The New Light of Myanmar
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Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint presents stipends for students

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint presents K 10 million stipends through an official at Phayakalay BEMS in Bago Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint together with Bago Region Hluttaw speaker, region Hluttaw deputy speaker, region chief justice, region ministers, Hluttaw representatives and officials attended stipends presenting ceremony at Basic Education Middle School in Phayakalay Village in Bago Township this morning. At the ceremony, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint made a speech and presented K 10 million as stipends for students through stipends fund committee members. A local spoke words of thanks which brought the ceremony to an end.

After that, the Speaker and party visited Phayagyi BEHS and attended fund raising ceremony. The Speaker also donated K 10 million for the education fund of the school.

The stipends presented by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint will be for middle and high level students, disabled children, orphans and needy students.—*MNA*

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Mr. David Johnstan
Governor-General of Canada
Excellency,

On behalf of all Canadians, it is my pleasure to extend to you and to the Myanmar people my warmest wishes on the occasion of your country's 65th Anniversary of Independence.

Over the past year, your government has taken a number of welcome steps towards democratic and economic reform. Canada recognizes this progress, and stands ready to support your continued efforts to build up democratic fundamentals. I look forward to the opening of Canada's first embassy in your country, and I hope that this will enable our two governments to expand our growing bilateral relationship.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for the prosperity and well-being of all Myanmar citizens in the upcoming year.

From Mr Troung Tan Sang
President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Excellency,

On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the State, the Government and the people of Viet Nam and in our own names, we have the great honour to extend to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of Myanmar our warmest congratulations.

We would like to convey our sincere congratulations to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar on

(See page 9)

Significant night temperatures (7-1-2013)

Loilem	**1°C**
Pinlaung	**3°C**
Putao	**4°C**
Heho	**4°C**

Hotels and Tourism Ministry planning new hotel zone in Yangon

Byline: Arkar Hein; Photo: *Kay Zin Lin*

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is setting up a new hotel zone in Yangon, the commercial hub of Myanmar, as the country is receiving more tourists thanks to improving international relations, according to a ministry official.

"The number of tourists visiting Myanmar for various reasons is increasing. Business travelers, investors, tourists as well as members of international social organizations are major visitors. That's why we're planning a new hotel zone to provide comfortable accommodation to the visitors," the official said.

The ministry is conducting feasibility study near Yuzana garden in Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon. Though, the site attracts less interest from the investors as it has the area of about 200 acres.

To establish a new hotel zone, the land of more than 500 acres is preferable. Despite earlier feasibility test on about-800-acre land in the eastern part of the city, it did not prove to be eligible as there are farmlands in the area.

A small-scale hotel zone will be established on 200-acre land in Dagon Myothit (East) Township instead.

The largest city of Myanmar is now facing the looming issue of inadequate hotels as there are increasing numbers of visitors from various parts of the country for business matters in social and health care services and rising arrivals of tourists.

There are five Five-Star hotels, six Four-Star hotels, 13 Three-Star hotels, 21 Two-Star hotels, 28 One-Star hotels, and a few number of motels and inns in Yangon, according to official figures.

Myanma Alinn:7-1-2013
Trs: HKA

The New Light of Myanmar

LOCAL NEWS

Value-added wood products seized in Mingaladon

YANGON, 7 Jan — A team led by Head of Insein Township Forest Department U Maung Maung Than Htaik seized illegal valued-added wood products while conducting a routine check for log trucks on Yangon-Pyay road on 2 January.

While the team flagged down a Dina truck en route from Htaunkkyant to Yangon at the top of Aung Chantha street in Mingaladon Township at about 10 pm on that day, the truck driver drove on. The driver and the other two men left the car near the football ground in Zay ward and ran away. The search of the truck led to the seizure of 2.4758 tons of valued-added wood products worth K 2475,800. Mingaladon Police Station is investigating into the case in order to arrest the suspects.— *Kyemon*

Brake failure causes ten-wheeled truck upside down

MYINMU, 7 Jan — A ten-wheeled truck skidded and overturned, leaving one dead and two wounded on Myinmu detour on 4 January. The Nissan truck driven by Aung Shan Thaw en route from Mandalay to Myinmu skidded and overturned by the roadside after its brake broke down at a place between mile post Nos (0/5) and (0/7) on Myinmu detour at about 4.30 am on that day.

U Zaw Min on board the truck was pronounced dead on the spot and Aung Kyaw Min (conductor) and Than Tun Aung injured in the fatal car accident.

Myinmu Police Station filed a case against driver Aung Shan Thaw for his reckless driving. — *Kyemon*

Guard bronze statues of Maha Muni Buddha Image call for adequate protection

MANDALAY, 7 Jan — Maha Muni Buddha Image was conveyed from Rakhine which was conquered by the Prince of King Bodaw to Amarapura via Myohaung Taungup route in 1146 ME.

The Buddha Image was first being kept in Amarapura and later moved to Mandalay Hill. According to the records, the Image is 12 feet and seven inches high. A bronze statue, a statue of lion, a statue of ogre and a statue of elephant have been kept as guards near the Image since the time of King Bayintnaung in Toungoo era.

Out of 30 bronze statues, some were melted down and used for making coins.

The remaining statues are at the mercy of naughty children. So these statues are urgently needed to be put under the protection against being damaged.

Kyemon

Flood prevention measures for farmlands in Yedashe Township

YEDASHE, 7 Jan — Under the supervision of Staff Officer U Sein Hla of Yedashe Township Irrigation Department and Staff Officer U Aung Win of Yedashe Township Agriculture Department, dredging of drains has been carried out with the use of heavy machinery at Field No (629) in Ingyinkon village of the township since 2 January for proper flow of water. These measures are aimed at preventing possible danger of floods in rainy season.

Upon completion of dredging works, a total of 150 farmlands could be effectively prevented from flooding.

Kyemon

Twayt Mashaung knocks out Po Kay in first-round

YANGON, 7 Jan — Under the supervision of Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation, Myanmar Media Group organized traditional boxing contest with the sponsorship of Dagon Brewery Co., Ltd at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium yesterday.

At the four-round final matches of the competition, Aung Thurein (Top One) knocked down Ye Yint Tun (Mudonthar) in the first round and the fights between Zwe Maung Maung (Aphyuyaung Thway Thit) and Thet Ko (Waso) and Luka (Waso) and Shan Thway Lay (Top One) ended in a draw. At the final match of third class Dagon Shwe Aunglan boxing challenge, Region/State gold medalist Ye Myint Aung (Aphyuyaung Thway Thit) won Hmyar Htet Aung (Mya Htet Kyaw) by a third-round knockout.

At the final match of second class Dagon Shwe Aunglan boxing challenge, Asia Mway gold medalist Tu Tu (Ngagar Man) managed to hold Po Thar Gyi (Mandalay) to a draw till five- round and won the match by the decision of the panel of the judges.

At Dagon Shwe Aunglan boxing challenges, Asia Mway silver medalist Tun Tun Min (Myanmar) won Phuket Mway champion Phillip (Germany) by second-round knockout and Dagon Aunglan champion Tun Tun (Myanmar) won Iran and Asia Mway Champion Ash Khan (Iran) by first-round knockout.

At the final match of first class Dagon Shwe Aunglan boxing challenge, Dagon Shwe Aunglan gold belt champion Twayt Mashaung (Dragon) won Region/State gold medalist Po Kay by first-round knockout.

Kyemon

Fuel station fire in Shwegyin

SHWEGYIN, 7 Jan — A fire broke out at a fuel station in Shwegyin at about 5 pm on 2 January.

While Than Min Oo, one of the workers of the station was trying to close the fuel barrel with a tool by force, his tool struck against a rod used for filling fuel and produced a spark that had set fire to fuel, causing him and Chit Ton, another worker, wounded with severe burns. The fire engulfed the building and 25 fuel barrels before firefighters put out the fire. Shwegyin Police Station filed a case against fuel station owner and Than Min Oo for their fire negligence.

Kyemon

Photo shows a police member of traffic rules enforcement team carrying out a routine check for necessary documents of a truck loaded with logs in Insein Township on 4 January.
KYEMON

Photo shows crowded market festival organized by shopkeepers of Mingala market, Mingala Mon market, new Mingala market and Shwe Pyaeson market to mark the 65th Anniversary Independence Day in Mingala Taungnyunt Township recently.
KYEMON

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg (R) listen to the opposition after Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne delivered the autumn budget in parliament in London on 5 Dec, 2012.
REUTERS

Britain's coalition leaders seek to regain voters' trust

LONDON, 7 Jan—The leaders of Britain's fractious coalition pledged on Monday to cap the cost of long-term care for the elderly and to improve state pensions in an effort to re-engage with electors midway into their five-year government.

Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron and his Liberal Democrat deputy, Nick Clegg, have seen popular support fall away as voters suffer squeezed incomes and the economy fails to stage a stable recovery from the 2008/2009 financial crisis.

Despite trailing behind the opposition Labour party in polls, the two leaders said their alliance remained "steadfast and united" on its key aim of cutting Britain's deficit and restoring the economy to health.

In a joint statement to mark the halfway point of Britain's first coalition government since World War Two, Cameron and Clegg set out a series of domestic policy initiatives designed to quash talk that the partnership had run out of steam.

"Our mission is clear: to get Britain living within its means and earning its way in the world once again," they wrote in a review of the government's actions since it came to power in May 2010.

Without giving details, they promised to limit the amount the elderly pay for long-term healthcare, to reform state pensions, build more houses, help parents with childcare costs and find ways to boost investment in transport infrastructure.

Labour dismissed the mid-term review as "another relaunch" of the coalition, seen by many at its birth as an unstable marriage between the centre-right Conservatives and the smaller center-left Liberal Democrat party.

Reuters

Infighting mars rally for Merkel's FDP partners before state vote

STUTTGART, 7 Jan—Germany's Free Democrats (FDP) struggled to show a united front on Sunday just two weeks before a crucial state election, which could see their leader booted out if they fail to win enough support to gain Lower Saxony assembly seats.

The junior partner in Merkel's centre-right government is also in danger of missing the threshold for representation in the national parliament in September's federal election, which would leave the Chancellor having to form a coalition with either the opposition Social Democrats or the Greens.

A poll released by Emnid on Sunday put the FDP on 4 percent, short of the 5 percent it needs to prevent being thrown out of the Bundestag for the first time since its founding in 1948.

"It tears me apart inside when I see the state of my party. Things cannot continue as they are," senior FDP member and Germany's Development Minister Dirk Niebel told the party's annual "Three Kings" conference in Stuttgart.

"We aren't in the best shape we could be in as a team ... we are not in our best formation," he said, to applause. His party has spent more time in power in post-war Germany than any other.

His comments overshadowed the later keynote speech by party leader Philipp Roesler, who called for unity and insisted the FDP was vital to Germany's success.

Merkel's conservatives retained their comfortable lead at 40 percent in the Emnid poll while support for the main opposition Social Democrats (SPD) dropped by one point to 27 percent after another blunder by its candidate for chancellor, who came under fire for saying German leaders were underpaid.

Reuters

Leader of Germany's Free Democratic party (FDP) Philipp Roesler (C) adjusts his glasses as he stands between faction leader Rainer Bruederle (L) and Vice Chairman Birgit Homburger during the traditional FDP epiphany meeting in Stuttgart on 6 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

A Pakistani man looks at a broken mirror on the Jaffar Express train after an attack at a railway station in southwest Pakistan's Quetta on 6 Jan, 2013. At least four people were killed and about a dozen injured when a train was attacked by unknown militants in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province on Saturday night, reported local media Samaa. —XINHUA

S African president orders employment of troops to CAR

CAPE TOWN, 7 Jan—South African President Jacob Zuma has authorized the employment of 400 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) personnel to the Central African Republic (CAR) torn by a civil war, it was announced on Sunday.

The South African troops will render support in fulfilment of an international obligation of the Republic of South Africa towards the CAR, the Presidency said.

The troops' mission will last from 2 January this year to 31 March, 2018.

The employment is authorized in accordance with the South African Constitution, the Presidency said in a statement.

"The employed members of the SANDF will assist with capacity building of the CAR Defence Force and will also assist CAR with the planning and implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and re-integration processes," the statement said.

"The employment of members of the SANDF to CAR is one of the efforts that South Africa is making to bring about peace and stability in the region." The South African government has urged armed groups in Central African Republic (CAR) to immediately cease hostilities, withdraw from captured cities and cease any further advances towards the city of Bangui.

As the situation worsened in the CAR, Zuma earlier this year dispatched Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula to the CAR to assess the situation there.

The South African government has said that as a member of the African Union, it rejects any attempt to seize power by force, and therefore supports sanctions and other measures against the perpetrators of any unconstitutional change of government and their total isolation. In their latest offensive, anti-government forces have taken several towns in the CAR without much resistance from ill-equipped government forces and were moving closer to the capital of Bangui.—*Xinhua*

Taleban commander among 16 killed in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 7 Jan—An important Taleban commander was among the 16 people kill in Sunday's US drone strike in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of South Waziristan, local media reported.

Wali Muhammad, alias Toofan Mehsud, who was in charge of Pakistani Taleban's suiciders' wing, was believed to be killed in the strike, local Urdu TV channel Geo quoted unidentified sources as saying.

However, there is no official confirmation about the death of Wali Muhammad either from the government sources or from the Taleban side. US drones on Sunday launched a massive strike at a stronghold of militants in the Babar Ghar area of South Waziristan, in which at least eight missiles were fired at different targets, leaving three militant hideouts destroyed and at least 16 militants killed.

The strike also injured several other militants.

Five US drones were reportedly involved in the attack. Sunday's US drone strike is the third of its kind in Pakistan since the beginning of this year and also the largest over the last couple of months. In the wee hours of Thursday morning, US drones fired four missiles at a target in South Waziristan, leaving at least 10 militants killed, including Taleban commander Mullah Nazir.—*Xinhua*

Five accused in Delhi gang rape produced in court

NEW DELHI, 7 Jan —Five of the six persons accused in the horrifying gang rape in the Indian capital last month were produced at the Saket court in south Delhi Monday. The sixth accused, who is said to be a juvenile, will be produced before a juvenile justice board. The six are held responsible for the death of a 23-year-old medical student who was gang raped, brutalized and mutilated on a moving bus on 16 December in south Delhi.

The case has shocked India with tens of thousands resorting to the street demanding quick justice for the victim.

Police have accused murder, rape, robbery, destruction of evidence and other charges against the five. The charge of murder could lead to death sentence.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 6 Jan, 2013 shows the smoke rising from a storage tank of the state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in Hazira near Surat, Gujarat, India. Two people were killed in the fire at a petrol storage tank, said officials on Sunday.
XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Handset makers scurry to join Year of the Phablet

SINGAPORE, 7 Jan — Call it phablet, phonelet, tweener or super smartphone, but the clunky mobile phone — closer in size to a tablet than the smartphone of a couple of years back — is here to stay. A surprise hit of 2012, it is drawing in more users, more handset makers and is shaping the way we consume content."We expect 2013 to be the Year of the Phablet," said Neil Mawston, UK-based executive director of Strategy Analytics' global wireless practice. While Samsung Electronics Co Ltd has blazed a trail with its once-mocked Galaxy Note devices, now other manufacturers are scurrying to catch up. At this week's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Chinese telecommunications giants ZTE Corp and Huawei Technologies Co Ltd will launch their own. ZTE, which collaborated with Italy's designer Stefano Giovannoni for the Nubia phablet, is scheduled to launch its 5-inch Grand S, while Huawei brings out the Ascend Mate, sporting a whopping 6.1-inch screen, making it only slightly smaller than Amazon's Kindle Fire tablet. "Users have realized that a nearly 5-inch screen smartphone isn't such a cumbersome device," said Joshua Flood, senior analyst at ABI Research in Britain.

A Blackberry Bold smartphone, a Samsung Galaxy Note phablet, and an Apple iPad 2 tablet are displayed in this illustration photo in Hong Kong on 3 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

Driving the phablet's shift to the mainstream is a confluence of trends. Users prefer larger screens because they are consuming more visual content on mobile devices than before, and using them less for voice calls — the phablet's weak spot. And as WiFi-only tablets become more popular, so has interest among commuters in devices that combine the best of both, while on the move. According to the latest Ericsson Mobility Report, the monthly data traffic for every smartphone will rise fourfold between now and 2018 to 1,900 megabytes.

The upshot is a market for phablets that will quadruple in value to $135 billion in three years, according to Barclays. Shipments of gadgets that are 5 inches or bigger in screen size will surge by nearly nine-fold to 228 million during the same period, though estimates vary because no one can agree on where smartphones stop and phablets start.—*Reuters*

China to boost biotech industry

BEIJING, 7 Jan — The Chinese government will give a boost to the biotechnology industry in order to tackle problems related to population growth, food safety, energy conservation and environmental protection, the State Council said on Sunday. The government aims to double the share of GDP that the sector's value-added output accounts for by 2015 from the 2010 level, according to a biotech industry development plan unveiled by the State Council, or China's cabinet.

The sector will see its output surge at an average annual rate of more than 20 percent from 2013 to 2015, according to the plan. The government also plans to improve the sector's innovation and technological prowess to make it a pillar industry by 2020.New medicines, crops, biofuels and environmental technology are needed to protect the health of an aging population, ensure food safety and save energy, the plan says.

The government is targeting an annual production value of 150 billion yuan (23.8 billion US dollars) by 2015 for the biofuel sector, according to the plan. The sector's overall output has risen at an annual average of more than 20 percent since 2006, reaching 2 trillion yuan in 2011, according to the plan. The sector is one of seven emerging industries that the government is aiming to promote over the next few years in order to turn domestic consumption and technological innovation into driving forces for the economy.—*Xinhua*

Google pact with FTC could affect other patent disputes

NEW YORK, 7 Jan — While the focus of last week's agreement between the Federal Trade Commission and Google Inc was search, the deal's restrictions on how Google uses its patents could have a broader impact on the technology industry. Under the deal, which ended an antitrust investigation by the FTC and disappointed many critics, Google will make only minor changes to its search business.

But Google is also now limited in when it can seek injunctions against products from rival companies that use certain of its patents. Throughout recent smartphone wars and other major patent litigation, holders of so-called standard essential patents have been accused of using them to bully competitors into paying high licensing rates or as leverage in patent disputes.

A neon Google logo is seen at the new Google office in Toronto, on 13 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

The FTC's deal with Google clarifies the uncertainty over how standard essential patents can be used, said Colleen Chien, a professor specializing in patent law at Santa Clara University School of Law in California.

The deal set out a process by which technology makers can avoid injunctions and patent holders know they are going to get compensated, Chien said. "The FTC has deflated the power of the injunction and also the incentives to not pay that have existed."

In its case against Google, the FTC claimed that Google and its subsidiary Motorola Mobility Inc had breached commitments to standard-setting bodies to license its patents on terms that are fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory.

Reuters

Riches in niches: US cops, in-flight movies may be model for Panasonic survival

TOKYO, 7 Jan — Panasonic Corp's answer to the brutal onslaught on its TV sales may be in a product the Japanese firm launched 17 years ago and which is a must-have for US police cars.Two thirds of the 420,000 patrol cars in the United States are equipped with the company's rugged Toughbook computers, and Panasonic chief Kazuhiro Tsuga sees the niche product as a model for how the sprawling conglomerate can make money beyond a gadget mass market increasingly dominated by Samsung Electronics and Apple Inc. "What we need are businesses that earn, and they don't necessarily have to have big sales," Tsuga told reporters after his appointment as company president was approved in June.Tsuga also sees avionics — Panasonic is the world's leading maker of in-flight entertainment systems — automated production machinery, and lighting as profit earners as income from TVs and other consumer electronics dwindles.—*Reuters*

A worker shows a sample of biodiesel made from castor beans (L) at a biodiesel refinery in Iraquara, 310 miles (500 km) west of the Bahia state capital, Salvador on 31 March, 2008.—REUTERS

Biofuels cause pollution, not as green as thought — study

OSLO, 7 Jan — Green schemes to fight climate change by producing more bio-fuels could actually worsen a little-known type of air pollution and cause almost 1,400 premature deaths a year in Europe by 2020, a study showed on Sunday. The report said trees grown to produce wood fuel — seen as a cleaner alternative to oil and coal — released a chemical into the air that, when mixed with other pollutants, could also reduce farmers' crop yields.

"Growing biofuels is thought to be a good thing because it reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere," said Nick Hewitt, who worked on the study with colleagues from England's Lancaster University. "What we're saying is 'yes, that's great, but biofuels could also have a detrimental effect on air quality'," he added. The report, in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, looked into the impact of a European Union scheme to slow climate change by producing more biofuels.

Hewitt told *Reuters* there would be a similar impact wherever biofuels were produced in large quantities in areas suffering air pollution, including the United States and China. Poplar, willow or eucalyptus trees, all used as fast-growing sources of renewable wood fuel, emit high levels of the chemical isoprene as they grow, the study said. Isoprene forms toxic ozone when mixed with other air pollutants in sunlight.—*Reuters*

India scales down experimental flying payloads for exploring Mars

NEW DELHI, 7 Jan— India has scaled down its flying experimental payloads for exploring the Mars by reducing the payload from 25 kg to 15 kg, local media reported on Sunday.

The Mars Orbiter Mission, expected to be launched in mid- October this year, will carry five experimental payloads with a total weight of 14.49 kg, according to *Press Trust of India.*

The payloads will include the Methane Sensor, Thermal Infrared Spectrometer, Mars Colour Camera, Lyman alpha photometer and Mars Exospheric Neutral composition analyzer.

India hopes the Mars mission will propel it to the elite club of five members comprising the US, Russia, European Union, China and Japan, which have launched similar missions.

The Mars Orbiter will go around the planet once in three days, its nearest point being only 371 km from the planet's surface and the farthest point about 80,000 km away.

Xinhua

Asian shares drift, Basel ruling supports banks

SINGAPORE, 7 Jan— Asian stocks drifted on Monday as investors booked profits from a New Year rally that had pushed markets to multi-month highs, but financial stocks gained after global regulators decided to relax draft plans for tough new bank liquidity rules. Commodity prices mostly held firm, supported by data showing the US economy continuing on a path of slow but steady recovery that propelled Wall Street stocks to a five-year high.

The dollar sat close to a two-and-a-half-year high against the yen as investors adjusted to the possibility of more monetary stimulus in 2013 from the Bank of Japan and less from the US Federal Reserve. MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS, which had reached its highest level since August 2011 on Thursday, was flat, while Tokyo's Nikkei share average .N225 retreated after touching a 23-month high in early trade to stand down 0.2 percent.

"Investors have been carefully waiting for the timing to take profits as they believed the market can't keep rising," said Yutaka Miura, a senior technical analyst at Mizuho Securities.

The MSCI benchmark's financial sector sub-index .MIAPJFN00PUS gained 0.5 percent after the Basel Committee of banking supervisors agreed on Sunday to give banks four more years and greater flexibility to build up cash buffers so they can use some of their reserves to help struggling economies.

Reuters

Traders are pictured at their desks in front of the DAX board at the Frankfurt stock exchange on 4 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

A Citi sign is seen at the Citigroup stall on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 16 Oct, 2012.
REUTERS

Citi's Corbat builds bridges with regulators

NEW YORK, 7 Jan— Citigroup Inc's Michael Corbat has been meeting with bank regulators in his first months as CEO, as he looks to bolster relationships and finalize the bank's plan to return capital to shareholders, sources familiar with the matter said. Corbat also expects to name his team of top managers within the next week or so, one of the sources said on Sunday. Corbat is expected to play it safe when Citigroup asks the US Federal Reserve for permission for moves such as buying back shares or increasing dividends, analysts and investors said. His predecessor, Vikram Pandit, lost his job in October in part because the bank's request for returning capital was denied in March.

The bank, which is due to submit its plan to the Fed on Monday, has not yet done so, the source said. The third-largest US bank will only seek approval to buy back shares and not raise dividends, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday. Last year, the bank wanted permission to return more than $8 billion to shareholders over two years, the paper said. Some Citigroup investors and analysts said they expect the bank to buy back $1 billion to $3 billion of common stock, even though it could probably afford to do more.

Citigroup is expected to earn around $14 billion in 2013, and it could afford to spend as much as $6 billion of shares on stock and still rebuild capital, even under difficult economic scenarios, analysts said. The company's outstanding stock has a market value of about $125 billion. "The first step will be bite-sized. It will be a start," said David Hendler, senior analyst at independent research firm CreditSights.

Reuters

Air France-KLM in advanced talks for Alitalia

ROME, 7 Jan— Franco-Dutch carrier *Air France-KLM (AIRF.PA)* is in "advanced" talks to take control of Italy's flagship airline Alitalia by the summer, Rome's *Messaggero* newspaper reported on Sunday without citing its sources. *Alitalia* is owned by CAI, a consortium of investors that bought the then-bankrupt airline in 2008. CAI is already partly owned by *Air France-KLM*. Alitalia's shareholders can exercise options to trade their shares when a lock-up period ends on 12 January.

In May, Air France said it would probably wait until at least 2014 before using its option to take control of Alitalia, in which it has held 25 percent since January 2009. *Air France-KLM* has offered shareholders a 20 percent premium on what they paid for the airline in 2008, the newspaper said, probably in *Air France-KLM* shares. CAI paid a little more than 1 billion euros to take over Alitalia five years ago. *An Air France-KLM* spokesman in Paris declined to comment on the report. Officials at Alitalia did not answer repeated phone calls.

But four-time Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who scuppered *Air France-KLM's* last attempt to buy Alitalia, said he was still against the airline's sale.

Berlusconi is badly behind in the polls ahead of a 24-25 February national election. "Our country cannot afford not having its own flagship airline," Berlusconi said on his Facebook page.

Reuters

***An Alitalia airplane is seen at the airport in Cairo on 20 Jan, 2011. Italy signed an agreement on Thursday with Egypt Air to carry out maintenance work for its Alitalia aircraft.—*REUTERS**

Will pursue bold monetary policy, big fiscal spending

TOKYO, 7 Jan— Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reiterated on Monday his call for bold monetary easing by the central bank, big fiscal spending and an economic growth strategy as steps towards conquering deflation.

"Above all, the urgent task is to beat deflation," Abe told a meeting of officials from the government and ruling parties.

"A bold monetary policy, a flexible fiscal policy and a growth strategy are aimed at stimulating private investment. With these three pillars, we must aim to beat deflation."

Abe also said the government would do its utmost to quickly enact an extra budget for the current fiscal year and a budget for the next fiscal year to shore up the economy.—*Reuters*

Competition affects who gets a liver transplant: study

NEW YORK, 7 Jan— More competition between medical centres that perform liver transplants may mean sicker patients get lower-quality donor organs, according to a US study. When more than one centre has patients on the same donor list, the centers have an incentive to get organs for as many of their own patients as possible, wrote researchers, whose report appeared in Liver Transplantation.

So doctors are more likely to take the first available organ when their patient is at the top of the transplant list, whether or not that pairing has the best chance to succeed, rather than risk the organ will go to another centre.

"There is the question whether competition decreases the ability of a center to better match donor and recipient characteristics," wrote John Paul Roberts, from the University of California, San Francisco, and colleagues. They analyzed data on more than 38,000 liver recipients who had transplants from non-living donors between 2003 and 2009.

The transplants were done at 112 medical centres in 47 so-called distribution areas—some covered by only one centre and some that relayed organs to multiple transport centres.

Roberts and his colleagues found "clinically important differences" showing patients who received organs were initially worse off, with a higher risk of dying or having their transplant fail, in areas that had more medical centres in competition for the same organs.

For example, 10 percent of patients who received organs at centers with no competition had the worst scores for liver disease severity pre-transplant, compared to more than 28 percent of those in the high-competition distribution areas.

Areas with high competition also transplanted more organs that were considered at higher risk of failing, according to the new findings. Although that might not be the best way of distributing organs on a society-wide scale, it could be considered a plus for the people who otherwise wouldn't get an organ or for livers that would otherwise be considered too low quality and be discarded.

"If you're a sick, high-risk patient... then it's in your interest that somebody will take more of a risk on you. The alternative is not surviving," said Michael Charlton, a liver disease researcher from the Mayo Clinic Transplant Centre in Rochester, Minnesota.

Reuters

***A surgeon holds the liver during an operation to extract the liver and the kidneys from a brain-dead women at the Unfallkrankenhaus Berlin (UKB) hospital in Berlin on 12 Jan, 2008.—*REUTERS**

WORLD

Colombian police seize over 1.2 tons of drugs

BOGOTA, 7 Jan— The Colombian authorities seized more than 1.2 tons of marijuana on Sunday in a rural area of the northern Magdalena department.

The confiscated drugs, seized with the help of a tip, have a local street value of 369,000 US dollars, which would be tripled abroad, Narcotics Police Director Luis Alberto Perez said.

"The 1,250 kilos of marijuana 'red dot' type are ready for shipment to the coast, and will be sent by "Go Fast" speedboats to the islands of the Caribbean, where the Colombian marijuana is currently marketed and consumed", Perez said.

The investigation conducted by the Police Narcotics Division concluded that the storage center belongs to the criminal gang "Los Urabenos", and the drugs would go to Sinaloa cartel partners.—*Xinhua*

Bahamian citizen Matthew Ian Ferguson (C), also known as "Matlock", alleged drug trafficker, is escorted at the Catam Airport, in Bogota, Colombia, on 6 Jan, 2013.
XINHUA

Bushfires continue to burn in Tasmania

CANBERRA, 7 Jan— Bushfires continued to ravage Australia's island state of Tasmania on Monday, with more hot weather expected for the week.

Police feared that there might be lost lives as nearly 100 people have been feared missing. Latest news from the police showed that most of the reported missing people have been accounted for and no deaths have been recorded so far.

Tasmania Police Inspector John Arnold told ABC Radio that most of the names on the list have been cross-checked and located.

However, he could not rule out the possibility of fatal casualties.

Tasmanian police continued their property-to-property searches in the worst-hit towns of Dunalley, Boomer Bay and Marion Bay as they feared lives may have been lost.

More than 100 buildings have been destroyed by the fires, which continue to burn. Phil Douglas from the Tasmanian Fire Service said there had been no substantial change overnight, with the Repulse and Forcett fires still fairly active.

Weather forecast warned that more hot weather in Tasmania could rekindle the danger level of bushfires that have ravaged the southeast of the state. Although the state won't see a repeat of the record temperature of January 4 when capital city of Hobart registered 41.8 C, its highest since temperature record started in 1883, above average temperatures are expected with many cities in the state.

"While we hopefully will not experience those once-in-a-generation, horrific, catastrophic weather conditions that we faced on Friday (4 January), there isn't a decent rain ahead of us, " emergency services minister David O'Byrne was quoted by the *Australian Associated Press* as saying.

Fire chiefs say they can't predict when the massive blazes in the state will be brought under control.

Australian government announces that Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments (AGDRP) are now available to residents in the southeast and east of Tasmania. Eligible people affected by the recent bushfires will be able to claim payments of 1,000 Australian dollars (1,047 US dollars) for each adult and 400 dollars (418.8 US dollars) for each child.

Xinhua

An Afghan poor girl carries blankets donated by rich people in Herat province of western Afghanistan on 5 Jan, 2013. Hundreds of poor families received winter relief assistance on Saturday.—XINHUA

Russia kills militants suspected of Christmas attack plan

MOSCOW, 7 Jan— Russian security forces in a restive North Caucasus Province on Sunday killed three militants suspected of planning attacks on church services during the Russian Orthodox Christmas holiday, authorities said.

Security forces tried to stop a van in the Kabardino-Balkaria Province on Sunday but its occupants opened fire and were killed in the ensuing battle, during which the vehicle caught fire, the National Anti-Terrorism Committee said in a statement.

It said that explosives, guns and ammunition were found in the van and that the men who were killed had been planning attacks on churches during services marking Russian Orthodox Christmas, which is on Monday. The statement gave no evidence to support that suspicion and the account could not be verified. Deadly exchanges of gunfire between police and suspected militants at road checkpoints are common in Russia's North Caucasus, a string of provinces hit by an Islamist insurgency rooted in two separatist wars in Chechnya.

Kabardino-Balkaria, west of Chechnya, is mostly Muslim but has a sizable Christian minority.

President Vladimir Putin's 13 years in power have been marred by violence in the North Caucasus and attacks by the insurgents elsewhere, and he has called repeatedly for ethnic and religious peace during a new term that started last May. Putin attended a midnight Russian Orthodox Christmas service early on Monday in Sochi, a Black Sea and Caucasus Mountain resort about 300 km (185 miles) west of Kabardino-Balkaria that is to host the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Reuters

Ambassadors to Japan and their family members carry a "mikoshi" portable shrine at Kanda Myojin, a Shinto shrine in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, on 27 Oct, 2012 during a seminar about Shintoism co-hosted by the Association of Shinto Shrines.
KYODO NEWS

US dismisses Syrian president's latest peace initiative

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan— The United States on Sunday dismissed the latest initiative by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for ending the protracted conflict in his country, reiterating the call for his ouster. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland also pledged continued support for the framework of the Geneva Action Group on a political solution to the ongoing crisis in Syria. "His initiative is detached from reality, undermines the efforts of Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi, and would only allow the regime to further perpetuate its bloody oppression of the Syrian people," she said in a written statement.

In his latest televised speech to the nation earlier in the day, al-Assad offered a three-phase initiative to politically resolve the crisis, which includes a cease -fire, a comprehensive national dialogue on a "national charter", and the establishment of a broad-based government and parliament.

The president also described the conflict as one not between the authority and the opposition, but "between the nation and our enemies," calling for the defense of the country.

"Bashar al-Assad's speech today is yet another attempt by the regime to cling to power and does nothing to advance the Syrian people's goal of a political transition," Nuland said.

"Al-Assad has lost all legitimacy and must step aside to enable a political solution and a democratic transition that meets the aspirations of the Syrian people," she added. The spokesperson voiced continued support for the framework endorsed in Geneva in June last year by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the Arab League and the UN General Assembly, which envisaged a Syrian-led transition.—*Xinhua*

Argentina slams Britain's "military threats" over disputed islands

BUENOS AIRES, 7 Jan— Argentina's Foreign Ministry on Sunday condemned what it called "the military threats of British Prime Minister David Cameron in relation to Great Britain's illegal occupation of the Malvinas Islands for the past 180 years."

The ministry was reacting to statements Cameron made on British TV channel BBC1 on Thursday, in which he said he was willing "to fight" to hold on to the islands just off Argentina's South Atlantic coast, known to the British as the Falklands.

"The aggressiveness of the British Prime Minister's words affirm Argentina's denouncement at the United Nations regarding the militarization of the South Atlantic and the possible presence of nuclear arms introduced by the colonial power," the ministry said in a statement.

The Argentine government urges the British "not to use the legitimate and peaceful claims we make against the usurpation of part of our territory and against colonialism as an excuse to continue sustaining the weapons industry, instead of alleviating the severe social crisis affecting Europe," the ministry said.

"People need more work and less war," it added, while reiterating "Britain's obligation to accept the United Nations resolutions to resolve the Malvinas affair in a peaceful manner."

In that TV interview, Cameron said Britain's "determination (to retain power over the islands) is extremely strong" and stressed Britain has one of the "five largest defence budgets in the world."

The dispute over the islands led Argentina and Britain to a 74-day war in 1982. Despite its military defeat, Buenos Aires has not given up its claim to the islands.

Xinhua

A driver wraps his face with clothes during foggy weather in Bikaner, India, on 6 Jan, 2013. Cold wave and fog hit north India and disrupted train and flight services.
XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

Aungmingala Bridge commissioned into service in Hkamti

HKAMTI, 7 Jan—With a view to ensuring smooth transport for local people, a ceremony to open Aungmingala Bridge was held on Hsinthay-Nanmun Road in Hkamti Township on 31 December morning.

A local thanked the government for K 2 million contribution to construction of the bridge. At present, he said that the bridge is a link between the eastern and western parts of the village.

Village administrator U Kyaw Khaing Oo explained that the government spent K 2 million on construction of the bridge.

Local people contributed K 3.5 million to the project. Indeed, it is a fruitful result through concerted efforts of the government and the people, he said. The newly-opened bridge is 50 feet long and 12 feet wide wooden facility.

Myanma Alinn

Book show, poem and tale recitation held

YANGON, 7 Jan—Shwepyitha Township Information and Public Relations Department organized the poem, cartoon, photo contests, book show, poem recitation and tale telling contest at Lin Yaung Chi Library in Ward 19 of Shwepyitha Township on 27 December.

The ward administrator of Ward 19 and Staff Officer Daw Khin Thida Oo of District IPRD gave lectures on reading habit and development of libraries.

Children took part in the poem recitation and tale telling contests. Officials presented prizes to the winners in respective events.

Attendee U Aung Kyaw Soe (Shwebo) presented one piece of ruby each to all contestants.

Myanma Alinn

Shwedaungtan No. 2 jetty under repair

YANGON, 7 Jan—Some jetties are damaged on Lanmadaw bank in Yangon Region as these facilities have been built two years ago. Thus, Shwedaungdan Jetty No. 2 is under maintenance.

Although Shwedaungdan Jetty 1 has been repaired recently, No. 2 jetty was still damaged. So, officials are repairing the No. 2 jetty for smooth transport of the people.—*Myanma Alinn*

IWT to set up JV for Mya Ayeya market ship

YANGON, 7 Jan—Participation of private sector plays an important role in undertaking development of Myanma economy.

The Government today is creating the opportunities for private entrepreneurs at home to be able to extend their businesses. At present, the Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport will allow handing over of Mya Ayeya market ship to the private entrepreneurs.

"IWT creates the opportunity for the entrepreneurs so as to operate sales of domestic products to one place to another with the use of market ships. It means fulfilling the requirement of local people as well as creation of job opportunities for the entrepreneurs," said an official of IWT.

In the past, Mya Ayeya Market Ship is under control of Ayeyawady Branch of Inland Water Transport. The ship sells various kinds of domestic goods to the people along its route.

The ship carries personal goods, kitchen utensils and foodstuffs to the people along the townships from Yangon to Mandalay in Ayeyawady River.

The voyages of the ship are designated thrice a year.

At present, the IWT plans to set up joint venture with private entrepreneurs for sales of goods at the stopover townships. As a result, the local people will have the opportunities to buy personal goods of different regions.—*Myanma Alinn*

Ministry of Health
41st Myanmar Medical Research Conference
From 7 to 11 January, 2013
Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)
No. 5, Ziwaka Road, Dagon Township, Yangon

Former Brazilian soccer giants to meet with Myanmar veterans

YANGON, 7 Jan—Former legendary players of Brazil will play a friendly football match with Myanmar former players so as to share their experiences to Myanmar youth footballers.

The Brazilian team comprising Dunga, Bebeto, Paulo Sergio, Mazinho and so on will arrive in Yangon on 20 January. On 22 January, they will train Myanmar youth players at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna and then play a friendly match with Myanmar former selected players on 23 January.

The former selected Myanmar team will comprise Than Toe Aung, Myo Hlaing Win, Tin Myint Aung, Soe Myat Min, Lwin Oo, Aung Aung Oo and so on.

The Brazilian team will be headed by Carlos Alberto Torres. The team will have keeper Gilmar, Marcio, Roberto dos Santos, Dunga, Mazinho, Pedrinho, Melba, Ricardogocha, William, Paulo Sergio, Bebeto, Djalminha, Donizetti, Edilson, Viola and so on.

Moreover, Lotha Matheus of German will arrive in Yangon and offer to join Myanmar team.

Myanma Alinn

Association of Disabled organizes first anniversary in Myitkyina

MYITKYINA, 7 Jan—A ceremony to mark the first anniversary of Kachin State Association for Persons of Disabilities was held in conjunction with the presentation of equipment for the disabled at the hall of the Myitkyina of Kachin State on 28 December, with an address by Kachin State Minister for Social Affairs Daw Bauk Ja.

General Secretary of the association U Aye Ko Ko reported on tasks of the association.

After that, he handed over K 130,000 as cash assistance for education to children of the disabled persons, six wheel chairs and 20 sets of crutches donated by Chairman of Funeral Service Association U Kyaw Thu (Yangon) to officials.

Next, Kachin State Minister for Transport U Kaman Du Naw donated K 500,000, Deputy Speaker of Kachin State Hluttaw U Sai Myint Kyaw K 50,000, Chief Justice of the State High Court U Tu Ja and wife K 100,000, State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Than Aung K 50,000, state level departmental officials K 1 million, wife of the State Minister for Finance and Revenue K 50,000 and Chairman of Yangon Funeral Service Association U Kyaw K 1 million and faculty members of Myitkyina University K 100,000 to Chairman of the association U G Zon Hsaung who spoke words of thanks.

The 28-Buddha image conveyance ceremony, organized by Kachin State Government, was held on 28 December afternoon in Myitkyina.

The conveyance of the Buddha images started from Sasana Beikman and went round the all wards of Myitkyina for the public obeisance.

Myanma Alinn

The New Light of Myanmar

OPINION

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 8 January, 2013

True public servants

Amidst the political reforms, the government has adopted broad-based and people-friendly economic reforms covering labour and occupational affairs, social improvement programmes and poverty alleviation and rural development plans in the interest of the general public.

In undertaking all these reforms, the government takes up a more flexible and comprehensive way instead of a fixed serial order. It in recognition of the livelihood needs of people has been constantly focusing on encouraging businesses that create jobs opportunities for the citizens including the grassroots.

However, a lot of challenges and obstacles still remain, and the absence of the essentials of good governance and clean government in many local administrative bodies is one of them. Here, we need broader administrative reforms involving all levels from the ward/village to the Union. Moreover, government needs systematic short-term and long-term economic policies for the reforms to truly benefit the country and the people. It now has the framework for economic and social reforms.

As for the government to implement reform plans effectively, it must have necessary management capacity and know-how. Normally, the capacity of government is the deciding factor for the success and failure of the reforms. Additionally, reforms will not be effective if there is the reluctance in giving up the old ideas, practices and values, and in adopting new political, economic, social, and administrative values that are in line with the democratic principles.

The government will therefore implement the reforms involving the improvement of the management and administrative performance of all its bodies. The administrative system that is in conformity with the people-based development strategy will transform all government employees, especially officials into true public servants.

Accordingly, officials from ward/village level to Union level must change their views, ideas, beliefs and actions in turning themselves into true public servants who can make the government more transparent, accountable, clean and effective.

Shan nationals meet in Mohnyin Township

MOHNYIN, 7 Jan—"It is impossible to gain eternal peace by defeating other side by force," said Amyotha Hluttaw representative U San Pyae of Kachin State Hluttaw, at the meeting of Shan nationals in Mohnyin Township on 30 December.

Kachin State Government Shan National Race Affairs Minister Daw Khin Pyone Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Sai Tin Aung of Kachin State Constituency No. 5, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Pe Thaung of Constituency No. 6, Mohnyin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Soe Lay, also discussed matters related to preservation of race, language, literacy and culture and local peace. Shan National Race Affairs Minister Daw Khin Pyone Yi met Shan nationals in Hopin sub-township and ancient Belu township on 29 and 30 December.

NLM-001

Come, visit *NLM!*

Tin Maung Than

"Why do you launch PSM-Public Service Media?" *NHK* producer inquires. "The main point is that we are on our way towards democracy in which legislative and executive bodies live a specific term only according to the election system. Here, the State-owned dailies functioning as government propaganda machine are no longer necessary.

"PSM converted State media serves as a portal between the government and the people, facilitating the former's work of informing the public and listening to their voices. Besides, PSM focuses on educational, health, social, labour and cultural affairs and customs of all the citizens including ethnic races and vulnerable groups, the work profit-motive-only private media normally shuns."

But she was not satisfied with the answer. She wants to know why we are changing from government mouthpiece to PSM. "As you know, every newspaper is working between two lines – reader satisfaction and owner satisfaction. We must understand the owner's objectives as well as readers' wants. As our owner is the government, we were focusing more on government's wishes than on the public desires in the past. But now is much different. Reader satisfaction has become the priority concern of our PSM project." But she confronts me with another question. "Why focusing on reader satisfaction?" "The President has already declared the people-centred policy. So we are no more personal oriented. We are now focusing on readers more and more as never before." But she still has a lot more questions for me and others.

When word comes from the ministry office that a producer from *NHK* will visit the State-owned dailies, and interview a number of staff including chief editors about PSM reforms, I expect interviews through a Japanese interpreter. She arrives together with her interpreter and cameraman, and greets the welcoming party very politely as other Japanese visitors do. She shakes hands with us and introduces herself as Ayako Takada of *NHK*. We take her to the meeting room of *Myanma Alinn* where she interviews us in English. But she is a little bit shy to ask direct or open questions. One of our colleges realizes that if we go on like this we will reach nowhere. It will be like wasting our and her time without making any breakthrough. As for journalists, time is valuable. So he invites open discussion and sharp questions. From that time on, the interview become more lively and active. She actually has greater interest in the *The New Light of Myanmar-NLM*. We invite her to visit *NLM*, meet with staff independently and shoot whatever question she likes. She accepts the offer.

She wishes to know how we are collecting news reports, and what the *NLM* editorial staff, especially the senior reporters, are doing. "Mostly the *Myanmar News Agency-MNA* is gathering news reports. But the dailies, especially, *Myanma Alinn* and *The Mirror* have their own columnist reporters nearly all over the country. As for the *NLM* editorial staff, their main task is translating and editing the *MNA*-fed news reports or information provided by columnist reporters of the two Myanmar dailies. We sometimes send our reporters to gather news on their own."

After the interview which is something like a brainstorming session, she visits the editorial room of *Myanmar Alinn*, and then chooses *NLM* as her next target! At *NLM* she interviews our editorial staff, especially the senior reporters about their daily work, views on PSM, and possible effects of PSM project on them, their wishes and their experiences. She requests us to hold a mock meeting that she can have a picture of how *NLM* people do their job. But our men makes it's a real one, expressing some of their hardships which actually should be discussed at the monthly assembly where open discussions are invited to solve problems of the staff or overcome the challenges. But everything's OK, as *NLM* has no big problems, only challenges to overcome.

As she is from *NHK*, we understand that she will broadcast the news on our PSM reforms from Japan worldwide based on the information she receives through interviews, mock meetings and civilized pumping-out method. In some cases her interview is more like a police questioning, asking the same question again and again. But we don't know how or in what way she will present the programme.

And that is not our concern as long as we are practicing democracy that embraces transparency and freedom of expression.

NLM on its part always welcomes both domestic and foreign visitors whether from presses, news agencies or broadcasting stations as a proof of its transparency and reforms. Come, visit *NLM!*

Photo shows house of New Light of Myanmar Daily at Khayaybin Junction of Zeyathiri Township.
AM SOE

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to...

(from page 1)

important achievements recorded in the last more than six decades. We firmly believe that, under your clear-sighted leadership, the people of Myanmar will achieve greater achievements in their cause of national construction and development, making Myanmar a prosperous country with an ever-increasing role in the region and the world.

We are very delighted to witness strong and rapid development in the traditional friendship and multi-sided cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar recently. More significantly, the frequent exchange of high-level visits has helped reinforce and strengthen mutual trust and understanding as well as bilateral existing fine cooperation between the two countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally. We are deeply convinced that, with the concerted efforts of our Leaders and people, Viet Nam-Myanmar relations will further blossom, moving towards a new height, in the interests of our people and for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the Asia-Pacific.

On this occasion, we wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and success in your noble position.

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

It is my great pleasure to convey to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar my warmest greetings and sincere congratulations and those of the Government and the People of Sri Lanka on the felicitations occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

For centuries, relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar have flourished and had been nurtured by our common Buddhist heritage. The high-level visits and increasing people to people exchanges have strengthened our ties over the years. I am confident that we will build upon this foundation of our excellent relationship and deepen it further in the years to come.

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

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann cordially greets departmental personnel and local people in Kungyangon.—MNA

Democratic transition...

(from page 16)

The deputy ministers and officials made clarifications. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker attended to the needs.

The Speaker called for providing adequate capital and technological aids for the areas which rely on agriculture and breeding and helping farmers fetch good prices. He reiterated that the government and the Hluttaw would serve the interests of the people. He also called for cooperation of the entire people to make the transition towards democracy and market economy a success.

MNA

Special Appellate Bench hears cases, writs

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—A special appellate bench comprising Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union U Tun Tun Oo and judges of Supreme Court of the Union passed five special civil appeal cases and four civil miscellaneous application (writs) at Room No.1 of Supreme Court of the Union this morning. Besides, they heard four special civil appeal cases.—*MNA*

41st Myanmar Medical Research Congress kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—The 41st Myanmar Medical Research Congress took place at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township today.

In his opening address, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin called for stepping up efforts for research works in attempts to upgrade the prevention and controlling the infectious and non infectious diseases and therapies and to do research on disease control systems and therapies that have not yet used in Myanmar.

According to the Union Minister, an advanced laboratory which have been jointly built by the MRD (Lower Myanmar) and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) since 2012 would be inaugurated in the near future to do research and examine the health hazards in Myanmar.

After the opening the ceremony, the Union Minister and guests visited the booths showcasing health posters, and pharmacies.

Resource persons read their papers during the paper-reading session held at the meeting hall 1 and 2. It was followed by symposium on medical research.

Eighty eight resource persons will read out 88 papers and 25 posters. The conference also comprises 12 symposiums.

MNA

Culture Ministry, UNESCO putting finishing touches to Pyu cities national dossier

YANGON, 7 Jan— Scholars of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department and UNESCO met for fourth time to edit Nomination Dossier and Management Plan to list ancient Pyu cities of Vishanu, Hanlin and Srikestra in world heritages at the department's Yangon branch today.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister Daw Sanda Khin, and officials attended the meeting.

The Union Minister praised the hard work of drafting team members as the dossier would be able to be submitted to World Heritage Centre on time. UNESCO's Bangkok representative Ms Montira Unakul extended greetings before those present posed for a documentary photo.

The working session will last till 10 January.

MNA

Union Minister U Aye Myint Kyu and scholars pose for documentary photo.—MNA

Yangon City Public Transport Authority formed

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan— According to the statement issued by the President Office, a 10-member Yangon City Public Transport Authority chaired by U Kyi Thein was formed today in order to run the smooth and speedy transport services for the convenience of the people in Yangon municipal area.

The authority which is responsible to Yangon Region Government will coordinate the works in the management of modes of public transport in Yangon municipal area, seeking ways and means to be able to overcome present traffic woes and air pollution, acquiring technical assistance from international organizations, assisting Yangon Region government in ensuring the rule of law through traffic rules enforcement measures, drawing master plans for upcoming socioeconomic and civil development of Yangon, building transport infrastructure and formulation of laws, formation of organizations in management and setting up of funds with Yangon City Development Committee.

The organization is comprised of U Kyi Thein as chairman, U Hla Aung as secretary and U Win Lwin, U Khin Maung Htay, U Aung Myint, U Khin Maung, U Soe Myint, U Zaw Win Myint, U Tun Win and U Thet Lwin as members.

MNA

WORLD

Yemeni court sentences five al-Qaeda suspects to prison

SANAA, 7 Jan—The Yemeni security court on Sunday sentenced five al-Qaeda suspects to up to 10 years in prison for plotting attacks against local and foreign interests in the Arab country, state media reported.

The court, based in the capital Sanaa, sentenced Mohamed Maoutha to 10 years in prison, Bilal al-Hababi, Saddam al-Munadi and Mohamed al-Khadhabi to six years in jail, while the fifth defendant Shamsan al-Jaradi received a four-year prison term, according to the country's official *Saba News Agency*.

The court also ordered the release of six other defendants for lack of evidence against them.

The 11-member group was arrested in mid-2011 in Sanaa, when the Yemeni army defeated al-Qaeda militants in major cities in the southern province of Abyan after nearly six months of battles.

In October last year, the security court sentenced two al-Qaeda militants to death and ordered six others to up to five years in prison for attacking the Yemeni army and killing several soldiers.

The Yemeni interim government is struggling to defeat a resurgent al-Qaeda branch and restore security, as the political transition is stalled in the country after the resignation of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.—*Xinhua*

Bank employees count the amount of offerings collected during the three-day New Year holidays at Fushimi Inari Taisha, a Shinto shrine in Kyoto, on 4 Jan, 2013. KYODO NEWS

The information about train tickets from Beijing, capital of China, to Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 26 Jan, 2013 is shown on the online railway ticket booking website of the Ministry of Railways, on 7 Jan, 2013. The tickets for the upcoming Spring Festival rush period can be purchased via online and phone-call booking systems since 7 Jan. The 40-day 2013 Spring Festival travel rush will start on 26 Jan. The Spring Festival for family reunions begins from the first day of the first month of the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, or 10 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

Slovakia declares lowest-degree flood alert for Danube River

BRATISLAVA, 7 Jan—Bratislava declared a first-degree (least serious) flood alert for the Danube River after the water level exceeded 6.5 metres on Sunday.

According to the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (SHMU), the level of Danube has risen by more than 1.7 metres over the past 24 hours, reaching 6.89 metres at 4 pm local time (1500 GMT) and still on the rise.

A similar situation - a first-degree alert — is in place for the Morava River, a river on Slovakia's borders with both the Czech Republic and Austria), which reached 5.18 metres at 4 pm.

The Morava flows into the Danube next to Devin Castle in Bratislava. Compared to other rivers in Slovakia, it needs less impetus to warrant a flood emergency.

Xinhua

Central African Republic talks in preparation despite hardened rebel positions

BANGUI, 7 Jan—Preparations for talks over the Central African Republic crisis continue despite the hardened positions of rebels, who seized two more towns Saturday while denying informed about the meeting next week in Libreville, the capital of Gabon. Foreign ministers from the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) are set to meet on Tuesday in Libreville to establish a timetable for negotiations to end the crisis, an official of the 10-member bloc told *Xinhua* at the weekend.

Before the meeting, preparatory talks are expected in Gabon, the broker of peace in Central African Republic, involving officials from the Seleka rebel coalition.

The five-faction rebel coalition has taken a dozen towns since launching offensives on 10 Dec, 2012, with Alindao, hundreds of km east of the capital Bangui, among the latest taken over from the government forces.

On Friday, Seleka's spokesman Eric Massi denied knowing about next week's talks in Gabon, saying he had never "heard of it." The arrangements, however, go ahead with the strong support by the CEEAC, the African Union, the UN Security Council, the United States and France, which is the former colonial ruler of Central African Republic.

For the time being, Seleka insists President Francois Bozize step down while the latter has promised no part in the 2016 election and power sharing with rebels.

The president demands his term of office be completed after re-elected in 2011. On 15 March, 2003, Bozize overthrew Ange Felix Patasse in a military coup, before winning a five-year term in the presidential election in 2005.

There has been no report of backdown from either side with analysts seeing another front being unfolded around preparations for talks.

While Seleka threatens more advances until entering Bangui, the CEEAC warns against any attempts to touch the "red line" of Damara, 75 km from Bangui. The bloc is also sending more troops to boost a regional peace mission deployed in Central African Republic since 2002. Gabon and the Republic of Congo have each sent 120 troops to the mission, currently known as FOMAC in French acronym.—*Xinhua*

New Israeli ban on wild animal exports to shut monkey farm

JERUSALEM, 7 Jan—The economic effects of a recent government decision to ban the exports of wild animals for experimentation will force the closure of Israel's sole monkey farm, local media reported on Sunday.

Environmental Protection Minister Gilad Erdan plans to impose the ruling in coming weeks, according to the *Haaretz Daily*.

"I intend to stiffen the ministry's policy and ban the import of wild animals by intermediaries who breed and then export them to other countries," Erdan said last month in a letter to Attorney-General Yehuda Weinstein.

"The basic reasons remain moral, ideological and educational, intended mainly to reduce the animals' suffering and the harm caused to them," Erdan wrote.

However, Weinstein granted the Mazor farm, which houses some 1, 700 monkeys, a two-year grace period in which to make other arrangements for the animals with Israeli research institutions. While animal rights activists applauded Erdan's move, the Mazor farm's owners, as well as unnamed university officials said the closure would not only hurt research in Israel, but also worsen the condition under which the creatures are held for the interim.

Meanwhile, as animal rights campaigner Anabel Zamir called the planned shutdown a "great move," she also termed the phased closure as "problematic."

Xinhua

Tunisian PM to visit Libya in a bid to reopen border crossings

TUNIS, 7 Jan—Tunisia's Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali is set to visit Libya to find a solution to the closing of their border crossings, Mosaique FM reported on Sunday evening. Both border crossings of Ras El Jedir and Dhiba have been closed for the fourth consecutive week, due to trade disputes and growing insecurity. Tunisia and Libya have traded accusations against each other.

On Saturday, scores of Tunisian demonstrators set tires on fire and blocked the road leading to the border town of Ben Guerdane, in protest of the closing of Ras El Jedir border crossing. Tunisian police used teargas to disperse the protesters, official *TAP* Press Agency reported.—*Xinhua*

AU welcomes outcome of Sudan, South Sudan summit

ADDIS ABABA, 7 Jan—The African Union (AU) on Sunday welcomed the outcome of the two-day meeting between Presidents Omar Hassan Al-Bashir of Sudan and Salva Kiir Mayardit of South Sudan, which was concluded on Saturday in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia. The two presidents held the summit on 4 and 5 Jan under the auspices of the Chairperson of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia, and the Chairperson of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan and South Sudan, former President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.

Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, chairperson of the AU Commission, said the significance and importance of the steps agreed to during the summit with respect to Abyei, the implementation of the landmark agreements of 27 Sept, 2012 and the borders, in the context of the efforts aimed at promoting confidence between the two countries and the broader vision of two viable States at peace with one another and working together on issues of common interest.

Zuma said she is confident that the presidents will persevere in their efforts and continue to demonstrate the statesmanship and spirit of mutual cooperation that the situation so requires, in the interest of their two peoples and countries, the region and Africa as a whole. AU announced in a statement that the Chairperson has also commended Prime Minister Hailemariam and former President Mbeki for their relentless efforts and outstanding commitment in discharging their mandate.—*Xinhua*

A Christian worshiper prays inside the Grotto as she takes part in a procession at Manger Square outside the Church of the Nativity, the traditional birthplace of Jesus Christ, in the West Bank city of Bethlehem on 6 Jan, 2013. The Orthodox faith uses the old Julian calendar in which Christmas falls 13 days after more widespread Gregorian calendar.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Cambodian ruling party reaffirms support for Hun Sen as PM candidate

PHNOM PENH, 7 Jan — The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) reaffirmed on Monday its support for incumbent Prime Minister Hun Sen to keep his post for another term as Cambodia will hold general elections on 28 July.

"On behalf of the CPP, I'd like to solemnly affirm once again the support for the candidate of Hun Sen for the post of Prime Minister for the 5th legislative term and terms thereafter," CPP's Honourary President and National Assembly's President Heng Samrin said in a speech in commemoration of the 34th anniversary of 7 January victory day over the Democratic Kampuchea, or known as Khmer Rouge regime. Prime Minister Hun Sen has been in power for 28 years. Heng Samrin also hailed the Hun Sen-led government for bringing the country to full peace and security, sound economic and social development. "Cambodia has maintained political and social stability, macroeconomics and financial stability, and firmly defended the sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and social safety," he said.

The country has achieved economic growth of about 7 percent in 2012 thanks to notable increases in agriculture, garment, tourism and real estate, he said. Monday's commemoration, held at CPP's headquarters in Phnom Penh, was also presided over by CPP's President and Senate President Chea Sim and Prime Minister Hun Sen, CPP's Vice-President. It was attended by approximately 12,000 supporters.

Cambodia saw 7 Jan as the victory day over the Democratic Kampuchea regime. On 7 Jan, 1979, the troops of Kampuchea United Front for National Salvation with the cooperation and support from the Vietnamese troops had toppled the DK regime after it had controlled the country for three years, eight months and 20 days.

During the period, millions of Cambodian compatriots died from execution, disease, starvation and overwork.—*Xinhua*

***Photo taken on 6 Jan, 2013 shows the scene of a frozen waterfall in the Lushan Mountain in Jiujiang, east China's Jiangxi Province.*— XINHUA**

Southwestern Japanese city to introduce annual salary system

OSAKA, 7 Jan— The Japanese prefecture of Saga announced on Monday that it plans to partly introduce an annual salary system to its pay structure from this autumn season with the aim to activate its services as well as its personnel evaluation.

According to the announcement, the city will start the new scheme in October this year after internally inviting candidates from its employees who will show strong willingness to serve as " manager" or "director" of sections or departments based on the new salary system with a three-year period.

Kyosuke Yamada, spokesperson for the city, said to *Xinhua* that introducing the new salary scheme will bring more competent employees to key sections in the office, and provide better services for residents while the "new" chiefs are posted at divisions, related to tax collection or academic improvements in school, in which numerical targets are well expected to function as the goal of the sections.

"Under the new scheme, the annual salary of the new chiefs will be increased to around 10 million yen (about 113,500 US dollars), up 30 percent per year on average," the spokesperson said.

Xinhua

5.4-magnitude quake hits Halmahera, Indonesia

BEIJING, 7 Jan — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Halmahera, Indonesia at 11:08:32 GMT on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 149.90 km, was initially determined to be at 1.0963 degrees north latitude and 127.4821 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

Citizens feed black-headed gulls on Caohai Levee of Dianchi Lake in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 6 Jan, 2013. More than 35,000 black-headed gulls chose to spend winter in Kunming this year thanks to comfortable ecological environment in the city. —XINHUA

13 armed men killed, police wounded in N Philippine shootout

MANILA, 7 Jan—Thirteen armed men were killed and a police officer was wounded in an alleged shootout with the joint police and military personnel in northern Philippine Province of Quezon on Sunday afternoon, military spokesman said.

The encounter occurred at around 3:20 pm at Tanauan village in Plaridel town when the police and military personnel manning a checkpoint tried to flag down two sports utility vehicles (SUVs), said Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command Spokesman Colonel Generoso Bolina.

But instead of stopping at the checkpoint, the suspects allegedly shot the authorities, prompting the latter to retaliate, he said.

The shootout resulted in the death of 13 suspects, who were on board the SUVs, and the injury of a police officer, Bolina said, adding that the two vehicles were also damaged. Lawmen seized from the armed group eight units of caliber 45 pistol, an M16 and M14 rifles.

Investigation has been underway after the clash, he said. The Philippine government and communist negotiators have agreed to declare a ceasefire from 20 December to 15 January following a meeting in Netherlands. The military actually began implementing the truce since 16 December in line with the yuletide season.— *Xinhua*

Kathmandu listed in Top 10 places to visit in 2013

KATHAMANDU, 7 Jan — Worldwide renowned travel advisory website—the tripadvisor.com—has listed Nepali capital Kathmandu in its top 10 best places to visit in Asia.

Headquartered in the USA, the travel website, which operates internationally, including the UK, France, Germany, China, Spain, India, Canada, Australia and Russia, has recently released its best 25 destinations in Asia to visit in 2013. "Nepal's capital is surrounded by a valley full of historic sites, ancient temples, shrines, and fascinating villages," the website elaborates.

"Mingle with locals and animals amid Durbar Square's monuments, or join mountain trekkers in the bustling Thamel District.

Explore shops for exquisite work by local artisans—carpets and paper prints are specialities." While Siem Reap of Cambodia topped the chart, China's Beijing and Shanghai cities hold the respective second and third best places to travel in the year 2013.

Similarly, Goa of India is in sixth place and another Chinese city of Hong Kong occupies the eighth position. Moreover, Hanoi of Vietnam, Singapore, Chinese Xi'an, Chinese Taipei and Seoul are the other cities listed in the ranking.— *Xinhua*

Senior CPC leaders champion adherence to Party congress spirit

BEIJING, 7 Jan— Two senior leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Sunday emphasized adherence to the spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress held in November last year.

Liu Yunshan and Zhang Gaoli, both members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, championed efforts to adhere to the congress spirit when lecturing a high-profile workshop attended by new CPC Central Committee members and alternate members elected at the November congress.

Liu asked CPC members to deepen both their confidence in and awareness of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

To deepen confidence, one has to have firm faith and be confident of victory in the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Liu Yunshan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, addresses a high-profile workshop attended by new CPC Central Committee members and alternate members elected at the 18th CPC National Congress in November last year in Beijing, capital of China, on 6 Jan, 2013. —XINHUA

To deepen awareness is to improve one's understanding in the path, theories and system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, to grasp by depth the gist of socialism with Chinese characteristics and take initiatives and assume responsibilities in developing the cause, according to Liu. CPC members were told to make self-improvement. By this, Liu meant that based on the actual circumstances and relying on oneself, members should unswervingly follow their own path, strive to achieve national prosperity and rejuvenation as well as promote people's well-being.

"(We shall) always bear in mind that reform and opening up is a crucial choice that sealed the fate of modern China, (we need) greater political courage and wisdom and shall lose no time to deepen reform in important sectors," Liu said.

In a separate lecture delivered by Zhang Gaoli, he analyzed the significance, development opportunities as well as the risks and challenges to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects in China.—*Xinhua*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (026)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (026) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (869)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (869) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (030)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (030) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (197)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (197) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
DELPHINUS VOY NO (329)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELPHINUS VOY NO (329) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENCY PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
HAI PHONG 45 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAI PHONG 45 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: G. LINK EXPRESS PIE LTD
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TRADE MARK CAUTION

Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH, a company incorporated in Germany, of Bruningstrasse 50, D-65926 Frankfurt am Main, Germany, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

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in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations".

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 8 January 2013

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER
TENDER NO(9) (ES) A.M.D (2012-2013)

1. Open Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

LOT: No	Description	Quantity
1.	DKC-685 Combine Harvester Spare Parts	23 Items
2.	DKC-865 Combine Harvester Spare Parts	23 Items

2. Tender Closing date:14-1-2013, 16:00 hrs
3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD Office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours from (8-1-2013). Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.
4. For more details, Contact; 067-431243

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

Artists work together on a piece of 60-metre-long artwork during a cross-strait exhibition on calligraphy, painting and photography in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 6 Jan, 2013. Altogether 180 pieces of artworks by artists from the Chinese mainland and Taiwan were displayed at the exhibition which will last till on 15 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Mayor apologizes for chemical contamination in N China River

LUCHENG, 7 Dec—The mayor of Changzhi City, where a chemical leak contaminated a river in north China's Shanxi Province, has apologized for the authority's delay in dealing with the incident.

Mayor Zhang Bao made the apology at a press conference held on Monday. He said the municipal government had underestimated the severity of the chemical leak after receiving the polluter's report on the accident on 31 Dec.

The provincial environmental authority did not receive the pollution report from Changzhi City until five days later. Such an incident should be reported to provincial authorities within two hours, according to requirements.

However, when the incident became public on Saturday, about 9 tonnes of aniline had been leaked by a chemical plant owned by the Tianji Coal Chemical Industry Group into Zhuozhang River.

The contamination has affected drinking water supply in downstream Handan City in neighboring Hebei Province, which has a population of more than 1 million people.

An initial investigation revealed that a loose drainage valve in the plant was to blame for the leak.

Mayor Zhang Bao said the government had considered the company able to clear the pollution in a timely manner, as it only reported 1.5 tonnes of aniline leakage.

However, according to the local emergency response headquarters, in addition to the amount of chemical leaked into the river, another 30 tonnes of spilled aniline had been contained in a nearby disused reservoir.

By Sunday, the concentration of aniline in the river decreased to 2.15 mg per liter from the previous level of 72 mg per liter. However, the river water still cannot be used for drinking for people downstream, as the national standard only allows less than 0.1 mg per liter of the substance in rivers.

The delayed response of the contamination caused panic in Handan, where residents ransacked stores for bottled water.

People said they are angry at Changzhi City government's apparent coverup of the contamination incident, which left them no time to prepare for water at home.

The city has closed a sluice gate from taking in water from Zhangzhuo River, and turned to an underground water source to meet needs. The local environmental bureau said on Monday that it is clearing the contaminated water in its reservoir. "The reservoir water will not be used until test results prove safe," it said.—*Xinhua*

You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself.

ENTERTAINMENT

Schwarzenegger is back, and Hollywood hopes he's still a star

Los Angeles, 7 Jan—As he famously droned on-screen in his signature "Terminator" movies, Arnold Schwarzenegger is back. A year after leaving the California Governor's office and becoming tabloid fodder for fathering a boy with his family's housekeeper and splitting with his wife, Maria Shriver, the 65-year old former bodybuilder will star in no less than three Hollywood movies over the next 12 months.

None are likely to win Schwarzenegger an Oscar. Indeed, the movies, and Schwarzenegger's own fee, are low-budget compared with his global blockbusters of yore.

But studio executives are betting that overseas fans especially will once again respond to a personality whose 24 films generated worldwide ticket sales of $3.9 billion, according to boxoffice.com. "He is still a worldwide star who resonates with action audiences around the world," said Rob Friedman, the co-chairman of the Lionsgate motion picture group, which is scheduled to release his next two films. "The Last Stand" will open on January 18, and "The Tomb" in September.

"Ten," the third film, is scheduled for release in January 2014 by Open Road Films, a joint venture of the AMC and Regal Theater chains. "When you have left the movie business for seven years, it's kind of a scary thing to come back because you don't know if you're accepted or not," Schwarzenegger said at a Saturday Press event for "The Last Stand." "There could be a whole new generation of action stars that come up in the meantime." The actor said he was "very pleasantly surprised" by what he called a "great reaction" to his cameo in the 2010 action film "The Expendables," which featured fellow action stars Sylvester Stallone and Jason Statham. The film grossed $103.1 million in US ticket sales and $274.5 million worldwide.

Since then, Schwarzenegger appeared in a second "Expendables" and says he will join a fifth installment of the "Terminator" if it is made. Comcast's Universal Pictures wants to "do a bunch" of new films based on the 30-year-old "Conan The Barbarian" movie, said Schwarzenegger, in which he would reprise his role as a barbarian.

Reuters

Actor and former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger presents his book 'Total Recall' during a News conference during the book fair in Frankfurt, in this 10 Oct, 2012 file photo.— Reuters

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan buries the hatchet with UTV

Mumbai, 7 Jan—Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was seen at the recentpartyhosted by Ronnie Screwvala for Siddharth Roy Kapoor and Vidya Balan to celebrate their wedding.

Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

All eyes turned to her when she entered the party as UTV and Ash had a huge fallout during the making of Madhur Bhandarkar's Heroine. Ronnie and Siddarth were extremely upset with Ash as she declared her pregnancy after shooting for a few days for the film resulting in a huge loss for the producers as she had to be replaced by Kareena Kapoor.

After a series of war of words, it was good to see all of them coming together. Apparently the patch up happened due to Vidya Balan who is extremely close to the Bachchan family after she did Paa with them.

PTI

Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez split up again

London , 7 Jan—Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez have reportedly split up again.

The on/off couple have struggled to make their relationship work and recently mutually decided things aren't working between them. A source said: "Justin and Selena were together for a long time. They love each other and will always care about each other, but it just isn't working between them.

"This might really be it for the two of them. They're over going back and forth and all the fighting and reconciling. They're finally coming to understand that no matter how much they try to make it work it won't right now."

Despite a recent pre-Christmas vacation together in Utah, where Selena, 20 and 18-year-old Justin were spotted skiing, things went wrong for the couple when they jetted to Mexico after the festive season.

Things went wrong for the couple when they jetted to Mexico after the festive season.—PTI

The insider explained: "Their time in Mexico was much of the same for them, constant arguments and bickering.

"So they ended it. Selena is Justin's first love and he's still young enough that he desperately tries to make it work. But Selena is mature enough to just know when to end it and be realistic that it isn't working."

PTI

Adele to make comeback performance during Oscars

Los Angeles, 7 Jan—After being out of the spotlight for most of 2012 due to her pregnancy, multiple Grammy-winning singer Adele will reportedly make her first public appearance at the Academy Awards this February.

Rolling in the Deep hitmaker might make her comeback performance on Oscars night during a special James Bond tribute segment, slated for 24 February at the Dolby Theatre, reported Ace Showbiz.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has just officially announced that it would be giving a special tribute to the James Bond franchise which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012.

The 24-year-old singer's track Skyfall, the theme to the latest Bond film, would most likely be featured in the tribute segment, sparking rumors that the 'Someone Like You' hitmaker belter might finally make her highly-anticipated reappearance since giving birth to her baby boy in the latter part of 2012.

Adele's Skyfall track is predicted to score a nomination for Best Original Song at the 85th annual Academy Awards, which will be aired more than a month after the Golden Globes set for 13 January.

PTI

Adele might make her comeback performance on Oscars night during a special James Bond tribute segment.— PTI

Police called at Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie's home

Los Angeles, 7 Jan—Members of the LA Police Department rushed to star couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's Hollywood home after one of their children pushed a panic button by mistake.

Law enforcement officials rushed to the scene via car and helicopter only to be told by a nanny that one of the couple's six children had pushed the button by accident, TMZ reported.

Pitt, 49 and Jolie, 37, who are rumoured to have tied the knot in a secret ceremony at designer Donna Karan's estate on the island of Turks and Caicos on Christmas Day, were not at their home when the incident occurred.

The couple and their family were all staying in the exclusive Parrot Cay area of the idyllic island, and they were also allegedly joined on the trip by a team of 12 nannies to help them care for the kids.

PTI

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are rumoured to have tied the knot in a secret ceremony at designer Donna Karan's estate on the island of Turks and Caicos.—PTI

SPORTS

Barca increase lead in Primera Liga as Real Madrid win, Atletico draw

Barcelona's Cesc Fabregas (L) is tackled by Espanyol goalkeeper Kiko Casilla before a penalty fault during their Spanish First division soccer league match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 6 Jan, 2013. XINHUA

MADRID, 7 Jan —FC Barcelona retained their lead at the top of the BBVA Primera Liga in Spain with a comfortable 4-0 win at home to local rivals, Espanyol. All of the goals came in the first half with Pedro Rodriguez netting twice along with Xavi Hernandez, who opened the scoring, and Leo Messi, who scored a penalty. Perhaps the best news of the day was the return of Barca coach Tito Vilanova to the Barca dugout less than three weeks after a cancer operation. Barca's lead at the top of the table increased to 11 points as a result of Atletico Madrid's failure to win away to struggling Mallorca.

Atletico must have thought the points were on their way back to Madrid when Raul Garcia put them ahead when he slid home a loose ball after 72 minutes, but Kevin Garcia scored an equalizer with two minutes remaining following a scramble in the Atletico penalty area. Real Madrid took three points from an entertaining 4-3 win over Real Sociedad. Cristiano Ronaldo's two second half goals sealed the points for Madrid after Jose Mourinho again left goalkeeper Iker Casillas on the subs' bench. Casillas was soon in the action, however, after Antonio Adan was sent off for bringing down Real Sociedad's Carlos Vela, although he could do nothing to stop Xabi Prieto's spot kick.

Xinhua

Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova takes off an ice-pack from around her neck during her first round match against Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova at the Sydney International tennis tournament on 6 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

Kvitova thrashed in final Australian Open warmup

SYDNEY, 7 Jan — World number eight Petra Kvitova's preparations for the Australian Open suffered another setback when she was thrashed by Dominika Cibulkova in the first round of the Sydney International on Sunday. The fifth-seeded Czech, who had lost to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the second round of the Brisbane International last week, was thumped 6-1,6-1 by her Slovak opponent at the Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre.

"I played really badly and I wish I knew what I could say but I don't know," Kvitova, the 2011 Wimbledon champion and a semi-finalist at last year's Australian Open, told reporters. "I'm not feeling very well right now in my confidence but I'm always looking forward to playing grand slams and I hope everything will be better there than here." Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki got her preparations for the first grand slam of the season, which starts 14 January in Melbourne, back on track with a confident 6-1,6-2 win over Poland's Urszula Radwanska.

After suffering a shock first-round loss to qualifier Ksenia Pervak in Brisbane, the Dane rediscovered her touch to record a first victory of 2013. Wozniacki has spent 67 weeks at the top of the rankings in her career but the 22-year-old slipped to number 10 after a poor season in which she suffered first-round exits at Wimbledon and the US Open.

Xinhua

Juventus stunned by 10-man Sampdoria

ROME, 7 Jan—Juventus were stunned by 10-man Sampdoria 2-1 at home on Sunday to miss the chance to reclaim an eight-point lead at the top of Serie A. Both Inter Milan and Roma suffered humiliating away defeat, respectively at the hands of Udinese and Napoli. Juvetus seemed to enjoy a plain-sailing match as Sebastian Giovinco's early penalty put them ahead before Sampdoria's Gaetano Berardi saw red for two first-half bookings. But the numerical advantage did little to help the hosts, as Mauro Icardi levelled the scores shortly after the break.

Icardi completed his brace with what proved to be the winner, his sensational strike rattling the Bianconeri to condemn them to a second home defeat of the season, also earning Delio Rossi a first victory as Samp boss. Juventus head coach Antonio Conte insisted his side is human and could lose games. "I am not bursting with joy when I lose," Conte said. "I struggle to absorb defeat and we will not look back fondly over this match. We had the advantage and deserved to be in front.This is a game that we must reflect on and will help us to grow up. It's part of the maturation process for a young side, let's put it like that. It is certainly irritating to lose on counter-attacks and we will analyse what we did wrong today. Juventus are only human, we are not martians," he said.

Delio Rossi gave the credit to his Sampdoria players for beating Juventus. "I am very happy, above all for the guys, as this was an incredible achievement," said Rossi less than a month after taking over from Ciro Ferrara.

Xinhua

Kevin Nolan (2nd R) of West Ham United vies with Nemanja Vidic(1st R) and Rafael(1st L) of Manchester United during the FA Cup Third Round match between West Ham United and Manchester United at Boleyn Ground in London, Britain on 5 Jan, 2013. The match ended with a 2-2 draw. —XINHUA

Serbian world number nine Janko Tipsarevic

Relieved Tipsarevic finally wins Chennai title

MUMBAI, 7 Lan—Serbian world number nine Janko Tipsarevic overcame early jitters to stave off Spaniard Roberto Bautista-Agut's challenge and win the Chennai Open on Sunday. The number two seed and last year's finalist Tipsarevic lost the first set but found his rhythm back to beat the unseeded 24-year old 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 in a first-time meeting.

The 28-year-old Tipsarevic, who lost to Milos Raonic in last year's marathon final in Chennai, won his fourth career ATP World Tour title in timely fashion with the Australian Open just over a week away. "I think there's just one word to say and it's 'finally'," he said after winning his first title in Chennai in his sixth attempt.

"Last year, some of you may know, I could smell it, it was just there." Bautista-Agut, who defeated top seed Tomas Berdych in the quarter-finals, looked set for his first title at one stage but Tipsarevic fought back brilliantly to wrest control, exactly like he did against Aljaz Bedene of Slovenia in the semi-final.—*Reuters*

Indian body accepts most of Davis Cup demands

MUMBAI, 7 Jan — India's tennis authorities have agreed to accept most of the demands made by its regular Davis Cup players who had threatened to boycott next month's home tie against South Korea.

Eight top players, excluding Leander Paes, submitted a list of requirements to the All India Tennis Association (AITA) with a veiled threat to snub the regional first round tie in New Delhi from 1-3 February if no action was taken.

On Sunday AITA agreed to their demands for a new coach, a higher share of prize money and the players' involvement in the choice of venues for ties.

In a letter addressed to the players, which was also made available to the media, AITA said it has asked the government to appoint a qualified doctor and a full-time physiotherapist for the players.

The governing body, however, rejected a request to change the captain and decided to retain SP Misra to lead the team.—*Reuters*

GENERAL

Photo shows footballers trying to tackle the ball at a second-day match of first leg of MNL Myanmar 2013 at Thuwunna stadium yesterday. The match between Nay Pyi Taw FC and Magway FC ended in a one all draw. — Kyemon

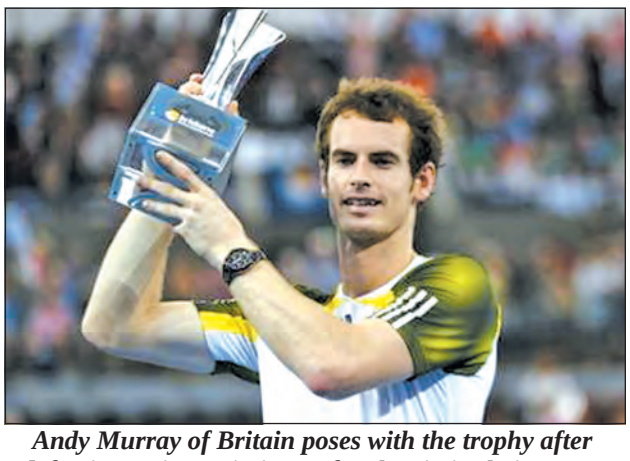
Emotional Murray battles to Brisbane victory

BRISBANE, 7 Jan— An emotional Andy Murray fought back tears and dedicated his victory to "a sick friend" after defeating Grigor Dimitrov in a gripping Brisbane International final on Sunday. Defending champion Murray prevailed 7-6 6-4 after weathering a storm from his 21-year-old Bulgarian opponent in the opening set.

The US Open champion played a flawless tiebreaker to win it 7-0 and a clinical second set allowed him to recover a service break and complete ideal preparations for the Australian Open, which begins at Melbourne Park on 14 January. "I'd like to dedicate this victory to one of my best friends back home," Murray said in his speech at the presentation. "You're going to be okay. You're going to get through."

When Murray signed a television lens after the match, he wrote "For You .....", the third word being indecipherable. He was asked about the dedication in his post-match conference and replied: "Just a sick friend." Murray's secrecy mirrored his comments after his matches at Wimbledon and the US Open last year when he pointed both index fingers to the sky after all of his matches.

He made the same gesture after beating Dimitrov in his final tournament before the Australian Open, but was earlier in an agitated mood when the Bulgarian raced to a 5-2 first-set lead. The 25-year-old Scot said his typically negative body language was due to unrealistic expectations of perfection. "I think it depends how much it affects you in terms of duration of time," he said of his self-admonishment.— *Reuters*



*Andy Murray of Britain poses with the trophy after defeating Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria in their men's final match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament on 6 Jan, 2013.—*REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-1-13 09:30 am ~ 9-1-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Let's breed Fish in Villages for Rural Development
* Marketable Fruits
* News
* "Myanma DVD Impact" Happy Road Trip (Part-I)
* News
* "Myanma DVD Impact" Happy Road Trip (Part-II)
* News
* Fad and Fashion in Myanmar
* News
* "Topic on Journal" Youth, Scholarship & Opportunlties
* HIV-AIDS Awareness
* News
* Aureum Palace Resort
* News
* Myanmar Movies Impact "Romantic Shocks"
* News
* As a White Candle
* Myanmar Movies "Inseparable Siblings"

MYANMAR TV

(8-1-2013, Tuesday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
7:10 am
2. Dhamma Puja Song
7:25 am
3. To Be Healthy Exercise
7:30 am
4. Morning News
7:40 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song
7:50 am
6. Health Programme
8:00 am
7. Songs of Yester Year
8:10 am
8. Documentary
8:25 am
9. Song of National Races
8:40 am
10. International News
4:00 pm
11. Martial Song
4:05 pm
12. Musical Programme
4:15 pm
13. Teleplay (Traffic)
4:40 pm
14. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Physics)
4:55 pm
15. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
5:05 pm
16. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
5:20 pm
17. Documentary
5:40 pm
18. Sweet Melody
6:00 pm
19. Evening News
6:15 pm
20. Weather Report
6:20 pm
21. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
6:35 pm
22. Sing A Song
7:05 pm
23. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
24. News
25. International News
9:00 pm
26. Myanmar movies
10:00 pm
27. Bakery World
28. India Drama Series

NFL: Ravens' Lewis says farewell to fans in Baltimore

BALTIMORE, 7 Jan — With the clock winding down, Ray Lewis walked to the center of the field to soak it all in. The Baltimore Ravens sent him out there — on offense -- just so the crowd could pay homage to the first ballot Hall of Fame linebacker one more time. And they did. As quarterback Joe Flacco took a knee to close out the game, the crowd roared more for Lewis than the Ravens' 24-9 AFC wild-card playoff victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday.

It was theater at its finest. And the 71,379 who packed M&T Bank Stadium on Sunday hailed their hero like Sir Laurence Olivier performing on the London stage. Every time he made a tackle the crowd stood. Every time he graced the large television screens they cheered. When Lewis trotted on the field each time, a city offered its thanks. "My total focus today was to come in and play my heart out and get my team a win," said Lewis. "Everything else just came with it.

"There was probably no greater moment than seeing my kids, my mom, my dad -- my family right there in the end zone. That was probably when I lost it emotionally because I knew everything I have always done has been for them." When the game ended, Lewis launched into his signature dance, an inspirational pre-game ritual that fires up the fans as much his teammates. Players from both teams surrounded the 13-time Pro Bowl linebacker in a show of respect.

Even if they continue to win, the Ravens will not have another home game this season, meaning Sunday's victory over the Colts was Lewis's swan song in Baltimore. The Ravens' 1996 first-round draft choice had announced Wednesday that this year would be his last in the National Football League. "We're all appreciative, grateful for the opportunity to be here and to witness this historic moment in sports," said Ravens head coach John Harbaugh. And it wasn't just about one guy.

"Nobody understands that more than the guy we're talking about. It was about a team. It was about a city, a fan base, about a great sport about a great career. "I'm just humbled to be a part of it." In an era of widespread team-hopping, Lewis played his entire career in Baltimore. He had missed the last 10 weeks with a torn triceps, but started against the Colts and made 13 tackles. Lewis was widely figured to be lost for the season following his injury but the former Super Bowl MVP did not want to go out that way.—*Reuters*

Golf: Play scrapped at Kapalua, Tuesday finish planned

LOS ANGELES, 7 Jan — Mother Nature again turned nasty at the PGA Tour's season-opening Hyundai Tournament of Champions in Hawaii on Sunday, forcing play to be abandoned for a third consecutive day due to strong gusting winds. A little more than an hour of the already long-delayed first round was possible before officials halted the action at the Kapalua Resort, scrapping the scores and aiming for a Tuesday finish to an event trimmed to 54 holes.

Thirty-six holes are planned for Monday with a two-tee start for the 30-man, winners-only field, followed by 18 holes the following day. "We tried," Slugger White, the PGA Tour's vice president of rules and competition, told reporters. "We were on the edge when we started out at 11:10 and we were probably okay for about 30-45 minutes. "And then the bottom fell out. We were having gusts out there of about 48 miles per hour. Balls were blowing off the green and we couldn't even get a ball to come to rest on the 12th green when we stopped."

"It started off bad and got worse. We washed the round out today and we're going to try again."As high winds continued to batter the Hawaiian island of Maui, chaotic scenes were the order of the day after Rickie Fowler struck the first shot in the re-scheduled opening round when he teed off at the par-four first. Fellow American Matt Kuchar, who hit the first shot on the 10th hole, had a lengthy conversation with rules officials after his ball was twice blown off his tee before he eventually set off.Scott Stallings was not quick enough to mark a one-foot putt at the 12th before his ball was blown seven feet away. His cap followed suit soon after.

Fellow American Ben Curtis reached the green in regulation at both the 10th and 11th but completed those holes in a combined five over par. He had watched in shock as his ball, after settling, was blown off the back of the 11th green.—*Reuters*

Baltimore Ravens inside linebacker Ray Lewis waves as he rounds the field after the Ravens defeated the Indianapolis Colts in their NFL AFC wildcard playoff football game in Baltimore on 6 Jan, 2013.— REUTERS

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The New Light of Myanmar

Tuesday, 8 January, 2013

Democratic transition calls for participation of the people: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met local people at Thiri Annawa Hall in Pyapon Township in Pyapon District of Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

The meeting was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairmen U Htay Oo, U Soe Tha, U Lun Thi and U Soe Naing, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Hsan Hsint, deputy ministers, departmental officiasl, membes of social organizations, townselders and local people.

Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Soe Win of Pyapon District presented facts about the district.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker invited candid discussions about their wishes and aspirations as he opened his discussion.

Townselders of Pyapon District presented the challenges they faced and the officials made clarifications.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party met with the people of Kungyangon Township in Yangon Region as well.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and officials also attended the meeting. Officials reported the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker on progress of work. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker attended to the needs.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party also met the local people of Twantay Township in Yangon Region.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Khin Shwe and townselders briefed on education, health and transportation requirements of the township.

(See page 9)

***Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets region level authorities, townselders and local people at Thiri Annawa Hall in Pyapon.*—MNA**

Yangon Region MCWSC organizes baby show

YANGON, 7 Jan—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe was among the spectators as Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee organized a baby show at International Business Centre here on 3 January.

He praised the efforts of mothers in bringing up healthy children.

Officials and their wives presented prizes to winners.

The chief minister also attended the opening ceremony of AVENUE 64 Hotel on Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township on 4 January.

The hotel houses business centre, fitness center and conference room.

The chief minister and Region Finance and Revenue Minister Daw San San Nwe and Director U Khin Maung Htay of Forever Group Co Ltd launched Independence Day celebration in Myoma Ground organized by Forever Group on 4 January evening.

The funfair included competitions of traditional sports and concerts.

MNA

Tailai (Red Shan) Nationals Development Party issues statement

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—Central Executive Committee (CEC) of Tailai (Red Shan) Nationals Development Party issued a statement dated 27 December 2012 on ongoing conflicts between the Tatmadaw, and KIA and KIO in Kachin State.

The statement suggests that Tailai (Red Shan) nationals have fallen victims of the conflicts and KIA troops have sabotaged railroads and motor roads, extorting money from Red Shan nationals, making forced recruitment of Red Shan nationals, and brutalizing Shan villagers in many ways which include planting land mines near villages of Shan nationals to generate misunderstanding between the Tatmadaw and Shan villagers. It also says that the Red Shan nationals have abhorred the behaviors of KIA violating human rights towards the Red Shan nationals and the Red Shan nationals have felt an overwhelming desire to gain peace sooner rather than later. The party also denounced the armed brutality of any organization and demanded the end of the conflicts in Kachin State in the four-fact announcement.—*MNA*

Phoekawzan Library commissioned into service in Salin Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—Opening of Phoekawzan Library in Paungpinzin Ward in Salin Township, Minbu District, Magway Region was held yesterday morning.

Donor Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw explained the purpose of the donation, and the donor and family handed over the documents related to Assistant Director U Tin Latt of Magway Region Information and Public Relations Department.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw accepted 869 publications worth K 999,750 presented by the Ministry of Information, and K 500,000 for purchasing furniture and various books worth K 300,000 by Myanmar Library Foundation. Officials concerned collected other wellwishers' donations.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe, Deputy Director-General U Tint Swe, two townselders cut the ribbon to put the library into service.

The newly-opened library, 30 x 20 feet in width, is a one-storey building. It was constructed with the contributions of K 10,250,000. Its publications and furniture worth K 20,900,850.—*MNA*

Japan to help Myanmar develop Thilawa SEZ

Byline: *Arkar Hein*; Photo: *Kay Zin Lin*

As Myanmar is speeding up its reforms, it is improving its relations with the international community. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry said Japan will provide aids for development of Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

"Japan will provide cash assistance for development of Thilawa Special Economic Zone. They are also planning to invest there. Thanks to their assistance of capital, Thilawa Special Economic Zone will be developed with momentum. Japanese entrepreneurs are also interested to invest in Thilawa Special Economic Zone," a UMFCCI official said.

Thilawa Special Economic Zone lies on 2400 hectres of land in Thanlyin Township in Yangon South District. Japan will provide new loans for development of the Special Economic Zone. The Japanese government has pledged to loan Yen 50 billion and provide aids for development to Myanmar government in various areas.

Thilawa Special Economic Zone will become a major ground for cooperation between Myanmar and Japan. It would also attract Japanese industries to make their investments.

Myanma Alinn: 6-1-2013

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Trs: HKA