Economic development of Myeik region has involved reliance on fishery and agriculture sectors, trading, construction, SMEs, real estate business. Thanks to the opening of Mawtaung border trade camp, trading and flow of commodities will become smooth and speedy in the region. Moreover, there will be a surge in tourist arrivals.

Myeik Public Corporation has a plan to make the Myeik region a perfect leisurely vacation for foreign visitors. Arrangements are being made to establish island resorts that will enable holiday makers to enjoy unexploited coral reefs, natural beauty of a string of islands and a set of mountain ranges.

Departmental officials together with responsible persons of Myeik District Chamber of Commerce made arrangements to establish resort islands on Kunthee island (Kabuza island), East Sula island, Langan islet and Taninthayi island from 8 to 10 January. For the establishment of islet and island resorts, it is scheduled to build hotels and bungalows offering golf course, amusement park, shopping mall, swimming pool and speed boat service during the period from 2014-2015 FY to 2017-2018 FY. The project will expand economic development and job creation and facilitate transportation in the region. It can also contribute towards improvement in socio-economic development and poverty reduction tasks of the region, generating per capita incomes of dwellers.

Myanma Alinn: 13-1-2014
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Abbot gives advice to students to sit for matriculation exam in 2014

MANDALAY, 15 Jan—Dhammaduta Dr Ashin Čekinda gave words of advice to the students bound for the 2014 matriculation exam at the hall of Shwe Hope Co on 80th Street between 17th and 18th Streets in Mandalay on 11 and 12 January.

Gonbo Bridge across Yaw Creek under construction on Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu Road

KYAUKHTU, 15 Jan—Bridge Construction Special Group No 13 of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction is building Gonbo crossing Yaw Creek and it has been completed by 690 feet long and 12 feet wide. It was attended by 1250 students of Basic Education High Schools and private tuitions of Mandalay on 11 January and 1250 more students from private high schools and teachers.

The Sayadaw explained mission and vision of the students for two months ahead of examination, making studies and preparations for the examination. The Sayadaw fed them with snack, coffee and soya milk. In addition, the Sayadaw gave them two ball-point pens.

It can withstand 13 tons of loads. “We are implementing the project day and night. The new bridge will be 2 feet higher than the past facility. In the rainy season, the water surface of the creek rises and hits the bridge. The new one will be two feet higher than that of the old one in clearance. It is expected to complete the bridge in March 2014,” said Daw Nyo Nyo San of the group.

Biker dies on spot at traffic accident

PADANG, 15 Jan—A passenger bus hit a motorcycle on Pathein-Monywa Road between Taungbogyi Village and Myewagon Village in Padaung Township of Bago Region on 11 January.

Toe Yadana bus driven by Ko Tun Hla Kyaw and conductor Ko Zaw Oo bumped against a motorcycle driven by U Tin Win Aung of Nyaunggaing Village of Kanma Township.

The biker died on the spot while the express bus overturned into the right side of the road.

Members of funeral service association, Okshiptin Red Cross Society members and those of Taungdwingyi Township and local people rushed 36 patients of the bus to Okshiptin People’s Hospital. The hospital is giving medical treatment to 23 injured persons.

Jetropa Curcas plants increase income of people

SEIKPU, 15 Jan—The people residing in Phalanma and Ainggyi villages in Seikpyu Township, one of townships in Magway Region are engaged in cultivation of crops as the township is teeming with hills and mountain ranges. Whenever they had harvested paddy plantations, the farmlands have been shifted into Jetropa curcas plantations.

In December every year, the farmlands are placed under Jetropa curcas plants bearing fruits and flowers. One acre of such plants produced 50-60 baskets of Jetropa curcas and it can be sold at K 12000 per viss. The local people formed groups to carry out cultivation of Jetropa curcas plants on 150-200 acres of farmlands to be able to earn increased income.

Related to the building to an officials of Ministry of Education.

Students of villages from Meiktila and Thazi Township are attending the school.

Opening ceremony of new school building in progress in Thazi Township.

Transformers installed in Lashio to supply full electricity

LASHIO, 15 Jan—Power lines were installed in Lashio linking Mansangyi Sub-Power Station and Namnyayaw Hydropower Plant. After that, three 33KV power lines connected with Lashio Main Power Station are supplying electricity to local people through 11 power lines from 33KV/11KV (10000) KVA sub-power station in Ward 1, 33KV/11KV (5000+2500) KVA sub-power station in Ward 2 and Ward 5 and 33KV/11KV (5000) KVA sub-power station.

On 13 January, Electricity Power Enterprise changed transformers with new ones in the Ward 5, Ward 2, Ward 12 and Ward 1 with the assistance of Township Electrical Engineer Office.

An announcement has been issued that temporarily cutting out of power up to 7 pm while power lines and new transformers were installed. However, the supply of electricity resumed at 5 pm.
Thai opposition leader’s house attacked, politics in deadlock

BANGKOK, 15 Jan — A loud blast shook the house of a senior Thai opposition leader overnight, police said on Wednesday, as protesters trying to oust the government remained camped in central Bangkok with no end to the political deadlock in sight. Some hardline protesters have threatened to blockade the stock exchange and an air traffic control facility on Wednesday if Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra does not step down.

But there were no early signs of trouble at either the bourse or at the central Bangkok offices of AeroThai, which is in charge of air traffic control for planes that use Thai air space. No one was hurt in the blast at the residence of Democrat Party leader and former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. “There was no one at home at the time. The explosion destroyed part of the roof of the house. It wasn’t a bomb. We believe it could have been a big firework,” said an officer at the nearby Thong Lor police station, declining to be named.

Abhisit and other Democrat leaders have joined in the protest movement against Yingluck, and have refused to take part in an election she has called for 2 February. She has invited leaders of the protest movement and political parties to a meeting on Wednesday to discuss a proposal to postpone the election, but it looked like only her allies would turn up. The unrest is the latest chapter in an eight-year conflict pitting the Bangkok-based middle class and royalist establishment against the mostly poorer, rural supporters of Yingluck and her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, a former premier ousted by the military in 2006 who is seen as the power behind her government.—Reuters

Israeli defence minister apologizes for remarks about Kerry’s peace efforts

JERUSALEM, 15 Jan — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Ya’alon apologized late Tuesday for his harsh remarks about US Secretary of State John Kerry’s on-going peacemaking efforts in the Middle East. In a statement issued just before midnight, Ya’alon apologized for offending Kerry by calling him “obsessive and messianic” in pushing for an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. “The defense minister had no intention to cause any offense to the secretary, and he apologizes if the secretary was offended by words attributed to the minister,” said the statement. “Israel and the United States share a common goal to advance the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians led by Secretary Kerry. We appreciate Secretary Kerry’s many efforts towards that end,” it added.

According to the website of the Haaretz newspaper, the apology was issued after a two-hour meeting between Ya’alon and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the latter’s residence in Jerusalem. The statement, composed together with Netanyahu, followed a lukewarm response from Ya’alon earlier in the day, which was rejected by the Obama administration.

On Tuesday, Israel’s biggest-selling daily Yedioth Ahronoth published comments attributed to hawkish Ya’alon, who said Kerry was “obsessive and messianic.” “The only thing that can ‘save’ us is for Kerry to win a Nobel Prize and leave us alone,” he was quoted as saying in private conversations with associates and US officials in recent months. “In effect, there have been no negotiations between us and the Palestinians during these past months, but between us and the Americans.” Ya’alon said ahead of one of Kerry’s 10 trips to the region since last July.

US courts oppose reform proposals for secret surveillance court

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan — The US federal court system objects to key proposals by a presidential review panel to reform the secret court that supervises the classified electronic eavesdropping activities of the US National Security Agency, a former chief judge of that court said on Tuesday. Judge John Bates, the former head of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance (FISA) Court, said the objections in a letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. He said he submitted it on behalf of the federal judicial system as a whole, through an entity called the Judicial Conference of the United States, of which he is secretary.

Bates, who is director of the Administrative Office of the US courts, said that Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts had asked him to represent the federal judiciary on matters concerning the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, under which the secret court operates. President Barack Obama is expected to announce his plan for reforming the NSA on Friday, and the objections could seriously undermine one option he was thought to be considering.

Bates strongly warned against a proposal by the review panel that Congress create a “Public Interest Advocate” to represent privacy and civil liberty concerns before the court, which usually operates behind closed doors. —Reuters

UN says South Sudan army, rebels stealing humanitarian aid

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Jan — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday accused South Sudan’s army and rebels led by former Vice President Riek Machar of stealing food aid and vehicles used to deliver humanitarian relief as the country teeters on the brink of civil war.

“(Ban) is alarmed by the rising number of fatalities resulting from the continuing fighting in South Sudan, including reports received on 14 January about the deaths of 200 civilians who drowned in the River Nile while fleeing hostilities in Malakal,” the UN Press office said. A government spokesman said the people died as they took to the river to flee clashes in Malakal, a major transport point and administrative center of Upper Nile state.

“(Ban) strongly condemns the commandeering of humanitarian vehicles and the theft of food stocks and other relief items by both Government and anti-Government forces,” Ban’s Press office said in a statement. The statement said Ban was also deeply concerned about the rising number of displaced people in South Sudan, which he said surpassed 400,000 this week.

The crisis erupted after South Sudan President Salva Kiir fired Machar and other ministers earlier this year. Machar’s rebels are demanding the release of 11 of their political allies jailed after they were accused of attempting a coup. Fighting that erupted in mid-December has reopened ethnic faultlines. According to one estimate, the conflict may have killed as many as 10,000 people, although there is no official toll for those killed in the desperately poor nation. The United Nations has said that in mid-December have reopened.

South Korea approves aid by private organizations to N Korea

SEOUL, 15 Jan — South Korea on Wednesday approved requests by private organizations to send aid for children in North Korea, South Korea’s Unification Ministry spokesman said.

The aid by the three organizations totals 425 million won (about $400,100) and mainly consists of food items such as bread and powdered milk, according to Park Soo Jin.

South Korea’s civic and non-govt organizations need government approval to provide humanitarian assistance to the North, which relies heavily on foreign aid.

Seoul stopped all large-scale government assistance to Pyongyang in 2010, following two deadly attacks by North Korea. That March 2010, 46 South Korean navy personnel died after their ship was sunk by a North Korean torpedo. And in November that year, the North Korean military shelled the island of Yeonpyeong, killing four South Koreans and leading Seoul to suspend all aid to the North and cancel inter-Korean dialogue.

An anti-government protester gives donation as others wake up in their encampment built between shopping malls in central Bangkok on 15 Jan, 2014.—Reuters

An illustration picture shows the logo of the US National Security Agency on the display of an iPhone in Berlin, on 7 June, 2013. —Reuters

An anti-government protester gives donation as others wake up in their encampment built between shopping malls in central Bangkok on 15 Jan, 2014.—Reuters
**New Jersey’s Christie in address again apologizes, looks ahead**

**Trenton, 15 Jan** — New Jersey Governor Chris Christie again apologized, this time to his constituents who suffered through Superstorm Sandy, and he called for the state to “rebuild and rebound.”

**French President Francois Hollande**

To revive France’s economy, French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday raised the curtain on his new road map to “regain economic strength,” mainly based on efforts to trim labor costs, while repairing New Jersey’s reputation for corruption and graft.

Russia denies visa to US journalist critical of Putin

**Moscow, 15 Jan** Russia has barred a US journalist critical of President Vladimir Putin from the country for five years, in a move that could upset relations with the United States and has echoes of the Cold War. Moscow’s treatment of David Satter could fuel concern about freedom of speech before the Winter Olympics in Sochi next month, although Putin has tried to appease critics by freeing former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky and members of the Pussy Riot protest group in the run-up to the Games.

**Iraq supports Iran’s participation in Geneva II conference**

**Baghdad, 15 Jan** — Iraqi Foreign Minister Hamaad-Javal Zarif met on Tuesday with Iraqi top leaders who confirmed their support for Iraq’s participation in Geneva II conference over the Syrian crisis. “We have discussed the Syrian crisis in details and the attitudes toward Geneva II conference. Our stance in Iraq is that we support the presence of all the concerned states and parties in this crisis, including the Islamic State (of Iraq),” Iraqi Foreign Minister Ho-shyay Zebari said at a Press conference with Iranian Zarif in the capital Baghdad.

**Holland announces “new stage” to fix economic troubles**

**Paris, 15 Jan** — Already on hot seat on failure to revive France’s economy, French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday raised the curtain on his new road map to “regain economic strength,” mainly based on spending cut and incentives to create more posts in the 66 million population. “There must be a new stage. It’s not to change the course, but to go faster and further. I have a concern that if France wants to keep its influence in the world and if it wants to maintain control of its destiny, it must re-gain its economic strength,” Hollande said.

“Thad is why I pro-

**New Light of Myanmar**

New Light of Myanmar

**Hollande said.**

**Cold War. Moscow’s treat-

**Russia has barred a US journalist critical of Putin**

**Moscow, 15 Jan** Russia has barred a US journalist critical of President Vladimir Putin from the country for five years, in a move that could upset relations with the United States and has echoes of the Cold War. Moscow’s treatment of David Satter could fuel concern about freedom of speech before the Winter Olympics in Sochi next month, although Putin has tried to appease critics by freeing former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky and members of the Pussy Riot protest group in the run-up to the Games.

“l was expelled from the country,” Satter wrote on his personal website. “This is an ominous pre-cident for all journalists and for freedom of speech in Russia.”

The Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that Satter’s books delays that led to his expulsion.

In Washington, the State Department said it was disappointed that Rus-sia had denied Satter a visa and had raised the issue with the authorities in Mos-cow. “The US Embassy in Moscow has raised our concerns on this case and the treatment of journalists and media organizations in general with Russian authorities,” State Depart-ment spokeswoman Marie Harf told a daily briefing. “We’ll continue to mon-i-tor the case.” Satter said that he had flown to Kiev to receive a new letter of invi-tation but instead received only a statement read to him by a Russian diplomat there declaring him persona non grata.

**Taxi company in nuclear plant town turns away anti-nuclear lawmaker**

**Tsurgu, (Japan), 15 Jan** —A taxi company in a western Japan city home to a nuclear power plant refused service to Liberal Democratic Party law-

**David Satter is pictured in this 2012 Hudson Institute handout photo obtained by Reuters on 14 Jan, 2014. REUTERS**
Three years after uprising, Tunisians celebrate near-model transition

Tunis, 15 Jan — Thousands of Islamist and secular Tunisians marked the third anniversary of autocrat Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali’s downfall on Tuesday, celebrating in the closest the Arab world has to a model transition to democracy. Crowds jammed Habib Bourguiba boulevard in the capital, Tunis, waving flags and chanting in friendly rivalry near the interior ministry building where protesters once shouted “Leave” to Ben Ali.

Ben Ali’s flight from the country on Jan 14, 2011 inspired uprisings in Libya, Egypt, Yemen and Syria. But while those countries remain in turmoil or outright war, Tunisia’s Islamist Ennahda party will compete for power later this year with its secular opponents at the ballot box, not on the street.

Tunisia is close to full democracy after a rocky path to a compromise. Last week Ennahda, a pragmatic Islamist party which won elections two years ago, resigned under a deal to overcome months of deadlock with secular opponents. This makes way for a technocrat administration which will govern until the new elections — only the second since Ben Ali’s fall and the first with the country’s new constitution and electoral board in place.

“No one will question those results now,” said Salem Bouzidi, a transport worker draped in a red and white Tunisian flag at a rally of the secular opposition.

“This is like a new start for everyone, so whoever wins the next election will be the real victor.” As Tunisians celebrated, Egyptians voted on Tuesday on a new constitution after the military last year ousted Islamists president Mohamed Morsi, their only freely-elected leader, leading to heavy loss of life.

“People cheer and wave national flags as they celebrate the third anniversary of autocrat Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali’s downfall, in Habib Bourguiba boulevard in downtown Tunis on 14 Jan, 2014. — Reuters

Neighbouring Libya faces widespread lawlessness, with its leaders struggling to control some of the militias which overthrow Muammar Gaddafi. Tunisia still faces huge problems. Islamist militants are threatening attacks while public resentment over unemployment, the high cost of living and economic development may still undo the fragile progress. But compromise is working for now and an assembly is about to finish the new constitution that has mostly been praise for its inclusiveness.

In 2012 Ennahda won the most seats in the new National Assembly in Tunisia’s first free election. Many of its Islamist leaders had spent years in jail or exile under Ben Ali.

Syrian government forces advance as rebel infighting rages

Syrian army soldiers loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad walk with their weapons in the Aleppo town of Naqureen, after claiming to have regained control of the town, on 14 Jan, 2014. — Reuters

BEIRUT, 15 Jan — The Syrian government has re-taken territory around the northern city of Aleppo, the military said on Tuesday, after two weeks of rebel infighting that has weakened the insurgency against President Bashar al-Assad. The internecine conflict among various rebel groups will allow Assad to portray himself as the only secular alternative in Syria to a radical Islamist regime when peace talks begin in Switzerland on 22 January.

His military advances will give the Syrian government delegation greater leverage at the negotiating table.

An army statement said government forces had pushed out from their base at Aleppo’s international airport, southeast of the city, and were moving towards an industrial complex used as a rebel base and the al-Bab road, needed by insurgents to supply the half of Aleppo under their control.

It said that government forces, along with militia loyal to Assad, were in “complete control” of the Naqareen, Zarzour, Taanesh and Subeiheh areas along the eastern side of Aleppo, which was the major Arab country’s commercial hub and most populous city before the conflict erupted in 2011.

Before Olympics, Russians urged to help prevent attacks

MOSCOW, 15 Jan — Less than a month before the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russian investiga-tors appealed to civilians on Tuesday to be more vigilant and help avert the threat of “terrorist” attacks.

Insurgents who want to create an Islamist state in the North Caucasus moun-tains have threatened to attack the Games and suicide bombers killed at least 34 people in the southern city of Volgograd last month.

President Vladimir Putin, who has staked his personal and political prestige on next month’s Games, has put troops on combat alert in Sochi and tightened security across the country but fears of an attack on the Olympics remains.

Russian Cossacks, who started regular patrols within the city in the wake of recent suicide attacks, check a woman’s belongings in front of the Kazan Orthodox Cathedral in the southern Russian city of Volgograd, on 4 Jan, 2014. — Reuters

“You can’t just count on the special services and heroic commandos,” Vladimir Markin, spokes-man for Russia’s national Investigative Committee, which answers directly to Putin, told Izvestia newspa-

People cheer and wave national flags as they celebrate the third anniversary of autocrat Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali’s downfall, in Habib Bourguiba boulevard in downtown Tunis on 14 Jan, 2014. — Reuters

Gunmen seize more areas in Iraq’s Ramadi as battles continue in Anbar Province

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan — Gunmen on Tuesday re-
gained control of more districts in Ramadi, the capital of the volatile Anbar Province in western Iraq, after fierce clashes with Iraqi army backed by Sunni tribes.

The gunmen, including al-Qaeda militants, fought the troops and the tribesmen in several districts in Ramadi, some 110 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, since Monday’s evening. On Tuesday, they managed to retake control of most areas in central and northern city, a provincial police source told Xinhua.

There are no immediate reports about casualties as the battles are still underway, the source said.

Meanwhile, clashes continued between al-Qae-da militants and the army backed by the tribesmen near the town of Khalidiyah, some 30 km east of Ramadi, the source said without giving further details. The battles and sporadic artillery and mortar shelling forced dozens of families to leave their homes in Ramadi and Khalidiyah to safer places in other provinces, the source said.

Elsewhere, mortar barr-age struck the town of Garma near the restive city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, killing at least three people and wounding six others, the source said.

Toshiva to buy 60% stake in British nuclear venture

LONDON, 16 Jan — Toshiba Corp said on Wednesday it will buy a 60 percent stake in a British nuclear plant consortium from Spanish and French utility firms for around 100 million pounds, paving the way for the Japanese company to build three nuclear reactors in England.

The Tokyo-based electricity machinery manufacturer plans to complete the acquisition of NuGen, a joint venture between Spanish utility Iberdrola and French utility GDF Suez, by June. Toshiba will buy a 50 percent stake from Iberdrola and a 10 percent stake from GDF Suez, it said.

With the acquisition, Toshiba is set to win orders to construct three nuclear reactors, plans won by NuGen at a site in West Cumbria, England, for around 1.2 trillion yen to 1.5 trillion yen, Toshiba officials said.

Kyodo News
China’s Huawei says unaudited 2013 operating profit rose over 40 pct

BEIJING, 15 Jan — Huawei Technologies Co Ltd posted an over 40 percent rise in annual operating profit as the Chinese telecom equipment maker expanded its presence in emerging markets, countering reduced revenue growth hit by accusations of cyber espionage.

Huawei, the world’s No 2 telecom equipment maker, has had a turbulent year in which it was shut out of multi-billion dollar network opportunities in the United States and Australia and drew the scrutiny of British authorities over cyber security issues.

To counteract this, the unlisted company has placed its hopes in developing markets and its business in Europe, where it has made headway building fourth-generation mobile networks.

Huawei, which has repeatedly said it has no spying links with the Chinese government, on Wednesday reported unaudited 2013 operating profit of 28.6 billion yuan to 29.4 billion yuan. That compared with an audited 2012 operating profit of 19.96 billion yuan — an increase of 43.3 percent.

Revenue reached 238 billion yuan to 240 billion yuan, or an increase of 8 percent compared with a target of 10 percent, the company said.

Huawei, which ranks behind Sweden’s Ericsson (ERIC.ST) in telecom gear sales, will release audited financial results for last year in the second quarter of this year.

Huawei, founded in 1987, is known for aggressively gaining sales in the telecom equipment sector by edging out rivals such as Cisco Systems Inc (CSCO.O), Alcatel-Lucent SA (ALUA.PA), Nokia Siemens Networks NOK.L and ZTE Corp (000039.SZ) (0763.HK).

The company’s flagship carrier business, which accounted for almost three quarters of revenue in 2012, sells equipment to telecom operators.

In the US, the company is trying to stake a claim to the country’s mature smartphone market following its highly politicised forced retreat from network construction, but it will face a tough battle against established competition such as Apple Inc (AAPL.O) and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS). Huawei said smartphone shipments reached 52 million units worldwide last year compared with the company’s 60 million unit target.

Huawei was the third-largest smartphone maker globally in the third quarter of 2013, according to Strategy Analytics, with a 5.1 percent market share. However, the company is dwarfed by Samsung and Apple, which have a 35.2 percent and 13.4 percent share respectively.

The company’s third area of operations — its enterprise segment — builds and sells communications equipment to businesses and institutions. — Reuters

GM to pay first quarterly dividend in almost six years

DETROIT, 15 Jan — General Motors Co (GM.N) will pay the first quarterly dividend on its common stock in almost six years, marking another step in the US automaker’s recovery from its bankruptcy in 2009 and sending shares up 3.2 percent in after-hours trading.

The No 1 US automaker, which last paid a dividend in June 2008 before it moved to save money during the US recession, said it will pay shareholders a quarterly dividend of 30 cents a share, payable on 28 March to shareholders of record on 18 March. In 2008, its quarterly dividend was 25 cents a share.

“This return to shareholers is consistent with our capital priorities and is an important signal of confidence in our plans for a continuing profitable future,” Chief Financial Officer Dan Ammann said in a statement.

Ammann, who said on Sunday that GM was closer than ever to paying a dividend, will become GM’s president on Wednesday.

GM also named Chuck Stevens as the company’s new CFO, effective on Wednesday. He had been CFO of GM North America. Investors have been pushing GM to return cash to them in the form of a dividend or a stock buyback, especially since the US Treasury sold the last of its stake in the company last month.

The dividend reintroduction by GM, which is showing new cars and trucks this week at the Detroit auto show [ID:nL2N201KJ10], is likely to attract investors who buy stocks that generate income.

Weak industry demand dragged GM to seek bankruptcy protection in 2009 and it emerged as a leaner operation with more cash on hand with the help of a $49.5 billion US taxpayer bailout.


GM ended the third quarter last year with total automotive liquidity of $37.3 billion. GM stock rose to $41.29 in after-hours trading on Tuesday, compared with the closing price of $40.02 on the New York Stock Exchange. — Reuters

FDA asks doctors to limit acetaminophen in combination drugs

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan — US health regulators recommended on Tuesday that healthcare professionals stop prescribing combination drugs that contain more than 325 milligrams of acetaminophen per tablet, capsule, or other dosage unit, citing the risk of liver damage.

Limiting the quantity per dosage unit will reduce the risk of inadvertent overdose, which can lead to liver failure, liver transplant and death, the Food and Drug Administration said.

It cited the fact that no available data showed that taking more than the recommended dose provided benefits that outweighed the added risks.

Inadvertent overdose from combination drugs containing acetaminophen, also known as paracetamol in most countries outside the United States, accounts for nearly half of all cases of acetaminophen-related liver failure in the United States, the agency said.

Combination acetaminophen products are commonly prescribed to patients to treat pain from acute injuries, post-operative pain, or pain following dental procedures.

In January 2011, the FDA asked manufacturer of combination drugs containing acetaminophen, sold globally under trade names such as Tylenol and Panadol, to limit acetaminophen doses to no more than 325 mg in each tablet or capsule by 14 January, 2014.

Some of these products still remain available, the agency said. — Reuters
Men’s and women’s long jump events kick off

An athlete in long jump event.

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Men’s and women’s long jump contest of Athletic event in 7th ASEAN Para Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex at 8:30 am today. The athletes from host Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia participated in the events.

Kyemon-Than Naing (Zabuthiri)

Laotian women, Thai, Indonesian men win today’s Goal ball event

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Goal ball event of the 7th ASEAN Para Games kick off at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (C), here, this morning.

In women’s event, Laos defeated Myanmar with 13-3 while Thailand won over Brunei with 11-1 and Indonesia beat Myanmar with 12-4 in men’s event.

Athletes from Myanmar, Thailand and Laos are taking part in women’s event while Myanmar, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Timor-Leste and Thailand, in men’s event. Men’s and women’s goal ball events are holding at the same venue from 15 to 19 January.

Kyemon-Myo Sanda Maung

Photo: Khin Maung Win

Myanmar earn silver medal in swimming contest

An official presents award to a winner in swimming contest.

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—The 7th ASEAN Para Games continues at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here, in conjunction with prize-awarding ceremony today.

In men’s 50-m swimming event, Malaysia secured gold medal, followed by Myanmar, silver and Thailand, bronze among four countries—Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

President of Myanmar Paralympics Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin presented prizes to three prize winners in the event.—Kyemon:

Than Naing (Zabuthiri)

Wheelchair basketball event kicks off

Wheelchair basketball event of the 7th ASEAN Para Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (B), here, this afternoon.

Myanmar played against Malaysia in morning match and Thailand with the Philippines in evening match.

Athletes from Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines are taking part in this event.

Semi-finals will be held on 18 January and finals, on 19 January.—Kyemon-Myo Sanda Maung

Photo: Khin Maung Win

Myanmar men defeat in volleyball sitting round-robin event

Myanmar men defeat in volleyball sitting round-robin event.

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Volleyball sitting event of the 7th ASEAN Para Sports Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (A), here, this morning.

At today’s round-robin matches, Myanmar won over Thailand with 3-2 in Men’s event while Indonesia beat Malaysia with 3-0 in Women’s event.

Cambodia will play with Malaysia and Myanmar with Thailand in men’s volleyball event tomorrow.—Kyemon-Phyo Sanda Myint

Photo: Than Naing (Zabuthiri)
Mom! I love you!

The Mothers’ Day of Myanmar, the Fullmoon Day of Pyatho, hit the beloved social network Facebook in a new style. The Myanmar people hardly express their love. On Facebook, many reveal their love and say thanks to their mothers, highly respected in the Myanmar society as the first teacher of one’s life, although their moms would not hear or see what they say on the most popular social network.

Like many Asian countries, mothers are regarded as the second god in Myanmar. But, they are not supposed to be treated well and highly respected all the year round. There are age-old mothers counting their last days in solitude in a home for the Aged, rejected by her sons and daughters. A few unlucky ones are on the road, begging for food.

There are mothers who are struggling alone to make the ends meet for their children. There are also some unfulfilled mothers who do not afford quality education or reliable health care for their children.

There are also some expectant mothers who do not get enough health care or enough care from the communities and their husbands for various reasons.

There are some mothers who do not have enough education how to manage their family and how to cultivate their children well. Most of them lost the love of their sons and daughters.

Everyone loves his/her mother. The superlative love is not still enough for our society. We need to love and take a great care of all the mothers and mothers-to-be on this planet. The future of this country and of this world will not be written by politicians or economists or someone else. It will be written by mothers who have our very future in their hands.

Meeting to review Myanmar Rouge Gems and Utility Jade Sale held

NAV PYI TAW, 15 Jan—A meeting to review the Myanmar Rouge Gems and Utility Jade Sale took place at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, this afternoon.

The meeting, held by the Central Committee for Holding Jade Sale, was attended by USG for Mines Minister, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and Bangladesh delegation led by Commerce Secretary Mr. Mahbub Ahmed.

The meeting focused on holding of jade sales in the two countries, exchange of trade delegations, import of prospect goods from Myanmar, cooperation in agriculture sector, bilateral flights and maritime matters and wider use of ASEAN Clearing Unit (ACU) and bilateral investments.

The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and Bangladesh delegation led by Commerce Secretary Mr. Mahbub Ahmed attended the two-day meeting that began yesterday.

As trade information were exchanged, trade barriers resolved and trade matters under discussions during the 7th JTC meeting, there will be an increase in bilateral trade between the two countries, Myanmar and Bangladesh established the Joint Trade Commission in 2003 and agreed to host the meeting alternatively. The annual bilateral meeting has been held since 2004, aiming at boosting bilateral trade and ensuring trade facilitation.

U Zaw Tun presents Credentials to Slovakian President

NAV PYI TAW, 16 Jan—U Zaw Tun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Slovak Republic, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Ivan Gašparovič, President of the Slovak Republic, on 16 December 2013, in Bratislava.—MNA
Culture Ministry to build Fine...

(from page 16) of cultural museums and libraries, construction of National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) and National Library (Nay Pyi Taw).

The tasks to be implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are opening of child care center in Sittway, extended opening of five pre-schools in Aungpan, Myaungmya, Bago, Tounggo and Kalay. Early Child Care and All-round Development Main Center, knowledge dissemination on land mines and child and youth rights and women’s rights, gender equality, opening of vocational training schools, taking care of human trafficking victims and day care center for the aged, capacity building courses and the disabled. Under the budget, the ministry will provide more aids and funds with volunteering organizations. It also includes, construction of stores for relief aids, repairs to cyclone shelters, construction of staff quarters and natural disasters management Training Schools, said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin.—MNA

Myanmar, India coordinate to boost counternarcotics efforts

YANGON, 15 Jan — High-ranking officials of Myanmar and India held a meeting on bilateral counternarcotics efforts at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

It was attended by counternarcotics officials from both sides led by Myanmar Police Force Chief Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win, secretary of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, and Director-General Mr. Shri Rajiv Mehta of Narcotics Control Bureau of India.

They held discussions on cooperation in control of flowing flue and nausea prevention medicines that contain pseudophedrine used for production of stimulant tablets via illegal entry/exit along Myanmar and India border, exchange of information, training sessions for Myanmar counternarcotics officers, opening of Border Liaison Office to curb smuggling of narcotics, appointment of liaison officers and exchange of communication techniques.

MNA

Meeting on Constitution Review Joint Committee (2/2014) held

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — Meeting on Constitution Review Joint Committee (2/2014) was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, here this afternoon.

Chairman of Constitution Review Joint Committee Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Khin, Secretary U Aye Maung and committee members attended the meeting.

After delivering address by the deputy speaker, the secretary elaborated on completion of tasks of solutions over Constitution Review Joint Committee (2/2014) and the five committees explained reviews on the meeting and work tasks.

The secretary, after hearing the reports, fulfilled the needs.

The meeting on Constitution Review Joint Committee is held on every Tuesday and Thursday and group work meetings are also held soon after Hluttaw meeting.—MNA

Use of LNG discussed


Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe discussed seek the ways for sustainable availability of various energy fuel and fulfilling of LNG in demand of natural gas to contribute drawing the short and long term plans for development of electrification.

Union Minister U Zeyar Aung explained use of oil, natural gas and coal in addition to renewable energy. Myanmar will consume LNG in the future for reducing environmental deterioration.

MNA

Workshop on LNG Supply for Myanmar in progress at Hotel Amara, Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Audiences requested to enjoy 7th ASEAN Para Games

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — After opening ceremony of the 7th ASEAN Para Games, the sports events namely athletics, bocce, blindfold chess, football (7-a-side), goalball, swimming, table tennis, volleyball sitting and wheelchair basketball were held at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here. Athletes from ASEAN countries took part in the events in order for hosting their flags atop as a way of showing their ability and their countries’ pride.

Audiences are requested to enjoy not only the 7th ASEAN Para Games but the closing ceremony as Myanmar prepared for holding the 7th ASEAN Para Games.

On 20 January, the closing ceremony of the 7th ASEAN Para Games will be held.—MNA
KBZ Bank donates cash to older persons

KYAUKME, 15 Jan—A ceremony to donate cash was held at Aged Care Centre in Kyaukme of Shan State on 12 January afternoon.

On behalf of Chairman of KBZ Bank U Aung Ko Win, Deputy Manager Daw Cho Cho Zin of the Kyaukme branch presented K 5 million to the Aged Care Centre through Daw Win Kyi (Kyaukme Store & Star Gold Shop).

U Ye San (Kaung Thant Store) spoke words of thanks.

Construction of Aged Care Centre will cost K 500 million.

MMAL-Thein Than
(IPRD)

Community-based Development Course opens in Palaung Self-Administered Zone

KYAUKME, 15 Jan—The Community-based Development Course was opened in Kyaukme District of Shan State North on 13 January morning.

Experts from Myanmar Egress will give lectures to the trainees with the assistance of Livelihood Governance Project (SwissAid) and Network Activities Group (NAG) of Martung. It will last from 13 to 16 January.

The ceremony was attended by local authorities, Township Development Committee, Ta-aung (Palaung) Literature and Culture Troupe of Namsang and Mangtung townships, members of social organizations and local people totalling 35.

MMAL-Thein Than
(IPRD)

Departmental officials focus on development tasks in Mohnyin District

MOHNYIN, 15 Jan—District Livestock Assistant Director Dr Win Breeding and Veterinary Oo, Head of Mohnyin Department on 10 January met about 345 local people of Taungin Village and Nantsawlaw Village in Mohnyin Township and discussed rural development tasks.

The departmental officials heard reports on requirements of the region and people presented by local people.

The discussions highlighted vaccination for reducing the death rate of animals, breeding of milk cow for feeding milk to school children, raising of Dyl pig for increasing income in a short time, feeding the farming cattle with feedstuff, and artificial insemination to domestic cows.

Assistant Director U Aye Naing, Head of Rural Development Department, explained construction of rural road, availability of safe water, rural electrification and construction of fly-proof latrines at basic education schools.

NLM-001

Kanmyye Lake, dug by King Anawrahta in Taungtha Township

TAUNGTHA, 15 Jan—Kanmyye Village is located 16 miles west of Taungtha, Myingyan District of Mandalay Region. It is adjacent to Zachan Village. 99 acres area of Kanmyye Lake is near the village, and it was dug by King Anawrahta.

At present, the lake area is shrinking and shrinking due to extension of residences and siltation in addition to lesser rainfall. Now, the lake is about 50 acres of land, said local people.

In the monarchical period, King Anawrahta established one village, one pagoda, one lake and one paddy granary in each 12 miles distance along its route to the frontier area. Kanmyye Lake is one of the villages dug by the king.

An ancient pagoda and one ordination hall can be seen in the east of the village.

In the year when rainfall was high, the creek upstream the lake flows into the lake which benefit the local people for consumption and agricultural purposes in Kanmyye, Zachan and Myoma villages, said a local people.

MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)
Indonesia’s politics heat up as elections approach

Jakarta, 15 Jan — Indonesia’s political atmosphere is heating up as national and regional legislative elections slated for April approach, to be followed in July by a presidential election.

The once-every-five-years democratic festivity on 9 April will see more than 6,600 candidates compete for 560 seats in the House of Representatives, as well as for legislative seats at the provincial, municipal and regency levels.

Particular attention is focused on three of the 12 political parties contesting at the national level, namely the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) led by former President Megawati Sukarnoputri, the Golkar Party that was once the political machine of the late dictator Suharto, and the Gerindra Party championed by Prabowo Subianto, a retired general notorious for his poor record on human rights.— Kyodo News

Thai caretaker PM refuses to resign

Bangkok, 15 Jan — Thai caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Tuesday insisted that she would not resign from her duties as a prime minister because she was obliged to protect democracy that belongs to Thai people.

According to Yingluck, she will take part in a meeting scheduled on Wednesday morning to discuss whether the Feb. 2 general election will be postponed to 4 May as proposed by the Election Commission (EC).

The government needs to solicit opinions from various sides before taking further action, Yingluck insisted.

The government will invite about 70 people from all sides to the discussion, but it remains unsure if representative of the Democratic Party and the anti-government People’s Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) would turn up.

Protest leader and secretary-general of the PDRC Suthep Thaugsuban earlier categorically refused to join the discussion.

EC member Somchai Srisuthiyakorn said all five EC members would not attend Wednesday’s meeting, but a representative would be sent instead.

According to Somchai, the EC does not believe the discussion, which involves a large number of people with conflicting opinions and interests, will yield anything but more conflict.

Somchai said the EC had asked PM’s secretary-general Suranand Vejajiva to set up a meeting between the EC and Yingluck on Thursday and was now awaiting a reply.

He said should Thursday’s meeting be arranged, all EC members would show up and a decision on whether to delay the election could be made that day.— Xinhua

MSDF vessel sinks fishing boat, 2 in critical condition

Tokyo, 15 Jan — A leisure fishing boat capsized and sank on Wednesday morning after colliding with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force transport vessel Osumi in the Seto Inland Sea off Otake, Hiroshima Prefecture, leaving two of the four on board the boat in critical condition, the Defense Ministry and the Japan Coast Guard said.

The four — the captain and three anglers — were thrown into the sea following the collision, which occurred at around 8 a.m., but were rescued by the 180-meter Osumi. One of the two in critical condition is the leisure boat’s captain, according to the authorities.

The remaining two are not injured. One of the rescued men was quoted as telling his coast guard officials investigating the incident that the leisure boat must have collided with the left-hand side of the Osumi. The coast guard detected traces of the collision on the MSDF vessel’s hull.— Kyodo News

Japan says it will approve Fukushima operator’s revival plan

Tokyo, 15 Jan — Japan’s trade ministry said it would approve on Wednesday a revival plan for the utility responsible for the Fukushima nuclear disaster, Tokyo Electric Power Co., its second attempt at restoring battered finances.

The plan, largest on Tokyo Electric (Tepco) restarting its Kashiwazaki Kariwa nuclear plant to cut fossil fuel costs, a contentious issue staunchly opposed by the local governor. An earlier plan by Tepco outlining a revival after its Fukushima plant was hit by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011, triggering triple meltdowns at the site, had to be torn up because it could not restart Kashiwazaki.

Japan’s trade minister Toshimitsu Motegi is scheduled to meet Tepco president at 1700 JST on Wednesday to officially approve the plan. Tepco is also pledging to cut costs by reducing fuel spending at the station in July and the utility hopes all seven reactors will go online by fiscal 2018.

The disaster at Fukushima, the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl in 1986 eventually brought about the halt of all nuclear power plants in Japan so they could be vetted under tougher new standards. Opposition to atomic power remains strong in the country and is set to become a major issue in an election next month for governorship of metropolitan Tokyo, which owns a stake in Tepco.— Reuters

Communist Party expels former executive at China Mobile parent

Hong Kong, 15 Jan — A former senior executive at China Mobile Ltd’s state-owned parent has been expelled from the Communist Party amid a company-wide probe into suspected corruption.

China’s new leadership has made fighting graft a priority to assuage rising public anger over the scale of corruption in the world’s second-biggest economy.

Xu Long, who was general manager of China Mobile Communications Corp’s Guangdong office, was expelled from the party due to “severe disciplinary violations,” according to a statement posted on Wednesday on the website of Guangdong province’s disciplinary committee.

“During Xu Long’s posting at China Mobile Communications Corps Guangdong office, he took advantage of his senior position to seek profits for others,” the statement said.

Xu “took multiple bribes that involved an enormous amount of money,” it said. He will be sent to court and his illegal income would be seized, the statement added. China Mobile, the world’s biggest mobile operator by subscribers, said in May its parent was beefing up its internal supervision after a government audit highlighted problems in accounting practices and internal management. Xu was taken away by the provincial government’s disciplinary committee in August due to “severe discipline violations.”

Shares of Hong Kong-listed China Mobile were down 0.8 percent on Wednesday, lagging a 0.5 percent gain for the benchmark Hang Seng Index. China’s anti-corruption campaign has led to the detention of some senior officials as well as senior executives in major state firms, including PetroChina Co Ltd.— Reuters
Invitation for Prequalification

Myanmar Electric Power Project (IDA-53060-MM)
Thaton Combine Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant
(ICB MEPE-G-01)

This invitation for prequalification follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business of October 22, 2013 on-line. The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Myanmar Electric Power Project, and it intends to apply part of this credit to payments under the contract for Thaton Combine Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant at the existing Thaton gas station (GT) in Mon State with a new combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant. The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) intends to prequalify contractors for supply and installation of a gas power plant which will generate and supply as much electricity as possible to the grid, limited by the available fuel gas up to 25MM CFD. Power export shall be at 66kV and 230 kV. The power station shall primarily generate base load power to Myanmar National grids. The main specifications include: the overall capacity of the power plant to be constructed is in the range of 105-110 MW, the minimum capacity of gas turbine and steam turbine is 35-45MW/unit and 20-40 MW/unit respectively.

It is expected that invitations for bid will be made in April 2014.

Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines; Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits, January 2011, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document from 10:00 - 15:30 hrs. at

Thermal Power Department
Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise,
Bldg No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar
Phone : + 9567410228
E-mail: gtecoffice@gmail.com

A complete set of the prequalification document in English language may be obtained free of charge by sending a request to the above email address. A copy of the prequalification document will be sent to the interested eligible Applicants as the attachment to the email. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by 24.2.2014, 14:00 hr and be marked clearly “Application to Prequalification for Thaton Combine Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant (ICB MEPE-G-01)”

Material Planning Department
Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise,
Ministry of Electric Power
Bldg No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar

Seibu to apply for TSE relisting on Wednesday

Tokyo, 15 Jan — Seibu Holdings Inc is set to submit applications to relist its shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Wednesday, according to sources close to the matter.

The move by the holding company of Seibu Railway Co and the Prince Hotel chain comes nearly a decade after Seibu Railway was delisted in December 2004 for falsifying financial statements.

Kyodo News

Claims Day Notice

MV LIZSTAR GLORY VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LIZSTAR GLORY VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(7) where it will lie at the consignee’s risks 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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS LIZSTAR LINE

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Claims Day Notice

MV LANGELOD GLORY VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LANGELOD GLORY VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.B.W(3) where it will lie at the consignee’s risks 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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS TRANGLE INVEST APS

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Claims Day Notice

MV LIZSTAR GLORY VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LIZSTAR GLORY VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.B.W(7) where it will lie at the consignee’s risks and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS LIZSTAR LINE

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS TRANGLE INVEST APS

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

To be Awarded

1. Phyo Min Thike, holding of Myanmar passport (No. M 644444) Lost my passport on 11 Jan, 2014. Please contact my below phone number if you found it. 09 43152130

People buy Chinese date in a trading centre in Taiyuan City, capital of north China’s Shanxi Province, on 13 Jan, 2014. With the Spring Festival approaching, special purchases for the lunar new year with a fair price attracted the Chinese people.—XINHUA
Robin Wright on engagement: Couldn’t be happier

LOS ANGELES, 15 Jan — Actress Robin Wright, who got engaged to Lone Survivor star Ben Foster and won the Golden Globe, is happy and contended.

She confirmed her engagement to Foster on 10 January, after she stepped out showing her engagement ring at Diane von Furstenburg’s ‘Journey of a Dress’ exhibition here.

When people.com asked her about the engagement and wedding plans, Wright said: “It’s still new. We’re still talking about where, when, how, but couldn’t be happier.”

The 47-year-old won Best Performance by an Actress in TV drama series award at the 71st Golden Globe awards here on Sunday (12 Jan, 2014). She won it for her role in House of Cards.

For the award, she said: “I’m in shock right now. I don’t know what’s going on exactly.”

Julia Roberts: My life after 30 has been bliss

LOS ANGELES, 15 Jan — Actress Julia Roberts says she had the best time since leaving her 20s behind her.

The 46-year-old says the last 16 years have been the best of her life, as she doesn’t have the hang-ups that she had in her 20s, reports femalefirst.co.uk. “On my 30th, every person I loved and adored in the world was with me. I was excited and could not understand the tone of doom about leaving my youth behind,” she said.

Leonardo DiCaprio: I’d love to work with Amitabh Bachchan again

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan — If Hollywood’s ace actor Leonardo DiCaprio had his way, he would love to team up with Indian megastar Amitabh Bachchan on screen again after having shared screen space with him in The Great Gatsby. He finds the veteran an impressive talent and a “gentleman”.

Recently, while DiCaprio was being interviewed for his latest film The Wolf Of Wall Street, he was questioned whether if an opportunity to work with Mr Bachchan would come up again, what would he do. He expressed an interest in it, read a statement.

The Titanic star said: “Mr Bachchan impressed me immensely by not just his talent and his ability to act, but what a gentleman he was. I was honoured to work with him. It was great seeing that enthusiasm he brings to even the smallest of roles and I’d love to work with him in the future.”

Amitabh, 71, made his international debut with The Great Gatsby, directed by Baz Luhrmann. Big B plays the role of Meyer Wolfsheim in the $125 million 3D project, an adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald’s novel of the same name.

Julia Roberts says she could not understand the doom of leaving youth behind.

“She does not understand the doom of leaving youth behind. “Since then, my life has been bliss. If I knew that 30 was going to be so much fun I would have done it at 22’” she added. Roberts got married to Daniel Moder in 2002 and they have nine-year-old twins Hazel and Phinnaeus and six-year-old Henry.

The workout tip that Jennifer Aniston gave Courteney Cox

LONDON, 15 Jan — Courteney Cox says her former F.R.I.E.N.D.S co-star Jennifer Aniston gave her a workout tip that proved very effective.

The 49-year-old actress once had a problem with her fall with my bony little wrist. It meant I needed two operations and couldn’t exercise for about three months,” Courteney Cox said. “Jen turned me on to an elliptical trainer to work out with, so I now use that too,” she added.

Jennifer and Courteney have been good friends since they did F.R.I.E.N.D.S together.

Leonardo DiCaprio bought the painting, by street artist Banksy, at an event hosted by Sean Penn.

Chris Martin bought the painting, by street artist Banksy, at a fundraiser for Haiti earthquake victims.

Chris Martin bought the painting, by street artist Banksy, in London. He has reportedly spent a huge amount for one-of-a-kind design by famed street artist Banksy at a fundraiser for Haiti earthquake victims.

Martin bought a picture by street artist Banksy for 400,000 pounds at actor Sean Penn’s Haiti Home Gala charity event on 11 January, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He was accompanied by his actress-wife Gwyneth Paltrow at the high-profile event held here.

Leonardo DiCaprio featured with Amitabh Bachchan in The Great Gatsby.

Chris Martin spends 400,000 pounds on Banksy painting

LOS ANGELES, 15 Jan — British rock band Coldplay frontman Chris Martin has reportedly spent a huge amount for one-of-a-kind design by famed street artist Banksy at a fundraiser for Haiti earthquake victims.

Martin bought a picture by street artist Banksy for 400,000 pounds at actor Sean Penn’s Haiti Home Gala charity event on 11 January, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He was accompanied by his actress-wife Gwyneth Paltrow at the high-profile event held here.

Jennifer and Courteney have been good friends since they did F.R.I.E.N.D.S together.
Australian Open order of play on Thursday

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan — Order of play on the main showcourts at the Australian Open on Thursday (play starts at 0000 GMT on all courts, prefix denotes seeding):
Rod Laver Arena
Karim Knapp (Italy) v 3-Maria Sharapova (Russia)
Christina McHale (US) v 10-Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)
Not before 0300 1-Rafa Nadal (Spain) v Thanasi Kokkinakis (Australia)
From 0800
Barbora Zahlavova Strycova (Czech Republic) v 2-Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
4-Andy Murray (Britain) v Vincent Millot (France)
Hisense Arena
Olivia Rogowska (Australia) v Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)
10-ToWilfried Tsonga (France) v Thomaz Bellucci (Brazil)
5-Agneszka Radwanska (Poland) v Olga Govortsova (Belarus)
Not before 0600
Blaz Kavcic (Slovenia) v 6-Roger Federer (Switzerland)
Margaret Court Arena
25-Alize Cornet (France) v Camila Giorgi (Italy)
13-Sloane Stephens (US) v Alja Tomjanovic (Croatia)
Jack Sock (US) v 25-Gaël Monfils (France)
From 0800
27-Benoît Paire (France) v Nick Kyrgios (Australia) — Reuters

David Ferrer qualifies for third round at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan — Third-seeded Spaniard Da-
vid Ferrer overcame a slow start to beat Frenchman
Adrian Mannarino in the third round of the Aus-
tralian Open here on Tuesday.
Ferrer trailed 0-3 in the opening set but managed to
force a tiebreak, in which he won by 7-2. He then lost
the second set 5-7 before taking control back in the fi-
nal two sets at 6-0, 6-3. The Spaniard reached Australian
Open semifinals in 2013 and quarterfinals in 2012, both
lost to three-time defending
champion Novak Djokovic.
Ferrer is the Serb’s
main threat in the bottom
half of the draw, with top
seed Rafael Nadal, Andy
Murray and Roger Federer
all playing in the other half.

Serena Williams storms into third round at
Melbourne Park

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan — Top seed Serena Williams
of the United States took
just 63 minutes to reach the third round of the Aus-
tralian Open here on Wednes-
day.
The five-time winner
eased into a straight-set vic-
tory against her Serb oppo-
nent Vesna Dolonc at 6-1, 6-2.
As the oldest player to ever rank No 1, Williams
went 78-4 and won 11 titles in 2013. She also beat Ma-
ria Sharapova and Victoria
Azarenka back-to-back the week before last to win in
Brisbane without dropping a
ing single set.
Williams will match
former world number ones
Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova by winning an
18th Grand Slam title to
open her 2014.

Doping-Weightlifter Robles handed two-year ban for
failed drugs test

Toronto, 15 Jan — Weightlifter Sarah Robles, a
member of the US team at the 2012 London Olympics,
was handed a two-year sus-
pension after testing posi-
tive for steroids, the United
States Anti-Doping Agency
(USADA) said on Tuesday.
Robles tested positive
for her presence of an exog-
emous androgenic anabolic
steroid in an out-of-compe-
tition and two in-competi-
tion urine samples collected
by both USADA and the
International Weightlifting
Federation, the US drug
agency said in a statement.
Called the strongest
woman in America, Rob-
les placed seventh in the
75 kilogram super-heavy
weight division in London
but gained attention for her
story of perseverance living
on $400 a month while try-
ing to secure a spot on the
US Olympic squad

Fulham find form to knock out Norwich in
FA Cup

LONDON, 15 Jan — Ful-
ham forgot their Premier
League struggles to sweep
into the FA Cup fourth round with a 3-0 victory over fellow top-flight strugg-
gers Norwich City in a third-round replay on Tues-
day.
Fulham, thrashed 4-1
at home by relegation can-
didates Sunderland on Sat-
urday, cast off the shackles
of their league form to hit
top gear with a performance
full of attacking intent on a
cold night at a half-empty
Craven Cottage.
They opened the scoring
after 16 minutes through
former England striker Dar-
ren Bent, who found the
net from Pajtim Kasami’s cross
for his second goal in three
games having failed to get
on the scoresheet in the pre-
vious 10.
Ashkan Dejagah fired
into the roof of the net to
double the London side’s
lead four minutes before
the break and Steve Sidwell
made the result safe with a
header in the second half to
set up a fourth-round clash
at Sheffield United.
Holders Wigan Ath-
etic, who shocked Man-
chester City to win the Cup
last season before being rel-
egated from the top flight,
were 11 minutes away from
a third-round replay exit at
third tier MK Dons before
forcing extra time and win-
ing 3-1.
Wigan substitute and
Manchester United loanee
Nick Powell scored after 79
minutes to cancel out for-
mer United midfielder Luke
Chadwick’s opener. Powell
then grabbed a second goal in
extra time and Marc-Antoine
Fortune added the third. Wigan are at home to
Premier League strugglers
Crystal Palace in the fourth
round later this month.
Bournemouth beat
Burton Albion 4-1 to set
up a home tie with Liv-
erpool in the next round
while there were also wins
for Birmingham City,
Kid-
dersminster, Port Vale, Pre-
ton North End, Sheffield
Wednesday and Watford.
Charlton Athletic and Ox-
ford United drew 2-2 in
their third round tie and
will face a replay. — Reuters

Li Na makes it to third round at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan — Fourth seed Li Na
won 7-5 in the tiebreak of the second set to beat Swiss
qualifier Belinda Bencic in straight sets and advanced
into the third round here on Wednesday at the Aus-
stralian Open.
The two-time runner-
up dominated the first set,
playing only 22 minutes to
win 6-0 without dropping a
game and conceding only
10 points.
Bencic put up more of
a challenge in the second
set and broke Li twice to
force a tiebreak. But Li pre-
vailed to win 7-5.
“Sarah Robles of the US competes in the women’s +75kg group
A clean and jerk weightlifting compe-
tition at the ExCel venue during the
London 2012 Olympic Games on 5 Aug,
2012. — Reuters

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Nine killed in clashes as Egypt votes on constitution

CAIRO, 15 Jan — Nine people were killed during Egypt’s first day of voting on a new constitution on Tuesday, as clashes erupted between police and supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood in different parts of the country. According to a statement issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Health, clashes between supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood and security forces led to the death of four people in Sohag, four in Giza and one in Beni Souef. The statement added that two other people died of natural causes in Cairo and 28 people were injured during the day.

However, a statement from the Supreme Electoral Committee said that the first day of voting had not been affected by the incidents and that the referendum process was unaffected overall. The committee also denied reports that the voting may be extended to a third day. According to the statement, no results will be revealed until the end of the counting process and checking of all the voters lists. Egyptians started casting their votes Tuesday on the country’s new draft constitution, which is widely seen as a milestone for Egypt’s political transition after Islamist President Mohamed Morsi was ousted last July.

The two-day referendum opened on 9 am local time (0700 GMT) in the country’s 27 governorates and closed at 9 pm (1900 GMT). The new constitution, to replace the one written largely by Morsi’s Islamist allies in late 2012, is a first step in the country’s future military-backed roadmap.

If the draft document is approved, Egypt will go through parliamentary and presidential elections, and the post-Morsi transitional period will come to an end in mid-2014, six months at most after the referendum.

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Argentine poet, political critic Gelman dies in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 15 Jan—Juan Gelman, the celebrated Argentine poet and fierce critic of the South American nation’s “dirty war” against leftists, died on Tuesday in Mexico City, Mexico’s national art council said.

Gelman, who was born in Buenos Aires but lived in the Mexican capital for more than 20 years, died after being hospitalized, the council said in a statement. Local media reported that he suffered from myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), a group of bone marrow and blood diseases.

The poet and political analyst’s writings won some of the highest awards given to Spanish writers, including the lifetime achievement Miguel de Cervantes Prize. Gelman fought against impunity and injustices under Argentina’s military junta, which “disappeared” thousands of suspected leftists from 1976 to 1983. One of Gelman’s own sons was kidnapped and murdered during the so-called “dirty war.”—Reuters

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Australian Open men’s singles round two results

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan — Results from the Australian Open Men’s Singles Round 2 matches on Wednesday.

9-Richard Gasquet (France) beat 14-Mikhail Youzhny (Russia) 6-1, 7-6(4), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.
25-Novak Djokovic (Serbia) beat 30-Dmitry Tursunov (Russia) 7-6(3), 6-4, 6-1.
29-Jeremy Chardy (France) beat 23-Ernests Gulbis (Latvia) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

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Djokovic advances into third round at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan—Three-time defending champion Novak Djokovic reached the third round at the Australian Open here on Wednesday after beating Argentine Leonardo Mayer in straight sets.

The second seed stayed on track for his fifth Australian Open title and extended his winning streak at the Melbourne Park to 23 matches with a 6-0, 6-4 and 6-4 victory.

The second round match was also the Serb’s 26th consecutive win but Djokovic got a brief scare while serving at 3-0 in the first set when he turned over on his left ankle and tumbled to the court.

But it appeared not so serious as he took the opening set in 22 minutes, just conceding eight points. Djokovic is attempting to win his fifth Australian Open title, the first man to achieve that feat in the Open Era.

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MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL TV
(17-1-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Myanmar Invites You
* World News
* School for the Blind
* Local News
* Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
* World News
* Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
* Local News
* A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-2)
* World News
* A Girl Guide
* Local News
* Making of Nawarat Rings
* World News
* Moving Meditation: A kido
* Local News
* Lucrative Businesses of Taninatiffany Region
* World News
* Will you feed the pigeons?
* Local News
* To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (EP-1)
* Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art
* Myanmar Movie Impact “So Cool-2”
* The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
* Myanmar Beauty And His Creations (Ep-1)
* World News
* In the Studio “Na Di Htike”

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MYANMAR TV
(16-1-14, Thursday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Saydaw (Volleyball)
(Indonesia & (Myanmar) (Women)
2:40 am
14. India Drama Series
3:10 pm
15. Shwe Yin Khone Than
3:40 pm
16. Kyae Pwint Myaye
4:00 pm
Yin Khone Than
7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report
10:00 am
2. News/International News
8:45 am
3. 7th ASEAN Para Games (Live) (Volleyball) (Timorleste & Indonesia) (Women)
10:00 am
4. News/International News
10:45 am
11. 7th ASEAN Para Games (Live) (Volleyball) (Cambodia & Myanmar) (Men)
12:00 pm
12:45 am
13. 7th ASEAN Para Games (Live)

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A child views an ice carving on Central Avenue, downtown Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 14 January 2014. Since the month-long Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival kicked off on 5 Jan, squares and avenues in the capital city have been decorated by colourful lights and illuminated ice carvings.—Xinhua
Culture Ministry to build Fine Arts College in Nyaungshwe of Shan State

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates offererries to 14th Shwegyin Gana Sangharaja Sayadaw. —MYAWADY

The Senior General asked after the 14th Shwegyin Gana Sangharaja Sayadaw Abbot of Zayamedani Waso Monastery of Mandalay State Ovadaçariya Abhidhajh Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhajh Agga Maha Sad-dhammajotika Bhaddanta Agghya and supplicated on religious affairs before he donated offererries to the Sayadaw.

The wounded children were an 11-year-old boy, who students said had been shot in the face, and a 13-year-old girl, whose condition was serious but improved after surgery. The boy underwent two rounds of surgery and was in critical condition.

The boy’s motive remains unclear, police said, but student Monique Salcido, a friend of the two children who were shot, told CNN he had been bullied at the school.

It killed 18 people and wounded 16 in Shatub, a village south of Baquba. Two years after US troops left Iraq, violence has climbed back to its highest levels since the Sunni-Shi’ite bloodshed of 2006-2007, when tens of thousands of people were killed.

Athletes from ASEAN countries enjoy opening of 7th ASEAN Para Games comfortably

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Jan—Para athletes from ASEAN countries attended the opening ceremony of the 7th ASEAN Para Games at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex here yesterday. Members of security and fire brigade and relevant departments were trying to set up an “evil statelet.”

In the deadliest incidence, a bomb blew up in a funeral tent where mourners were marking the death two days ago of a Sunni Muslim pro-government militiaman, police said.

Students are reunited with families at a staging ground set up at the Roswell Mall following an early morning shooting at Berrendo Middle School in Roswell, New Mexico, 14 January, 2014.—REUTERS

The shooting at Berrendo Middle School in Roswell took place in a gym where students had gathered to stay warm from the frigid weather outside before the start of class, Governor Susana Martinez told reporters.

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Boy, 12, opens fire at New Mexico school, wounds two students

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Jan—Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi explained that the Ministry’s budget will be spent on digitalization process, installation of FM Radio transmitters, distribution of set-top boxes, installation of necessary equipments for new extended channels, setting up of International Broadcasting Center and Main Press Center (MPC), establishment of village libraries and mini book corners, installation of free wifi access and public digital library service, transformation from Sarpay Beikman into Semi-government Organization for translation services, purchase of new offset and Computer-To-Plate (CTP) and live broadcast.

The ministry will open sub-printing houses in Mawlamyine, Kalay and Myitkyina to carry out the circulation of colour newspapers in national races languages in addition to Myanmar language. The New Light of Myanmar Daily will be commercialized to become an international one after making joint venture with a private company. It also includes digitalization and upgrade of grade of cinemas, drafting of the Film Law and promoting film market, the Union Minister said.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu said that the Ministry’s budget includes performance of dances and songs, construction of Fine Arts College in Nyaungshwe of Shan State, researches and conservation and renovation of ancient cultural heritages, upgrades (See page 9)

Athletes from ASEAN countries enjoy opening of 7th ASEAN Para Games comfortably

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates offererries to 14th Shwegyin Gana Sangharaja Sayadaw. —MYAWADY

It comes amid a contentious national debate on gun control that intensified after a gunman shot dead 20 students and six staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, in December 2012. Following that attack, President Barack Obama called for sweeping new gun control measures.—REUTERS

Policemen look at the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, 15 January, 2014.—REUTERS

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