Moeyungyi Sanctuary sees flocks of migratory birds

To protect and conserve sites inhabited by a large number of species of birds and recognized as the areas of biodiversity, 2,171 sites with a total surface area of 207,291 hectares in 168 countries that are parties to Ramsar Convention, have been designated as wetlands of international importance so far. Among them, Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary is the first site under Ramsar Convention in Myanmar.

By: MNA

It is located on the side of Yangon-Mandalay Highway, 19 miles from Bago, Bago Region. As it is home to hibernating and resident water birds, the sanctuary has become an ecotourism site, offering globetrotters and local travelers for bird watching trips and making the enjoyment of natural scenery.

On his inspection tour of the sanctuary, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung coordinated matters related to the development of ecotourism and public awareness of the importance of wetland conservation. He stressed the need to draw action plans suitable for the own region in accord with the slogan “Think Globally, Act Locally”. World Wetlands Day is celebrated internationally each year on 2 February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997. The theme for the World Wetland Day 2014 is “Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth”. Kyemon: 24-1-2014 Tre: YM
LOCAL NEWS

YMBA opens Meiktila branch

Meiktila, 24 Jan—A ceremony to set up the branch of Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) was held at Sasana Kyemon (Meiktila) on 20 January.

Chairperson of the YMBA Headquarters U Kyaw Thein (Maha Mingaladhamma Jotikadha) made a speech.

Vice-Chairperson of the organizational committee U Sein Thein explained rules and regulations of formation and read the executive list of YMBA Branch No. 42.

The chairman of YMBA presented appointment certificate to Chairman of the branch U Thein Swe. Treasurer U Maung Maung Myint of the branch handed over cash to the Secretary of Shan State.

General Administration Committee was held at the hall of Kyaukme Township General Administration Department of Shan State.

Kyaukme Township Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Sai Hsang Hsi presented K 100 million to U Tin Hlaing (Meiktila) of development fund of Rural Development Department U Win Zaw Nyunt explained religious affairs.

The branch chairman U Thein Swe presented appointment certificate to Chairman of YMBA Branch No 42.

Development Fund

Fund handed over to development undertaking committee

Kyaukme, 24 Jan—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw allotted K 100 million to be spent on regional development tasks to various townships.

Recently, a ceremony to hand over cash to the fund of Rural Development and Township Development Committee was held at the hall of Kyaukme Township General Administration Department of Shan State.

Kyaukme Township Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Sai Hsang Hsi presented K 100 million to the Secretary of the Township Development Implementation Committee who is also Township Administrator.

Chairperson of the Township Development Implementation Committee Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Sai Hsang Hsi, Secretary U Aung Lwin and party shared the fund to ward and village development committees and supervisory committees in equal ratio. The fund will be spent on water supply tasks, sinking tube-well, construction of water tanks, construction of roads and bridges, electrification and construction of village fire station.

Myingyan Steel Plant to be operated soon

Myingyan, 24 Jan—Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd will hand over Myingyan Steel Plant to Ministry of Industry in the third week of January this year. All staff and workers will be placed under management of Myingyan Steel Plant, according to Deputy Steel Plant Manager U Thein Zaw.

The plant is now ready to operate its runs, he added.

Iron and steel are important things in nation-building endeavours in setting out the industrialized plant.

Although the price of materials are so high, but it must be undertaken for ensuring development of industrial sector. In addition, the steel plant will be run as it is focusing on import-substitute projects so as to creating job opportunities for the local people and to manufacture the import-substitute products.

The plant was established with assistance of Italy. It was built in Myingyan Township, eight miles to Myingyan.

Extended building construction starts at Kalay People’s Hospital

Kalay, 24 Jan—The government allotted K 469 million of the fund in 2013-14 fiscal year to construct a two-storey building which is 240 feet long and 56 feet wide reinforced concrete structure, south of Kalay General Hospital in Kalay of Sagaing Region.

Alpha Wing Co takes responsibility for construction of the building as of 26 December 2013 and it has been completed by 20 per cent so far.

On 16 January, Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo, District Senior Engineer U Myint Win of District Public Works and Medical Superintendent Dr Nyunt Than inspected progress of construction tasks.

Officials instructed responsible persons of the company to place emphasis on timely completion of building meeting set standards.

A more plan is underway to build tube-well, septic tank, water tanks spending K 21.836 million for the two-storey new building.

Sunflower plantations thriving in Thazi Tsp

Thazi, 24 Jan—Sunflower, the edible oil crops, grown in Nadaw, the month of Myanmar lunar year, December, is now thriving in their plantations in villages of Thazi Township.

Generally, there are two species such as cold season sunflower strain and monsoon sunflower strain. Local farmers of Thazi Township grow a few acres of monsoon season crops.

In growing sunflower plants, there does not need to recruit the workers for the plantations.

Bean plantations can be cultivated in the sunflower plantations through the mix-cropping. So local farmers enjoy better profits from the sunflower plantations.

Myingyan Steel Plant to be operated soon
Suicide car bomber kills four in Cairo, two more blasts follow

CAIRO, 24 Jan — A suicide car bomber blew himself up in the parking lot of a top security compound in central Cairo on Friday, killing at least four people in one of the most high-profile attacks on the state in months, security sources said.

The early morning explosion damaged the Cairo Security Directorate, which includes police and state security, and sent smoke rising over the capital, raising concerns that an Islamist insurgency is gathering pace.

Hours after the attack, two more blasts rocked the capital.

A crude explosive device killed one policeman and wounded nine others in another Cairo neighborhood, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. Security sources said a person driving past security vehicles threw a hand grenade in their direction.

In Giza, a large district on the outskirts of Cairo, a third explosion went off near a police station. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The dead from the first blast included three policemen, security sources said. State television quoted the Cairo governor as saying 50 people were wounded.

Ukraine’s Yanukovich spurns opposition, more barricades go up

KIEV, 24 Jan — Ukrainian anti-government protesters erected more street barricades in the capital Kiev early on Friday after opposition leaders emerged empty-handed from talks with President Viktor Yanukovich that were aimed at defusing two months of unrest.

Opposition leader Vitaly Klitschko said that Yanukovich had yielded nothing in a second round of talks with the opposition on Thursday evening, and he voiced fears that the impasse could now lead to further bloodshed.

At least three protesters were killed early on Wednesday in Kiev — two from gunshot wounds after clashes between protesters and riot police.

Scores of others on both sides have been injured — many of them with eye injuries caused by flying projectiles and police rubber bullets.

After speaking first to protesters manning barricades at the main confrontation point with police, Klitschko then went to Kiev’s Independence Square where he declared: “Hours of conversation were spent about nothing. There is no sense sitting at a negotiating table with someone who has already decided to deceive you.”

“I earnestly wish that there will be no bloodshed and that people are not killed...I will survive, but I am afraid there will be deaths. I am afraid of this,” the boxer-turned-politician said.

Three opposition politicians — Klitschko, former economy minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and far-right nationalist Oleh Tyahnybok — had tried to wring concessions from Yanukovich that would end two months of street protests against his rule.

Gov’t to approve Japan Post’s new education insurance

TOKYO, 24 Jan — The government will give Japan Post Insurance Co on Friday approval to launch a new savings-oriented education insurance product, Finance Minister Taro Aso and Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Yoshitaka Shindo said. The Financial Services Agency and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will allow the company to launch the new educational endowment insurance in April, when the new school year begins, government officials said.

“It is important that operations are implemented in an appropriate manner, and we hope that (the insurer) will do so,” Aso, who doubles as financial services minister, said at a press conference. The move comes after Washington apparently relaxed its concerns over Japan’s insurance market following an expansion of business collaboration between Japan Post Insurance and American Family Life Assurance Co, or AFLAC.

Japan’s insurance sector is one of the key topics of discussion in bilateral talks between Tokyo and Washington over the envisioned Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade arrangement. But the issue has not been discussed intensively since the collaboration between the insurance unit of the state-owned Japan Post Group and the US-based insurer was announced last July.

Japan Post Insurance, a wholly owned unit of Japan Post Holdings Co, applied for the new insurance product in September 2012 for sales to commence by April 2013. The government, however, froze its screening of the application after the insurer became embroiled in a scandal over nonpayment of 100,000 outstanding policies.

The new education insurance plan will be more savings-oriented than its existing education insurance. Similar products by other insurers have been popular, and the approval suspension has been weighing on the sales of Japan Post Insurance.

South Sudan gov’t, rebels sign cease-fire deal

JUBA, 24 Jan — South Sudan’s government and rebel forces have been holding peace talks since early January under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, a regional organization in East Africa.

The fighting has grown amid the rivalry between the country’s two largest ethnic group Denka, with which President Salva Kiir is a member, and Nuer to which Machar belongs. Government forces recently occupied several state capitals temporarily held by rebels, including Bor, the capital of the eastern state of Jonglei.

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Small bomb explodes in Rome near French church

ROME, 24 Jan — A small makeshift explosive device blew up in a street in central Rome on the early hours of Friday, causing slight damage to a building belonging to a French religious establishment and three parked cars, police said.

There was no immedi ate word on what was behind the explosion, which occurred hours before a visit to Pope Francis by French President Francois Hollande but security was tight near the Vatican ahead of the meeting.

According to a tweet from the French Embassy to the Vatican, the church of Saint-Yves des Bret ons, part of a religious foundation known as Les pieux établissements de la France, is located in the street.
EU Justice Ministers pose for a family photo at the Zappeion Hall in Athens, capital of Greece, on 23 Jan, 2014. The Informal Meeting of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) will address issues that have been prioritised by the presidency in the field of Justice: future developments in the sector, as it enters the post-Stockholm period, and the level of data protection for European citizens.—Xinhua

**WORLD**

**Fire at seniors’ residence in Canada kills 3, 30 missing**

OTTAWA, 24 Jan — At least three people were killed and 30 others unaccounted for after a night-time fire early Thursday destroyed a seniors’ residence that housed many residents with limited mobility in the town of L’Ile-Verte in Canada’s Quebec Province.

The town’s acting mayor or Ginette Caron said most of the residents were in their 80s, who lived at the Residence du Havre, could not get around on their own and some of them had Alzheimer’s disease. Many residents had come to live at the residence because of the special end-of-life care offered in the region, she quoted by local media as saying. About 20 residents were taken away from the residence to local and nearby hospitals.

Local police said that they received a call about the fire at around 12:35 am ET and the fire was brought under control at around 5 am ET in L’Ile-Verte, a small town with about 1,500 residents located in the Lower St Lawrence, about 230 km northeast of Quebec City. The fire is now out, but images show a demolished building, with little more than a frame left behind in some places.

The case led to public outrage over baby trafficking and professional ethics of medical workers. Former deputy director of the delivery rooms at Fuping County Maternal and Child Health Care Hospital at a public hearing. Three others were also sentenced.

Chinese jails hospital official in baby selling case

WEIYAN, 24 Jan — A Chinese hospital official involved in a baby trafficking case has been sentenced to one year imprisonment for defecition of duty, a court announced on Friday.

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US drone strikes four in central Yemen

SANAA, 24 Jan — A US drone strike hit a group of people driving a car in Yemen’s central province of Marib on Thursday night, killing at least four people and injuring seven others, a Yemeni interior ministry official told Xinhua.

“Four people were killed in the US drone strike which took place on Thursday in coordination with the Yemeni interior ministry,” the official told Xinhua by phone on Friday.

It was the second US drone strike since the beginning of this year after unmanned plane killed two suspected al-Qaeda militants in Yemen’s southeastern province of Hadramout on 8 January.

The United States has escalated its drone strikes on the al-Qaeda network in Yemen since Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi took office in February 2012 after a UN-backed power transfer deal removed former President Ali Abdullah Saleh from power.

The Yemen-based al-Qaeda offshoot frequently launched revenge attacks on local targets, the military and foreign missions in the country. On 5 December, 12 al-Qaeda militants attacked the Yemeni defense ministry, killing over 56 people and injuring more than 200 others.—Xinhua

Arab women choose books at a bookstand during the 45th Cairo International Book Fair in Cairo Egypt, on 23 Jan. 2014. The 45th Cairo International Book Fair, one of the biggest book exhibitions in the world, opened to public here on Thursday, with the theme “Culture and Identity,” and saw participation from 24 different countries and over 700 publishers, 500 of which are Egyptian.—Xinhua

ICC postpones Kenyatta trial again

THE HAGUE, 24 Jan— The trial of Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta faces another delay and will not start at the scheduled date of 5 February, was stated by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague on Thursday.

Instead of commencing the trial the chamber will now hold a status conference on 5 February to address the prosecution’s request for a 3-month adjournment. The trial was originally scheduled for 9 July, 2013, but was already delayed to 12 November and later to 5 February to give the defense more preparation time. After the attack, saying it had no evidence against the prosecution’s position’s key witnesses indicated he was no longer willing to testify and a second key witness confessed to have given false evidence. This latter witness was also withdrawn from the witness list.

Kenyatta, who was elected as President of Kenya in March this year, is charged, as an indirect co-accused, with five counts of crimes against humanity. The charges are murder, deportation or forcible transfer, rape, persecution and other inhumane acts allegedly committed during the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007 and 2008, in which more than 1,000 people died. The charges were confirmed on 23 January, 2012.—Xinhua
High-fluoride paste may prevent white spots from braces

New York, 24 Jan — Adolescents may not be able to get out of wearing braces, but using a high-fluoride toothpaste for the duration could help them avoid white marks the devices often leave behind, according to a new study from Sweden. The special paste with almost four times the usual fluoride content help prevent scores of children suffering from the chalky-looking spots among kids between the ages of 11 and 16 years old, researchers say.

Past studies have shown that up to 85 percent of patients who wear braces may develop these so-called white spot lesions, which represent local tooth decay and tend to be permanent.

“To reduce this effect, several products are available on the market, but evidence of the effectiveness of the products is lacking,” said Mikael Sonesson, lead author of the study and an orthodontist at Malmö University.

To see whether a high-fluoride toothpaste that patients could use at home would protect against the spots, more than 400 kids at five dental practices who were scheduled to get braces were recruited starting in 2008. They were divided into two groups, with about half receiving a paste containing 5,100 parts per million fluoride to use at home and the other half receiving paste that was similar in every way, except it contained 1,450 ppm fluoride—the amount in most standard commercial brands, according to the researchers.

Before getting their braces, all the youngsters had detailed photos taken of their teeth and photos were taken again after the braces were removed. The researchers also charted scores for an average of 1.8 years and received toothpaste supplies for as long as they did. Two clinicians who did not know which type of paste the youngsters had used evaluated all the before- and after-photos to assess the presence and severity of white spots using a four-point scale.

About 10 percent of patients dropped out of the study for various reasons, though no side effects of the toothpastes were reported, Sonesson and his colleagues note in the European Journal of Orthodontics.

When the researchers analyzed results for the remaining participants, they found that about 45 percent of those patients who brushed with regular toothpaste developed white spots, whereas as only 34.6 percent of those patients using the high-fluoride paste developed spots. That translates to about 32 percent fewer white spots in the high-fluoride group.

The results were surprising, given previous research on the use of fluoride for preventing cavities, according to the high-dentist in the Boston area.

“High-fluoride toothpastes are often prescribed for patients at a high risk of dental caries, to be used once a day instead of regular toothpaste, and topical fluorides have also been shown to be very effective for caries control,” said Takulha. Other ways to get higher doses of fluoride include mouth rinses and gels applied to the teeth.

China’s ICBC says will help repay swipe in troubled shadow-banking scheme

Shanghai, 24 Jan — China’s top lender will help bail out investors in a troubled high-yield investment scheme, local media said on Friday, in a move that risks reinforcing the view among Chinese savers they are effectively insured against poor investment decisions.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (601998. SS) (ICBC), which sold the “Credit Equals Gold #1” investment scheme on behalf of a shadow-banking outfit, has qualified as early as possible that it will not bear the “main responsibility” for repaying investors. An official at ICBC’s Shanghai branch was quoted as saying that ICBC would take some responsibility.

“ICBC won’t ignore the issue of its reputation,” the official was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

Cold air may help lose weight

Washington, 24 Jan — Turning down temperature at home and office may help you fight obesity, according to a new study published on Wednesday in the US journal Trends in Endocrinology & Metabolism. New evidence suggests that regular exposure to mild cold may be beneficial, although it is hard to increase earnings in cold weather, one that is always under the management of the new currency exchange scheme.

Caracas, 24 Jan — Venezuela would adopt a new currency exchange scheme that allows public and private sectors to apply varied exchange rates, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Wednesday. State agencies that need US dollars to import essential goods, such as medicine and food, will continue to apply the current official exchange rate of 6.3 bolivars per dollar, Ramirez, who is also president of the state oil company PDVSA, said at a press conference.

He said Venezuelans traveling abroad and other private individuals, however, would pay a market rate for the greenback, instead of the controlled preferential rate. “We are building a system of tiers to maintain control over our dollars, but a new exchange system is definite-ly evolving,” Ramirez said. The market exchange rate, currently at around 11 bolivars per dollar, will be set at weekly auctions held by the central bank, said the minister, adding that nearly 11.4 billion dollars of foreign exchange is expected to be auctioned this year.

“The rate ... will be determined by the auction mechanism,” Ramirez said, noting that at least 11.4 billion dollars of foreign exchange is expected to be auctioned this year.

On Wednesday, Presi-dent Nicolas Maduro said via Twitter that he was extremely concerned by the new exchange scheme, Venezuelan currency would help for “a new economic order to invest our foreign currency for the development and growth of the real economy.”

SAMSUNG Electronics fourth-quarter profit sags

Seoul, 24 Jan — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd posted its first decline in quarterly profit in two years, hit by one-off special bonus as well as slowing smartphone sales as it braces for a fight with powerhouse Apple Inc. The world’s biggest smartphone maker has reported a full-year investment plan conservative and warned it would be difficult to increase earnings in the first quarter as demand for smartphones pulls back from the year-end holiday period.

October-December operating profit fell 6 percent on year to 8.3 trillion won ($7.7 billion), in line with a previous estimate of 8.3 trillion won Samsung said in a statement on Friday. Total net profit was brought down by an 800 billion won ($745 million) special employee bonus to commemorate 20 years since Chairman Lee Kun-hee announced a management strategy that the company re-wards as the catalyst to its re- cent growth. It said a stronger won also hit profit, knocking off around 700 billion won.

Shares of Samsung Electronics, worth $204 billion, edged up 0.4 percent after the earnings release, compared with the benchmark index which fell 0.3 percent. The stock has fallen 8 percent in the past month on concern over slowing smartphone growth. “It will be challenging for Samsung to improve its earnings in the first quarter as the weak seasonality of the industry will put pressure on de-mands for components and TV products,” the company said in a statement.

Sung Electronics, worth $204 billion, has qualified its earn-ings with a statement that chip sales, which are expected to be similar to 2013’s $23.8 billion.

Operating profit at its cash cow mobile division stood at 7.7 trillion won, but slipped 18 percent from July-September’s record 6.7 trillion won as new iPones drew away sales during the year-end holiday period. Operating profit from display unit Samsung Display tum-bled 90 percent to 110 billion won, as chip sales also had an impact on TV screen shipments.

Venezuela unveils new currency exchange scheme

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NASA rover Opportunity finds signs Mars once had fresh water

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — NASA’s decade-old Mars rover, Opportunity, has found evidence that life-friendly fresh water once pooled on the red planet’s surface, reinforcing similar discoveries made by newcomers Curiosity on the other side of the planet, scientists said on Thursday.

Opportunity, along with its now-defunct twin, Spirit, landed 10 years ago for concurrent 90-day missions to look for clues of the past existence of water. Both rovers did so, confirming evidence collected by orbiting spacecraft that Mars, the planet believed to be most like Earth in the solar system, was not always the cold, dry desert that appears today.

In August 2012, Curiosity, equipped with an onboard chemistry lab, arrived for follow-up investigations to determine if Mars had other ingredients essential for supporting life. The answer, returned very early in the ongoing mission, was a definite ‘yes’. On the other side of the planet, meanwhile, Opportunity has been analyzing water-bearing rocks at the rim of an ancient impact crater called Endeavour. Rather than the chemical fingerprints of acidic, salty water found at previous sites, Opportunity discovered telltale clays called smectites that form in pH-neutral water.

“It’s like drinking water,” planetary scientist Ray Arvidson, with Washington University in St. Louis, said in an interview. “This capabil- ity and water activity on Mars in terms of habitability and water activity was concentrated in the first billion or so years,” said Opportunity lead scientist Steve Squyres, with Cornell University in New York.

Residents line up for water at a water filling station at West Virginia State University, in Institute, West Virginia, on 10 Jan, 2014.—Reuters

Company in West Virginia spilt failed to disclose second chemical

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — The company behind a chemical spill that left about 300,000 people in West Virginia without tap water failed to disclose a second chemical in the leak, state officials said on Wednesday. The company, Freedom Industries, had previously said that only one chemical, crude MCHM, had spilled from one of its storage tanks into the Elk River at Charleston on January 9.

Freedom Industries told the state Department of Environmental Protection on Tuesday that a second chemical, PPH, was in the above-ground tank despite an order immediately after the spill to disclose what was in the tank, the department said in a statement. Governor Earl Ray Tomblin said he was “very disappointed” that it took Freedom Industries, a maker of specialty chemicals, 12 days to disclose the presence of PPH: “You know, once again it’s another one of those chemicals that very few people knew anything about,” he told a news conference. “When I first heard about it yesterday the first thing we tried to do with my internal team is find out, what is PPH? And then why it was not revealed.”

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement that the low levels of PPH, or polyglycol ethers, and a review of material about it showed there were no new health concerns. About 300,000 people around Charleston, the state capital, were banned from using tap water for anything but flushing toilets following the spill. The ban was lifted fully on Saturday. The leak from a Freedom Industries tank was about a mile upriver from West Virginia American Water, the area’s main water plant and a unit of American Water Works Company Inc.

Ordered by the state Department of Environmental Protection to report the con- tents of the tank by Wednes- day afternoon, Freedom Indus- tries said it had held only crude MCHM, or 4-methyl-cyclohexane methanol, and PPH. Freedom Industries President Gary Southern wrote in a letter that the mix in the tank was about 88.5 percent crude MCHM and 7.3 percent PPH, with the rest water. A copy was on the Department of Environmental Protection website.

Rocket blasts off with NASA communications satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida ), 24 Jan — An unmanned rocket blasted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Thursday to put the newest member of NASA’s space communica- tions network into or- bit. The 19-story tall Atlas 5 rocket, built and launched by United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co, lifted off at 9:33 p.m EST (0233 GMT Friday). With the 3.8-ton (3,447-kg) Boeing—built Tracking and Data Relay Satel- lite perched on its nose, the rocket blazed through clear, star-filled skies as it headed southeast over the Atlantic Ocean toward orbit.

The satellite, called TDRS, is the 12th built for a NASA constellation that circles more than 22,300 miles above Earth. The satel- lites are strategically po- sitioned over the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans where they can continuous- ly track and communicate with the space station and dozens of other fast-mov- ing spacecraft some 22,000 miles below. “This capability is analogous to standing at the top of the Empire State Building and tracking an ant as it marches its way down the sidewalk in front of the building,” Boeing programme director Andy Kopto told reporters during a prelaunch press conference at the Kennedy Space Centre on Tuesday.

Eight members of the network currently remain in orbit. Two have been decommissioned and were incinerated as they fell back into Earth’s atmosphere. A third satellite was de- stroyed in the 1986 space shuttle Challenger accident. NASA ordered a 13th and final TDRS satellite to ensure the network can oper- ate through 2030. By then, NASA expects to transition to laser communications and other upgrades that will significantly boost capabili- ty and cut costs, said NASA deputy associate adminis- trator Badri Younes. NASA has combined $715 mil- lion for the TDRS satellite launched on Thursday and its predecessor, launched in January 2013, Younes said. That amount also cov- ered ongoing upgrades to its prime global communica- tions station in White Sands, New Mexico. The next satellite, which should be ready for launch in 2016, will cost about $200 mil- lion. TDRS network opera- tion and maintenance add another $70 million to $80 million a year, Younes said.

Besides supporting the space station, a $100 million project of 15 nations, the TDRS satellites are used by NASA’s fleet of Earth- observing satellites and tel- escopes, such as the Hubble observatory.

Other agencies, includ- ing the US military and non—US space agencies, use the TDRS network on a part-time and as-needed basis. The tracking and communications services also are available to commercial companies — in- cluding United Launch Al- liance, which uses TDRS to track its rockets during lift- off. One minute on TDRS’ highest bandwidth, which is 300 megabits per second, costs $139. Younes said, although many non-NASA users barter for time on the network. NASA also is shifting from per—minute fees to charging based on percentage of use, he add- ed.—Reuters

Israel archaeologists excavate 1,500-year-old floor mos- saics in a newly-discovered basilica in Mosheh Aluma, southern Israel, on 22 Jan 2014.—Reuters

Flies with brothers make gentler lovers

LONDON, 24 Jan — Flies who play the mating game while also living with their brothers are gentler to fe- males during sex and tend to hassle them less, according to a study by British scientists.

The study found that unrelated male flies compete more fiercely for female at- tention than related flies, pes- tering them more often for sex and leaving them little time to sleep or eat. “Brothers don’t need to compete so much with each other for female atten- tion since their genes will pass on to their sibling mates successfully anyway,” said Dr Tommaso Pizzari of Oxford University’s zool- ogy department, who led the study.

“They more relaxed at- titude to mating results in fewer fights and they also harm the females less as their courting is not so aggres- sive.”—Reuters

A 360-degree digitally-compressed panorama image of Mars is seen in this composite of 800 images sent from the NASA Opportunity rover on Mars released on 9 July, 2012.—Reuters
Hunger, malnutrition killing developing world

Have you ever wondered how large effort is required to grow rice, our staple food, and how much a bowl of rice costs from cultivation to the dining table? Have the thought of hunger ever crossed your mind while you are having ample foods or throwing leftovers?

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statistics, 870 million people of the global population are facing hunger and 98 percent of them are in developing countries. Hunger and malnutrition put crushing economic burden on the developing world while making the individuals susceptible to infectious diseases and increasing the risk of premature death.

Before we talk about hunger, we would need to know what hunger is. Hunger and malnutrition are in fact the number one risk to the health worldwide—greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. Natural disasters, conflict, poverty, poor agricultural infrastructure and over-exploitation of environment are the major causes of hunger.

It is quite absurd that farmers, the rice producers, themselves are making up the large proportion of the world’s hungry population. In particular, smallholder farming communities are surviving off marginal lands prone to natural disasters like drought or flood. When there is no water, they run into crises and when there is too much of it, they also have to bear the hardship. This is particularly true for farmers in Myanmar. Is this the reward for their elbow grease?

Three-quarters of all hungry people live in rural areas, mainly in the villages of Asia and Africa. Overwhelmingly dependent on agriculture for their food, these populations have no alternative source of income or employment. Consequently, many of them migrate to cities in search for employment, which in turn increases the number of poor and hungry people living on the periphery of the biggest cities.

While some parts of the world are starving, some are wasting foods. While some parts of the world are grappling with malnourishment, some are addressing the problem of obesity. Given the economic disparities, everyone should bear in mind the hard work behind every grain of rice.

Executive management training course concludes

U Win Hlaing appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to SRV

NAV PVT TW, 25 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Win Hlaing as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Singapore.—MNA

Deaths of women, children in Rakhine State are false ...

At Ducheertan Middle Village, they heard report on the incident that happened on 13 January by the village clerk and viewed round the mosque where the clothes of the police Sgt were found. They gave necessary instructions to police who discharged security duty at the village.

The Chief Minister of Rakhine State, U Hla Maung Tin, met with the villagers.

Government, ...

In search of the missing police sergeant in the following days, only clues such as blood-stained uniform, belt, and a pair of boots were discovered. The Chief Minister of Rakhine State, local authorities, police and security personnel, religious leaders, Rakhine State Hluttaw (Parliament) Representatives, resident representatives from UNHCR and OCHA together made a tour to the area including Ducheertan Village and met with the villagers.

A planned and pre-determined violent attack on the security personnel in the line of duty is of offence punishable by law. The attackers include those who took part in the arms training courses run by so called Rohingya Solidarity Organization-RSO. Law enforcement agencies will continue their efforts to expose and bring them to justice within the existing framework of law.

The Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the local authorities are taking every step to ensure security, rule of law, justice, humanitarian access, and reconciliation in Rakhine State. At this critical juncture of political, socio-economic, and administrative reform process in Myanmar, will only unbiased, constructive and well-objective activities be helpful to the people of Myanmar. The international media and international agencies should release only information which is verified by the officials of the government. Falling to do so, releasing unverified information would tantamount to interfering internal affairs of the host country. Resident Diplomatic Missions are also required to faithfully observe fundamental diplomatic practices in line with the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

U Htay Aung appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Republic of Singapore

NAV PVT TW, 25 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Htay Aung, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Singapore.—MNA

Ministry for Agriculture ...

(continued on page 1)

Region Constituency No. 4 if there is a play to provide infrastructure facilities to industrial zones, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung also called on private companies to invest in communication, hydro-power generation and Internet services at the industrial zones.

Industrial zones which were established in 1995 need upgraded infrastructural facilities and technology. During the question and answer session today, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun said that the ministry has no plan so far to establish a police academy as the ministry is carrying out reforms to effectively bring about security and the rule of law in the country.

The Myanmar Police Force has established more regiments including Border Guard Police Force, tourism police force, anti-human trafficking force, oil field security force and forest police force to expand the number of police to 150,000 for the country’s 60 million population.—MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin meets local people in Rakhine State.—MNA

Kyemon

Kyemon
Retaining walls under construction at Zingalin Bridge in Kalay Tsp

Kalay, 24 Jan—Zingalin Reinforced Concrete Bridge and its retaining walls along Zingalin Creek were damaged due to erosion.

At present, a retaining wall made of hard wood posts is under construction for protection of the bridge and prevention of bank erosion. The retaining wall construction was spent K 29 million funded by the Union government in 2013-2014 fiscal year. The Zingalin Bridge is located between mile posts 78/4 and 78/5 on Asian Highway at the entrance to Zingalin Village of Kalay Township, Sagaing Region.

Kyemon-Joe Net

CONSTRUCTION

Gymnasium being built at Kalay University

Kalay, 24 Jan—The Union government allotted K 180 million on construction of a gymnasium at Kalay University in 2013-14 fiscal year. The gymnasium will be 90 feet long, 120 feet wide and 31 feet high. It will be of reinforced concrete. Alpha & Omega Co commenced its construction tasks as of 1 July 2013. So far, construction tasks have been completed by 25 per cent. It is estimated that the construction will be completed by March 2014.

Kyemon-Joe Net

Anti-narcotic drug elimination talked in Thanatpin

Thanatpin, 24 Jan—An educative talk on menace of narcotic drugs was given at Basic Education High School in Thanatpin Township on 21 January.

Responsible persons of the township MANA and officials of Anti-Drug Special Crops of Myanmar Police Force briefed those present on disadvantages of narcotic drugs, law and crimes. Secretary of Region association Daw San San Wai presented pamphlets on narcotic drugs to the headmaster.

It was organized by Bago Region Anti-Narcotics Association.

Kyemon-060

Photo shows a work site where workers are participating in construction tasks of gymnasium at Kalay University for enabling the university students to have easy access to sports training.

Census taking process clarified in Bhamo

Bhamo, 24 Jan—Director of Kachin State Immigration and National Registration Department Secretary of State Census Committee U Win Lwin arrived in Bhamo and held a clarification on population affairs and census taking process at the city hall in Bhamo on 18 January.

Deputy Commissioner of Bhamo District U Teza Aung made a speech. The secretary of the committee U Win Lwin explained to district, township and ward/village census committee members, departmental officials, Gluttaw representatives and local people matters related to population affairs and census taking process and 42 points question for lifestyle.

District IPRD

Heroin worth over K 4.7 million seized

Myitkyina, 24 Jan—The authorities and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade made surprise check on vehicles on 23 January evening on the road to Aungmyintha Model Village of Myitkyina due to security measures.

They searched the vehicle driven by Zaw Htet, 32 of Webar Village in Waingmaw Township and seized 59.45 grams of white powder believed to be heroin worth K 4,756,000 from soap cases and K 2,195,000 believed to be proceeds. They handed over the suspect and seized materials to Aungmyintha Model Village police outpost.

Myitkyina Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against suspect Zaw Htet, 32 under Sections 15/19(a)/21(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Kyemon-Moe Kya (Myitkyina)

Traffic police on field trip to disseminate traffic rules

Nyau Nglebin, 24 Jan—Traffic police officers together with local policemen made surprise check on drivers and road users along Yangon-Mandalay Highway and the site in front of Myoma Market in Nyau Nglebin on 23 January.

They gave talks on enforcement of traffic rules, obligations of road users including those of vehicles to abide by traffic rules. Nyau Nglebin Township of Bago Region is bustling with growing number day by day.

Nay Lin (Nyau Nglebin)

National Objectives of 67th Anniversary Union Day 2014

- For all the national races to cultivate the Union Spirit to perpetuate the Union
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
Toronto Mayor Ford stuck in elevator as lunch audience waits

TORONTO, 24 Jan — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford stuck up his reputation for surprises on Thursday when he got stuck in a hotel elevator for nearly an hour while a room full of the city’s business elite waited impatiently for him to deliver a speech.

The mishap, which delayed his arrival at an $89 lunch on Thursday — about an hour late and with no explanation from the staff for his absence — several people in the audience at a downtown hotel had grown tired of waiting and had left.

“I want to thank the Economic Club for hosting this event and getting me stuck in an elevator for 45 minutes,” he said before launching into a 20-minute campaign-like speech trumpeting his efforts to cut costs at city hall and criticizing city council for curbing his powers late last year.

Rhiannon Traill, chief executive of the Economic Club of Canada, which hosted the event, confirmed that she, Ford, other members of Ford’s staff and several hotel employees had been stuck in a service elevator for about 45 minutes.

The group could not get a cellphone signal, but called for help using the elevator intercom, she said.

Ford did not take questions after the speech.

Ford vowed to clean up his act in November after admitting he had smoked crack while in a “drunken stupor” and had also driven a car after drinking.

Those admissions came after police revealed they had a video of the mayor smoking what appeared to be crack. The video had been uncovered in the course of a drug investigation.

Colombian police seize 1.2 tons of cocaine

BOGOTA, 24 Jan — Colombian police seized 1,234 kilograms of cocaine in the country’s northern Cordoba department, and captured two suspected members of a major criminal ring, authorities said on Thursday.

The cocaine, with an estimated street value of 30 million US dollars, was found inside a tank truck traveling on a road between Cordoba and neighbouring Antioquia department.

The cache of illicit drugs was heading for the European and US markets, where it would fetch three times its original value, a police report said.

The two suspects gang members captured attempted to offer the officers on duty 300 million Colombian pesos (about $150,300 US dollars) to let them go, police said. The latest seizure brings to 2,284 kilograms the amount of cocaine confiscated in the past two months in Cordoba.

Italy’s tax evasion highlights large underground economy

ROME, 24 Jan — Almost 52 billion euros (71 million US dollars) of untaxed income that was not declared to tax authorities have been uncovered in Italy last year, which experts said highlighted a large underground economy.

Tax police said that 12,726 people were found to be dodging their taxes in 2013, of which 8,315 were paying no taxes at all. The figure was on rise compared to 11,769 tax evaders reported in 2012.

A total of 202 company officials have been arrested, police also added.

Taxes were reportedly dodged through a variety of tax scams including false expense claims, value added tax (VAT) avoidance, foreign-based companies’ income earned in Italy that is subject to local taxation and transfers of convenience to international tax havens. Experts said that the evasion figures were the signal of a large underground economy in the country.

Italy is the worst country among the industrialized economies for tax evasion, of which around half was found in the northern wealthy regions of Lombardy, Piedmont and Veneto, Raul Caruso, an economic policy professor at the Catholic University of Milan, told Xinhua.

Italy’s national tax office estimated last month that a total of 130 billion euros (177 billion dollars) is evaded every year in the country.

Caruso noted, however, that the undeclared income does not take into account widespread black working, meaning that the real size of Italy’s underground economy is “widely underestimated.”

Tax police confirmed in Thursday’s report that 14,220 citizens last year were found to be employed “in the black”, or outside the legal system. Their work was being paid entirely under the table.

“Authoritative studies conducted before the outbreak of the economic crisis had shown that the overall illegal economy in Italy accounted for nearly one third of gross domestic product (GDP),” Caruso said.

“And we can easily imagine that the amount further increased after the economic crisis worsened the situation of companies and citizens,” he added.

The expert did not belive that the tax evasion had an impact on aggravating Italy’s worst postwar recession, that he said was especially triggered by a dramatic drop in investments rather than by diminished internal demand.
Japan to expand number of foreign workers in construction sector

Tokyo, 24 Jan — Cabinet ministers on Friday discussed how the number of foreigners in Japan’s construction sector should be upped to soften the sector’s serious labor shortage stemming from greater public works outlays associated with “Abenomics” stimulus policies, officials said.

Relevant ministers present at the ministerial meeting included Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, and Infrastructure Minister Akihiko Ota and Justice Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki. Suga told the meeting, “The construction industry may run out of human resources further, as the industry is facing structural problems.”

“It is crucial to take advantage of foreigners who can become work-ready forces,” he said.

The emergency steps envisioned by the government to soften the construction labor shortage are also designed to mitigate the shortage in light of an expected surge in demand for workers stemming from an upcoming construction boom for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the officials said.

The steps will likely include extending the period of foreign workers’ allowable stay from the current three years and upping the number of foreign workers which construction companies are allowed to hire as a proportion of each firm’s overall workforce, they said.

The number of construction workers in Japan has been generally following a downward path in recent years, as a string of government administrations, starting with that of then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, have been cutting public works outlays from the national coffers.

The number stood at only 5.3 million in 2012, down 30 percent from 1997, when the correspondingly numbered peak was achieved, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Ship runs aground in C Philippines

MANILA, 24 Jan — A ship with 160 passengers on board ran aground near Talisay city in central Philippine Province of Cebu on Thursday, local media reported.

Ship MV Weesam 7 run aground at Laus Ledge in Talisay while en route from Ormoc, a port city in Leyte province, to Cebu city in Cebu province, both in central Philippines, at 6:40 pm Thursday, Philippine Daily Inquirer reported.

Rescue operation of the passengers is ongoing.

The location where MV Weesam 7 is currently aground is near the location where MV St. Thomas belly up aground at Leyte Gulf. The passengers is ongoing.

China’s military furthers “mass line” campaign

BEIJING, 24 Jan — Senior Chinese military officials on Thursday called on the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) to carry out the “mass line” campaign to build a strong military.

During a PLA conference on the second phase of the campaign, Fan Changlong, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), urged efforts to ensure the campaign reaches every corner of the military and thorough implementation of requirements to root out bad workstyles.

The year-long “mass line” education campaign, which entered its second phase in January, was launched in June 2013 to boost ties between the Communist Party of China (CPC) members and the public through a “thorough cleanup” of undesirable work styles. — formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance.

The second phase campaign should target Party committees at the division or brigade level and serious problems concerning unjust use of personnel, lavish feasting, bribery, fraud, and failure to adhere to the system of democratic centralism, Fan said. The military should always follow the CPC’s instructions, serve the people, and keep in mind its main function of fighting battles, he added.

Xu Qiliang, who is also CMC vice chairman, urged army commanders at the same conference to re-examine themselves in the light of problems exposed during the second phase of the campaign and thoroughly solve untouched problems exposed in the first phase.

Japan, EU to hold 4th round of free trade talks next week

Tokyo, 24 Jan — Japan and the European Union will hold their fourth round of free trade negotiations in Brussels next week with the aim of accelerating discussions over tariffs and other trade barriers, the trade ministry said on Friday.

The five-day talks starting Monday are seen as a “crucial meeting” before the European Union’s review in April of whether Japan has made progress in eliminating nontariff barriers, an official of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said.

The review, coming a year after the launch of negotiations, is being held so the regional group can decide whether to continue the free trade talks, the official said.

In November last year, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy confirmed their commitment to “the earliest possible” conclusion of the trade liberalization talks during a summit in Tokyo.

The European Union wants Japan to abolish tariffs on main EU exports such as wine, pork and cheese, while Japan is seeking the abolition of EU tariffs on automobiles.—Kyodo News

Indian capital put on terror alert

NEW DELHI, 24 Jan — Indian authorities have issued a terror alert in the national capital in the run up to the Republic Day Sunday, a senior police official said on Friday.

“The terror alert has been issued following specific intelligence inputs that Pakistan-based militant outfits like Lashker-e-Talib and home-grown Indian Mujahideen may carry out serial blasts in the Indian capital on 26 January,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

Sleuths from the Delhi Police and the Intelligence Bureau recently met the country’s defence officials to discuss the security arrangements in the national capital, he said. “Some 10,000 security forces personnel will be manning the Indian capital Sunday and security at the Indira Gandhi International Airport has also been stepped up. The efforts are to avoid any kind of untoward incident during the Republic Day celebrations,” the official said.

A massive jolt during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks when some 10 Pakistani militants entered through sea route and carried out a mayhem in the financial capital, in which over 170 people were killed and more than 300 others injured.—Xinhua

Japan to join int’l child custody treaty on 1 April

TOKYO, Japan — Japan is expected to join an international treaty for settling cross-border child disputes on 1 April, government officials said Friday. The Cabinet earlier in the day endorsed the decision to sign the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The pact sets rules and procedures for the prompt return to the country of habitual residence of children under 16 taken to another country, if requested by the other parent. Japan will set up a unit within the Foreign Ministry on 1 April to take charge of matters related to the treaty.

The Cabinet plans to join the pact in May 2011 and obtained parliamentary approval two years later.—Kyodo News
Western Australia bushfires brought under control

SYDNEY, 24 Jan — A bushfire in Perth’s City of Swan in Western Australia has been brought under control, the state fire authority said on Friday.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) said 45 firefighters are on the scene strengthening containment lines.

Aerial support has been sent to assist ground crews, it added. At 6:35 am (local time) on Friday, a watch and act alert was issued for people in the southern part of Swan as there was a possible threat to lives and homes.

But the alert for the southern part of Swan was downgraded to a bushfire advice at 7:45 am on Friday while people in the northern part of Swan were given the all clear.

There has been a string of suspicious bushfires in the area in recent days, including one at Ellenbrook, where flames came within meters of dozens of homes.

On Friday, the DFES confirmed a bushfire that threatened lives and homes in the town of Kwinana in Perth’s outer southern suburbs on Thursday afternoon was deliberately lit.

More than 70 firefighter tackled the blaze and brought the fire under control as a car carrying a bomb was found.

Four killed, 4 injured in bomb, shooting attacks in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 24 Jan — Four people, including a monk, were killed and four others injured in separate attacks in two provinces of southern Thailand, police said on Friday.

Officials said the latest of the three incidents was a bomb blast at 11 am in Than-ta district of Yala Province, in which one police officer was killed and three of his colleagues were injured while on patrol in a remote area.

The two other attacks both occurred around 7 am in Pattani Province, with police saying they are investigating a bomb blast and a shooting incident in which three people were killed.

In Panare district of Pattani, a roadside bomb was detonated by remote control as a car carrying a monk, which was escorted by two paramilitary solders, passed by, killing the monk and one soldier, while seriously injuring the other one.

In Karkho District of the province, a villager was shot dead while riding a motorbike home from work, with police not ruling out that the incident may have been motivated by personal issues.

Officials said there has been an increase in attacks in the past week in southern Thailand, after several weeks of relative calm.

More than 5,500 people have been killed in the predominantly Muslim provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat since a separatist insurgency broke out in 2004.—Kyodo News

Crime falls 10 pct in England, Wales

LONDON, 24 Jan — Crime against households and adults (aged 16 and above) in England and Wales for 12 months ending September 2013 fell by 10 percent to eight million, statistics indicated on Thursday.

The Office for National Statistics released a survey conducted by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), saying that the number is the lowest since it started 32 years ago.

The total number of CSEW incidents is estimated to have fallen two percent lower than the survey in 2007, and is now less than half of its peak level in 1995.

The CSEW also estimated there were 859,000 crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15 in the 12 months to September 2013, and 54 percent of which were violent crimes, while most of the remaining crimes were thefts of personal property.

Meanwhile, crime records from the police were 3.7 million in the year ending September 2013, a decrease of three percent compared with the same period of the previous year.

CSEW figures included crimes that may not have been reported to the police.

The CSEW, the new name for the British Crime Survey, has measured crime in this way since 1982. It used alongside the police recorded crime figures to show a more accurate picture of the level of crime in the country, and provided valuable source of information for the government about the extent and nature of crime in England and Wales. —Xinhua
Universal to expand Harry Potter park with new ride, shops

ORLANDO, (Florida), 24 Jan — The expansion of Universal Orlando’s wildly popular Wizarding World of Harry Potter, slated to open this summer, will feature a new signature ride called Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringott’s, the company said on Thursday. The expansion, called Diagon Alley, after the book and movie series’ wizarding business district in London, will largely be geared toward souvenir shopping and dining.

Universal Creative President Mark Woodbury named nearly a dozen outlets in the meticulously replicated alley where visitors can buy items ranging from Hogwarts’ school uniforms to Harry Potter’s favourite strawberry and peanut butter ice cream. The strong merchandising focus grew out of the experience of the original Harry Potter land, a recreation of Hogsmeade village, which opened in 2010. Lines snake through the village for visitors to enter a magic wand shop or buy a cup of butterbeer.

“It became apparent really quickly that people enjoyed that discovery, shopping and dining experience almost as much as they did the attractions. And this just brings all that to life for them in Diagon Alley,” Woodbury said during a webcast. Diagon Alley shops will include Weasley’s Wizard Wheezes, Madam Malkin’s Robes for All Occasions, Magical Menagerie, and Quality Quidditch Supplies as well as The Leaky Cauldron restaurant and Florean Fortescue’s Ice Cream Parlour.—Reuters

Sanjay Dutt prays at temple, dargah for wife Maanyata

Earlier this month, the 53-year old Bollywood actor and 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case convict was granted a month’s leave from Gringott’s, the company said on Thursday. The strong merchandising focus grew out of the experience of the original Harry Potter land, a recreation of Hogsmeade village, which opened in 2010. Lines snake through the village for visitors to enter a magic wand shop or buy a cup of butterbeer.

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Daniel Radcliffe to star in Brooklyn Bridge

LONDON, 24 Jan — Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe is all set to star in Brooklyn Bridge, written and directed by Douglas McGrath. UK banner Goldcrest Films will finance, distribute and sell international rights of the movie which starts filming this August, reported Contactmusic.

“Having Daniel’s involvement is a massive coup for the film, not only because of his role, but he’s consistently proved himself to be one of the very few actors who is genuinely a massive draw for audiences of all ages,” said Degove, managing director of Goldcrest Films.

The movie is inspired by true story and narrates story of a young engineer who is left to oversee the construction of Brooklyn Bridge after his father passes away.—PTI

Sanjay Dutt prays at temple, dargah for wife Maanyata

MUMBAI, 24 Jan — Actor Sanjay Dutt, whose wife Maanyata is currently undergoing medical treat- ment at a hospital, visited a temple to pray for her recovery. Earlier this month, Maanyata was admitted to a private hospital in sub- urban Mumbai after being diagnosed with a tumour in liver and a suspected heart ailment. Sanjay Dutt, who is under emotional distress because of his wife’s ill-health, recently visited Shree Siddhi Vinayak Ga- napati Mandir in Dadar and the holy Sayyed Haji Abdul Rehman Shah Baba Dargah in Dongri to pray for her recovery. On 21 December, the 53-year old Bollywood actor and 1993 Mumbai se- rial blasts case convict was granted a month’s leave from Yerwada Jail in Pune after he filed an application citing his wife’s ill- ness. Earlier this week, the Maharashtra government extended his parole by another 30 days on the ground of his wife’s illness. “My wife has a tumour of the liver. There have been many cancer instances in my family. Doctors are investigating. Please pray for my wife. We will follow medical course after the in- vestigation,” Sanjay Dutt had said earlier.

Sanjay Dutt had been convicted by the Supreme Court last year and sentenced to five years in pris- on for illegally possession of arms in a case related to the 1993 bomb blasts. He had already served 18 months of his term and is currently undergoing the remaining 42 months of his sentence.—PTI

Daniel Radcliffe to star in Brooklyn Bridge

LONDON, 24 Jan — Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe is all set to star in Brooklyn Bridge, written and directed by Douglas McGrath. UK banner Goldcrest Films will finance, distribute and sell international rights of the movie which starts filming this August, reported Contactmusic.

“Having Daniel’s involvement is a massive coup for the film, not only because of his role, but he’s consistently proved himself to be one of the very few actors who is genuinely a massive draw for audiences of all ages,” said Degove, managing director of Goldcrest Films.

The movie is inspired by true story and narrates story of a young engineer who is left to oversee the construction of Brooklyn Bridge after his father passes away.—PTI

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Guests tour the Wizarding World of Harry Potter theme park at the Universal Studio Resort during its grand opening in Orlando, Florida on 18 June, 2010. REUTERS

Queen’s granddaughter Zara names her baby Mia Grace

LONDON, 24 Jan — Queen Elizabeth’s grand- daughter, Zara Phillips, has named her daughter Mia Grace, Buckingham Palace said on Thursday. Mia Grace was born on 17 January and is 16th in line to the British throne. She is Phillips’ first child with her rugby-player hus- band Mike Tindall and the Queen’s fourth great-grandchild.

The parents are known in Britain for their sport- ing success, with Phillips, 32, winning an equestrian silver medal at the London Olympic Games in 2012 and Tindall, 35, the former captain of the England rugby union team.

Zara is the only daughter and second child of Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth’s only daughter. Anne married Olympic equestrian Mark Phillips in 1973 but they divorced in 1992. She is now mar- ried to retired naval officer Timothy Laurence. Phillips and Tindall met in Australia during England’s Rugby World Cup campaign in 2003 and married in 2011 in Edin- burgh.—Reuters

Daniel will start filming of the movie in August.—PTI

21st century music is focus of London Southbank Centre season

LONDON, 24 Jan — London’s Southbank Centre and its four resident orchestras will present a 2014/2015 season with an emphasis on contemporary music as well opening up the centre’s concert venues to top-rank visit- ing orchestras, the center an- nounced on Thursday.

Among the new music on offer are works commissioned by Southbank Centre from Steve Reich, Anna Clyne, Terry Riley, Unsuk Chin, Kaia Saariaho, Simon Holt, and with the Philhar- monia Orchestra, James MacMillan.

The focus on 21st century music comes after what the center says was the suc- cess of its “The Rest Is Noise” festival that focused on music of the 20th century. “Building on the huge success of ‘The Rest Is Noise’ festival, when we saw more than 120,000 peo- ple engage with 20th century music in a new and intensive way, this year we present a season marked by its focus on 21st century music,” Jude Kelly, the centre’s artistic di- rector, said in a Press release.

The new works and more conventional reper- toire will be heard on the programmes of the four resi- dent ensembles, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the London Sinfonietta and the Orchestre de la Seine, as well as The Barenboim-Said Stiftung’s Palestinian orchestra of Barenboim’s Southbank Centre season in 2015 in partnership with the Peace in the Middle East programme of the London-based Helmut Lachenmann’s Tableau.
SPORTS


14 New Light of Myanmar

Rafa Nadal in the second showdown against Roger and set up a possible all-

Wagner changes programme weeks before Sochi

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Figure skater Ashley Wagner, who was gifted a spot on the US Olympic team despite an error-strewn national championships, is changing her troublesome long programme in a bid to boost her medal hopes at the Sochi Winter Games. Wagner, who finished fourth at the US nationals but was controversially handed the final Olympic berth ahead of third place finisher Mirai Nagasu, said it was "insane" to make such a change so close to the 7-23 February Games but that it was a risk she had to take.

"After I found out that I was on the team I sat (coach Rafael Arutunian) down

Atletico Madrid beat Bilbao 1-0 in Cup

MADRID, 24 Jan — A first half header from Atletico Madrid defender Diego Godin was enough to give his side a 1-0 win over visiting Athletic Club Bilbao in the first leg of their Copa del Rey quarter-final tie. Godin got a powerful header on a good cross from Juanfran Torres in the closing minutes of the first half to decide what was a disappo-

Wawrinka reaches first final, Li to meet Cibulkova

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan — Stanislas Wawrinka edged Tomas Berdych in the tightest of duels to reach his first grand slam final at the 36th attempt on Thursday and set up a possible all-

South Korean figure skatter Kim Yuna attends the inaugural ceremony for the upcoming Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Seoul, South Korea, on 23 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

IJF President to visit Cuba

HAVANA, 24 Jan — The head of the international judo body will arrive in Cuba on Friday to review preparations for the first Judo Grand Prix event to be held in Cuba, sports news website Jit reported on Thursday.

The president of the International Judo Federation (IJF), Marius Vizer, will meet with national sports officials and offer his organization’s support in organizing the event, set to take place 6 and 7 June.

The tournament in Cuba will alternate with the Grand Prix in Miami, Florida, and form part of the classification system for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The tournament grants winners 300 points, making it a very attractive event for top judo competitors.

Following the tournament, the IJF plans to establish an international training center at Cuba’s Varadero beach resort, 150 kilometers from Havana in the western province of Matanzas.—Xinhua

Ailing Mickelson ponders Torrey Pines withdrawal

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Phil Mickelson has a special relationship with the Farmers Insurance Open which is played in his native San Die-

Reuters

Atletico also created little in the game, although Diego Costa saw a good chance smothered by Iago Herrerin in the Athletic goal in the first half, while Koke always looked danger-

Mickelson, a three-

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Ailing Mickelson ponders Torrey Pines withdrawal

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Phil Mickelson has a special relationship with the Farmers Insurance Open which is played in his native San Diego but he was considering withdrawing from the event after nursing a troublesome back in Thursday’s opening round. The American repeatedly winced at the top of his backswing as he carded a three-under-par 69 on the North Course at Torrey Pines and said his ultimate decision on whether to pull out would depend on how he responded to treatment. “I’ll work on it tonight and tomorrow and we’ll see how it goes,” left-

hander Mickelson, a three-
times winner of the PGA Tour event, told reporters af-

Reuters

After I found out that I was on the team I sat (coach Rafael Arutunian) down

Atletico also created little in the game, although Diego Costa saw a good chance smothered by Iago Herrerin in the Athletic goal in the first half, while Koke always looked dangerous from set pieces.

In the end the home side deserved their narrow win, but Athletic Club will look to the fact that they are unbeaten in their San Ma-

MADRID, 24 Jan — A first half header from Atletico Madrid defender Diego Godin was enough to give his side a 1-0 win over visiting Athletic Club Bilbao in the first leg of their Copa del Rey quarter-final tie. Godin got a powerful header on a good cross from Juanfran Torres in the closing minutes of the first half to decide what was a disappointing game between two sides in the top-four of the Spanish BBVA Primera Liga.

Athletic Club had failed to clear their lines following a corner and were defending too deep and too narrow, which allowed the Uruguayan to get his head on the ball and decide the game.

It was a match which had kicked off with high expectations, but which delivered few thrills as the home team were content to snuff out any attempt by the visitors to play attacking football.

Athletic Club Bilbao may also have lacked spark after only playing on Monday, which gave them less recovery time than the reigning Cup holders and they created few chances in the game other than a shot from Mikel Rico, which grazed the post in the clos-

Among the group in the first half were Boudjellal, the former Toulon president who in 2009 took control of the club, and French businessman Khenissi who is making his mark in the French rugby league.

Both men are expected to take part in the final decision-making over the club’s future, with the former proposing a buyout by the region of Provence and the latter looking to sell the club.

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Seven soldiers injured in S Philippine land mine blast

MANILA, 24 Jan — Seven soldiers were injured after a land mine, which was believed to have been planted by members of the leftist rebel group New People’s Army (NPA), exploded in southern Philippines on Friday, a military official said.

Lt Col Nilo Vinluan, commander of the Philippine Army’s 57th Infantry Battalion, said government troops were on their way to an operation when the land mine went off in Makilala town in North Cotabato province.

Vinluan said the soldiers were aboard military vehicles when they ran over the land mine planted by leftist rebels in Luna Sur village at around 12:45 am. He said the soldiers sustained minor injuries and were rushed to a hospital in Makilala.

Vinluan said the NPA had been planning to attack a military detachment in Villaloro and a packing plant of Dole Philippines, a producer and distributor of fresh fruits and vegetables.

He said the land mine was meant for troops who may respond to the attack on the detachment.

The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces since 1969. —Xinhua

Budget for Rio 2016 up 27 percent to $2.93 billion


RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Jan — The operating budget for the Olympics and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 has jumped 27 percent to seven billion Brazilian reals ($2.93 billion).

Officials told a news conference on Thursday that the new total for the combined Games in Rio was less than London spent in 2012, explaining the rise was due to factors like inflation and new technology.

Four sports have been added since the bid was won in 2009 — rugby sevens, golf, paracanoe and paratriathlon — and the revised bill also has more detail.

“Our goal is to hold a magnificent Games. We want to ensure a balanced budget (and) avoid any transfer of public funds to the committee,” said Artur Nuzman, president of the Brazilian Olympic Committee and the local organizing team.

Just over half the budget will come from local sources while the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will contribute 21 percent.

Around 13 percent is to be raised by ticket sales, nine percent from international sponsors and six percent by licensing and other income.

A quarter of the budget was originally supposed to come from government sources but officials said they would no longer take public money.

That decision comes seven months after the biggest public protests in 20 years erupted on the eve of the Confederations Cup soccer tournament, the test event for the World Cup that will be held in Brazil in June and July this year.

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets angry at what they perceived as official funding for grandiose football stadiums while schools, hospitals and public services were in a state of disrepair. —Reuters

Over 10,000 South Sudanese flee into Kenya

NAIROBI, 24 Jan — More than 10,000 South Sudanese fleeing fighting in their country have crossed the border into Kenya since mid December last year, the UN humanitarian agency said on Thursday.

A report from the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Eastern Africa noted that over 80,000 people have now crossed the border from South Sudan into Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan as at 20 January.

“WFP supports approximately 450,000 refugees in Kenya and UNHCR projects that new arrivals from South Sudan may rise to 20,000 by 31 March,” OCHA said in its report published in Nairobi on Thursday.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) said it needs an additional 35 million US dollars to cover requirements through March for operations supporting new South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries.


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**Union FM meets guest from Peninsula Press**

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Ms Kathleen De Lacy, Editor, the Union Minister gave an interview regarding the progress of Myanmar’s forms and its role in ASEAN Chairmanship.—MNA

**Survey for ancient Hanlin city to be inscribed on World Heritage Site list underway**

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Efforts are being made in listing three Pyu Cities—Hanlin, Beikthano and Thayakhitta—as UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites in Myanmar. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun together with Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin and OCMOS’s expert Dr Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy conducted a cultural heritage site survey in Hanlin old city today. They observed remains of ancient structures at the site of Hanlin old city and heard reports on facts about the ancient Hanlin City presented by officials.

Next, the Union Minister and party visited Hanlin city to observe ancient Hanlin ruins. The Union Minister and party visited Hanlin Basic Education Middle School where they presented stationery to the students. The Ministry of Culture is striving for the three ancient Pyu cities to be added to the World Heritage list. Surveys for Beikthano and Thayakhitta are underway in October, 2013.—MNA

**Deaths of women, children in Rakhine State are false reports of foreign news agencies**

MAUNGTAW, 24 Jan—Together with ministers, departmental officials, Coordinator Barbara Babista of Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Buthidaung Township Hluttaw representative, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin visited Buthidaung and Maungtaung on 22 January.

On his inspection tour of Buthidaung, the chief minister inspected progress in construction of a primary school with the assistance of Indonesia and under-construction Gupaukgyi detour on Buthidaung-Maungtaung road.

Next, the chief minister and party proceeded to Maungtaung and observed development undertakings in Waithali and Khayay Myaing villages. Then, the chief minister held talks on health and education matters with villagers from Ducheeratan Village and Mawlawi at Gawthu-thaya Village. He called for strict adherence to the law and the rule of law, saying that the recent incidents will be dealt with in accord with the law.

As asked by Representatives from UNHCR and OCHA, Rakhine State Hluttaw representative U Aung Myo Min and U Bawthi Ahmed, villagers from Ducheeratan Village, a Mawlawi from Gawthu-thara Village and local people from surrounding villages replied that they did not find any killing.

Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko clarified the villagers that some were still detained for interrogation and they would be released if they had no guilt. Then, the Chief Minister and the police battalion control commander attended to the needs of villagers.

(See page 8)

**Government, authorities taking every step for security, rule of law, justice, humanitarian access, reconciliation in Rakhine State**

Press Release

It is learnt that foreign media and some international agencies are issuing Press Releases based on unjustified conclusions drawn from unverified information in relation to the incidents which took place on 13 January, 2014 in Ducheeratan (Middle) Village, Maungtaung Township. Such misinformation and unjustified conclusions amount to exaggeration and distorting the situation eventually leading to misunderstanding between the two communities.

Maungtaung road.

In Rakhine State. It is also confirmed that those Press Releases were issued without any attempt to inquire or verify the information with responsible government officials. The truth about the situation of the incident is as follows:

During the routine patrol duty in Ducheeratan (Middle) Village in the vicinity on the night of 13 January, 2014, a five-member police patrol team was surrounded and threatened by over one hundred Bengali mob wielding sticks and knives. As the mob advanced with visible threat, the patrol team had to leave the vicinity. During the withdrawal, the leader of the police patrol team was lost in the mob. Remobilized police and security forces revisited the same vicinity in search of the lost police sergeant. They were again threatened by over 500 Bengal mob armed with sticks and knives.

(See page 8)

**Exportation of Myanmar’s horticulture to be increased**

Although Myanmar’s export and import have increased significantly along with developments of border trades, exportation of fruits and vegetables required to set income record in the last year.

Myanmar exported US$ 34.981 million from exportation of fruits and vegetables till December, in 2013 fiscal year, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported horticulture worth US$ 54.892 million in 2010-2011 FY and US$ 73.831 million in 2012-2013 FY.

Myanmar exported fruits and vegetables to Singapore by ship in May 2013 and efforts are being made to penetrate Japanese market.

Myanmar has been exporting fruits and vegetables to neighboring countries through border trade.

Myanmar’s main exports to neighboring countries are mango, watermelon, cucumber and other fruits. Myanmar imports apples from China through Muse Border Trade Checkpoint.

Byline: Wai Yan Oo
Photo: Tin Soe (Myama Alinn)

NRC broadcasting time to be changed

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—National Races Channel of Myanmar Radio and Television is airing Kachin, Kayah, Sakaw Kayin, West Poe Kayin, East Poe Kayin, Chin (Laizoe), Chin (Choe), Mon, Rakhine, Shan and Wa national races programmes twice a day from 6 am to 2 pm and from 2 pm to 11 pm daily starting from 15 October.

As NRC broadcasting time will be changed in four months a time according to the national races languages, first trial will be launched on 1 May to 31 May 2014. They are Kayah language programme from 6 am to 7 am, Sakaw Kayin programme from 7 am to 7:30 am, East Poe Kayin programme from 8 am to 8:30 am, Chin (Laizoe) programme from 8:30 am to 9 am, Chin (Choe) programme from 9 am to 9:30 am, Mon programme from 9:30 am to 10:30 am, Rakhine programme from 10:30 am to 11:30 pm, Shan programme from 11:30 pm to 12:30 pm and Wa programme from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm and Kachin programme from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm.