President U Thein Sein pays homage to 14th Shwegyin Gana Sangharaja Sayadaw

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Jan—President U Thein Sein together with Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Union Ministers and the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region paid homage to 14th Shwegyin Gana Sangharaja Sayadaw Abbot of Zayamedani Waso Monastery and the body of the late Abbot of Masoein Monastery at Ma-haungmye Township in Mandalay this morning.

The President asked after the Abbot of Zayamedani Waso Monastery of Mandalay State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Agghiya and supplicated on religious affairs before he donated offertories and nourishment meals to the Sayadaws and paid homage to the Buddha image there.

The President also paid homage to the body of late Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Masoein Monastery of Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Ratta Guru Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejososarhivamsa at Masoein Monastery.

He also donated offertories to the Sayadaws of Mosoeyein Monastery. The President supplicated on arrangements of the final rites for the late Vice-Chairman of SSMNC.

The Sayadaw, aged 89 and 69 vasa, passed away on 9 January. The final rites of the Sayadaw will be held on 18 January noon at Ayeyeiknyein cemetery in Mandalay.

WWII’s dead railway turned into nearest road to link with Thailand

A motor road is being constructed on the route of the World War II’s dead railway between Myanmar and Thailand and so far 37 miles and six furlongs in earthen type have been completed. The road which passes through mountain ranges in Kayin and Mon States would be 64 miles and five furlongs long and 40 ft wide. Work on construction of the road started in January, 2013. And, as it is near to the AH-112 ASEAN Highway, it would also be an international route.

“It is also the nearest route to link with Thailand,” said Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Hsan Lwin of the Road Construction Special Group No. 9 under the Ministry of Construction. KNU peace group has also given their helping hands to the construction group to tackle the challenges with the construction, he added. “We heard that a foreign country would assist in the construction and I am not sure the road will be the concrete one and tarred one,” U Hsan Lwin said.

“We had challenges to construct the road as it is on the route of the notorious dead railway and we tackled the challenges thanks to our strenuous efforts,” said Ko Than Naing, an assistant engineer supervising the road construction. During the World War-II, Japanese troops constructed the 260 miles-long rail road linking Myanmar and Thailand to control the South East Asian region, and later it became notorious as “the dead railway”.

On the road, there would be a total of 165 bridges and they are under construction in synchronization with the construction of the road. “The completed portion the road passes through the Karen villages and local people happy today as the road takes shape,” Ko Than Naing said. Upon completion, the road would be a facility that would contribute to development of Kayin and Mon States though it was named as the dead road in the past.

Myanma Alinn: 12-1-2014
Trs: SMA
**Electrification**

**Kywekhotaw Village of Salingyi gets electrification**

SALINGYI, 12 Jan—A ceremony to launch supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis was held in Kywekhotaw Village in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region, on 10 January evening.

Sagaying Region Minister for Forestry, Mining and Energy U Than Htuk, Chairman of Township Management Committee U Kyaw Thaung, Region Hluttaw MP U Nay Win and Township Electrical Engineer U Ye Lin Kyaw launched the electrification. A local spoke words of thanks for efforts of the local authorities in electrification tasks. A total of 120 houses among 185 houses in Kywekhotaw Village have been installed with electric meters. On a self-reliant basis, the transformer was installed in the village, said a local.  

**Village library put into service in Zabuthiri Township**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—A ceremony to open Kanletmya Library was held in NyanaTheikdi Ward of Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning. Writer Maung Thin Khaing and officials opened the library.

Director of Information and Public Relations Department U Tin Than Win explained advantages of the library and development of it.  

Vice-Chairman of the library U Aung Kyaw Moe briefed all the attendees on durability tasks for the library. Assistant Director of Nay Pyi Taw IPRD U Soe Paing, library committee members and local people attended the ceremony.

**School Family Day observed in Hlinethaya**

HLINETHAYA, 12 Jan—Basic Education Middle School No 11 located on Pawbsanhmwe 4th Street in Ward 12 of Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District, held the School Family Day for 2012-13 academic year on 10 January.

Students performed entertainment with playback music to the audiences. The prize presentation for outstanding students followed. The ceremony was attended by Headmaster U Paw Oo, teachers, members of the School Board of Trustees, chairman of ward development supportive committee, ward authorities, parents of students and guests.

**Anti-Narcotic Drives**

Pseudo-ephedrine tablets worth K 121.6 million seized

KALAY, 12 Jan—A police squad together with witnesses, acting on tip-off, raided the house of Ma Ram Neim Thing in Pyinkhongyi Village in Maunglin Village tract of Kalay Township on 8 January.

They seized 1,216,600 tablets of pseudoephedrine tablets weighing 121.66 kilos worth K 121.6 million.

Suspects Ma Ram Neim Thing and Christ Rosen from Pyinkhongyi Village and Ma Thaung Khaing U Kyemon-U Nge (Salingyi) Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Pyinkhongyi) Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) Kyemon-597

**Kya-in Bridge construction commences**

KAWTHOUNG, 12 Jan—A bridge linking south and north Kya-in villages construction task started in Kawthoung Township, border town of Myanmar and Thailand in Kayin State recently. Officials of Public Works inspected the progress of tasks and fulfilled the requirement.—Kyemon-Soe Htet Aung (IPRD)

**Expansion of Strand Road in Kawthoung reduces traffic congestions**

KAWTHOUNG, 12 Jan—The strand road in Kawthoung is hustling and bustling with sellers and buyers in addition to vehicles large and small. That is why the traffic congestions occur along the road daily.

As a result, the vehicles get access to car parks along the road.

Moreover, the transport of commodities and passengers can be carried out smoothly and conveniently.

At present, Strand Road reduce traffic congestions. Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)
Monday, 13 January, 2014

**Egypt forecasts major milestone in future roadmap**

**Dhaka, 12 Jan** — The referendum on Egypt’s new draft constitution slated for 14-15 January represents a major milestone in the country’s future roadmap, political experts said. The referendum marks the first time that Egyptians would go to the polls since the ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi by the military last July, after mass protests against his one-year rule and his Muslim Brotherhood group. On Saturday, army chief and defence minister Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said the new constitution would represent “one-third of the future roadmap,” calling on allEgyptians to take part in the referendum and not to “embarrass” him and the army. The new constitution is a prior step to pave the way for presidential and parliamentary elections in the country which is now run by an interim president and a transitional government—Salama, head of political science department at Suez University, said the constitutional referendum would mark “a beginning for the establishment of new executive and legislative institutions to fill in the vacant leading posts in the vacuum.” “A new constitution may lead the country to more security and stability,” Salama told Xinhua, noting that the constitutional referendum is like “a written registration to document the demands of the masses who took to the streets on last 30 June to remove Morsi.” Salama expected at least 50 percent of the 53 million eligible voters to take part in the polls and that the new constitution would be approved by a majority of votes. Meanwhile, he commended Sisi’s invitation for the people to go to the polls. “His invitation will have a great effect on the people who would respond to protect their demands.” —Reuters

**Obama honours Sharon’s dedication to Israel, Biden to go to funeral**

**Washington, 12 January —** President Barack Obama on Saturday lauded the late Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s dedication to the Jewish state and reaffirmed an “unshakable commitment” to Israel’s security as Vice President Joe Biden prepared to attend the funeral.

Obama called Sharon — who died at age 85 on Saturday and had been in a coma for the entirety of Obama’s presidency — a leader who dedicated his life to the state of Israel.” He said he sent his “deepest condolences” to Sharon’s family.

“The United States has long been a critical ally of Israel. But Obama has had a strained relationship with the current Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, on issues including Israel’s settlement policies — championed by Sharon and the current US diplomatic drive to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons capability.

At the same time, US Secretary of State John Kerry is leading a renewed effort to broker an agreement on a “two-state solution” in which Israel would exist peacefully alongside a new Palestinian state created in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, lands seized by Israel in the 1967 war.

“We reaffirm our unshakable commitment to the people of Israel and to our appreciation for the enduring friendship between our two countries and our two peoples,” Obama said in a statement released by the White House. “We continue to strive for lasting peace and security for the people of Israel, including through our commitment to the two states living side-by-side in peace and security,” the Democratic president added.

Obama will not attend the memorial service for Sharon, with Biden instead leading the US delegation. Sharon had been in a coma since suffering a stroke at the height of his power as prime minister in January 2006. Obama took office in 2009. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Kerry also will not attend the funeral “due to previously scheduled meetings in Paris focused on the situation in Syria and the Middle East peace process.” —Reuters

**New Bangladesh government to be sworn in after disputed polls**

**Dhaka, 12 Jan** — Bangladesh’s new government is set to be sworn in on Sunday, a week after the ruling party won a violence-plagued election that the opposition boycotted and amid growing international calls for a fresh and inclusive polls.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s Awami League ended with more than two-thirds of seats in a contest that was shunned by international observers as flawed and derided as a farce by the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

With fewer than half the seats contested, the outcome was never in doubt.

The new cabinet will be sworn in this afternoon, with Hasina, 64, taking oath as prime minister for the third time, said cabinet secretary Mohammad Musharraf Hasan Bhuyan.

The BNP, led by former premier and Hasina’s bitter rival Begum Khaleda Zia, said the new government was not legitimate, but an autocratic dictatorial government devoid of the representation of the people.

On Saturday, Khaleda, 68, left her residence for a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Lee Jungho after two weeks of under virtual “house arrest”, which the government denied.

Both heirs to politi-

cal dynasties, Hasina and Khaleda have alternated as prime minister for all but two of the past 22 years.

The United States has called on the new govern- ment and opposition to en- gage in immediate dialogue to find a way to hold “free, peaceful, and credible” elections as soon as possi- ble. —Reuters

**Thai protest leader rejects compromise but says ‘no civil war’**

**Bangkok, 12 Jan** — The leader of a movement trying to topple Thailand’s government said he would call off his protest if civil war threatened to break out but rejected any compro- mise with the government ahead of a planned “shut- down” of the capital.

Supporters of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra were rallying in her defence on Sunday but steered clear of Bangkok, where people went about their business as usual.

The anti-government protesters accuse Yingluck and her brother, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, of corruption. She has called an election for February 2 but protesters want her caretaker government to step down immediately.

Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban ruled out talks with the government in an interview published on Sunday, but said he would stand down his movement if, as some fear, violence escalates and civil war looms.

“If it becomes a civil war, I will give up. People’s life is precious for me,” he was quoted as saying by the English-language Sunday Nation. “If someone instigates a civil war, I will tell the people to go home.”

The eight-year conflict pits Bangkok’s middle class and royalist establish- ment against the mostly poorer, rural supporters of Yingluck and Thaksin, who was overthrown in a mili- tary coup in 2006.

Their Puak Thai Party seems likely to win any new election, which the government says must be held on February 2 now parliament has been dissolved and the date endorsed by the king.

However, a member of the Election Commission said on Saturday the vote could be held on May 4, argu- ging that was permissible under the constitution because candidates had been prevented from registering in some districts, meaning there would be no quorum to open parliament after a February poll. —Reuters

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**Two file candidacy for Nago mayoral race, US base relocation in focus**

**Naha, 12 Jan** — Campaigning kicked off on Sunday for the 19 January mayoral election in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, with the incumbent, who opposes the hosting of a new US military airport, facing a challenge from a pro-base candidate.

Susumu Inamine, the 68-year-old incumbent seeking a second four-year term, is recommended by the Japanese Communist Party, the People’s Life Party and the Social Demo- cratic Party, while Bunshin Suematsu, the 65-year-old former Okinawa prefectural assembly member, is rec- ommended by the Liberal Democratic Party.

The outcome is ex- pected to affect the Japan-US plan to relocate the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station from a crowded res- idential area in Ginowan to a coastal area in less dense- ly populated Nago, both in Okinawa, after Okinawa Gov Hirokazu Nakama approved last month landfills to work a relocation facility.

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**An anti-government protester passes time as other walk by inside their encumbrance near Democracy monument in Bangkok on 11 Jan, 2014.** REUTERS

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**US Vice President Joe Biden**

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**Thai protest leader rejects compromise but says ‘no civil war’**
McAuliffe sworn in as Virginia governor, as Clons look on

RICHMOND, 12 Jan — Terry McAuliffe, a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and a major party fundraiser, was sworn in as governor of Virginia on Saturday, cheered on by his friends, former President Bill Clinton and potential White House contender Hillary Clinton.

McAuliffe, 56, who led a Democratic sweep of the three top offices in the swing state, took the oath at the state Capitol, which was designed by Thomas Jefferson. The governor, who has never before held public office, in November narrowly defeated Republican Ken Cuccinelli, the outgoing attorney general and a favourite of the party’s conservative Tea Party wing. For the first time in a quarter century Democrats hold the state’s top elective posts: governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general.

McAuliffe once wrestled an alligator to get a campaign contribution, and he could face a similar challenge getting bills through a state legislature, where Republicans hold two-thirds of the seats. “The next four years will be our moment to again show Americans what can be accomplished by mainstream leaders, and to show Virginians that we will live up their expectations of consensus-driver progress,” McAuliffe told the audience at his inauguration.

Former President Clinton was cheered when he descended the steps of the state Capitol’s south portico to sit in the front row. Former Secretary of State Clinton had earlier slipped quietly into the audience over her husband as he took his place. Hillary Clinton is the overwhelming favourite for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination in 2016, but she has not announced whether she will run. — Reuters

Tap water fix in West Virginia still days away after spill

CHARLESTON, 12 Jan — Tap water in Charleston, West Virginia, and nearby communities will remain unsafe in the coming days, an official said on Saturday as residents spent a third day unable to bathe, shower or drink from the faucet due to a chemical spill tainting the Elk River.

As much as 5,000 gallons (18,927 liters) of industrial chemical 4-methylcyclohexane methanol, or Crude MCHM, leaked into the river on Thursday, state officials said.

The spill came from a tank belonging to Freedom Industries, a Charleston company that produces specialty chemicals for the mining, steel and cement industries, authorities said.

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin on Friday declared a state of emergency for nine counties, with the affected area including the state capital of Charleston, the state’s largest city.

President Barack Obama has issued an emergency declaration. “Our teams are out and we have employees that have worked this (water) system that are extremely knowledgeable. (They are) out collecting samples and looking at flushing activities at this time,” Jeff McIntyre, president of West Virginia American Water Co, told reporters on Saturday.

“But we are talking days” before water quality meets federally mandated quality standards, said McIntyre, whose company runs the state’s largest water treatment plant.

The regional ban on using tap water will be lifted one area at a time as officials work to meet the 1 part per million requirement set by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, McIntyre said.

Officials have said chemical levels in the water were declining, but the spill forced schools and businesses to close in Charleston and surrounding communities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent 75 tractor trailers full of bottled water to distribute, with National Guard assistance, to the over 300,000 people unable to use their tap water.

“As of Saturday, FEMA has delivered approximately 1 million liters of water from its distribution centers in Cumberland and Frederick, Maryland, to the area for use by the state,” it said. “FEMA will continue to deliver supplies to the state for distribution, as needed.” — Reuters

Iran insists right of using advanced centrifuges

TEHERAN, 12 Jan — Carrying out negotiations and using advanced centrifuges are indispensable right of Iran, said head of the Atomic Energy Organization of the Iran Ali-Akbar Salehi on Saturday. Salehi’s remarks were a response to the reported disagreements between Iran and the world powers in recent nuclear talks on implementing the landmark nuclear deal on talks on implementing the landmark nuclear deal on

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China offers Syria 3.3 m USD worth of humanitarian aid

DAMASCUS, 12 Jan — The Chinese Embassy in Damascus confirmed Saturday that China had pledged to provide Syria with 20 million RMB worth ($3.3 million US dollars) of humanitarian aid, with the first batch of the aid having arrived on Friday.

The Chinese Ambassador to Syria said the relief mainly consisted of blankets and quilts, which are essential for the millions of internal displaced Syrians who are battling an exceptionally harsh winter.

A cargo plane arrived in the Damascus International Airport on Friday with the first batch of goods, while the second shipment is due to arrive early Sunday, Zhang Xuan said.

According to Zhang, on the receiving end of the relief is the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, who will organize and oversee the distribution of the aid.

According to the latest statistics from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the number of Syrian refugees who fled to neighboring countries exceeded 2.3 million while 4.25 million are internal displaced. — Xinhua

More foreigners visit Cambodia’s two world heritage sites in 2013

PHNOM PENH, 12 Jan — Cambodia’s two world heritage sites, the Angkor Wat temple and Preah Vihear temple, continued to see growth in the number of foreign tourists in 2013, tourism officials said on Sunday.

The Angkor Wat temple welcomed about 2.23 million international visitors in the year, up 8 percent year-on-year, according to Chhoeuy Chhorn, administration chief of the Siem Reap provincial tourism department.

He said South Korea, China, Vietnam, Japan and Thailand are the largest sources of foreign arrivals to the 12th century temple in northwestern Siem Reap province.

The Angkor Archaeological Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992, is the kingdom’s largest tourist destination.

“Ths exceptional beauty of the temple has attracted more and more visitors from year to year,” he told Xinhua, predicting further growth this year thanks to broader promotion. Meanwhile, the Preah Vihear temple reported a 49 percent surge in foreign tourists in 2013.

You Sovan, deputy chief of the Preah Vihear provincial department, said some 10,650 foreigners visited the 11th century temple in the year, up 49 percent year-on-year.

He attributed the remarkable increase in foreign tourists to the temple’s world heritage status and good security and safety. — Xinhua
Russia says militants seized with bomb in south

MOSCOW, 12 Jan — Five members of a banned militant group were arrested in southern Russia on Saturday and a homemade bomb packed with shrapnel was defused, in another security scare weeks before the Winter Olympics in Sochi. Islamist militants have threatened to attack the games and suicide bombers killed at least 34 people last month in Volgograd, also in southern Russia.

President Vladimir Putin, who has staked his political and personal prestige on the success of the Olympics, has ordered safety measures beefed up nationwide after the attacks. Russia and the Anti-terrorism Committee (NAC) said the latest arrests were in Nalchik, a town about 300 km (190 miles) from Sochi in the Caucasian region, where insurgents want to carve out an Islamic state.

“Security forces have detained five members of a banned international terrorist organization,” the NAC said in a statement received by Russian news agencies. An NAC spokesman confirmed the statement to Reuters. — Reuters

Chinese ski instructors attract компatriots to Swiss resorts

GRINDELWALD, (Switzerland), 12 Jan — China’s wealthy have long flocked to Switzerland for skiing, but now the Alpine country is marketing another national symbol to the Chinese — skis. Switzerland is training eight Chinese ski instructors and placing them in St. Moritz, Davos, Zermatt, Gstaad and other resorts for the ski season to teach Chinese tourists, in their own language and with Chinese savoir faire.

With the number of winter overnight stays from Chinese travellers in mountainous regions expected to double by 2017, the Swiss Tourism office said it hoped the instructors would help make Swiss pistes more appealing to Chinese tourists.

In the resort of Grindelwald, 26-year-old Xu Zhongxing, one of the instructors taking part in the program, said the winter sport was gaining in popularity among affluent Chinese.

“In China, we play cards or mahjong in winter, but more and more people want to do outdoor sports and are discovering skiing,” Xu told Reuters. “The lifestyle — the clothes, the accessories — are also very fashionable among younger people.” With its alpine resorts and luxury shopping options, Switzerland is already a favoured destination for Asian visitors, who tend to stay longer and spend more than their European counterparts. Swiss tourism officials hope the Swiss-schooled Chinese ski teachers will, back home, become ambassadors for Switzerland’s winter tourism industry.

Xu said his home, Chongli County, which is three hours from Beijing, already has four ski resorts in operation and is planning to construct a few more. The training programme should show Chinese visitors there is more to Switzerland than the chocolate, Xu said. “Here in Grindelwald, after Christmas day, it seemed everybody went out to ski or snowboard or do other sports,” Xu said, adding he saw children as young as young as two learning to ski. “These kinds of things really moved me. It’s not just winter sports, it’s your culture here.” — Reuters

EU’s Ashton invited to visit Iran

TEHERAN, 12 Jan — Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif has invited the European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton to visit Teheran, an Iranian official announced on Saturday.

“Mrs Ashton has received an open invitation from Mr. Zarif to travel to Iran at any time she wants,” Abbas Aragchi, Iranian deputy Foreign Minister and top nuclear negotiator, was quoted as saying by semi-official Mehr news agency.

Aragchi said that his two-day talks with Helga Schmid, deputy of Catherine Ashton, which concluded on Friday in Geneva were “serious and were carried out in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.”

“For solutions for those remaining disagreements have been found, but the capitals should decide on them” before they take effect, said Aragchi.

He added that in case of any rejection of the solutions, Iran and the powers will arrange other meetings for further discussions. Iran and the EU held a meeting in Geneva on Thursday and Friday to discuss remaining issues pertaining to the implementation of an interim nuclear deal clinched between Teheran and the major world powers in November.

Under the interim nuclear deal, Iran agreed to curb parts of its nuclear program for six months in return for limited relief of western and international sanctions against the country. Nuclear experts from Iran and the six powers have held three rounds of talks to resolve various technical issues before the Geneva deal can be put into place. — Xinhua

Former Israeli Prime Minister Sharon dies

JERUSALEM, 12 Jan — Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon died on Saturday at a hospital near Tel Aviv eight years after a stroke left him comatose. Israeli media reported. He was 85.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Sharon died at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, days after his condition deteriorated dramatically. Sharon had been in a coma since suffering a massive stroke in January 2006 while in office. He entered politics in 1973 after a distinguished, if controversial, military career.

After being elected prime minister in 2001, he mounted invasions into Palestinian communities. Under a unilateral disengagement policy, Sharon controversially withdrew Israeli troops and settlers from occupied territories in Gaza and the West Bank in 2005, despite opposition from fellow members of his Likud Party.

Amid growing disSENT, he left the party later that year and formed the centrist Kadima party. After his stroke, his deputy, Ehud Olmert, took over as interim leader, and Kadima went on to win the 2006 election under Olmert’s leadership — Kyodo News

Reńsko bought for $7 at W Virginia flea market ordered returned to museum

ALEXANDRIA, (Virginia), 12 Jan — A napkin-size Renoir painting bought for $7 at a flea market but valued at up to $100,000 must be returned to the museum it was stolen from in 1951, a federal judge ordered on Friday. The 1879 Impressionist painting “Paysage Bords de Seine,” “was unaware the 5-1/2-by-10½ inch oil painting was genuine and stored it in a garbage bag for 2-1/2 years,” she said.

Her mother, an art historian, was found it was as an authentic Renoir. After media reports about the painting, the Baltimore Museum of Art put forth an extensive search for the owner of the work. “All is found at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, days after his condition deteriorated dramatically. Sharon had been in a coma since suffering a massive stroke in January 2006 while in office. He entered politics in 1973 after a distinguished, if controversial, military career.

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France’s Total to invest in Britain’s shale gas quest

LONDON, 12 Jan — Total (TOTF.PA) is set to become the first major oil company to invest in Britain’s nascent shale gas industry, boosting the industry’s profile in a country seen as one of Europe’s strongest prospects for unconventional oil and gas development.

The French group is set to commit 30 million pounds ($50 million) to drilling for shale gas in Lincolnshire, in central England, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. A Total spokesman would not confirm any details, but said an announcement would be made on Monday.

The investment is tiny in oil industry terms and especially small in the context of the tens of billions of dollars spent every year by Total, one of the world’s top five investor-controlled oil and gas groups.

However, having such a large player as a partner will be a feather in the cap of industry minnows Dart Energy (DTE.AX), Egdon Resources (EGRE.L), IGas (IGAS.L) and ECORP, with which Total will partner on two exploration licenses. The news will also allow Britain’s coalition government to argue that its incentives for developing unconventional oil and gas reserves are working.

“It’s hardly a drop in the pond really, but the government wants to get shale going and having the big boys in there helps,” said Andrew Monk, chief executive of the resources-focused investment bank VSX Capital.

A new set of UK land auctions next year could be pivotal, he said, adding: “We’ll see more deals and a bit more positioning between now and then.”

Geological studies show Britain to have large shale reserves, which could reverse a rising dependency on energy imports, but more drilling is needed to see whether the deposits are economical. Britain’s government has thrown its weight behind shale gas exploration despite strong local and environmental opposition to the controversial extraction practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking — one of the techniques used to develop shale and unconventional gas blocks.

Along with a handful of other countries including Poland, the UK is seen as a test case for the prospects of unconventional gas and oil development in relatively crowded, wealthy, post-industrial western Europe.

US FDA approves two-drug combination for advanced melanoma

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Friday it approved a two-drug combination for the treatment of advanced melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

The safety and effectiveness of Mekinist (trametinib) in combination with Tafinlar (dabrafenib) were demonstrated in a clinical trial of 162 participants with melanoma that is late-stage or cannot be removed by surgery, the FDA said.

They are specifically indicated as a combination therapy for melanoma patients with gene mutations called BRAF V600E and V600K, it said.

Both drugs were approved last year for single-agent use.

“Mekinist and Tafinlar are the first drugs approved for combination treatment of melanoma,” said Richard Pazdur, director of the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products in the FDA’s Centre for Drug Evaluation and Research, in a statement.

“Their development for combination use is based on the strong understanding of the biological pathways of the disease,” Pazdur said.

According to the FDA, melanoma is the most aggressive type of skin cancer and the leading cause of death from skin disease.

The US National Cancer Institute estimated that 76,690 Americans would be diagnosed with melanoma and 9,480 would die from the disease in 2013.

Parent involvement can help kids get more active

NEW YORK, 12 Jan — Very few kids get the amount of physical activity they need every day, but a new study from Canada finds that parental support may be the key to getting kids moving.

Approximately less than 10 percent of children accumulate the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per day (equivalent to 35,500 steps per day) at least six days per week,” Kerry Vander Ploeg told Reuters Health by email.

Vander Ploeg, who led the new study, is with the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

“We previously demonstrated that physical activity levels are lower on weekend days than on weekdays,” she said.

Low levels of physical activity are concerning because insufficient physical activity is one of the greatest risk factors for overweight and obesity. Vander Ploeg said.

Vander Ploeg and colleagues sent surveys and pedometers to 1,355 Alberta fifth graders and their parents in the spring of 2009 and 2011.

The parents were asked to rate how much they cared about exercising, and therefore their belief in and support for physical activity may help to increase physical activity levels among children.

Vander Ploeg said.

Price war in US mobile market raises fear of profit hemorrhage

NEW YORK, 12 Jan — New Year’s rivalry among US mobile operators has Wall Street worried that the industry’s profits could seriously decline.

After months of aggressive moves by T-Mobile US to lure customers from other carriers, No 2 operator AT&T Inc countered on 3 January by offering to pay consumers to switch from T-Mobile.

Days later, No 3 ranked Sprint Corp promised big discounts for family and friend groups. On Wednesday, T-Mobile upped the ante, saying it would pay hefty exit costs for converts.

The moves by Sprint and AT&T come after No 4 US operator T-Mobile, a long-time industry straggler, was able to report three full quarters of customer growth after four years of losses.

While discounts are always welcomed by consumers, the intensifying competition is a new challenge to a US industry long used to imposing its will on consumers, and analysts fear it could result in the loss of billions of dollars of revenue.

Investors had hoped AT&T and market leader Verizon Wireless would be able to shrug off T-Mobile’s moves, since they already control about two-thirds of the market.

Sacyr says has $574 million at stake in Panama contract

MADRID, 12 Jan — Sacyr (SCYR.MC), the Spanish building company leading a consortium to expand the Panama Canal, said it risks losing $574 million in guarantees and advance payments if a spat over cost overruns at the multi-billion dollar project is not resolved.

In an 8-page document sent on Friday to Spain’s stock market regulator but which had not been made public until Saturday, the firm also detailed for the first time its claims of $1.6 billion in extra costs and said the canal extension would not be completed until 30 June, 2015 at the earliest.

The consortium warned earlier this month it would halt work from 20 January on a third set of locks for the century-old waterway, one of the world’s largest building contracts, unless the Panama Canal Authority footed the bill.

In an interview with Reuters, Sacyr Chairman Manuel Manrique on Friday played down the row and said the company was making progress in talks with the canal operator over financing to avoid a damaging work stoppage.

Sacyr said the guarantees it provided on the contract were worth $445.5 million as of December 31, 2013 and it had also made advance payments worth $128.4 million.
More well-known US retailers victims of cyber attacks

BOSTON, 12 Jan — Target Corp and Neiman Marcus are not the only US retailers whose networks were breached over the holiday shopping season last year, according to sources familiar with attacks on other merchants that have yet to be publicly disclosed.

Smaller breaches on at least three other well-known US retailers took place and were conducted using similar techniques as the one on Target, according to the people familiar with the attacks. Those breaches have yet to come to light. Also, similar breaches may have occurred earlier last year.

The sources said that they involved retailers with outlets in malls, but declined to elaborate. They also said that while they suspect the perpetrators may be the same as those who launched the Target attack, they cannot be sure because they are still trying to find the culprits behind all of the security breaches. Law enforcement sources have said they suspect the ring leaders are from Eastern Europe, which is where most big cyber crime cases have been hatched over the past decade.

Only one well-known retailer, Neiman Marcus, has said that they too have been victim of a cyber attack since Target’s 19 December disclosure that some 40 million payment card numbers had been stolen in a cyber attack. On Friday, Target said the data breach was worse than initially thought.

An investigation found that hackers stole the personal information of at least 70 million customers, including names, mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. Neiman Marcus said it was not sure if the breach was related to the Target incident.

Accenture named lead contractor for Obamacare website

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan — Accenture has been chosen to replace CGI Federal as the lead contractor for the Obamacare enrollment website, which failed to work when it launched in October for millions of Americans shopping for health insurance, the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said on Saturday.

CGI Federal, a subsidiary of CGI Group, built the website, HealthCare.gov, which was plagued by error messages and slow speeds for weeks after the launch. The glitches created a political crisis for President Barack Obama, threatening the roll-out of his signature healthcare law and emboldening Republican foes to call for its repeal.

“As CMS moves forward in our efforts to help consumers access quality, affordable health coverage, we have selected Accenture to become the lead contractor for the HealthCare.gov project for next year’s open enrollment period,” the agency said in a statement. CGI Federal said on Friday that its contract, which was originally awarded in 2011 and is scheduled to end 28 February, would not be renewed.

Accenture said the contract was worth $45 million for the initial phase of the project, and the Washington Post reported that the final value of the one-year contract would be about $90 million.

“Accenture will bring deep healthcare industry insight as well as proven experience building large-scale, public-facing websites to continue improving HealthCare.gov,” David Moskovitz, chief executive of Accenture Federal Services, said in a statement.

Obama has said the fiasco with the website has made him want to overhaul the way the federal government buys technology services. Critics say the system favors large, established contractors such as CGI.
A wise judgment

If we lack knowledge on spending money wisely is it clear that we cannot get rich. However good our income is, our wealth will be drained off in the end if we cannot strike a balance between income and expenditure.

More importantly, we must know the difference between wastefulness and carefulness in spending money. What we spend must be beneficial to us in one way or another. Using so much money on unnecessary or unbeneﬁcial things actually is an act of squandering. In many cases we waste a lot just to fulﬁll our own desire without seriously taking into account the economic or social losses that follow.

Accordingly, we must know what sort of things are really useful, beneﬁcial and essential most in our life, and concentrate on getting them meaning that we must not be hesitant but be prudent and decisive in throwing money on them. But people of different walks will have different fundamental needs and wants. For example, the most essential requirements for a farmer will be land and farm equipment while workshops and tools are for mechanics. On the other hand, laptop computers and mobile phones are the most important accessories for businesses and media persons.

Here, the question is “to what extent we really need them?” That depends on the volume of our work, and the position we are holding. It will be uneconomic if we have more than what we really need. Then again, our progress of work will be slow and other disadvantages will also follow, if we do not have enough of these necessities. So, what we need in life is a wise judgment in doing everything including spending money on essential things.

Myanmar Ambassador meets Crown Prince

Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Win shakes hands with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.—MNA

Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Win shares a handshake with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.—MNA

(continued from yesterday)

Myanmar chronicle “Konbaung set Maha Yazawuntawgyi [thegreat history of the second Konbaung dynasty]” records in detail the account of this Image it says that “all” altogether 5260 devotees took part in the transportation of the heavy load of monolithic Image-4400 service men and 860 boatmen. The marble Image measures over 11 cubits in height, over 4 cubits of diameter between the two knees 8 cubits in circumference of the head and over 4 cubits in the width of the arm. Bagyidaw’s nephew Prince Bagan succeeded him. He reigned 7 years [1846-1853 A.D]. King Bagan moved his capital to Ava, the second of Amarapura. With him he moved the great marble Image to Amarapura. By the side of this great natural lake “Taung Tha Man In” not far from the capital, a beautiful Temple modelled on Ananda Temple at old Bagan was built in which the marble Image was housed. Because the Image was enshrined by the side of Taung Tha Man Lake, the public call it “Taung Tha Man Kyaung Taw Gyi Phaya [Great Stone Buddha Image at Taung Tha Man In]. But its official name is “Maha Thet Kya Yanti, literally meaning “the great Light of Setkya Muni Buddha”. The Temple itself is an art gallery of a sort. Beautiful frescoes adorning the interiors depict history of the Image, pagodas and monuments of the time, andcount of the conveying of the big stone from the hill and carrying it on a specially build bamboo raft, floated down on a special dug double canal during heavy monsoon till it reached the tributary of the Ayeyawaddy River and from there the huge Image was pulled by His Majesty’s steam ship “Mya Nan Setkya” to the site where it was fashioned into sitting Buddha Image, how King Mindon daily received the report of the progress of take by a telegraphic line between his palace and the Sagaing marble hills. The account in spires us and makes us marvel at the ingenuity of the then Myanmar engineers and managing skill of the king and his men. (4) Maha Thetkya Marazein is sheltered in a uniquely designed temple at the foot of Mandalay Hill. There are two famous pagodas of historic importance namely Maha Loka Marazein and Sandu Muni in the vicinity. The history of this Image tells us that Prince Mindon, during his sojourn at Sagaing Village, found a gigantic stone on the hill. He made a wish that if he became King, he would sculpt it into a Buddha Image when he became king in 1853 he fulfilled his promise. Two reputed stone sculptor of that time U Toke Kyi and U Pike Htwe were assigned by royal order to carve the stone into a sitting Buddha Image. The two master sculptors with their 30 apprentices accomplished the task. In the said chronicle mentioned above, a detail account on the matters of growing cooperation between the two countries not only in the political, economic and social spheres but also in sports, culture, defence and relations between the parliaments of the two countries.—MNA

Regarding the temple which shelters the image, King Mindon intended to construct it on the model of Ananda Temple at old Bagan. But his intention was frustrated by the outbreak of Myanamar rebellion in 1866. Present roof of a special design was donated by Shan Chief of Yaunghwe. In the spacious precinct are ﬁ ﬁ ﬁ ﬁ igure of Mara the evil opponent. Saya Chone may be viewed parabikes” by court painter Marazein Image has become a national tourist attraction. The image is different from Taung Tha Man Kyaung Taw Gyi Phaya on the bank of Lake Taung Tha Man in Amnarpag. Continuing from the date of its completion in 1865, this marble image today [2014] is 149 years old. Luckily it escaped natural calamities, human vandalism and ravages of the Second World War. But 80 Sagaing marble images of 80 arahat disciples images were stolen and taken abroad. Mahakassay Image to the Buddha Sasana Museum receives daily veneration of pilgrims and admiration of international tourists. The image is in the queue for entry into UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

Dear Readers, please wait for a separate article on the latest and largest Sagaing marble Buddha Image Loka Chaung Taung Tha Man Kyaung Laba Muni enshrined in a big Temple on the hilllock Min Dhammagon, Insein, Yangon.
School Red Cross Brigades in three villages, one basic village of Singu Township passed the matriculation examination in 2013 academic year. Chairman of YCDC Mayor U Hla Myint, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe and guests attended the ceremony.

A total of 261 students passed the matriculation examination with flying colours. Of them, 11 students won six distinctions and 35 five distinctions.

The top in Lanmadaw Township secured the ninth position in the matriculation exam the whole nation this year.

The ceremony was for the third time of the township with the aim of developing education standard of the students.

**Voluntary Affairs**

**Red Cross members join drill, first aid contest**

**HRD**

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**Htongyi Village of Singu Township free from bank erosion**

**SINGU, 12 Jan—Htongyi village of Singu Township is formed with 500 houses in three villages, one basic education high school, one station hospital, one police outpost, brokerage and shops.**

“In the past, the local farmers went to Mandalay and Shwebo for trading of commodities and bought personal and household goods at high prices on our return. Transport charge was high so our business was not in conformity with economic effectiveness. Now, we have easy access to a brokerage at Htongyi Village. We can buy solar panels at the shops. As a result, our village can be illuminated,” said a farmer.

Since 45 years, Htongyi Village had faced natural disaster due to bank erosion.

Now, the village is free from erosion because a sandbank emerged there to protect the village.

**Globetrotters prefer to pay visit to Maha Zedi Pagoda in Bago**

**BAGO, 12 Jan—Not only local pilgrims but globetrotters pay homage to Maha Zedi Pagoda in Bago, highest this year during the period from 2011 to 2013, according to the Pagoda Board of Trustees. The tourists took photos on pagodas and stupas, symbols of town and heritage of the region and visited Mazin Dam, Zalethtaw Dam and International Hanthawady Airport on their visits.**

Maha Zedi Pagoda is 333 feet high. The pilgrims may climb onto the pagoda through eight passages.

**Fire fighters honoured in Kangyidaunt Township**

**KANGYIDAUNT, 12 Jan—A ceremony to honour those who actively took part in the putting out of fire that broke out in Daka Village Kangyidaunt Township, Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region, was held at the library in Dakaon 10 January. Kangyidaunt Township MP of Region Hluttaw U Chit Lwin and Township Administrator U Myint Sein presented certificates of honour to those those actively took part in the putting out of fire.**

**Rural road construction supervised in Singu Township**

**SINGU, 12 Jan—Director of Mandalay Region Development Affairs Department U Hsan Maw Khin and Superintending Engineer U Aung Myint Soe met officials at Singu Township DAC on 9 January. They inspected progress of 3.5 miles long Shwepyi-Taungin-Htongyi rural road with the use of heavy machinery. The director gave instructions on construction of one more bridge between Shwepyi and Taungin villages and upgrading of Kangchaung Bridge.**

**Mandalay Region Government has allotted K 495.74 million on construction of Shwepyi-Taungin-Htongyi rural road with 11 wooden bridges. The allotted fund will be spent on construction of 3.5 miles long and 18 feet wide earthen section and 3.5 miles long and 12 feet wide road section. The construction tasks are under a supervisory committee formed by the Mandalay Region government.**
Bilbao. 12 Jan — Tens of thousands of protesters marched through the streets of Bilbao in Spain’s northern Basque Country on Saturday in support of jailed members of the Basque separatist group ETA, defying a court ban from Madrid. A high court judge had vetoed the march, which was initially organized by prisoners’ supporters to call for inmates to be moved to jails closer to their homes.

But two of the region’s main political parties — the Basque pro-independence party Bildu and the more moderate nationalist PNV (Partido Nacionalista Vasco) — joined forces to restyle the rally as a march for “human rights, understanding and peace”. The treatment of ETA prisoners is an awkward one for the Madrid government, which would be certain to anger victims’ associations if it made any concessions to the prisoners.

ETA — or Euskadi Ta Askatasuna, which means Basque Homeland and Freedom in Basque — is accused of killing more than 800 people over more than four decades, many with car bombs. However, the group called a ceasefire in 2011, and speculation has grown that it might soon announce a full disarmament. “This is a unique opportunity to show the world our desire for peace and the obstacles that the Spanish government is putting in the way,” said Jose Meti Aguirre, 55, at the march.

ETA prisoners’ demands to see out their jail terms in the Basque Country could advance after they said last month they would recognize Spain’s criminal justice system. In a statement, the prisoners also acknowledged the pain caused by decades of violence. The group has already been significantly weakened by hundreds of arrests in both Spain and France as well as political and social support in the Basque Country. About 600 ETA members are in prison in Spain.—Reuters

### 60 killed in ongoing clashes in Iraq’s Anbar Province

Baghdad. 12 Jan — At least 60 people were killed and some 297 others wounded in clashes between the security and militant groups over the past two weeks, as the battles continued on Saturday, a local official and a police source said. “Many women and children were among the dead as the clashes and the shelling hit residential areas in the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah,” head of Anbar Health Directorate Khudier Khalaf Shalal told reporters.

The battles between hundreds of Sunni tribesmen backed by the Iraqi security forces and al-Qaeda fighters continued Saturday in the eastern and northeastern districts of Ramadi, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. “Most of the tribesmen and the army re-took control of the town of Khalidiyah, and pushed al-Qaeda guerillas to the edge of the town after several days of fierce clashes, the source said.

More clashes occurred in the town of Garma, some 10 km east of Fallujah, where the security forces and the tribesmen fought al-Qaeda guerillas who control large part of the town, the source added.

In addition, two children were killed and two people wounded in Garma late on Friday night when several mortar rounds landed on residential areas in the town, the source said.

In Fallujah, several mortar rounds struck the al-Askari neighbourhood in the city and wounded two civilians, he added. Separately, Anbar’s provincial council voted in the new mayor for the city of Fallujah to replace the former mayor who was shot dead by a sniper shot in central the city on 13 November, a source from Anbar’s provincial council told Xinhua.

Anbar Province has been the scene of fierce clashes that flared up after Iraqi police dismantled an anti-government protest site outside Ramadi in late December last year.—Xinhua

### Fire in China’s Shangri-la put out

Shangri-la, (Yunnan). 12 Jan — A fire that started in the early hours of Saturday in an ancient town in Shangri-la, a resort county in southwest China’s Yunnan Province, has been completely put out.

The fire broke out at 1:37 am at the Ruyi Inn in the Dukezong Ancient Town, where most houses are made of wood, a factor which added difficulties to firefighting, said a local government spokesman at a Press conference. Investigators have ruled out the possibility of arson, and further investigation is under way.

Around 2,000 people, including local firefighters, soldiers, police and residents, have participated in the rescue work. Over 2,600 people were evacuated from three neighbourhoods of the town. No casualties have been reported. More than 240 houses were damaged and other 43 houses were dismantled so as to prevent the fire from spreading. Apart from the houses, shops and infra-structure facilities, the fire also burned some cultural relics, precious Tibetan thangka and other Tibetan art pieces. The economic loss is being calculated.

Meanwhile, Department of Finance of Yunnan Province has allocated a relief fund of 5 million yuan($26,000 US dollars) to help with the relocation of the affected local residents and reconstruction work after the fire. Local weather forecast departments said snow is expect- ed on Saturday evening to Sunday.Dukezong, mean- ing “town of the moon” in Tibetan, was built 1,300 years ago. Known for its well-preserved ancient Tibetan dwellings, it is one of the most renowned resorts in Shangri-la.—Xinhua

### Syrian troops kill 40 rebels in Aleppo

Damascus. 12 Jan — At least 40 rebels were killed on Saturday by the Syrian troops in the country’s northern province of Aleppo, the official SANA news agency said.

More than 40 “terrorists,” most of whom were foreigners, were killed in a “special operation” carried out by the Syrian regular forces in Retyan village in the northern countryside of Aleppo, said SANA.

The rebels have been losing their momentum recently as they have become plagued with infighting between those who show-case themselves as “moder- ate” rebels and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

The Britain-based Syr- ian Observatory for Human Rights said on Friday that the infighting that erupted between rebel groups in Syria have killed 500 peo- ple.

The battles started last Friday between various rebel groups and so-called Is- lamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), said the Ob- servatory, adding that the death toll includes 85 civil- ians, 240 rebels from vari- ous groups and 157 fighters from the ISIL.

Several Islamist bat- tations have recently turned against the powerful ISIL, which has recently declared the establishment of an Is- lamic emirate in Iraq’s Fal- lujah Province.—Xinhua

[Image: People gather on debris of a burnt scrap market in northwest Pakistan’s Peshawar on 11 Jan, 2014. At least one person was killed, four others injured and about 120 shops burnt as a fire happened in the market in Peshawar on Saturday, local media reported.—Xinhua]
India says US could have avoided ‘mini-crisis’, more to be done

NEW DELHI, 12 Jan — India on Saturday blamed the United States for a “mini-crisis” over the arrest and strip search of an Indian diplomat, saying more work was needed to repair ties a day after the withdrawal of diplomats seemed to draw a line under the dispute.

Deyani Khobragade, 39, who was India’s deputy consul-general in New York, was arrested in December on charges of visa fraud and lying to US authorities about what she paid her housekeeper. Khobragade’s arrest and strip-search provoked protests in India and dealt a serious blow to US efforts to strengthen ties. Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid said the United States should have warned senior officials visiting Washington a day before Khobragade’s arrest by State Department security in December.

“It wasn’t even mentioned,” Khurshid told the CNN-IBN television network. He called the row a “mini-crisis” and said India should have been given the chance to withdraw Khobragade before she was arrested.

He said the core of the US-Indian relationship was very strong and that he didn’t expect lasting damage from what has turned into the biggest rift in years. “I think we’ve found that at least the immediate, immediate concerns have been addressed,” Khurshid said. “But there’s a lot more still to do.”

He did not clarify what else must be done to avoid lasting damage to ties between the countries, who share some $100 billion in annual trade. — Reuters

China to establish real estate registration office

BEIJING, 12 Jan — China will set up a bureau for real estate registration to facilitate property management reform, China’s top land and resources regulator said on Saturday.

The establishment of the bureau is designed to improve unified system design for registration as China will spell out related regulations this year, Xu Deming, vice minister of land and resources said at a work-planning meeting.

The unified system on real estate registration will include related registrations, registration and information service platforms, documents and survey standards.

Meanwhile, China will accelerate rural land property surveying and registration and promote stockholding system reform in the countryside, Xu said.

Small cities and towns should highlight real estate registration in their organization and government function reform while big cities should enhance collaboration with related departments and share their experience, the vice minister added. Real estate registration is an essential step if China is to levy property tax. — Xinhua

US conducted biological weapon field tests in Okinawa

TOKYO, 12 Jan — The US Army conducted field experiments of biological weapons in Okinawa in the early 1960s when the southernmost prefecture was still under US rule, according to US documents obtained Saturday by Kyodo News.

In the tests conducted at least a dozen times between 1961 and 1962, rice blast fungus was released over rice fields and data was collected on how it affected rice production, the documents made available by US authorities showed.

The US government previously had disclosed information about chemical and biological warfare tests at sea and on land in such places as Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Utah.

“The United States is believed to have had China and Southeast Asia in mind in developing such crop-harming agents. The US government decided to end all biological weapons programs in 1969. The obtained documents mention test sites including Nago and Shuri, both in Okinawa, but it is not known whether the experiments were conducted within the premises of US bases there.

In the field tests, the army “used a midget duster to release inoculum on both sides of Okinawa and Taiwan,” measuring dosages at different distances and the effect on crop production, the documents said.

A separate document said, “Field tests for stem rust of wheat and rice blast disease were begun at several sites in the US west and south and in Okinawa with partial success in the accumulation of useful data.” — Kyodo News

South Korea to contribute $867 million for US military forces in 2014

SEOUL, 12 Jan — South Korea said on Sunday it had agreed to pay $920 billion won ($866.86 million) in 2014 towards the cost of the US military presence in the country, a rise of 5.8 percent from a year ago.

US and South Korean officials have struck a five-month cost sharing plan for 28,500 US troops in the country after a series of negotiations since early last year.

The deal, subject to South Korean parliament’s approval, comes after Washington’s decision to send more soldiers and tanks to South Korea next year.

A US soldier participates in a decontamination training against possible chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats at Steel Zenith Field Training Exercise, in Yeoncheon, about 65 km (40 miles) north of Seoul, on 16 May, 2013. — Reuters

Mitsubishi Materials president apologizes for fatal factory blast

TOKYO, (Japan ), 12 Jan — Mitsubishi Materials Corp President Hiroshi Yao apologized on Saturday for the explosion at the company’s semiconductor silicon plant this week that killed five maintenance workers.

In his first news conference since the accident Thursday in the central Japan city of Yokkaichi, Miy Prefecture, Yao said although the cause of the explosion is still not known, the company will have to review maintenance work safety procedures at the factory.

“The fact that the accident occurred even if (the plant workers) followed the regulations means that there was a flaw” in the regulations themselves, Yao said.

The blast occurred when the cover of a heat exchanger at the plant was removed for cleaning. The plant did not have detailed guidelines as to when the heat exchanger could be opened for cleaning, according to Mitsubishi Materials officials. Workers checked if the heat exchanger was cool enough to open by touching the surface of the equipment, they said.

Yao said a “more scientific method” may have been needed to determine if the heat exchanger was safe for maintenance work.

The company has not decided when to restart suspended operations at the factory, he added. Mitsubishi Materials is one of the three major domestic suppliers of semiconductor silicon. — Kyodo News
INVITATION FOR BIDS
ON SPONSORSHIP MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

1. The Republic of The Union of Myanmar has assumed the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 and will hold 24th ASEAN Summit and 25th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. It will be the first time that Myanmar takes ASEAN Chairmanship since it joined ASEAN in 1997.

2. Myanmar has drawn great attention from the International community due to its significant reforms, abundant natural resources and historic and scenic beauties. Hosting of ASEAN Summits and related Summits will be a golden opportunity for the local and foreign companies to promote business and to further expand investment in Myanmar and to the Southeast Asia region.

3. In view of the above opportunities, bids are invited by the Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration for the selection of Sponsorship Management Consultant with the following terms and conditions:

   (1) One bidder shall be selected as Sponsorship Management Consultant;
   
   (2) Closed Envelope Bidding shall be made on the following categories:
   - (a) Computers and IT Products support;
   - (b) Internet services and Technical assistance;
   - (c) Conference Management;
   - (d) Food and Beverage;
   - (e) Billboards and Banners;
   - (f) Security equipments;
   - (g) Lighting facilities for Meeting Venue;
   - (h) Dresses for Liaison Officers, Security Officers and Drivers;
   - (i) Floral Services;
   - (j) Mobile Phone Hand sets and Sim Cards;
   - (k) Souvenirs;
   - (l) Meeting Document kits and Collaterals;
   - (m) Financial services and
   - (n) Others
   
   (3) Closed Envelope Bidding shall include the following:
   - (a) Proposed Bidding and Quotations;
   - (b) Financial Background; and
   - (c) Company Profile.

   (4) The selected Sponsorship Management Consultant shall work on commission basis and deposit of USD 100,000 at the designated bank account after signing the Agreement.

   (5) No territorial limit of marketing sponsorship.

   (6) Deposit shall be refunded within 7 banking days after the event.

4. Bids shall be only on the official Bidding Form and to be delivered into the Tender Box located at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi Taw no later than (16:00) hours on 24 January, 2014.

5. Bids shall be opened at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9 Nay Pyi Taw at on 27-31 January, 2014.

6. Announcement on the successful bidder will be made on 1 February 2014.

7. Official Bidding Form shall be available at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.(9), Nay Pyi Taw during the office hour from (17-1-2014) to (24-1-2014) in payment of Kyat 10,000 (Kyat ten thousands).

8. Inquiry can be made at the following contact phone numbers:
   - 067-412052; 067-412352; 067-412354

Secretary
Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration
ASEAN Summit and Related Summits Committee

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Cargo charter flight links NW China, Kazakhstan

Yinchuan, 12 Jan — A cargo charter flight linking northwest China with Kazakhstan was opened on Saturday with hopes that it can boost development of the Silk Road economic belt spanning the Eurasia continent.

Yinchuan, capital city of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, will be raised to 4,000 tonnes from the current 200 tonnes.

The annual international cargo handling capacity of Heilong International Airport in Yinchuan, capital city of Heilongjiang and Russia accounted for 15.45 billion US dollars, an increase of 34 percent on year.

Heilongjiang-Russia trade posts increase amid pessimism

HARBIN, 12 Jan — Trade value between China’s northeastern province of Heilongjiang and Russia reached 22.36 billion US dollars in 2013, up 5.8 percent, said the Harbin customs authority on Sunday.

Of the total volume that devoured a quarter of the year’s China-Russia trade, the province’s imports from Russia accounted for 15.43 billion US dollars, an increase of 34 percent on year.

Meanwhile, exports stood at 6.91 billion US dollars, down 3.3 percent compared with the previous year, registering a cumulative trade deficit of 8.54 billion US dollars.

According to China’s General Administration of Customs, China-Russia trade has downshifted, rising only 0.5 percent in January-November. 10 percent points lower year on year, and concern is growing that trade for the whole year might not grow at all from 2012. —Xinhua
Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

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<th>Sr.No</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>IFB-175(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Industrial Chamber Oven and Core Plug Drilling Machine for Applied Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>(13)</td>
<td>DMP/L-051(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Mechanical Spares for ZJ70L SR I&amp;II</td>
<td>(1) Lot</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<td>(14)</td>
<td>DMP/L-052(2013-2014)</td>
<td>3.25 MM, 4.0 MM &amp; 5.0 MM Welding Electrode</td>
<td>(3) Items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
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- Tender Closing Date & Time -
  Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13 January, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanna Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

**Kellan Lutz leaves ‘Twilight’ to explore ‘Legend of Hercules’**

**Los Angeles, 12 Jan** — Actor Kellan Lutz is shedding the vampire teeth to don the breastplate of Greek demigod Hercules in his newest film, as he leaves the “Twilight” franchise behind to embrace the action genre.

“The Legend of Hercules,” in theaters on Friday, will see Lutz exploring the hero’s origins. A second film, “Hercules,” starring Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, will focus on the hero later in life, after he completes the legendary 12 labors.

Born to a mortal woman and Zeus, king of the Gods, Lutz’s Hercules faces challenges early on in his life from his human father King Amphitryon, who never accepts him as a true son, and his half brother Iphicles, who is jealous of his super strength. Hercules finds himself torn away from his love, Hebe, and sent to war, only to be sold into slavery. “It’s the hero’s journey — you have the wizard, you have the antagonist, that’s the king, and you have the different missions he has to go through and the love interest in Princess Hebe. Storywise, it’s all there, that’s what drew me to it,” Lutz told Reuters.— Reuters

**Child singing star Jackie Evancho balances school, career**

**Miami, 12 Jan** — Three years after a popular TV talent show launched child soprano Jackie Evancho on a meteoric career, she still has no singing coach, can’t read music and sticks to a modest rehearsal routine.

As she makes the transition from pre-teen singing sensation to professional artist, Evancho, who turns 14 in April, is seeking to balance her school work — and play time — with a busy concert tour schedule and recording her sixth album. “She has the challenge of going from child star to legitimate artist,” said Lisa Evancho, who tours with her daughter, helping to stream-press her dresses before performances and supervising her rehearsal routine.

“It’s no longer ‘Let’s go see the circus freak — the little girl with the grown-up voice.’ It’s more like wanting her to stand on her own ability and keep the career going in that direction. And, it looks as if it is,” said.— Reuters

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**At 80, the real Philomena works for British film’s success**

**Los Angeles, 12 Jan** — She is not an actress, but rather an 80-year-old Irish mother and former nurse, crisscrossing Los Angeles in the film awards season for screenings, interviews and even an afternoon tea party.

Philomena Lee takes the hullabaloos with good humour, knowing that the film she inspired — “Philomena” — not only has chances of winning awards but also helping women who, like her, had babies as teens and were forced to give them up.

“The real Philomena has shed the vampire teeth to don the breastplate of Greek demigod Hercules in her newest film, as she leaves the ‘Twilight’ franchise behind to embrace the action genre.

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**Director Stephen Frears (L) poses with actors Judi Dench and Steve Coogan (R) during a photocall for the movie “Philomena” at the 70th Venice Film Festival in Venice in this 31 Aug., 2013, file photo. Reuters**
**SPORTS**

**Moyes can smile at last as United sink Swansea**

LONDON, 13 Jan — Manchester United returned to winning ways after three straight defeats with a 2-0 Premier League home victory over Swansea City on Saturday, averting last week’s FA Cup loss to the Welsh club. Without strikers Wayne Rooney and Robin van Persie, United laboured for most of the first half but Antonio Valencia and Danny Welbeck scored early in the second period to calm any jitters and put a smile back on the face of manager David Moyes.

United remained in seventh place with 37 points from 21 games, nine points behind leaders Chelsea, but victory at least improved the mood at Old Trafford, even if the performance was not memorable. “In the end we got the result we deserved,” Moyes, who was charged with misconduct by the FA on Friday for comments he made about officials after Tuesday’s League Cup semi-final, first leg defeat at Sunderland, told Sky Sports.

“At halftime I said we had to work a bit harder and make more chances and they (the players) went about their jobs very well.” Michael Carrick.

Barca angry after Rosell targeted over Neymar contract

BARCELONA, 12 Jan — Barcelona have reacted angrily to a request by the state prosecutor to open proceedings against club president Sandro Rosell for alleged misappropriation of funds in last year’s purchase of Neymar. The Brazil forward signed for the Spanish champions in the close season for $24.3 million euros, of which $1 million euros went to his former club Santos.

Barca club member Jordi Cases filed a complaint seeking clarification over what happened to the remaining 40 million euros and on Friday the state prosecutor asked the judge overseeing the case to open proceedings against Rosell, who denies wrongdoing.

The judge has yet to rule on the prosecutor’s request. “Barcelona Football Club wishes to express its most energetic indignation about the report by the state prosecutor on the signing of Neymar Da Silva Santos Junior,” Barca said in a statement on their website (www.fcbarcelona.es) on Saturday.

“The operation to sign Neymar Da Silva Santos Junior was complex, an example of business engineering, and we have repeatedly expressed the confidential nature of some of its agreements,” they added.

“Our rivals were prepared to conduct the same operation for much more money but (FC Barcelona) won through thanks to the skill and expertise of its negotiating team.”

ESPN

Premier League Standings

LONDON, 13 Jan — England striker Jermain Defoe began his long goodbye from Tottenham Hotspur with his first Premier League goal of the season as the home side recovered from a poor first half to beat Crystal Palace 2-0 on Saturday.

Defoe, Spurs’ fifth highest all-time scorer with 143 goals, will be joining MLS side Toronto FC in March in a six million pounds ($9.89 million) deal and scored in the 72nd minute to guarantee all three points at White Hart Lane. Tottenham are unbeaten in five league matches since Tim Sherwood became manager last month after the sacking of Andre-Villas Boas and the win took them up to fifth in the table. Palace are now bottom of the standings despite dominating an opening half in which Jason Puncheon blasted an eighth minute penalty high and wide into the crowd.

Sunderland can survive says Poyet after win at Fulham

LONDON, 13 Jan — Sunderland can beat the odds and stay up despite being bottom of the Premier League at Christmas, manager Gus Poyet said after an empathetic 4-1 win at fellow strugglers Fulham on Saturday.

Manager Gus Poyet

Propping up the table on 25 December almost always leads to relegation, with only West Bromwich Albion making a great escape in 2005, but after Adam Johnson’s hattrick on Saturday hoisted Sunderland off the bottom, Poyet said they are up for the fight. “It was an outstanding performance,” the Uruguayan told the BBC.

“If we can retain that level then we can stay up. We needed something special and got it today. “The lads were superb, you do not score four goals away from home many times in your life. “Adams Johnson was exceptional with his passing, his creativity and everything he did today. He needs the ball and the chance to pass it.”

Johnson, signed in 2012 from Manchester City, has slipped from the limelight and is no longer talked about as an England player despite 11 caps for his country.— Reuters

Defoe begins long goodbye from Spurs with typical goal

LONDON, 12 Jan — England striker Jermain Defoe began his long goodbye from Tottenham Hotspur with his first Premier League goal of the season as the home side recovered from a poor first half to beat Crystal Palace 2-0 on Saturday.

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Tottenham are unbeaten in five league matches since Tim Sherwood became manager last month after the sacking of Andre-Villas Boas and the win took them up to fifth in the table. Palace are now bottom of the standings despite dominating an opening half in which Jason Puncheon blasted an eighth minute penalty high and wide into the crowd. Spurs were far better after the break, took the lead through Christian Eriksen, who smashed the ball home from close range after 30 minutes, and sealed the points when Defoe replaced Roberto Soldado in the 58th and scored 14 minutes later.

He collected a clever through ball from winger Aaron Lennon, created space for himself and then fired past keeper Julian Speroni. For the kind of typical poacher’s goal he has been scoring throughout his career.— Reuters
5.0-magnitude quake hits 136km NE of Hirara, Japan

HONG KONG, 12 Jan — An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted 136km NE of Hirara, Japan at 02:35:46 Hong Kong Time on Sunday (18:35:46 GMT), the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 35.97 km, was initially determined to be at 25.6833 degrees north latitude and 126.2338 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

JAPAN

Japan's Kasai becomes oldest World Cup winner

BAD MITTERNDORF, (Austria), 12 Jan — Japan's 41-year-old Noriaki Kasai became the oldest ski jumper to win on the World Cup circuit in Austria.

Kasai led the field with a 196-meter effort in the first round of jumps and added a leap of 197 meters in the second round to earn a winning total of 391.6 points, 10.1 ahead of runner-up Peter Prevc of Slovenia.

Local favorite Gregor Schlierenzauer finished third with 380.3 points courtesy of a 2-0 victory on near fired field army to World News jumps in scene oil and round R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
The New Light of Myanmar

MOHA honours victorious athletes of SEA Games

YANGON, 12 Jan — Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko attended a ceremony to honour athletes, managers, coaches and referees from the Home Affairs Ministry who showed off prestige of Myanmar in the 27th SEA Games in Nay Pyi Taw.

A total of 79 athletes representing the Home Affairs Ministry participated in the SEA Games and brought 56 medals—13 gold, 8 silver and 35 bronze in the SEA Games—to the nation.

Deputy C&IT Minister inspects communication facilities for ASEAN Para Games

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Win Than on 10 January looked into installation of WiFi and mobile communication networks for better services of Internet at the gymnasiums of Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex where the 7th ASEAN Para Games will take place.

Deputy Minister instructed officials to supervise better Internet access for users and assign the skilled technicians at the sports venues for the Games. He gave instructions on good connection of auto telephones, mobile phone and Internet and inspection of fibre links and reserve links.—MNA

Myanmar para basketball team hopes medal in ASEAN Para Games

An MFMA honours victorious athletes of SEA Games

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Myanmar para basketball team hopes medal in ASEAN Para Games

Byline: Theint Theint Moe

Photo: Kyaw Thu Win

Myanmar para basketball team hopes medal in ASEAN Para Games

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko awarded the prizes and paid promotion of ranks to the winners.

He called for the athletes to uplift the prestige of the nation of their utmost taking the lessons from the previous SEA Games.

It was also attended by wife of the Union minister, officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, directors-general and their wives and outstanding athletes, coaches and guests.

Myanmar para basketball team hopes medal in ASEAN Para Games

To gain sports experiences at home, the team has played against those of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Commerce and Alpha Organization.

Myanmar team is consisted with players Zaw Min Oo, Thaw Zin Oo, Aung Ko Ko, Hein Soe Win, Aung Zaw Win, Min Ko Ko, Zaw Naing Tun, Min Thaha, Hnin Lin Thu, Aung Myint Win, Soe Thu Aung and Myo Thein. They take two training sessions a day regularly to be able to sail to the final.

Preparations for 7th ASEAN Para Games

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—The Seventh ASEAN Para Games will kick off on 14 January in Myanmar. This will be Myanmar’s first time to host the ASEAN Para Games.

The working committees of the games are making preparations for successfully holding the opening and closing ceremonies of the Para Games at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

The work committees for organizing opening and closing ceremonies is also making preparations for entertainments of the Myanmar women’s traditional orchestra, that of the Kyimyindaung school for the blind and the violin troupe on board the decorated floats.

Suspects for murder in Meiktila detained in police custody

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—A murder occurred in a family in Meiktila in Mandalay Region on 11 January and those three involved were detained in police custody.

According to the initial investigation of Myanmar police force, about 5.30 pm yesterday, Aung Zaw Htwe asked his wife Ma Khin Shwe Myint to come back home as she had been staying at the house of Pho Pyu (a) Win Ko Ko, No.1 Street, South Pyithayar Ward in Meiktila since two days ago after quarrelling with him.

Pho Pyu scolded Aung Zaw Htwe and Aung Myo Htwe, younger brother of Aung Zaw Htwe, catapulted Pho Pyu. While Pho Ni (a) Zaw Htet, elder brother of Zaw Myo Htwe, tried to settle the quarrel, he was stabbed by Pho Pyu and got an injured in his right rib. Aung Zaw Htwe beat Pho Pyu with a stick and stabbed him in his left rib with knife. Pho Pyu died on the spot.

Pho Ni is under medical treatment at Meiktila Hospital and Aung Zaw Htwe and Zaw Myo Htwe have been detained at Meiktila Prison.

Security measures are being taken in Meiktila and nearby areas systematically to prevent unwanted problems.

The local authority said it was just a case happened in the family and requested not to believe the rumors created by those who wish to resort to violence, according to the officials.—MNA