Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

**Course for Buddhist culture instructors kicks off in Kayin State**

MOYAWADY, 3 Jan—A course for people interested in teaching Buddhist culture has started in Myawady in Kayin State.

The first batch of instructors has been taught since 25 December, organizers said.

The course is under the supervision of township education officials and instructor Daw Nu Nu Khin from the Yangon Dhamma Byuha Sasa Na Mamaka Association. A private donor has provided note books, stationery and textbooks for the trainees.

Tun Tun Oo (Moyawady)
Oil flow via pipeline starts from northern Iraq to Turkey

ANKARA, 3 Jan — Crude oil flow from northern Iraq to Turkey started via a new pipeline on Thursday, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said. The oil started to accumulate at the Turkish Mediterranean export hub of Ceyhan but will not be shipped to world markets without the consent of Iraqi government, Yildiz told reporters.

The minister said that oil flow through the pipeline would start at 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) and rise to 400,000, expressing his hope that a deal with Baghdad can be reached this month for exports to begin. Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan regional government signed six energy contracts last month on exploration and purchase of hydrocarbon resources.

Following Nechirvan’s visit, Turkey’s Foreign Ministry said that Ankara and Arbil had “agreed on some commercial deals” but had to finalize them and that Turkey would seek Baghdad’s cooperation on the issue. The agreement asked officials in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, which claims sole authority to manage Iraqi oil.

Baghdad said Iraqi Kurds’ efforts towards oil independence could lead to the breakup of Iraq. The Turkish energy minister paid a visit to Baghdad in December to brief the officials on the deals. In response to Baghdad’s concerns, Turkey has proposed a formula to both parties under which oil and gas money will be tied up at 30 percent to the Iraqi central government and 17 percent to the Kurds.

China urges US to ensure safety following consulate arson attack

BEIJING, 3 Jan — China on Thursday urged the United States to take “effective measures” to protect its diplomatic institutions and staff, and prevent similar incidents following an arson attack on a Chinese consulate-general.

“The Chinese Foreign Ministry and Embassy and Consulates to the United States have lodged solemn representations to the US side, demanding they solve the case as soon as possible and severely punish the culprit,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang. On Wednesday, a person got out of a minivan parked in front of the main entrance of the Chinese consulate-general in San Francisco, poured two buckets of gasoline onto the front door and set it on fire, severely damaging the door, but fortunately causing no casualties.

The Chinese side will release information in a timely manner as it becomes available, Qin said.

US ship to depart soon on chemical weapons mission to Mediterranean

PORTSMOUTH, (Virginia), 3 Jan — The US-owned cargo ship with the capability to destroy the nastiest of Syria’s chemical weapons will depart for the Mediterranean in about two weeks, officials said on Thursday as shipyard workers readied the vessel for new sea trials.

Forklifts moved equipment and spacecraft from the USS Topeka into a hangar that will be used to accommodate three times its normal complement of personnel, plus two hydrolysis units for destroying Syrian chemicals used in mustard and nerve gas weapons.

“Without this ship, this mission is not possible,” top Pentagon arms buyer Frank Kendall, who has oversight of chemical, biological and nuclear arms, told reporters who were invited to tour the vessel at dock in Portsmouth, Virginia.

“This avoids having to put these materials on somebody’s territory, where you have to deal with all the political and environmental conditions associated with doing that under local law,” he said.

Damascus agreed to eliminate its chemical weapons last year in the face of threatened US military action following a Syrian chemical attack against rebels and their supporters in a civil war aimed at overthrowing President Bashar al-Assad.

The United States had developed a portable machine for destroying chemical weapons precursors and offered to neutralize the portion of Syria’s agents that were too toxic to be dealt with directly by companies that process hazardous materials. Syria failed to meet the 31 December deadline for removing the chemical agents, but officials have noted that the time frame was always going to be challenging and arms control experts have said that safe handling of the materials is more important than doing it speedily.

Nigeria’s new year attack kills Two, injuring 12

LAGOS, 3 Jan — Unidentified gunmen on Wednesday attacked a group of youths in Nigeria’s central north Plateau State, killing two people and injuring 12 others, local police said on Thursday. Dominic Esin, the state’s police spokesperson, told reporters in the state capital of Jos, that some youths, who were dancing in a village square on Wednesday, were assaulted by the gunmen, leading to the death of two dancers and a score injured, who had been rushed to hospitals for treatment.

To hunt down the assailants, the police have stepped up patrol and surveillance in the area, where normalcy had been restored, Esin said. He also urged the public to provide the police with useful information that would lead to the arrest of the perpetrators.

Plaintiffs have filed suit on the dividing line between Nigeria’s mainly Christian south and predominantly Muslim north. Mostly Muslim herdsmen from the Fulani-Hausa ethnic group have been blamed for scores of attacks on mainly Christian agriculturists from the Berom ethnic community.

Korea, US to reopen defence cost-sharing talks next week

SEOUL, 3 Jan — South Korea and the United States will resume the 10th round of senior-level talks over how to share costs for the 28,500 US troops stationed here, after the prior nine rounds of talks failed to narrow differences between the two sides, local media reported on Friday.

The new round of negotiations for the five-year Special Measures Agreement (SMA) will be started on 9 January in Seoul and possibly last for four days, in a last-minute effort to make a final deal.

The two allies will decide how much South Korea will pay for the presence of the US Forces Korea (USFK) after the SMA expired earlier this week.

Seoul has reportedly offered to keep its payment share at 869.5 billion won ($820 million US dollars), but Washington has demanded a hike to around 1 trillion won considering what it called the increasing security threats from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

“We have yet to bridge our gaps. But we are pressured to wrap up the negotiations soon, given the many (rounds of) talks so far as well as the (need to) uphold the South Korea-US alliance,” Yonhap news agency quoted a Seoul government official as saying on condition of anonymity.

The first negotiation of this kind was held in July last year to revise the five-year SMA, while the latest round of talk collapsed at the end of 2013.

The United States faced growing financial burden to station its 28,500-strong forces in South Korea as Washington was hit hard by the partial government shutdown amid lackluster economic growth.

US President Barack Obama has sought a rebalancing towards the Asia-Pacific, but Washington asked its Asian allies such as South Korea and Japan to contribute more to its policy shift.

South Korea and the United States signed their first SMA in 1991. The latest deal was reached in 2008, with Seoul agreeing to pay 4.07 trillion won for the next five years through 2013.

Syria, Chemical Weapons Mission

The MV Cape Ray is seen before its deployment from the NASSCO-earl Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia, on 2 Jan, 2014. — Reuters

A resident walks in the ruins in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 2 Jan, 2014. Storms landed in part of Argentina and have lowered the temperature about 20 degrees Celsius. National Weather Service (SMN, for its acronym in Spanish) issued an alert for possible severe thunderstorms in Buenos Aires and five provinces of Argentina. — Xinhua
Scores missing as ferry sinks in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 3 Jan—A ferry travelling between two islands in eastern Indonesia sank early Friday with scores of people still missing, a search and rescue official said.

Lalu Wahyu Efendi, search and rescue coordinator in the West Nusa Tenggara provincial capital Mataram, told Kyodo News at least three people were found dead and 46 others survived after the ferry Munawar sank around 2 a.m. on its way from Lombok Island, next to Bali, to nearby Sumbawa Island.

How many people have gone missing, however, was not immediately clear. “I haven’t been able to confirm how many people were aboard when the ferry sank,” Lalu said.

Officials and media reports gave conflicting figures on the missing people, ranging from 11 to 40 people. The state-run news agency Antara even quoted passengers as saying the ferry was packed with about 150 people when it sank.

The reason the ferry sank is not yet known, although passengers told local media that leakage had caused the accident.

“The ferry leaned to the left, then the engine didn’t work and it sank.” Lalu quoted one of the witnesses as saying.

Ferries are a common form of public transportation in Indonesia, particularly in the eastern part of the archipelago, due to bad road conditions in some regions. Lack of adequate public sea transportation, as well as efforts to increase profits, however, prompt some shipping companies to let passengers and vehicles board already-packed ships and ferries.

Kyodo News

Indian PM rules out 3rd term in office

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday ruled out a third term in office, saying he will hand over the baton to a new prime minister after the upcoming general election in May.

He told a Press conference that he hopes the next prime minister will also come from the incumbent Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) instead of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The BJP prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi is campaigning strongly for the election. Singh also said that the Congress will soon nominate a PM candidate. The Congress lost in four key local legislative elections, including that of the capital region, late last year. BJP won all the elections.—Xinhua

Beijing to control vehicle pollution

BEIJING, 3 Jan—Beijing will extend its air quality monitoring network with more stations and focus on vehicles with high emission, confirmed the city environmental authority on Friday.

These stations will be along the fifth and sixth ring roads and other highways heading into the urban areas, the main routes of heavy diesel vehicles, said Zhang Dawei, director of the Beijing Municipal Environmental Monitoring Centre.

Beijing Municipal Environmental Monitoring Centre.

Truck bombing kills two in NW Bangladesh

DHAKA, 3 Jan — At least two people were dead and three others injured after a bomb was thrown at an onion-laden truck in a northwestern Bangladesh district on early Friday, the third day of Bangladesh opposition’s countryside non-stop blockade, police said.

“Charred bodies of the trucker and an onion trader were retrieved from inside the damaged vehicle,” the police official told Xinhua from Dinajpur District, some 338 km northwest of capital Dhaka.

As the truck caught fire, he said its driver lost control over the steering wheel. According to the police, the onion laden truck, bombed by pro-blockade activities, veered off the road and fell into the ditch at about 1:30 am (local time) on Friday.

On receipt of information, the police official said firefighters rushed to the scene and doused the fire. “Three more people were also injured in the incident,” he added.

Stray incidents of clash, arson, vandalism, explosion and detention were reported in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country as well as in the province of Sylhet.

The reason the ferry crashed, the official said, was not immediately clear. "Charred bodies of the trucker and an onion trader were retrieved from inside the damaged vehicle," police said.

The police official told Xinhua from Dinajpur District, some 338 km northwest of capital Dhaka.

Customers buy “lucky bags” at the flagship outlet of Kintetsu Department Store Co in Osaka’s Abeno Ward on 2 Jan, 2014. Major Japanese department stores kicked off business for 2014 that day.—Kyodo News

China tells police to be loyal to party amid graft crackdown

BEIJING, 3 Jan —China’s police chief wrote on Friday that his officers must uphold the leadership of the Communist Party and be loyal to it, as the government targets the domestic security apparatus in a crackdown on corruption.

Sources have told Reuters that China’s former security tsar, Zhou Yongkang, one of the most powerful politicians of the decade, has been put under effective house arrest while the party investigates corruption and allegations against him.

Last month, the government began a graft investigation into a one-time deputy public security minister, Li Dongsheng, an ally of Zhou’s.

Li held a rank equiva lent to cabinet minister, and state media says he is the first member of the ruling party’s Political and Legal Affairs Committee, the influential domestic security body which Zhou used to head, to be investigated for graft.

Writing in the party’s official People’s Daily, Public Security Minister Guo Shengkun said his more than two million officers had to be “absolutely loyal and absolutely clean” and stand steadfastly in line with the orders and policies of President Xi Jinping.

All public security personnel must “take real actions to resolutely defend the leadership of the Communist Party”, Guo said.

“Unwittingly be a loyal defender of the party and the people.” Guo made no direct mention of Li’s case or of Zhou. The government has yet to make any official statement about Zhou.

President Xi has made fighting deep-rooted graft a central theme of his new administration, and has promised to take down “tigers” as well as “flies”. Zhou had expanded his role into one of the most powerful, and controversial, fiefdoms in the one-party government, and under his stewardship the domestic security budget exceeded that of the military.

But Zhou was implicated in rumors in 2012 that he hesitated in moving against Bo Xilai, who had been a top political contender for his role into one of the four key local legislative elections, including that of the capital region, late last year.

China’s Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang reacts as he attends the Hebei delegation discussion sessions at the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing on 16 Oct, 2007.—Reuters

Vietnam’s garment seen as top priority in TPP negotiations

HANOI, 3 Jan — Vietnamese government sets top priority on Vietnam’s garment and textile and during the negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an expert said on Friday.

Le Tien Truong, vice chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) said in an interview with Vietnam’s state-run news agency VNA in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Friday that Vietnam’s garment and textile sector possesses international competitiveness and will be a potential beneficiary of the TPP.

Vietnam earned 17.98 billion US dollars from selling garment products to overseas markets in 2013, posting an increase of 18.6 percent year-on-year, according to Vietnam’s Statistics Office (GSO).

Major TPP markets for Vietnamese garment in 2013 included the United States and Japan, which accounted for 43 percent and 11 percent of the country’s garment export turnover respectively, Truong cited GSO’s statistics, adding the TPP countries are the most important market for Vietnamese garment.

Truong said that when joining TPP, Vietnam will have an opportunity to promote investment in material production, thus increasing an increase of trade surplus, added value and localization rate of Vietnamese garment.—Xinhua

China’s garment and textile during the negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an expert said on Friday.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CH BELLA VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CH BELLA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S F B BERTLING CHARTERING

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV POLLUX 28 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV POLLUX 28 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN SPAN SHIPPING LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (119)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (119) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S VASI SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.M. TURKU VOY NO (034)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.M. TURKU VOY NO (034) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PAN JIN SHIPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Better to light a Candle than to Curse the Darkness
Morgan Freeman to recite Mandela speeches at tribute concert

NEW YORK, 3 Jan — Actor Morgan Freeman and former US President Bill Clinton will celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela at a tribute concert in New York next month.


The 76-year-old actor will recite speeches from Mandela’s early political career as he fought against racial segregation, and letters to his wife, Winnie, which the late icon wrote during his incarceration at Robben Island prison, to mark the 20th anniversary of the end of apartheid, reported Contactmusic.

Freeman will also read the civil rights hero’s famous inaugural address following his election victory in 1994, while Clinton will also be on hand to honour Mandela’s legacy.

The special event at the St Paul the Apostle Cathedral on 13 February will feature a performance by the Soweto Gospel Choir.

Mandela died on 5 December last year, aged 95.

Vin Diesel struggling with Paul Walker’s death

LONDON, 3 Jan — Actor Vin Diesel is still mourning the loss of Paul Walker and says he is struggling to cope with the painful void since his co-star died in a car crash on 30 November last year.

‘The Fast and the Furious’ star Walker died alongside his friend, Roger Rodas, when their car crashed and burst into flames in Santa Clarita, California.

Author JK Rowling hosts a special family fundraising evening in aid of her children’s charity, Lumos, at the “Warner Bros Studio — The Making of Harry Potter in Hertfordshire” in London in the 9 Nov, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

LONDON, 3 Jan — A lawyer who blew JK Rowlingleg’s cover when she wrote a detective novel under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith has been fined 1,000 pounds ($1,650) and received a written warning from a British legal watchdog.

Chris Gossage, a partner at Russells Solicitors, which represented the Harry Potter author, leaked one of the publishing world’s biggest secrets to his wife’s best friend — who then tweeted Galbraith’s real identity to a journalist.

Rowling, Britain’s bestselling author, was furious when she found out that a partner at her London-based law firm had revealed she was the author of the “Cuckoo’s Calling.” Publicity material for the book had described it as the debut novel of retired military policeman Galbraith.

After taking legal action against Gossage and his friend Judith Callegari, Rowling accepted an apology from the law firm which paid her legal costs and made a substantial, undisclosed donation to a charity of her choice, the Soldiers’ Charity.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority said in a ruling released this week that Gossage had also received a written rebuke and was ordered to pay a 1,000 pound fine for disclosing confidential information about a client to a third party.

No one from Russells Solicitors was immediately available to comment. Gossage was still listed as a partner at the firm that made it clear that unmasking Rowling was an error and not a marketing stunt.—Reuters

‘12 Years A Slave,’ ‘Gravity’ up for Producers Guild Awards

LOS ANGELES, 3 Jan — Hollywood producers nominated slavery drama “12 Years a Slave.” 1970s con-men caper “American Hustle” and space thriller “Gravity” along with seven other films on Thursday for the top Producers Guild Award, a key indicator of sentiment in the race for the best picture Oscar. The other films nominated for outstanding producer in a motion picture were Woody Allen’s tragic comedy “Blue Jasmine,” Somali pirate thriller “Captain Phillips,” AIDS activist drama “Dallas Buyers Club,” quirky computer-age romance “Her,” heartland comedy “Nebraska,” Disney’s making of “Mary Poppins” in “Saving Mr Banks,” and Martin Scorsese’s tale of America greed “Wolf of Wall Street.”

Author JK Rowling hosted a special family fundraising evening in aid of her children’s charity, Lumos, at the “Warner Bros Studio — The Making of Harry Potter in Hertfordshire” in London in the 9 Nov, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

LONDON, 3 Jan — Former Pussycat Dolls star Nicole Scherzinger and Lewis Hamilton have jetted off on a holiday to Aspen, Colorado.

The on/off couple, who started dating in 2007 after meeting at the MTV Europe Music Awards in Berlin, have fuelled speculation their relationship is firmly back on track by flying to enjoy a skiing holiday with the Formula 1 star’s family, reported Daily Mirror.

Lawyer fined for revealing pseudonymous author was JK Rowling

Author JK Rowling hosts a special family fundraising evening in aid of her children’s charity, Lumos, at the “Warner Bros Studio — The Making of Harry Potter in Hertfordshire” in London in the 9 Nov, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS
Sharapova survives scare to set up Serena semi

Brisbane, 3 Jan — Maria Sharapova rallied to take on 14-time French Open champion Serena Williams in the semi-finals of the Brisbane International on Wednesday and survived a tense battle to set up a showdown with the US world number one.

The Russian improved as the match went on and in the third set her service accuracy improved to 84 percent, nearly double her efforts in the first two sets.

“Tiger Woods winning seven majors has become a normal and expected an agreement to be reached. Alonso’s experience, control and passing ability are seen as crucial to Real’s title run in the majors is now fed up with ‘preposterous’ simulation. This kind of thing is irritating, especially when people regard it as smart or the worst case as a harmles.
China seizes over 20 mln illegal publications in 2013

BEIJING, 3 Jan — Chinese authorities confiscated 20.53 million illegal publications amid stepped up efforts to clean up the cultural environment and safeguard cultural security, the national anti-illegal publication office said on Thursday. The number represents a significant year-on-year decrease since 2011, according to a statement from the National Office Against Pornographic and Illegal Publications, adding that 52 million and 45 million such publications were seized by authorities in 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Among the seized are 670,000 pornographic publications, marking a 30 percent drop compared with the figure in 2012, the statement said. Authorities also solved 10,000 such cases, including seven copyright infringement cases with each involving money up to 10 million yuan, according to the statement.

In addition, more than 10,000 websites were shut down in 2013. In September 2013, a man called Yang Junlin was sentenced to ten years in prison for pretending to be a journalist and illegally obtaining 502,000 yuan (82,900 U.S. dollars) in north China’s Shanxi Province. — Xinhua

Nepal’s electoral body prepares final November election result

KATHMANDU, 3 Jan — After the one and half month long election of the Election Commission (EC) has prepared the final result of the 19 November Constituent Assembly (CA) election, EC officials said on Friday.

The EC officials said the result has been submitted to the President Ram Baran Yadav and it will be made public soon. After the government publishes the result in government gazette, ways will be opened for calling the first meeting of Constituent Assembly (CA).

The process of result announcement was delayed as UCPN (Maoist), which faced unexpected loss in 19 November elections, was refusing to submit the names of its leaders to join in the CA.

The Commission submitted the list of 240 lawmakers elected under the first-past-the-post electoral system and 335 lawmakers under the proportional representation (PR). The remaining 26 members of 601-member assembly will be nominated by the cabinet.

Nepali Congress, a centrist party, emerged as a largest party, while CPN-UML secured second position and UCPN (Maoist) is third largest in the new CA.

“Once the result is made public, the parties will be called to join in the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly (CA),” Chief Election Commissioner Neel Kantha Upreti told the media.

According to the interim constitution, the first CA meeting should be convened within 21 days after submission of the final list of CA members to the President. However, there is deadlock in Nepal about calling the first meeting of CA, though both Chairman of Interim Election Government Khil Raj Regmi and President Ram Baran Yadav are eager to call the meeting. — Xinhua

Walcott fires warning shot to Spurs ahead of Cup clash

LONDON, 3 Jan — Arsenal forward Theo Walcott has warned resurgent arch-rivals Tottenham Hotspur they are travelling north from London for their eagerly-anticipated FA Cup third round tie at a bad time.

The two sides meet on Saturday at the Emirates with Spurs in a rich vein of form having collected 10 points from a possible 12 in the English Premier League. Since their new appointment, Tottenham have done very well, to be fair to them. But like I say, they won’t want to play us. And it is at The Emirates, We’re trying to make our stadium into a fortress and we are starting to do that. Walcott has scored five goals in his last five games as Arsenal returned to the top of the table after a 3-0 win at Christmas. Theo Walcott celebrates his goal during their Premier League match against Manchester City at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 14 Dec, 2013. REUTERS

Arsenal have scored five goals in their last five games as Arsenal returned to the top of the table after a 3-0 win at Christmas. Walcott has scored five goals in his last five games as Arsenal returned to the top of the table after a 3-0 win at Christmas. Theo Walcott celebrates his goal during their Premier League match against Manchester City at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 14 Dec, 2013. REUTERS

Arsenal had attacking Jack Wilshere in the league against Manchester City at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 14 Dec, 2013. Reuters

Arsenal's Theo Walcott celebrates his goal during their Premier League match against Manchester City at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 14 Dec, 2013. REUTERS

Arsenal had attacking Jack Wilshere in the league against Manchester City at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 14 Dec, 2013. Reuters
Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Abdul Halim Mu’adzam Shah
King of Malaysia
Excellency,

The Raja Permaisurf Agong joins us in extending Our warm greetings and heartiest felicitations to you and Daw Khin Khin Win, as well as to the people of Myanmar on this joyous occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Malaysia and Myanmar have always enjoyed strong bilateral ties and engaged each other in a constructive manner. It is Our earnest hope that our friendship and cooperation will continue to strengthen and flourish in the coming years based on the feelings of mutual trust, respect and understanding for the benefits of our peoples.

Please accept Our best wishes for Your Excellency’s and Madam’s good health and for the prosperity and happiness of the entire Myanmar nation. We look forward to receiving both of you in Malaysia for a State Visit in the near future.

From Traian Basescu
President of Romania
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar I am extremely pleased to convey to you in the name of the Romanian people and myself the warmest congratulations and best wishes of progress and prosperity.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the hope that the friendly relations between Romania and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will further be developed in fields of mutual interest and to the benefit of our peoples.

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

From Heinz Fischer
Federal President of the Republic of Austria
Excellency,

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar I convey my sincere congratulations to your country.

I seize the opportunity to extend my wishes for a happy future of the people of Myanmar.

From Mahinda Rajapaksa
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Excellency,

It is my great pleasure to convey to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Myanmar, my warm felicitations and best wishes on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The historical friendship and close cooperation between our countries, based on Buddhism, have flourished and diversified to encompass areas of contemporary importance. The high level visits and increased people to people exchanges have further strengthened our bilateral ties in the recent past. I am confident that the good relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar will further expand and consolidate in the coming years.

Please accept, Excellency, my sincere wishes for your personal health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Natural Spirulina in urgent need of conservation

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Myanmar is seeking ways to save its natural Spirulina which is on the verge of extinction. “We are very willing to save our rare Spirulina from extinction. All experts and bodied concerned are to find answers to save our natural Spirulina,” said Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint on his tour of inspection to the natural lake of Twintaung in Sagaing Region on 2 January.

He has urged experts and officials concerned to step up more efforts for seeking ways that can settle the issue. According to experts, water from rivers has flowed into the lake since 2008. However, it had not hardly hit the production of natural Spirulina from the lake till 2012.

Since early 2013, it has been found that green Spirulina has turned to yellow and production has reached downward, signaling that the eco-system of the lake has been damaged by the inflow water, according to experts.

Experts at home and abroad discussed the issue just based on their experiences during workshops and they have not yet carried out a systematic ground survey, the Union minister added. Myanmar exported its food-grade natural Spilina and also used the natural Spirulina to make food, medicine and drinks for home market.

Natural Spirulina is found only in Myanmar and China in Asia.

Only cooperation will allow Yangon to once again become the “Princess of Asia”

Byline: Saw Shwe Guam

There was a time, when Yangon was called Rangoon, that Myanmar’s famed commercial city was known throughout much of the world as the “Princess of Asia.”

Now, as modernity sweeps over some parts of the “Princess,” change is picking up speed, but not always for the better.

Certainly, there is no need to halt much-needed progress toward returning Yangon to a pre-eminent place among Asia’s cities. But there is an urgent need to decide the best strategy to reach that goal.

While Myanmar has taken steps towards developing the city are going ahead, but always for the better. Validity expire. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, they can also apply for new passports or renew expired passports at Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.— MNA

The most visible change between old and new is street vendors continually encroaching upon pedestrian lanes, and even into traffic lanes. While certainly serving commercial purposes, the growing numbers of shops, stalls and plastic

Extensions of stay, renewal of lost/expired passports available for Myanmar workers in Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Myanmar workers who are legally working in Malaysia can apply for extensions of stay at the Department of Immigration in Malaysia if their work permit and visa are to expire over the past three years. Yangon workers who have been already, but facing up to and overcoming the problems of devel-