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President U Thein Sein meets US Senator and party, discusses bilateral cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by US Senator Mr. James Mountain Inhofe at the Credentials hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Maung, U Soe Thein and U Win Myint, and departmental heads. The delegation was accompanied by Senator from Arkansas Mr. John Boozman, New Mexican Congressman Mr. Stevan Pearce, and Congressman from Florida Mr. Vemon Buchanan, Congressman from Minnesota Mr. Erik Paulsen and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in oil and gas sectors, forming committees for coopera-tion in implementing agreements on trade and other matters, promotion of social status of Myanmar through mutual economic cooperation, seeking potential for bilateral cooperation in agriculture, trading and energy sectors, cooperation between the two armies, giving trainings to Myanmar young officers of Myanmar armed forces, as well as further cementing relations between the two countries.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shaking hands with Senator Mr. James Mountain Inhofe of the United States of America.

MNA

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—*The following is message of felicitations from foreign Head of 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. Wen Jiabao
Premier of the State Council of PRC
Excellency,

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the government of the People's Republic of the China and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

I am pleased to see that our bilateral relationship, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, developed smoothly with ever-expanding exchanges and cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, culture, etc., which brought tangible benefits to the two peoples. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the good neighbourly and friendly cooperative relations with Myanmar, and is willing to make joint efforts with Myanmar to deepen all-area pragmatic cooperation, and constantly enrich the connotations of China-Myanmar Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the great prosperity to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and well-being to the people of Myanmar.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Government Office

Notification No. 6/2013
11th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(8 January, 2013)

Appointment of spokesman of the President

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut has been appointed as the spokesman of the President under Section 24, Subsection (a) of the Union Government Law.

By order,
Zaw Than Thin
Secretary
Union Government

British team to unearth WWII Spitfires

Byline: *Wai Yan Oo*

A team of excavators of Spitfire fighters arrived in Yangon on 6 January to excavate Spitfire fighters believed to be buried by British troops in Myanmar.

The 21-member team led by David Cundall on their first trip to Myanmar to unearth the fighters believes they would discover dozens of Spitfire employed by British forces in World War II.

The leader David Cundall said the team is hoping for unearthing dozens of Spitfire buried in Myanmar. They would begin the dig near Yangon International Airport.

The aviation enthusiasts have searched for the fighters for 17 years before they started the excavation.

About 30 fighters are believed to be buried in wooden boxes in Myanmar.

They hope for excavating about 120 Spitfire fighters in Myanmar.

The excavation would take four to six weeks to complete.

Myanma Alinn: 8-1-2013
Trs: HKA

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar national race basketball delegation leaves for USA

YANGON, 9 Jan — A twelve-member Myanmar national race student delegation led by General Secretary of Myanmar Basketball Federation U Kyaw Kyaw Win and Assistant Director Daw Ohnma Aung of Sports and Physical Education Department left here by air for the United States of America on 6 January. It was the first time for Myanmar youth delegation who was invited to study basketball skills there.

The national race students aged between 15 and 18 from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Shan, Mon, Rakhine, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Sagaing will take a two-week basketball course organized by NBA in Washington, North Carolina.

The 14-member delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by MBF Patron Daw Ni, Vice-President U Maung Maung Myint and executives.— *Kyemon*

Passenger buses of All Bus-line Control Committee involved in more than 270 road accidents in 2012

YANGON, 9 Jan — According to the figures released by Yangon Region All Bus-line Control Committee, passenger buses of the committee were involved in 276 car accidents that claimed 111 lives and hurt 786 during the previous year.

There has been a slight reduction in the number of road accidents compared with the year 2011 when 98 people were killed and 1139 wounded in 358 road accidents.

Not only to reduce traffic accidents but also to raise the morale of bus workers, basic and multiplier courses are being conducted and bus workers are to take the courses alternatively.

During the previous year, there were 26 cases in January, 26 cases in February, 17 cases in March, 10 cases in April, 21 cases in May, 31 cases in June, 26 cases in July, 25 cases in August , 23 cases in September, 28 cases in October, 26 cases in November and 17 cases in December.

Kyemon

Ahlawi bridge of Mandalay Palace under repair

MANDALAY, 9 Jan — Ahlawi bridge to the west of Mandalay Palace in Aungmyaythazan Town-ship of Mandalay is currently under repair by the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library (Mandalay Branch) under the Ministry of Culture.

The bridge was built in the time of King Mindon and it is more than 154 years old. As the weather-beaten old bridge called for repair works, the department started the renovation works for the bridge. While the bridge is under repair, the traffic on the bridge will be suspended temporarily for worksite safety.

Kyemon

MR performs maintenance of railroad sections

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan — Under the leadership of the senior engineer (civil) of Division-5 Toungoo of Myanma Railways, a group led by the junior engineer (1) of Tatkon area are carrying out substitution of sleepers with new ones, adjustment of rail tracks, laying of gravel and repair of approach roads of 20-foot and above bridges for maintenance of railroad sections between Kyitaungkan and Innkon railway stations of Yangon-Mandalay railroad.

They performed maintenance of Shwemyot-Hsinthay up-railroad section between mile post Nos (246/22) and (250/19) on 4 January. — *Kyemon*

Decapitated wild elephant found in Hsinhmon forest reserve

PATHEIN, 9 Jan — According to the information that a beheaded male wild elephant was found dead in Hsinhmon forest reserve in Ngayokekaung sub-township of Ngapudaw Township, a combined team led by U Kun Chit of Ngayokekaung sub-township forest department went there and conducted investigation into the case.

As it is believed to have been killed and beheaded by unscrupulous hunters, Pathein District forest department informed Ngayokekaung police station of the killing of the wild elephant. Further investigation into the case is ongoing.

Kyemon

Mandalay Mayor's mini marathon attracts over 2000 participants

MANDALAY, 9 Jan — Mandalay Mayor's Mini Marathon kicked off at 6.30 am on 7 January. Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moung fired the gun in the air to start the event in front of Mandalay City Development Committee Office on 26th Street between 71st and 72nd streets.

A total of more than 2000 participants including foreigners took part in the mini marathon. They started the race in front of the MCDC Building and crossed the finishing line at the east gate of Bahtoo Stadium. Phyu Wah Thet stood first in the women's (open) contest, followed by Myint Myint Aye and Saw Malar Nwe. In the amateur level women's contest, Hnin Yu Soe won first prize, Aye Aye Aung second prize and The Su Mon third prize. In the men's (open) contest, first prize went to Thaung Aye and Maung Chat and Thein Hlaing Oo stood second and third respectively. Soe Naing, Khin Maung and Ye Win Naing won first, second and third prizes respectively in the amateur level men's contest.

The prize presentation ceremony was held in the Bahtoo Stadium. In the amateur level, first prize winner was presented K 1.5 million, second prize winner K 1.4 million and third prize winner K 1.3 million. In the men's and women's (open) contest, first prize winner was presented K 1 million, second prize winner K 900,000 and third prize winner K 800,000.

Kyemon

Naypyidaw International Exhibition & Car Show 2013 on 10 January

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan — Naypyidaw International Exhibition & Car Show 2013 will be held at the ground in front of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Pobbathiri Township, here, from 9 am to 9 pm from 10 to 14 January.

Arrangements have been made to include booths of personal goods, foodstuff, electrical appliances and electronics and a playground for children at the exhibition organized by Myanmar Anawrahta company.

Kyemon

Italy's real election battle is Monti vs Berlusconi

ROME, 9 Jan—Italy's election campaign is shaping up as a bitter contest not between right and left but between Silvio Berlusconi and outgoing Prime Minister Mario Monti to win the balance of power after the February poll.

The final lines were drawn on Monday when Berlusconi sacrificed his own candidacy for prime minister as the price for winning a crucial new alliance with his estranged allies in the devolutionist Northern League.

This alliance is aimed at blocking control of parliament by the centre-left, which opinion polls show as virtually certain to win the 24-25 February elections.

But if Berlusconi succeeds, Italy is likely to face renewed instability and legislative paralysis which could make it once again the biggest concern in the euro zone.

Italy narrowly avoided a Greek-style meltdown in November 2011 when Berlusconi, weakened by a sex scandal, was forced out as prime minister and replaced by Monti.

If Berlusconi gains the balance of power he could frustrate centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani in fulfilling his promise to stick to Monti's austerity and pro-European policies, which have brought Italy relative stability in the past year.

The billionaire media owner's biggest problem in implementing his strategy is Monti, whose centrist alliance has the same aim as Berlusconi: winning enough seats in the Senate to give it influence way beyond its likely share of the poll.

Italy's outgoing Prime Minister Mario Monti poses before the taping of the talk show ''Otto e mezzo'' (Eight and a half) at La7 television in Rome on 4 Jan 2013. REUTERS

While the centre-left is almost certain to win the lower house, the real battleground will be in the much less certain Senate contest.

A new Ipsos poll published in the financial daily *Il Sole 24 Ore* on Tuesday showed the Senate vote too close to call in three big regions which could be decisive in the February vote.

"In Lombardy, Campania and Sicily the outcome of the vote is absolutely unpredictable," said Roberto D'Alimonte, one of Italy's foremost experts on voting trends.

Reuters

A boy holds pita bread as others stand in line outside a bakery in Aleppo in this 21 Dec, 2012 file photo. REUTERS

Insight: Aleppo misery eats at Syrian rebel support

ALEPPO, 9 Jan—At a crowded market stall in Syria, a middle-aged couple, well dressed, shuffle over to press a folded note, furtively, into the hand of a foreign reporter. It is the kind of silent cry for help against a reign of fear that has been familiar to journalists visiting Syria over the past two years. Only this is not the Damascus of President Bashar al-Assad but rebel-held Aleppo; the note laments misrule under the revolution and hopes Assad can defeat its "terrorism". "We used to live in peace and security until this malicious revolution reached us and the Free Syrian Army started taking bread by force," the unidentified couple wrote. "We ask God to help the regime fight the Free Syrian Army and terrorism — we are with the sovereignty of President Bashar al-Assad forever."

As government forces fight on in parts of Aleppo, in large areas that have been under rebel control for six months or more complaints are getting louder about indiscipline among the fighters, looting and a general lack of security and necessities like running water, bread and electricity in districts that have been pounded by tanks and hit by Assad's air force. Recognizing that mistrust, rebel units have set up command and policing structures they see forming a basis of institutions which might one day run the whole country and which, meanwhile, they hope can show Arab and Western supporters that they have the organization to handle aid in the form of money and weapons.

Rebel commanders interviewed in and around Aleppo in the past two weeks acknowledged problems within the FSA — an army in name only, made up of brigades competing for recognition and resources. But they laid much of the blame on "bad apples" and opportunists and said steps are being taken to put things right.

"There has been a lot of corruption in the Free Syrian Army's battalions — stealing, oppressing the people — because there are parasites that have entered the Free Syrian Army," said Abu Ahmed, an engineer who heads a 35-man unit of the Tawheed Brigade, reckoned to be the largest in Aleppo Province.—*Reuters*

Venezuela postpones inauguration for cancer-stricken Chavez

CARACAS, 9 Jan—Venezuela will postpone the inauguration of President Hugo Chavez for a new term due to health problems, the government said on Tuesday, another sign the socialist leader's cancer may be bringing an end to his 14 years in power.

The 58-year-old former soldier who has dominated the South American OPEC nation since 1999 has not been heard from since surgery on 11 December in Cuba — his fourth operation since he was diagnosed with an undisclosed type of cancer in June 2011.

Government leaders insist Chavez is completely fulfilling his duties as head of state, even though official medical bulletins say he has a severe pulmonary infection and has had trouble breathing.

The government has called for a massive rally outside the presidential palace on Thursday, and allied presidents including Uruguay's Jose Mujica and Bolivia's Evo Morales have confirmed they will visit Venezuela this week despite Chavez's absence.

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez has announced plans to visit Chavez in Havana on Friday.

If he dies or steps aside, new elections would be called within 30 days. Before leaving for Havana in December, the president instructed his supporters to back Maduro in that vote if he were unable to continue.

Opposition leaders argue that Congress chief and Chavez ally Diosdado Cabello should take over, as mandated by the constitution if the president's absence is formally declared.

Cabello has ruled that out, saying the president continues to be in charge.

"Who could have believed the opposition would be screaming for Diosdado Cabello to be given the presidency of the republic?" he said during a rambunctious session of Congress. "That's crazy, the opposition is losing it."

Meanwhile opposition deputies accused the Socialist Party of failing to follow Chavez's instructions — a scene that would have been unimaginable before Chavez's prolonged absence.—*Reuters*

A child walks past a mural depicting Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez in Caracas on 8 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

Republican senator threatens to block Obama's CIA nominee

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—A Republican senator threatened on Tuesday to block the confirmation of President Barack Obama's nominee to head the CIA until the administration provides more information to Congress about the 11 Sept, 2012, attacks on US facilities in Benghazi, Libya.

Senator Lindsey Graham said his objection was not directed at Obama's CIA nominee — 25-year agency veteran John Brennan — but was an attempt to extract information about the Benghazi attacks from the White House.

"I do not believe we should confirm anyone as Director of the CIA until our questions are answered," Graham said in a statement. Under Senate rules, any senator can put a hold on any nomination, blocking it from moving to a Senate floor vote.

In a written statement, Graham expressed frustration about what he called the "ever changing" stories told by administration officials about who was behind the Benghazi attacks in which four Americans were killed, including the US ambassador to Libya.

He complained that the officials offered conflicting explanations about why a reference to al-Qaeda was deleted from unclassified talking points that the White House used to shape public comments in the days following the attacks on the US diplomatic mission and a CIA base in Libya's second-largest city.

"We were first told the Director of National Intelligence deleted the al-Qaeda reference in the talking points because they did not want to let al-Qaeda know we were monitoring them," Graham said. White House spokesman Jay Carney said on Tuesday that the "highly politicized" Benghazi issue should not hold up Brennan's nomination. The president is focused on ensuring that those who are responsible for the deaths of the Americans in Benghazi should be brought to justice "not the political fascination of appearances on Sunday shows," he told a News briefing.—*Reuters*

US Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) speaks to the Press following his private meeting with United States UN Ambassador Susan Rice about the attack on US diplomats in Benghazi, Libya, on Capitol Hill in Washington, on 27 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Kraken wakes: first images of giant squid filmed in deep ocean

TOKYO, 9 Jan—A Japanese-led team of scientists has captured on film the world's first live images of a giant squid, journeying to the depths of the ocean in search of the mysterious creature thought to have inspired the myth of the "kraken", a tentacled monster.

The images of the silvery, three-metre (10 feet) long cephalopod, looming out of the darkness nearly 1 km below the surface, were taken last July near the Ogasawara islands, 1,000 km (620 miles) south of Tokyo.

Though the beast was small by giant squid standards — the largest ever caught stretched 18 metres long, tentacles and all filming it secretly in its natural habitat was a key step towards understanding the animal, researchers said.

"Many people have tried to capture an image of a giant squid alive in its natural habitat, whether researchers or film crews. But they all failed," said Tsunemi Kubodera, a Zoologist at Japan's National Museum of Nature and Science, who led the team.

"These are the first ever images of a real live giant squid," Kubodera said of the footage, shot by Japanese national broadcaster NHK and the Discovery Channel.

The key to their success, said Kubodera, was a small submersible rigged with lights invisible to both human and cephalopod eyes.

He, a cameraman and the submersible's pilot drifted silently down to 630 metres and released a one-metre-long squid as bait. In all, they descended around 100 times.

"If you try and approach making a load of noise, using a bright white light, then the squid won't come anywhere near you. That was our basic thinking," Kubodera said.

"So we sat there in the pitch black, using a near-infrared light invisible even to the human eye, waiting for the giant squid to approach."

As the squid neared they began to film, following it into the depths to around 900 metres.

"I've seen a lot of giant squid specimens in my time, but mainly those hauled out of the ocean. This was the first time for me to see with my own eyes a giant squid swimming," he said. "It was stunning, I couldn't have dreamt that it would be so beautiful. It was such a wonderful creature."

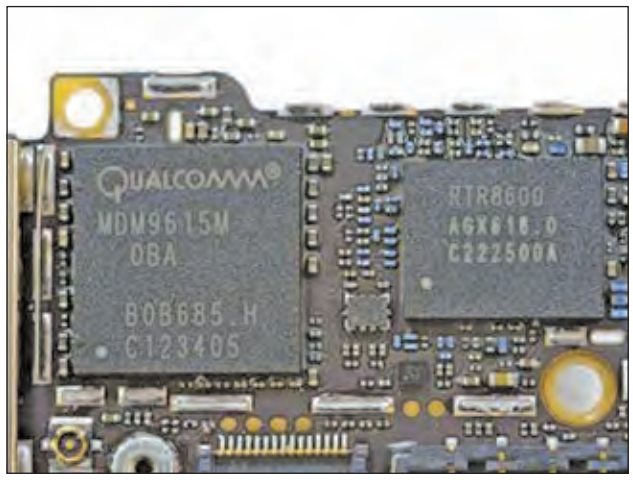
Until recently, little was known about the creature believed to be the real face of the mythical kraken, a sea-monster blamed by sailors for sinking ships off Norway in the 18th century.

But for Kubodera, the animal held no such terror.

"A giant squid essentially lives a solitary existence, swimming about all alone in the deep sea. It doesn't live in a group," he said. "So when I saw it, well, it looked to me like it was rather lonely."

Reuters

Qualcomm opens CES with new chip, Ballmer and Big Bird



Handout image released by iFixit.com shows the Qualcomm MDM9615M chip on a board of a new iPhone 5 in Melbourne, Australia on 21 Sept, 2012.
REUTERS

LAS VEGAS, 9 Jan—Qualcomm Inc Chief Executive Paul Jacobs announced an improved smartphone chip and had help from guests ranging from Steve Ballmer and Big Bird to Maroon 5 during his opening keynote at the world's biggest technology conference.

Jacobs opened the annual Consumer Electronics Show on Monday with a "Born Mobile" theme, saying that as many as a million new smartphones are being added to mobile networks every day, roughly double the number of babies born daily.

CES, which attracts thousands of exhibitors and is expected to be attended by more than 150,000 people, is used by the industry each year to showcase upcoming products ranging from cellphones to giant televisions.

In the keynote, which was historically reserved for Microsoft Corp, Jacobs streamed a clip for an upcoming movie using his company's new chip Snapdragon 800. Qualcomm is the world's biggest maker of chips for cellphones.

He also showed how the chip, which will be available in the second half this year, would support mobile video games with a much greater level of detail than today's most powerful phones. "This is console quality gaming on a mobile device," Jacobs said.

The Snapdragon 800 chip can also support recording and playback of ultra high-definition video, which has roughly four times the resolution of high-definition TV.

Reuters

Sharp ponders options to survive, isn't in Intel talks

***The Sharp Corp logo is seen at the company's showroom in Tokyo. —*REUTERS**

LAS VEGAS, 9 Jan—Sharp Corp is considering new ways to shore up its crumbling finances but is not talking with Intel Corp at the moment about any investment from the US chipmaker, a senior executive from the Japanese company said on Monday.

Industry analysts had speculated that Intel and Sharp — which supplies screens to Apple Inc for its latest iPhone were in investment discussions, but executives said on Monday the pair were not in talks "at this moment."

Sharp is fighting for survival after years of losses. Like other Japanese brands that spearheaded the 1970s electronics boom, it is wilting under stiffening competition and a strong yen.

In November, it said it may not be able to survive on its own after full-year net losses to doubled to $5.6 billion.

To repay short-term debt and stave off failure, the maker of Aquos televisions snagged a $4.4 billion bailout in October from its banks. But it is now exploring further options.

"Our finances have been weakened considerably and we are considering ways to deal with that," Sharp Vice President Kozo Takahashi told reporters at a roundtable briefing on the sidelines of the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Sharp's shareholder-equity ratio at the end of September was 9.9 percent half the minimum level generally considered stable by investors. Takahashi described that only as "low."

Takahashi's comments on Monday indicated that no new agreement was imminent. He did not elaborate on Sharp's funding options, except to say that any future cash injections might not be limited to just share offers.

Reuters

Sony mulls battery unit sale in push toward core electronics

Sony Corp's President and Chief Executive Officer Kazuo Hirai speaks to reporters at CEATEC JAPAN 2012 electronics show in Chiba, east of Tokyo, on 2 Oct, 2012.
REUTERS

LAS VEGAS, 9 Jan—Sony Corp is considering the sale of its battery business but has made no decision yet, Chief Executive Kazuo Hirai said on Monday, as the company seeks to offload non-core assets and revive its consumer electronics business.

Hirai also told reporters on the sidelines of the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas that Christmas sales were "pretty much" in line with expectations, although sales of its handheld game console Vita were at the low end of its expectations. He gave no further details.

In November, Sony revised down its forecast for full-year sales of handheld PSP and Vita game consoles to 10 million units, compared with a prediction it made in August for 12 million.

Under Hirai, Sony is doubling down on consumer electronics with a focus on mobile phones, tablets and gaming while shedding non-core assets, as it seeks to regain ground against rivals like Samsung Electronics Co and bounce back from four straight years of net losses.

Sony and Japan's other big TV makers, Panasonic Corp and Sharp Corp, have also been hobbled by a strong yen that has squeezed margins, although the currency has weakened in recent months.

"The discussion (on selling units) extends to any business that aren't really adding to the core business," Hirai said.

Reuters

Samsung on track to become top home appliances maker

LAS VEGAS, 9 Jan—South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co said it is on course to achieve its goal of becoming the world's top home appliances maker by 2015, with sales growing an estimated 50 percent by then.

Samsung Electronics, which makes more chips, flat-screens, handsets and TVs than any of its competitors - including the world's best-selling smartphone - is aiming to boost its home appliance segment and narrow the gap with companies including Whirlpool Corp and Electrolux AB.

"I'm confident of Samsung becoming the world's top appliances maker by 2015 with $18 billion sales, as we set up a very well structured framework for key products and moving step by step to the goal, first starting with fridges," Yoon Boo-keun, president of the division, told Reuters in an interview at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas on Monday.

The company logo is displayed at the Samsung news conference at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 7 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

Analysts estimate Samsung Electronics earned around 13 trillion won ($12 billion) last year from home appliances, part of the firm's consumer electronics arm.

Samsung Electronics would ditch unprofitable product lines and boost research into consumer tastes across different markets, Yoon said.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Brent crude holds above $111 ahead of China data

A worker pumps petrol into a customer's car at a fuel station in Sidon, southern Lebanon, on 25 Feb, 2011.—Reuters

Singapore, 9 Jan—Brent crude futures steadied above $111 per barrel on Tuesday, trading in a tight range, as investors opted for caution ahead of key data from China and a European Central Bank meeting this week.

Investors will be closely monitoring China's trade data for December due on Thursday, as well as fourth-quarter economic growth numbers on 18 January, for confirmation that the world's biggest energy consumer is on a steady but slow path to recovery.

Front-month Brent futures slipped 19 cents to $111.21 per barrel by 0659 GMT, after ending mostly steady in the previous session. US crude slid 10 cents to $93.09 per barrel, erasing the previous session's gain.

The outlook for oil prices this year will be coloured by concerns that global supplies will outstrip demand, said Tony Nunan, oil risk manager for Mitsubishi Corp in Tokyo.

"The global economy is the big thing for oil prices, and it's still not clear which way it's headed," said Nunan. "The big issues are China's growth and how OPEC manages the oversupply."

The International Energy Agency (IEA) last month forecast demand in 2013 will rise by 865,000 barrels per day while supply from non-OPEC countries will rise by 890,000 barrels per day, driven by a jump in US shale oil production.

In the short term, however, investors will be focusing on key economic events due this week.

China's trade numbers may show export growth rebounded from three-month lows in December, although weak demand in the United States and Europe, the country's two biggest customers, may temper the recovery.

Fourth-quarter GDP data due next week may give a brighter picture. A *Reuters* poll showed the economy may have grown 7.8 percent in October-December versus 7.4 percent in the previous quarter, snapping seven quarters of weaker expansion.

ECB policymakers will meet on Thursday as well and economists polled by *Reuters* were split on whether the bank would cut rates in 2013 after the regional economy shrank for three straight quarters last year.

"There are now very clear indications that this slowdown has come to an end," Credit Suisse analysts said in a report.

"The latest leading economic indicators show that global growth is gaining again—particularly in key commodity consuming countries such as China and the US" Later in January, US Federal Reserve policymakers are scheduled to meet amid talk that the bank may halt its quantitative easing in 2013, rather than 2014, sending jitters through markets.

Investors will also be awaiting inventory data from the United States due Tuesday and Wednesday.

Commercial crude oil stockpiles may have fallen by 300,000 barrels on average in the week ended 4 January as Gulf Coast refiners cut imports for year-end tax purposes, a preliminary *Reuters* poll of four analysts showed.

The previous week's data, which showed that imports dropped by the biggest margin in a decade, had triggered worries of weak demand and sent US oil prices lower.

Reuters

China Q4 GDP growth seen rebounding to 7.8 percent

Beijing, 9 Jan—China's annual economic growth may have quickened to 7.8 percent in the fourth quarter a *Reuters* poll showed, snapping seven straight quarters of weaker expansion, but the recovery is likely to be tepid and the economy may need continued policy support. The median forecast of 24 analysts polled is for gross domestic product to have expanded 7.8 percent in Q4 from a year earlier, quickening from 7.4 percent in the third quarter — the weakest expansion since the depths of the global financial crisis in early 2009.

The Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Co, Ltd working area is seen at sunrise in Dalian, Liaoning Province, on 1 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

The modest recovery in the world's second-largest economy follows a raft of pro-growth policy steps over recent months. But the outlook in 2013 remains cloudy given the lingering global uncertainties. "We expect growth of the Chinese economy to re-accelerate to 7.8 percent in the fourth quarter from 7.4 percent in Q3 thanks to accommodative policy and inventory restocking," said Dongming Xie, China economist at OCBC Bank in Singapore. "The economy is expected to recover further in 2013. But the pace of recovery is unlikely to be significant due to the still weak euro zone and Japanese economy."

Economic activity has picked up since September, supported by faster infrastructure investment and a heating up of the housing market. The factory sector is also picking up as the de-stocking cycle, during which firms ran down inventories in response to the downturn, comes to an end. Two separate purchasing managers' index surveys of the vast manufacturing sector last week also suggested China's economic growth was picking up late in 2012, although signs persist that it is still depending primarily on state-led investment.

Reuters

Americans think government could harm economy

The US Capitol Dome is seen behind the entrance to the US Senate (R) on Capitol Hill in Washington, on 9 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Washington, 9 Jan — Last week's "fiscal cliff" deal did little to ease fears among Americans that Washington could harm the US economy or their personal finances in the months to come, according to a *Reuters*/Ipsos poll released on Monday.

The online poll found that President Barack Obama gets more credit than his Republican adversaries for the agreement, which canceled across-the-board tax increases and postponed broad spending cuts that could have pushed the economy back into recession.

But the deal did little to instill confidence about the nation's economic direction as Republicans and Democrats prepare for more showdowns over taxes and spending in the coming months, the poll found. "If you had to score it, the Democrats and especially Obama, came out better, but there's a lot of uncertainty," said Ipsos pollster Clifford Young. "There's no clear winner from this."

More than two-thirds of those surveyed said they were concerned that their taxes could rise, or their benefits could shrink, while 81 percent said they were worried that the economy could take another downturn.

More than three in four said they were concerned that Congress would not be able to avert deep spending cuts to military and domestic programs that were postponed for two months in the fiscal-cliff deal, the poll found.

And 70 percent said they were concerned that the United States could default on its debt. Congress will have to raise its $16.4 trillion debt ceiling by early March to avoid a first-ever default, which would upend global financial markets.

Obama and Republican leaders initially hoped to resolve all of these issues in a "grand bargain" that would have combined tax increases and benefit cuts to put the country's finances on a sustainable course, but in the end they had to settle on a smaller deal that left many issues unresolved.

Reuters

Copying common in electronic medical records

New York, 9 Jan—Most doctors copy and paste old, potentially out-of-date information into patients' electronic records, according to a US study looking at a shortcut that some experts fear could lead to miscommunication and medical errors.

"The electronic medical record was meant to make the process of documentation easier, but I think it's perpetuated copying," said lead author Daryl Thornton, assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Electronic health records have been touted as having the potential to transform patient data from indecipherable scribbles into easy-to-read, searchable standardized documents that could be shared among hospital staffers and a patient's various other health care providers.

Many electronic record keeping systems allow text to be copied and pasted from previous notes and other documents, a shortcut that could help time-crunched doctors but that could also cause mistakes to be passed along or medical records to become indecipherable, critics argue.

To see how much information in patient records came from copying, Thornton's team, in a study published in Critical Care Medicine, examined 2,068 electronic patient progress reports created by 62 residents and 11 attending physicians in the intensive care unit of a Cleveland, Ohio hospital.

Progress notes are typically shared among doctors, nurses and other hospital staff and are meant to document the progression of a patient's tests and treatments.—*Reuters*

Employees of software company Infosys walk past Infosys logos at their campus in the Electronic City area in Bangalore on 4 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

Infosys valuations trail Indian rivals

Mumbai, 9 Jan—Infosys Ltd (INFY.NS) is trading at a 36 percent discount to its 10-year median P/E, the widest gap among large cap Indian technology stocks, according to Thomson Reuters' StarMine estimates.

The discount comes even as fiscal 2013/14 earnings growth projections across the four stocks profiled are around 5-6 percent as per StarMine estimates.

Infosys is due to post October-December results on Friday after issuing a series of disappointing growth targets last year. Infosys shares fell 16.2 percent in 2012 underperforming peer Tata Consultancy Services (TCS.NS) which rose 8.2 percent in the same period.—*Reuters*

WORLD

WFP says 2.5 mln people in Syria need food assistance

GENEVA, 9 Jan—The World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday that around 2.5 million people in Syria are in need of food assistance but only 1.5 million can receive supplies from the agency.

The agency's main partner, the Red Crescent, is overstretched and has no more capacity to expand further, according to WFP spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs.

She said WFP food reaches both government and opposition-controlled areas, but there are some areas affected by heavy fighting that no one has been able to reach.

To feed those 1.5 million people, of which 85 percent are internally displaced persons (IDPs), WFP requires 15,000 metric tons of food each month for over 22 million U.S. dollars.

There are reports of shortages of bread, wheat flour and cooking gas caused by deteriorating security situation in the country, Byrs said.—*Xinhua*

Pupils wait to get nutritious lunch at Longdong Primary School in De'e Township of Longlin Autonomous County of All Nationalities, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 8 Jan, 2013. Nutritious lunch has been provided for 1.16 million pupils and students of elementary and middle schools in 40 counties and districts of the region.—XINHUA

The chief planner and general designer Yao Yuan delivers a speech during a press conference of the "Yellow River Mother" cultural theme park project in Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu Province, on 9 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Syrian gov't working on political settlement as NATO missile deployment coming

DAMASCUS, 9 Jan—As Turkey is completing preparations to deploy NATO's Patriot missiles along its borders with Syria, Syrian cabinet met here on Tuesday to find mechanisms to put into effect the fresh vision of President Bashar al-Assad on a political solution to the country's 22-month crisis.

Germany began sending Patriot missiles to Turkey Tuesday, with a ship carrying the equipment leaving the northeastern German seaport Lubeck-Travemunde for Turkey.

The ship, named *"Suecia Seaways"* and loaded with 300 vehicles and over 130 containers, will arrive at Turkey's Iskenderun Port on 21 January, according to a German statement issued on Monday.

The two Patriot batteries will be deployed about 100 km from the Turkish-Syrian border. Together with another four batteries from the United States and the Netherlands, the Patriots deployment is in response to Turkey's request to NATO against possible missile threats from Syria.

All six batteries will be under NATO's command and scheduled to be operational by the end of January. The Patriots are able to intercept missiles or aircraft. The Turkish government requested in November that its national air defence be reinforced with the support of NATO air defense elements, after several artillery shells from Syria struck a Turkish border town and killed five civilians one month before.

The missiles' pending deployment has raised the ire of the Syrian government and its allies, despite the reparative statements by NATO members that the measure is "purely defensive."

In Damascus, meanwhile, Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi said on Tuesday that the cabinet is meeting in the framework of implementing the presidential commissioning toward finding mechanisms and putting into effect the ideas and the national program which were included in Assad's speech for solving the crisis in Syria.

In a Press statement, al-Zoubi said the discussions going on at the cabinet session deal with all the details of the crisis the country is going through, adding that the internal and external political situation, the current challenges and the capabilities available are all on the table.

He affirmed that "all opposition forces are invited to participate in a national dialogue that is based on respecting national sovereignty and the rejection of foreign interference in all its forms as well as the acts of domination and guardianship over the national decision."

He reiterated that the discussion is addressing all aspects, ranging from stopping violence and terrorism to issues concerning economy, public freedom, human rights and detainees, as well as the details and essence of the national dialogue and how and with whom it should be conducted.

The minister described the discussion as "long, comprehensive and difficult as there are many views, suggestions and concepts," pointing out that there will be a cabinet committee to start contacting all political and societal forces and figures so as to pave the way for holding the national dialogue conference.—*Xinhua*

Pakistani PM congratulates Obama on re-election as US President

ISLAMABAD, 9 Jan—Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on Tuesday extended his warm congratulation to US President Barack Obama on his re-election as president.

In his message, the prime minister said that Pakistan has always placed the high premium on its relations with the United States.

He said that they consider a strong and abiding relationship with the United States to be mutually beneficial to their peoples. At the regional and global levels, they share the same strategic objectives of peace, prosperity and security, the prime minister said.

The prime minister said that he was looking forward to continuing to work with President Obama and members of his administration in the second term to add further substance and value to this very important and beneficial relationship, a statement from the PM office said.

He said that they were particularly keen to deepen trade, economic and scientific collaboration with the United States and such broad-based cooperation will indeed generate mutual goodwill and further the shared interests of the two countries. The prime minister wished the US president success and continued progress and prosperity of the American people.—*Xinhua*

160,000 people penalized for disciplinary violations

BEIJING, 9 Jan—More than 160,000 people were punished in China for disciplinary violations in 2012, according to official figures released Wednesday.

Disciplinary inspection organs last year launched investigations into more than 155,000 such cases based on tip-offs from the public, of which more than 153,000 have been concluded. As a result a total of 160,718 people were punished. The investigations have led to the successful recovery of 7.83 billion yuan (around 1.24 billion US dollars) in economic losses for the country.

Xinhua

Flu claims seven lives in US state of Arkansas

HOUSTON, 9 Jan—Influenza is growing more widespread in the US state of Arkansas this season and has claimed seven lives there so far, state health authorities said Tuesday.

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) said reports of large numbers of flu infections and hospitalizations are coming in from all regions of the state in this flu season, according to the website of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Health experts said officials expect about 1.5 million Arkansans to get vaccinated against the flu. The vaccination reportedly prevents roughly 80 percent of recipients from getting the flu.

This is the worst influenza season in Arkansas since 2009 and that it' s "hit early and hard," health officials said.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned that Influenza activity would be increasing across most of the US.

"Reports of influenza-like-illness (ILI) are nearing what have been peak levels during moderately severe seasons," said Joe Bresee, chief of epidemiology and prevention at the CDC's influenza division.

More than 200,000 people are hospitalized due to influenza each year, according to the CDC.

Xinhua

A man rides an electric bike in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 8 Jan, 2013. The capital city was shrouded by fog on Tuesday. Local meteorological authorities issued a yellow-coded alert for fog.—XINHUA

Plan underway to upgrade Workers' Hospital soon

YANGON, 9 Jan—A plan is underway to upgrade Workers' Hospital which is reliable for the workers for their health care services.

"Workers' Hospital will be upgraded soon. Mainly, a plan is underway to construct the patient wards for accommodating more and more patients. Moreover, efforts will be made to facilitate the hospital with necessary machinery to be able to have characteristics of modern hospital. The department concerned will seek international assistance as the hospital is reliable one for the workers," said an official of Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

Although the Workers' Hospital is giving good cleanliness and care to the patients, most of the workers consider to receive medical treatment at the Yangon General Hospital, Insein General Hospital, Sanpya Hospital, Yangon East and West General Hospitals, said a GP who give health care services to the workers.

At present, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security plans construction of the new structures and modern medical equipment to be facilitated at the hospital though the extended buildings have not been constructed yet and the master plan drawn.

Myanma Alinn

Charges for passing of vehicle to be collected on new Strand Road

YANGON, 9 Jan—The 5.069 miles long new strand road was constructed from old Thiri Mingala Market in Kyimyindine Township to Thanlyetsoon of Botahtaung Township as of early 2011.

The new road is 48 feet wide concrete facility. It was built by Asia World Co to withstand 100 tons of loads.

A plan is underway to collect charge for passing of vehicles as of February 2013. These vehicles will be allowed to pass the new road from 1 to 31 January free of charge, according to the announcement of the Yangon City Development Commit-tee.

The vehicle of under 14 feet long will be charged as K 15000 and the vehicles of above 20 tons K 4000.

The old strand road will be allowed for small vehicles and passenger buses, not for trucks with loads.

New strand road was built with the purpose for container vehicles, the trucks with logs and the vehicles with loads at the jetties. Moreover, the specific car park is under construction for the trucks with loads beside the new Strand Road.

Myanma Alinn

Funeral Service Association (Yangon) marks 12th anniversary

YANGON, 9 Jan—The Funeral Service Association (Yangon) held the 12th anniversary at its office on Bo Ba Htoo Road in Ward 42 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 1 January.

At 9 am, the eye surgical operation theatre was opened.

In the afternoon, Chairman of the association U Kyaw Thu and official presented prizes to those who contributed the best to the association in 2012.

After that, entertainment was performed, and social Oscar award presented to the outstanding persons.

Myanma Alinn

Assistance provided to staff from district and township courts

SAGAING, 9 Jan—Chief Justice of Sagaing Region High Court on 21 December presented assistance as welfare to staff of the Sagaing District Court and Township Court.

He urged staff to be free from bribery.

District Judge Daw Khin Hla Kyi and Sagaing Township Judge Daw Khin Pyone Yi also presented assistance to 137 staff from the district and township courts who have retired.

Myanma Alinn

Vocational course concludes

YANGON, 9 Jan—The course No. 8/2012 concluded at Vocational Training School at 135 on Dhammazedi Road in Bahan Township of Yangon on 3 January.

The Head of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department and the principal of the school presented certificates to the trainees.

The regular vocational course No. 1/2013 will be held on 7 January and the course (Sunday and Saturday) on 12 January.

The training course will give trainings on basic and advanced tailoring and knitting works to the trainees.—*Myanma Alinn*

Bhamo marks Shan national New Year day

BHAMO, 9 Jan—Organized by Shan National Literature and Traditional Culture Committee, the Shan traditional New Year festival was held at Weluwun Monastery in 3rd-Mile Shwepyitha Ward of Bhamo on 18 December.

Deputy Commissioner U Tezar Aung of Bhamo District and Chairman of the Bhamo District Shan National Literature and Traditional Culture Committee U Sai Tha Aye formally opened the ceremony. The festival was held from 15 to 19 December.—*Myanma Alinn*

New bus line launched in Kengtung

KENGTUNG, 9 Jan—Shwe Hti Tachilek-Taunggyi passenger bus line was launched at the highway bus terminal in Ward 1 of Kengtung on 1 January morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Khin Win of Kengtung District cut the ribbon to launch the bus line sprinkling with scented water. He cordially greeted the passengers and presented gifts to them.

After the ceremony, five buses started their route for Tachilek.

The bus line uses 20 High Ace, Light Ace and Cobra 415 buses that will ply the Tachilek-Kengtung-Taung-gyi route.

Myanma Alinn

Labutta gets new gravel road

LABUTTA, 9 Jan—A ceremony to inaugurate a new gravel road was held at its archway on the road, namely Bo Yazar, in ward 10 of Labutta on 2 January.

The newly-opened road is 1160 feet long, 12 feet wide and seven inches thick. Thanks to opening the road, the local people enjoy smooth transport.—*Myanma Alinn*

Tube-well launched rural area

MYOTHIT, 9 Jan—With the assistance of Department for Progress of Rural Region, a four-inch diametre tube-well was launched in the compound of Basic Education High School (Branch) in Myolulin Village of Myothit Township on 2 January.—*Myanma Alinn*

Taungdwingyi Sugar Mill buys sugarcane

TAUNGDWINGYI, 9 Jan—Kanhla Sugar Mill in Kanpaygyi Village-tract of Taungdwingyi Township in Magway Region purchased sugarcane as of 6 December.

Up to 29 December, a total of 3750 sugarcane growers from 52 villages sold sugarcane to the mill with the use of 7416 bullock carts and 4066 cars.

On 30 December, Township Administrator U Aung Htut and officials arrived at the sugar mill and coordinated with officials for fulfilling requirements of the sugarcane growers.

The sugar mill has made preparation for its operation to crash sugarcane 1600 tons per day and buy sugarcane in cash, according to Mill Manager U Kyaw Aung.

Myanma Alinn

New building donated to monastery

NATMAUK, 9 Jan—A ceremony to share merits for donation of new school building was held at YwaU Monastery in Tamalanbin Village of Natmauk Township, Magway Region, on 30 December.

The building's wellwisher was U Khin Maung Than-Daw Khin Yu May of 5/4 Ward in Shwepyitha Township.

The two-storey building was 25 feet high, 73 feet long and 40 feet wide constituted with 26 rooms. It costs about K 100 million. The wellwisher donated one set of solar battery worth K 860,000 for supply of electricity for the monastery round the clock. The water tanks will also be built for the monastery, spending K 3 million.—*Myanma Alinn*

School Family Day observed in Bago Region

BAGO, 9 Jan—The School Family Day of Bago Region was observed at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Bago for 2012-2013 academic year on 3 January, with an address by Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win.

Bago Region Education Director U Saw San Yin reported on the purpose of holding the School Family Day. The patrons of Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and the Region Women's Affairs Organization donated K 100,000 each to the ceremony.

Officials presented prizes to the winners in the region level contests.

The students presented songs and dances to those present.

Later, the Chief Minister and party viewed the booth of the ceremony and book show.—*Myanma Alinn*

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 10 January, 2013

Parliament must guide the country to democracy

The sixth regular session of the parliament has just kicked off, with major pieces of legislation such as national plan and budget for the coming fiscal year, special economic zone law and Myanmar citizen investment law expected to be put on table. Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, predicted before the session that the sixth session of the parliament would be a long and busy one. Media law and telecom law are among the legislations expected to be submitted by the government as the country is shaping a well-regulated market economy.

More and more lively and intense discussions were seen in the previous sessions than the earlier ones. The stronger discussions are likely to break out in the current session. As parliamentarians, including the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, toured around their constituencies and the country, they would be able to represent the opinions of the constituents and the entire people. On his tour to Ayeyawady and Bago Regions, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker repeated his call for mass participation in the legislation which is the major political process of the country.

The Hluttaw session also coincides with the ongoing conflict between the government troops and Kachin group in Kachin State, the conflict-prone least development northern part of the country and with convincing signs of improvement in engagements with other ethnic groups, with respective peace deals reached between the government and 10 of 11 ethnic groups at each level. The President also invited Karen National Union to the parliament to strike the lasting peace deal, which is the last of the peace process. We need to watch and wait which role the parliament would play in ending the armed conflicts in Kachin State.

The parliament will also have to pass some laws crucial to the road to democracy and the economic growth of the country in this session. The discussions would become more heated than those in the sessions before, with more sharp divides to become tangible. It would be a promising sign for the success of the country's democratic transition. The widely accepted attitude in the political process of our country is "setting aside differences". It does not mean shutting up when we think of the differences. For the spread of democratic practices in our country, we need to frankly speak out our different views, pick out the best one and work in unison. The parliament is expected to become a model of this trend for all the organizations of our country.

Winners of SEA Games article and short story contests honoured

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan thanked contestants of XXVII SEA Games article and short story competitions at the prize presentation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theiddhi Stadium this morning. Deputy Minister U Thaung Htaik and officials awarded the winners.

The Union Minister presented gifts to doyen sports journalists.

The Union Minister and officials held a press conference on preparation on the SEA Games and training of athletes.—*MNA*

NATIONAL

Code of ethics guides behaviours and functions of journalists: Union Information Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Printers, Publishers, Registration and Distribution Supervisory Central Committee met at Information Ministry here this morning, attended by Union Minister U Aung Kyi and committee members.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of the supervisory committee Union Minister U Aung Kyi listed the responsibilities of the committee as checking the publications whether they meet the regulations and taking actions against printers and publishers that break the regulations. He called upon the media world for emergence of genuine, trusted and reliable Fourth Estate. There will be freedom of press while code of ethics must be observed on the other hand, said the Union minister who quoted the code of ethics of Society of Professional Journalism (SPI) of US as "seek and make known the truth, leave the least effects on parties concerned, act independently and be responsible". He also urged to take example from the society of Professional Journalism, again quoting its values as "journalists must be honest and fair in collecting news and respect the news sources, parties concerned and peers; must let people know what they should without restriction and assume responsibility for what they report." He stressed that behaviours and functions of journalists are to be guided by code of ethics though it is not a regulation.

Meeting of Printers, Publishers, Registration and Distribution Supervisory Central Committee in progress.—MNA

Joint-Secretary of supervisory central committee Managing-Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Ye Tint explained the functions of the committee, saying that the committee was formed on 20-4-2011. The committee has then relaxed censorship regulations step by step and all the publications were allowed to go publishing without pre-publication censorship of Scrutiny and Registration Department since 20 August, 2012. Only after they hit newsstand, publications were asked to send to the department to keep as records.

The submission of applications by the printers and publishers has been made available on line and permissions were granted since November, 2012, the managing director said. He also said interim Myanmar Press Council was informed of unethical writings in periodicals as well. The council issued 15-fact code of ethics on 17-9-2012, encouraging the men of letter abide by code of ethics, he said. The managing director also said 220 magazines and 310 journals were in circulation in 2012. He also said one magazine and six journals went beyond the genres they originally admitted to, taking 'Seduction Sex Education' Magazine as an example which applied for fashion magazine but rather published a near pornography. He also said under-40-percent contents of Media One, The Farmer, the Ad World, the Myanandar, the High Speed Car, the New Blood and the Aesthetics journals were appropriate with applied genres.

After a round of discussion, license to 'Seduction Sex Education' magazine was decided to be revoked and six other journals to be warned against their irrelevant contents and to be monitored for one month.

Chairman of the supervisory committee Union Minister U Aung Kyi's concluding remarks brought the meeting to an end.

MNA

Union Minister calls for pragmatic approaches against corruption and bribery

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi called for pragmatic approaches in the fight against corruption and bribery as he addressed the Workshop on Prevention of Corruption jointly organized by the ministry and Sustainable Development Initiatives Ltd (SDI) on 7 January morning.

The Union minister made known the objective of the workshop as a brainstorming session to find out realistic ways for fighting against corruption with case studies from international examples.

Legal Advisor to the President U Sit Aye and SDI Country Programme Director Mr John Rennie explained international experiences and made suggestions.

The workshop was organized with assistance of AusAid. Mr John Rennie and Chief Commissioner Mr Morraay Kellaam of SDI Integrity Commission will discuss the subject with 22 officials from the ministry from 7 to 11 January.

MNA

Health research paper reading session continues

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Myanmar Health Research Paper Reading Session continued for third day in Yangon this morning.

Resource personnel read out papers and answered queries raised by those present at the session followed by an academic seminar.

MNA

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein receives Laotian Public Works and Transport Minister and party

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister of Public Works and Transport of Laos People's Democratic Republic Mr Sommad Pholsena at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here at 4 pm today.

Present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Kyaw Lwin and officials concerned. The visiting delegation led by the Minister of Public Works and Transport of Laos was accompanied by Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nilahath Sayarath.

They held discussions on sooner completion of Laos-Myanmar Friendship Bridge that would promote bilateral friendship and cooperation, and upgrading of the motorway that can lead to Vietnam and Cambodia via the bridge.

MNA

President U Thein Sein and Union ministers pose for documentary photo with Lao PDR Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr Sommad Pholsena and party.—MNA

General Hla Htay Win receives Deputy D-G of ONA of Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan— Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win received a delegation led by Deputy Director-General Dr Jim Hagan of the Office of National Assessments of Australia at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this morning.

Also present at the call were the Chief of Staff (Navy) and senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office. The Australian delegation was accompanied by Senior Assessor Dr Carolyn Bull and Australian Ambassador Ms Bronte Nadine Moules.

They cordially exchanged views on participation of Myanmar Tatmadaw in current reform process of Myanmar. After the call, they posed for documentary photo.—*MNA*

Rehabilitation of displaced people in Rakhine State discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan— Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay and an Indonesian delegation led by Foreign Minister of Indonesia Dr R M Marty M Natalegawa held talks at Rakhine State government office yesterday over the conflicts and losses in Rakhine State and rehabilitation of internally displaced people in the state.

During the meeting, the Indonesian foreign minister expressed his support for the Myanmar government and thanked the government for helping him understand more over the situation in the state.

His visit was aimed at fulfilling the current needs of the displaced people of the two communities, he added.

He also pledged to assist in providing the basic needs such as food, education, health, economy and job opportunities of the displaced people of the two communities and to overcome the potential challenges in coordination with the Myanmar government.

He also said that Indonesia would provide US$ 1 million as aid to the displaced people.

After the meeting, the Union minister and the Indonesian foreign minister visited Mingan and Ohndawgyi relief camps.

The Indonesian delegation left there for Yangon at 10.30 am.

MNA

Lanpi has high potential to become an eco-tourism destination: Union minister

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun together with Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, President of Italy-based Conservation of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (OIKOS) Dr Rossella Rossi and experts visited islands along Taninthayi Coast on 6 and 7 January.

The Union minister and party visited Lanpi National Marine Park in Bokpyin Township in Kawthoung District.

The Union minister in meeting with officials and staff of the park, called for preserving the ecological balance of the place, noting its promising potential as a destination of eco-tourism. He also inspected conservation of natural mangrove forests in Bhiaw region of Lanpi Park.—*MNA*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 2/2013
11th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME

(8 January, 2013)

Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representative substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute three Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in the first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted three Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives stated hereunder in Notification No. 22/2012 of the commission dated 22-4-2012, Notification No 41/2012 of the commission dated 16-10-2012 with personnel shown against them.

(1)	BC 22403 Lt-Col Thein Htay	BC 24912 Lt-Col Moe Kyaw Oo
(2)	BC 22390 Lt-Col Win Zaw Htay	BC 21338 Lt-Col Zaw Zaw Myint
(3)	BC 26720 Lt-Col Myo Min	BC 23955 Lt-Col Myat Ko

By order,

Tin Tun
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Tencate Geosynthetic and Alliance Stars agree technical cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan— Tencate Geosynthetic Asia SDN BHD Company of Holland and Alliance Stars Engineering Company of Myanmar signed agreement on technical cooperation for improvement of irrigation systems at Myanmar International Convention Centre here this morning, in the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing then visited beans seeds production farm near Chaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township. The Union minister on the occasion called for swift distribution of 2000 units of tillers and threshers to regions topping the list of priority in transforming mechanized farming from conventional one.

Pilot projects have been in full swing across the Union for transformation to mechanized farming and plans are under way to distribute 1300 viss of beans and pulses seeds that can yield 100 baskets of beans per acre.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No. 11/2013
12th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(9 January, 2013)
Formation of Central Committee and Work Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises

Central Committee and Work Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises have been formed with the persons shown hereunder for further development of small and medium enterprises, pivotal for national economy development and promotion of social-economic status of the people.

(1) Central Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises

(a)	President	Chairman
(b)	Vice-President (1)	Vice-Chairman
(c)	Vice-President (2)	Vice-Chairman
(d)	Union Minister for Border Affairs	Member
(e)	Union Minister for Information	Member
(f)	Union Minister for Cooperatives	Member
(g)	Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation	Member
(h)	Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries	Member
(i)	Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology	Member
(j)	Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry	Member
(k)	Union Minister for Electric Power	Member
(l)	Union Minister for Energy	Member
(m)	Union Minister for Industry	Member
(n)	Union Minister for Commerce	Member
(o)	Union Minister for Education	Member
(p)	Union Minister for Health	Member
(q)	Union Minister for Mines	Member
(r)	Union Minister for Finance and Revenue	Member
(s)	Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development	Member
(t)	Union Minister for Science and Technology	Member
(u)	Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism	Member
(v)	Attorney-General of the Union Attorney-General of the Union Office	Member
(w)	Auditor-General of the Union Auditor-General of the Union Office	Member
(x)	Region/State Chief Ministers	Member
(y)	President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry	Member
(z)	Union Minister at the President Office (3)	Secretary
(aa)	Union Minister at the President Office (5)	Joint-Secretary

(2) The duties and responsibilities of Central Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises are as follows:-

(a) To formulate and promulgate laws, regulations and procedures for SMEs development;

(b) To encourage under Section 36 of the constitution development of small and medium enterprises which take the major portion in such economic forces as State-owned and local organizations, cooperative associations, joint ventures, and private businesses.

(c) To ensure that government and private banks effectively provide financial capital required for SMEs development;

(d) To establish a network with respective local and foreign organizations to meet technical requirements;

(e) To encourage development of the markets of small and medium enterprises from rural to urban areas;

(f) To make small and medium enterprises as supporting industries for local and foreign investments to help healthy development of market chain;

(g) To plan for nurturing human resources required for SMEs development;

(h) To set up committees and subcommittees and assign duties as necessary.

3. Work Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises

(a)	Vice-President (2)	Chairman
(b)	Union Minister at the President Office (5)	Member
(c)	Union Minister for Commerce	Member
(d)	Union Minister for Finance and Revenue	Member
(e)	Union Minister for Science and Technology	Member
(f)	Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism	Member
(g)	Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation	Member
(h)	Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology	Member
(i)	Deputy Minister for Electric Power	Member
(j)	Deputy Minister for Energy	Member
(k)	Deputy Minister for Education	Member
(l)	Deputy Minister for Health	Member
(m)	Vice-President Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry	Member
(n)	Union Minister Ministry of Industry	Secretary
(o)	Deputy Minister Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development	Joint-Secretary

(4) The duties and responsibilities of SMEs Development Work Committee are as follows:-

(a) To draft laws, regulations and procedures for SMEs development and submit them to the central committee for their enactment;

(b) To collect, analyze and report data and information for encouraging small and medium enterprises:

(c) To remove obstacles in works for small and medium enterprises development;

(d) To place emphasis on market development to ensure wide market chain;

(e) To nurture sufficient number of skilled workers and create job opportunities;

(f) To make contact and coordinate with local and foreign organizations to be able to receive financial and technical assistance;

(g) To ensure development of micro credit business through Small and Medium Enterprises Bank;

(h) To set up subcommittees and groups for respective sectors of small and medium enterprises as necessary.

***Sd*/Thein Sein**
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No (12/ 2013)
12th Waning of Nadaw 1374 ME
(9 January, 2013)
Formation of National Energy Management Committee and of Energy Management Committee

For ensuring the development of energy and electrical sectors, National Energy Management Committee and Energy Management Committee are formed as follow:-

(1) National Energy Management Committee

(a)	Vice-President (2)	Patron
(b)	Union Minister for Energy	Chairman
(c)	Union Minister for Electric Power	Vice-Chairman
(d)	Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation	Member
(e)	Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry	Member
(f)	Union Minister for Industry	Member
(g)	Union Minister for Mines	Member
(h)	Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development	Member
(i)	Union Minister for Science and Technology	Member
(j)	Dr Myint Soe, Senior Geologist of Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department under the Ministry of Mines	Member
(k)	U Win Khaing, Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society	Member
(l)	U Aung Myint, General Secretary of Renewable Energy Association Myanmar	Member
(m)	Deputy Minister for Energy	Secretary

(See page 11)

Formation of National Energy Management ...

(from page 10)

(n) Deputy Minister — Joint-Secretary
Ministry of Electric Power

(2) Duties and functions of National Energy Management Committee are as follow:-

(a) To formulate National Energy Policy based on energy demand and production and fulfillment of energy requirement on energy matters of the State,

(b) To formulate Energy Regulation for ensuring implementation of energy development of the State in accord with National Energy Policy,

(c) To supervise the facts and figures on energy for ensuring qualified and accurate statistics,

(d) To coordinate with Privatization Commission and Myanmar Investment Commission for changing the ratio between state-owned and private-owned sectors through privatization,

(e) For development of electrical sector, to fulfill the current requirements by laying down short-term plans,

(f) To lay down long-term plans based on sustainable development of industrial sector of the State and GDP to be able to meet the increased demand for electricity,

(g) To generate electricity with the use of coal as in many other countries as there has been greater demand for electricity and to use Clean Coal Technology (CCT) aimed at placing emphasis on environmental conservation,

(h) To strive for generating electricity depending on regions and topographical situation with the use of solar power, hydro power, wind power, geothermal, bio mass and bio fuel to be able to meet the public demand for electricity,

(i) To formulate necessary measures for adequate supply of energy for development of industrial sector,

(j) To take systematic measures in laying down development plans to be able to cover three sectors as energy, industrial and electrical sectors are mutually dependent,

(k) To prioritize and supervise oil and natural gas and natural resources to be able to meet domestic demands,

(l) To carry out oil and natural gas production through local and foreign investments in accord with international regulations,

(m) To sell value-added petrochemical products rather than unrefined ones,

(n) To coordinate natural gas and electricity generation in order to meet Urea fertilizer demand of the agriculture sector,

(o) To adopt convenient pricing policy for both consumers and investors depending on international prices,

(p) To explore environmental impact and social impact assessment ahead of the implementation and to release information the people should be informed of,

(q) To enforce energy sufficiency ambition in industry, transport and household sectors and cut energy wastages,

(r) To invite foreign and domestic investments in energy development and increase FDI in accord with international norms,

(s) To conduct necessary assessment to participate in civil nuclear energy activities in ASEAN,

(t) To adopt National Energy Security Strategy that envisages the future generations, apart from the current energy issues,

(u) to make arrangement for drafting necessary law, rules and regulations to be able to implement in accordance with the National Energy Policy and National Energy Security Strategy

(v) to invite the President Office (3), President Office (5), Union ministers, representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw (Member of the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee) and (Member of the Mineral and Natural Resources Affairs Committee).

(3) Energy Management Committee

(a) Union Minister — Chairman
Ministry of Energy

(b) Deputy Minister — Member
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

(c) Deputy Minister — Member
Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry

(d) Deputy Minister — Member
Ministry of Electric Power

(e) Deputy Minister — Member
Ministry of Energy

(f) Deputy Minister — Member
Ministry of Industry

(g) Director-General — Member
Ministry of Mines

(h) Director-General — Member
Ministry of Science and Technology

(i) U Pe Kyi — Member
Managing Director (Retd)
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy

(j) Dr Thein Tun — Member
Director-General (Retd)
Ministry of Electric Power

(k) Daw Kyaw Kyaw Win — Member
Director (Retd)
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy

(l) U Thaung Win — Member
Chairman
Energy and Renewable Energy Committee
Myanmar Engineering Society

(m) U Win Kyaing — Member
Member of the Central Executive Committee
Myanmar Renewable Energy Association

(n) The personnel nominated by the chairman — Secretary

(4) Tasks of the Energy Management Committee are as follow:

(a) to participate in laying down the energy development policy and plans of the National Energy Management Committee

(b) to coordinate with authorities concerned for changing the ratio between state-owned and private-owned sector sectors through privatization.

(c) to systematically link the Energy Plan and Industrial Development Plan as the energy sector and industrial development, which are necessary for becoming an industrialized country, are depending each other.

(d) to adopt the reform plans to be able to upgrade the situation of selling raw materials of natural resources to producing and selling value-added products.

(e) to carry out check, recheck, counter check in the field trips as statistics, facts and figures are important for making policy making and decision making regarding the projects related to the energy sector; and to carry out feasibility study to be able to get the correct facts and figures and information

(f) to seek advices and cooperation from the responsible personnel involved in the energy sector so as to get yearly approximate energy demand in terms of short-terms and long-terms.

(g) To lay down objectives and adopt rules and regulations for short-term and long-term implementation in accordance with the energy development policy laid down by the National Energy Management Committee.

(h) To carry out yearly review over the weak and strong points when implementing objectives in accordance with short-term and long-term rules and regulations, and to rewrite the rules and regulations if necessary.

(i) To lay down objectives and strategies after making assessment to opportunities and limitations regarding the tasks for energy development,

(j) To devise plan to improve and modernize the investment of the Union government, foreign and domestic investment, region/state investment,

(k) To formulate environmental conservation laws and rules to regulate energy projects to minimize environmental and social impacts,

(l) To urgently recover losses caused by unprecedented natural disasters and adopt energy reserve policy,

(m) To adopt pricing policy and form pricing committee for purchase and sale of energy product,

(n) To set work procedures to allow local entrepreneurs to hold stakes in foreign investments in coordination with scrutinized companies and organizations,

(o) To lay down plans to attract foreign and domestic investments in renewable energy projects such as solar energy, wind power, geothermal energy, biomass and biofuel projects,

(p) To regulate energy development projects by foreign and domestic investors in accord with energy development rules and regulations,

(q) To seek technology and management assistances from experienced international organizations in cooperation with local experts, hire consultancies, and review and adopt management and technology standards and norms.

(r) To educate the staff and those from private sector through media or workshop with the support of foreign and domestic experts and send them to local and foreign technological trainings,

(s) To invest in energy development under the leadership of National Energy Management Committee, tapping utmost financial and technological assistances from international monetary institutions,

(t) To gather information for effective use of energy, set plans and projects for effective utilization of energy, and adopt yearly, short-term and long-term objectives and rules and regulations for drafting the project,

(u) To gather information for effective use of energy, adopt plans and projects for effective utilization of energy, and coordinate implementation of the project, and

(v) To seek ways and means to implement generating electricity through civil nuclear energy sector in cooperation with regional and international organizations.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No. 13/2013
12th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(9 January 2013)

Reconstitution of Myanmar National Culture Central Committee

1. In order to carry out renovation task with momentum after designating ancient cultural zones and to discover and preserve ancient cultural heritages, the Myanmar National Culture Central Committee has been reconstituted with the following persons.

(a)	Union Minister Ministry of Culture	Chairman
(b)	Union Minister Ministry of President Office (1)	Member
(c)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
(d)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Border Affairs	Member
(e)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member
(f)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Information	Member
(g)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Religious Affairs	Member
(h)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation	Member
(i)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Education	Member
(j)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Construction	Member
(k)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Hotels and Tourism	Member
(l)	Director-General President Office	Member
(m)	Director-General Union Government Office	Member
(n)	Director-General Union Attorney-General Office	Member
(o)	Director-General Settlement and Land Records Department	Member
(p)	Director-General Forest Department	Member
(q)	Director-General National Archives Department	Member
(r)	Director-General Fine Arts Department	Member
(s)	Director-General Historical Research Department	Member
(t)	Rector National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon)	Member
(u)	Rector National Culture and Fine Arts University (Mandalay)	Member
(v)	Rector Anthropology Department, Yangon University	Member
(w)	Dr Toe Hla Vice-Chairman, Myanmar Historical Commission	Member
(x)	U Kyaw Win Director-General (Retd), Ministry of Culture	Member
(y)	Chairman Myanmar Traditional Arts and Crafts Association	Member
(z)	Chairman Myanmar Artists and Artistes Association	Member
(aa)	Dr Kyaw Latt Architect, Myanmar Architects Association	Member
(bb)	U Hsan Oo Architect, Myanmar Architects Society	Member
(cc)	U Than Myint Myanmar Engineering Society	Member
(dd)	Deputy Minister Ministry of Culture	Secretary
(ee)	Director-General Archeology, National Museum and Library Department	Joint-Secretary

2. The functions of the central committee are as follows:-
   (a) To designate regions out of ancient regions that should be regarded as cultural heritage regions
   (b) To make a list of ancient regions, ancient buildings and ancient artifacts that are assumed to be regarded as Myanmar cultural heritages by the government
   (c) To restrict the land use for residential buildings, roads, motor roads, farms for livelihood and other business in cultural regions and adjacent regions that need to be protected
   (d) To engage as necessary in formulating, amending and revoking laws and bylaws
   (e) To lay down policies for preservation of cultural heritages in cooperation with international governments and organizations
   (f) To engage in preservation, exposing and conducting research on cultural heritage regions
   (g) To lay down policies in uplifting national prestige and integrity, safeguarding cultural heritages and national characters and dynamism of patriotism
   (h) To preserve fundamental traditional cultures of Myanmar national races to ensure the youth are interested in and value and cherish traditional cultures of Myanmar national races;
   (i) To constantly observe, discover, preserve and promote traditional cultural performing arts of Myanmar national races, traditional arts of ethnic communities and ten arts and crafts and so forth;
   (j) To try for development and higher quality of cultural arts Myanmar national races;
   (k) To enable tangible and intangible cultural heritages in Myanmar to be put on world's cultural heritage list;
   (l) To categorize the tangible and intangible cultural heritages recorded and submitted by respective departments into three classes—world's cultural heritagelevel, national cultural heritage level and region/state's cultural heritage level;
   (m) To set the levels of museums in regions and states depending on collected items on display, display pattern, level of educative performance of the museum to local people and structure of the museum building;
   (n) To discover and record cultural customs that are nearly extinction in order to safeguard and preserve traditional customs of national races;
   (o) To adopt policies for drafting and enacting law on establishment of national museum and other kinds of museums;
   (p) To adopt policies for drafting and enacting safeguarding national intangible cultural heritages;
   (q) To expand the numbers of historical site landmark gardens, archaeological site landmark gardens;
3. The Notification No. 30/2011 dated 20-4-2011 of the President Office was abrogated by this letter.

Sd/Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT for YRG Authority Computer Training Course opened

YANGON, 9 Jan—IT for YRG Authority Computer Training Course was opened at Yangon Region Govern-ment Office here this morning.

On the occasion, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe called for the departmental personnel to apply e-Government system in IT Age.

The Region Chief Minister, Speaker of the Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win and Judge of High Court of the Region U Win Swe presented certificates of honour to sponsors of the course.

The 27-week course is being attended by the Region Government and state level departmental personnel.

The Region Chief Minister attended the stake-driving ceremony of Royal Hsu Htoo Pan Tower at the corner of 36th Street and Bogyoke Aung San Road.

Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, Royal Hsu Htoo Pan Tower Chairman U Than Htut, Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe and Chairman of Great Father Land Co., Ltd U Kyaw Myint cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

The 23-storey Royal Hsu Htoo Pan Tower is complete with classy offices, shopping mall, hotel, motel and two advanced cinemas. *MNA*

Donate Blood

MRTV adjust evening news hours

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Myanma Radio and Television, the state-run broadcaster, has changed its news hours in response to suggestions of viewers.

Long news broad-casting grind was subject to complaints of boring views which force MRTV to change its shifts. MRTV broadcasts local news for 15 minutes starting from 6 pm and 8 pm and for 30 minutes starting from 10 pm from 9 January as the oldest TV station in Myanmar is starting to redefine itself as Public Service Broadcasting.—*MNA*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FU YANG SHAN VOY NO (104)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FU YANG SHAN VOY NO (104) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.1.2013 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (487)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (487) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.1.2013 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

"INVITATION"

The 125th Anniversary of the Hindu Temple Sri Sri Durga Bari, No.307, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon, which was founded in the year 1888 will be celebrated from 16th January 2013 to 21st January 2013 in a befitting manner.

The INAUGURATION CEREMONY will be held at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, the 17th January 2013.

All are cordially invited.

Celebration Committee

Crowds of Filipinos pray to statue for health, blessings

MANILA, 9 Jan—Hundreds of thousands of barefoot Filipinos crowded around a black statue of Jesus Christ believed to bring miracles to the faithful, seeking the answer to prayers in a day-long procession through old Manila on Wednesday. Roman Catholic devotees flocked around the carriage with the wooden, life-sized statue known as the "Black Nazarene" as it crawled through the city, praying that a slight touch would bless them, healing their illnesses and those of their relatives.

Others participated to give thanks for answered prayers, such as a new job, a baby and even winning lotteries. "Everything we prayed for, He granted," said Girlie Tan, a mother of four, as she squeezed through crowds to get closer to the statue. "My children -- they used to study in a public school, now they're all in private schools."

Onlookers threw white towels and handkerchiefs to those on the carriage for them to wipe on the statue, which depicts Jesus kneeling with a heavy cross, in the hope of carrying away some of its healing powers. The procession has been celebrated in the capital of the Philippines, nearly 90 percent of whose population is Roman Catholic, for more than 200 years. The Black Nazarene is also paraded through the city streets on Good Friday.

It is not known why the statue, which was carved in Mexico, turned black. There are myths that the original statue donated by Spanish priests was burned as a fire erupted on the ship that carried it to the Philippines in the early 17th century. Police estimated that around 500,000 people gathered for an early morning Mass, and about half of them walked behind the statue at the start of the parade. Crowds were expected to swell to an estimated 10 million as devotees from all over the country flock to the annual festival.

Cornelio Cajampit has joined the procession every year for the last 15 years, ever since surviving colon cancer. "Even if its' s a struggle, I pray that my life be prolonged," he said, adding that his health had improved since he began praying to the statue. "As long as I'm still capable, I will come to this feast."—*Reuters*

The design sketch shows the scenery of the "Yellow River Mother" cultural theme park, which is located in Lanzhou, the capictal of Gansu Province.
XINHUA

Tunisia frees man held over attack on US consulate in Libya

TUNIS, 9 Jan—Tunisia has freed, for lack of evidence, a Tunisian man who had been suspected of involvement in an Islamist militant attack in Libya last year in which the US ambassador was killed, his lawyer said on Tuesday.

Ali Harzi was one of two Tunisians named in October by the *Daily Beast* website as having been detained in Turkey over the violence in which Christopher Stevens, the US ambassador to Libya, and three other American officials were killed.

"The judge decided to free Harzi and he is free now," lawyer Anouar Awled Ali told *Reuters*. "The release came in response to our request to free him for lack of evidence and after he underwent the hearing with American investigators as a witness in the case." A Tunisian justice ministry spokesman confirmed the release of Harzi but declined to elaborate.

A month ago, Harzi refused to be interviewed by visiting US FBI investigators over the September 11 assault on the US consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi.

The *Daily Beast* reported that shortly after the attacks began, Harzi posted an update on an unspecified social media site about the fighting. It said Harzi was on his way to Syria when he was detained in Turkey at the behest of US authorities, and that he was affiliated with a militant group in North Africa.—*Xinhua*

Israeli media launches pre-election campaign ads

JERUSALEM, 9 Jan—Televised campaign advertisements will begin in Israel Tuesday evening, two weeks before polling stations open across the country, with both veteran and new parties vying for the hearts and minds of voters in parliamentary elections that promise no major electoral drama.

State-owned Channel 1 and commercial television stations 10 and 2 each will broadcast one-hour nightly segments of campaign ads; Israel Radio on Tuesday began airing ads three times a day, while Army Radio will be airing them for the first time in the station's history.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose Likud party is running on a joint ticket with former Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu, will tout the foreign policy achievements of his government under the slogan "When Netanyahu speaks, the world listens," Israeli Yediot Aharonot daily reported early Tuesday.

Habayit Hayehudi (The Jewish Home), a new party that purports to offer a more hawkish alternative to Likud regarding settlement construction, will run short bursts of online video interviews with Internet viewers asked to share their view on the concept of a "Jewish home."

The campaign ad of Tzipi Livni's new center-left party Hatnuah, which has had poor showings in recent public opinion polls, reportedly adopted a "hip and innovative approach" inspired by Youtube with the primary message to voters: "A Netanyahu government is the fear, Livni is hope."

The Central Elections Committee, which sets the guidelines for pre-election campaigning and supervises their enforcement, this year allotted seven minutes of air time for each party in every one-hour broadcasting block. Among the Israeli Arab parties, Balad's televised ad decisively attacks "the bigotry and anti-democratic legislation" of Israel's radical right, while lawmaker Ahmed Tibi's Ra'am-Ta'al party will court its constituents with the promise to work toward abolishing the state's discrimination against Arabs and full social equality for the country's "Palestinian minority," according to Yediot Aharonot.—*Xinhua*

Two birds play on branches in the aviary of Hong Kong Park in south China's Hong Kong, on 8 Jan, 2013. The aviary, covering an area of 3,000 square meters, is located on a valley in the south of the park.—XINHUA

What you can do today, don't postpone until tomorrow.

Photo taken on 8 Jan, 2013 shows a burnt house at Boomer Bay of the southeastern island state of Tasmania, Australia. The fires in Tasmania are reported to have destroyed about 100 homes, and other parts of Australia are on high alert as temperatures soar.—XINHUA

SPORTS

Vasco and Brazil defender Dede

Dede could be next to join Corinthians

Rio de Janeiro, 9 Jan —Vasco and Brazil defender Dede could be the next player to join Corinthians.

During a radio interview on Tuesday Corinthians Director Roberto de Andrade suggested the Paulista outfit could sign the 24-year-old if the circumstances were right. Andrade however reaffirmed his club are yet to make an approach for the player.

"We haven't spoken to anyone yet, and we'll wait for someone to come to us. If Vasco are interested in selling they can get in contact with us," he said.

Dede has been a long-term target for Corinthians and a number of European clubs in recent months after a string of excellent displays.

But owing to Vasco's asking price and their unwillingness to part with their most prized asset an agreement has not been forthcoming.

Xinhua

Milan keen to sign Guardiola

Milan, 9 Jan — AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi said on Tuesday that he is keen to bring Pep Guardiola to the San Siro though the chances are very low.

Guardiola resigned from Barcelona managerial post in the summer after winning two Champions Leagues and three league titles in a four year spell in charge at the Camp Nou, then went into a year-long sabbatical.

The 41-year-old announced on Monday night that he is willing to make a return to coaching.

Among the speculations over Guardiola's next destination, Berlusconi hinted he hoped the Spaniard to take over from Massimiliano Allegri.

"I always tried to bring (Guardiola) to Milan, because over the last (few) years Barcelona played the best football. We contacted him, but he said he wanted to stay in a sabbatical," said Berlusconi.

"He said that at Milan he'd have fun and felt admiration towards me, and appreciation for the Lake Como, where I could offer a beautiful villa. At this moment, I have to say the percentage for him to come to Milan is very low."

Xinhua

Pep Guardiola

Donald to make Malaysian Open debut in March

Mumbai, 9 Jan — World number two Luke Donald will make his debut at the Malaysian Open this year, organizers said on Tuesday.

The tournament, co-sanctioned by the Asian and European tours, is to be held at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club from 21-24 March .

"Donald's presence, like many other top players we have had in the past, will not only draw the crowd but also strengthen Malaysia's standing on the global golfing map," said Megat Zaharuddin Megat Mohamad Nor, chairman of sponsors Maybank, in a statement.

Rory McIlroy, Louis Oosthuizen, Martin Kaymer and Charl Schwartzel are among the leading golfers who have played in previous editions of the tournament which this year will have an increased prize fund of $2.75 million, up $250,000 on 2012.

Reuters

Seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong

Armstrong to break silence in Oprah interview

Miami, 9 Jan — Lance Armstrong will break his silence about his lifetime ban from cycling and the doping charges made against him in a televised interview with Oprah Winfrey next week, the television presenter announced on Tuesday.

The interview, to be broadcast on the Oprah Winfrey Network on 17 January, will be the first the American cyclist has conducted since receiving his ban and being stripped of his seven Tour de France titles. "Armstrong will address the alleged doping scandal, years of accusations of cheating, and charges of lying about the use of performance-enhancing drugs throughout his storied cycling career," the network said in a statement. On Saturday, the *New York Times* reported that Armstrong, 41, had told associates and anti-doping officials he was considering an admission of using banned drugs.

The Times said Armstrong hoped to persuade anti-doping officials to allow him to resume competition in athletic events that adhere to the World Anti-Doping Code, under which the Texan is currently subject to a lifetime ban.

Reuters

Luke Donald of England watches his shot from the third tee during the final round of the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai on 25 Nov, 2012. —Reuters

Johnson wins windswept PGA season-opener at Kapalua

Toronto, 9 Jan—It required a lot patience and overtime but American Dustin Johnson opened the PGA Tour season with a comfortable victory at the windswept Tournament of Champions in Hawaii on Tuesday.

Johnson, who had a three-shot overnight lead, fired a five-under 68 for a 16-under 203 total on another blustery day at the Kapalua Resort to finish four shots clear of defending champion Steve Stricker (69). "Obviously it gives me a lot of confidence going into this year," Johnson, the first player since Tiger Woods to win at least one tournament in six consecutive years straight out of college, told reporters. "I'm very pleased to come out and get a win this week, I played very good golf the last two days.

"It's tough when you have a three-shot lead to stay aggressive. I just hit a couple of bad drives that cost me a few shots but other than that I played really good golf today." The weather-hit event was trimmed to three rounds and forced to a rare Tuesday finish because of relentless howling winds. The elite field of champions from last year's PGA Tour completed 36 holes on Monday after play had been abandoned the previous three days because of strong winds.

Stricker, who carded an error-free round, got to within a shot of his US Ryder Cup team mate with five holes to play but could not keep up the rally as Johnson went on to collect his seventh career win. —*Reuters*

Dustin Johnson

Monaco players set 70-point tie-break record

New York, 9 Jan — A record of 70 points for the longest tie-break in professional tennis has been set at a Futures event in Florida when Monaco's world number 636 Benjamin Balleret beat unranked compatriot Guillaume Couillard 36-34.

"We haven't been able to find a tie-break that went longer than this," the International Tennis Federation said on their Twitter account on Tuesday of the marathon tie-break which took place on Sunday. The record may not be official because of the lack of a chair umpire.

The previous record for the longest tie-break in a singles match was 38 points. It was reached three times, the latest in 1997 when Goran Ivanisevic beat Greg Rusedski in the decisive set of their encounter at the Queen's tournament in London. Grand slam winners Bjorn Borg and Andy Roddick have also won 38-point tie-breaks during their careers. Balleret and Couillard established the mark in the first set of their qualifying third round game at the Plantation Future event, the lowest category of professional tennis. Balleret, 29, reached a career high of 204 and in 2006 he played 17-times grand slam winner Roger Federer in the Monte Carlo Masters while Couillard, 37, represented Monaco in the principality's Davis Cup outing against Morocco last April.

Reuters

GENERAL

Students from BEHS(2) Tatkon opened the 2012-2013 School Family Day Festival on 6 January. MYANMA ALINN

Alabama's Saban shoots down talk of move to NFL

MIAMI, 9 Jan -- University of Alabama head coach Nick Saban, showered with acclaim after a fourth national title, said on Tuesday he has no desire to return to the National Football League and that the college game is where he belongs. Saban's Crimson Tide won their second successive national title on Monday and third in four years with a 42-14 hammering of Notre Dame. The win confirms the 61-year-old as the most successful active coach in college football -- he captured his maiden title with Louisiana State University in the 2003 season.

Then came an unhappy two seasons with the NFL's Miami Dolphins that ended in 2006, but despite his well documented disappointment there has remained speculation that Saban could be tempted back into the pro game. With five NFL teams currently having vacancies for a head coach that speculation, not surprisingly, re-emerged following Alabama's second consecutive championship. "How many times do you think I've been asked to put it to rest? And I've put it to rest, and you continue to ask it. So I'm going to say it today, that you know, I think somewhere along the line you've got to choose," he said.

"You learn a lot from the experiences of what you've done in the past," added Saban, before reflecting on the two seasons he spent in Miami after being tempted out of the college game by then Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga. "I came to the Miami Dolphins, what eight years ago for the best owner, the best person that I've ever had the opportunity to work for? And in the two years that I was here, had a very, very difficult time thinking that I could impact the organization in the way that I wanted to or the way that I was able to in college," he said before highlighting some of the reasons he prefers working with student athletes. "It was very difficult for me, because there's a lot of parity in the NFL, there's a lot of rules in the NFL. People say you can draft the players that you want to draft; you can draft a player that's there when you pick. It might not be the player you need, it might not be the player you want. You've got salary cap issues.—*Reuters*

University of Alabama head coach Nick Saban

Fish vendor dies in C Philippine robbery

ILOILO CITY, 9 Jan—A fish vendor died while two others were seriously injured in Tuesday's robbery at the central Philippine Province of Iloilo, police said on Wednesday.

Police Chief Inspector Danilo Delos Santos said that based on related reports, the victims were on their way home when two groups of motorcycle riding men waylaid them and tried to rob them. The victims tried to fight back but they were shot by one of the suspects. The suspects then ran away leaving the victims injured. The two injured are being treated at the Western Visayas Medical Centre. The police is investigating the incident.—*Xinhua*

2012 marks warmest year on record in US

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—The year of 2012 marked the warmest year on record in the contiguous United States and also the second most extreme year on record for the country, according to US federal data released on Tuesday.

Scientists of the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) found that the year of 2012 in the US consisted of the fourth warmest winter, a record warm spring, the second warmest summer and a warmer-than-average autumn. Although the last four months of 2012 did not bring the same unusual warmth as the first eight months of the year, the September through December temperatures were warm enough for 2012 to remain the record warmest year by a wide margin.

The average temperature for the contiguous US for 2012 was about 12.9 degrees Celsius, which is almost 0.6 degrees above the previous record set in 1998 and nearly 1.8 degrees above the 20th century average, according to the records dated back to 1895.

The average precipitation total for the contiguous US last year was 674.9 mm, 65.3 mm below average, making 2012 the 15th driest year on record for the country.

The NOAA's US Climate Extremes Index also indicated that last year was the second most extreme year on record for the country. The index, which evaluated extremes in temperature and precipitation, as well as landfalling tropical cyclones, was nearly twice the average value and second only to 1998.

The federal agency said last year saw 11 natural disasters that created at least 1 billion dollars in damage, including droughts, heatwaves, major wildfires, and hurricanes Sandy and Isaac.

Xinhua

Oakley challenges Nike over McIlroy move

LONDON, 9 Jan—American sunglasses maker Oakley has launched legal action to try to retain its sponsorship of world number one golfer Rory McIlroy who is set to become the new face of sportswear giant Nike. US PGA champion McIlroy is poised to rubber-stamp a 10-year deal with US company Nike worth as much as $250 million, according to media reports.

Nike is set to supply the 23-year-old Northern Irishman's clubs and have its name or logo on his clothing in an exclusive deal. However, Oakley, owned by Italy's Luxottica, is challenging the move and started legal action in its home state of California last month. "Oakley's contract with Rory has a right of first refusal that permits us to retain Rory as an Oakley endorser by matching any offer he receives covering our products," the company said in a statement to *Reuters*.

"These types of provisions are common in the industry. Oakley values Rory and will do all it can to retain him," it added.

The Dubai-based hotel company Jumeirah Group confirmed earlier on Tuesday that its five-year sponsorship with 2011 US Open champion McIlroy had ended, the latest indication that confirmation of the Nike deal was imminent. "Jumeirah became my first corporate sponsor when I turned professional back in 2007 and I would like to thank everyone at the company for their support in helping me become the player I am today," McIlroy said in a news release. The player, who topped the money-lists on both sides of the Atlantic last year, said in November he did not think that ditching the Titleist clubs that have taken him to the top of the sport would affect his game. Nike is hoping a partnership with the clean-cut McIlroy will help it to move on after it dropped disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong last year over his doping scandal.

Reuters

More withdrawals hit Australian Open warm-ups

Gilles Simon of France talks during a news conference at the Sydney International tennis tournament on 9 Jan, 2013. Simon withdrew from the tournament due to a neck injury.—REUTERS

SYDNEY, 9 Jan -- Gilles Simon, Radek Stepanek and Kei Nishikori all pulled out of Australian Open warm-up events on Wednesday as fields at the tournaments in the week running up to the year's first grand slam continued to be depleted by injury. Frenchman Simon, who sustained a neck injury playing doubles on Tuesday, and Czech Stepanek withdrew from the men's draw at the Sydney International, while Japan's Nishikori was forced to pull out of the Kooyong Classic with a knee injury.

Nishikori was the second player to withdraw from the eight-man field at Kooyong before the tournament got underway on Wednesday with Argentine Juan Monaco blaming a hand injury for his pull-out on Tuesday. "The week before the slams, players don't want to take any risks, which is normal but sad also for this one because Sydney is a very nice tournament and deserves to have a very nice draw," Sydney second seed and 2011 champion Simon told reporters.

"We just try the maximum to be ready and if we feel it's too difficult to be on the court ... I mean, for me today, there is no point in me going out and losing 6-2 6-2 playing 50 percent.

Reuters

Golfer Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland watches as his girlfriend Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark plays Ksenia Pervak of Kazakhstan during their women's singles match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane on 31 Dec, 2012—REUTERS

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Speaker urges MPs to coordinate, cooperate with authorities to help address challenges of people

Five Pyithu Hluttaw representatives take affirmation in the presence of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan— The sixth regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will discuss the important national projects and budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and approve the tax bill, said Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann.

In his opening address of the sixth regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw here today, Thura U Shwe Mann also called for coordination and cooperation between the Hluttaw representatives and authorities responsible for administration and judiciary to help settle challenges of the people apart from discussions, submitting proposals and legislation at the Hluttaws.

During today's meeting, five foreign visits paid by the Deputy Speaker and MPs of Pyithu Hluttaw were put on record and six questions were raised and answered.

U Win Sein, Chairman of the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, reported on the answers of the respective ministries by mail to the remaining questions of the fifth session.

During the previous session of Pyithu Hluttaw, out of starred 341 questions, 85 questions were raised. Pyithu Hlutttaw have received answers to 244 questions, out of the remaining 256 starred questions, so far from the respective ministries and there are only eight questions which have not yet answered.

Pyithu Hluttaw have received answers to 247 questions, out of non-starred 256 questions, from the respective ministries and there are only nine questions which have not yet answered.

During today's session, the Chief Justice of the Union submitted **a bill revoking the Custodian of Movable Property Act 1945** and Daw Tin Nwe Oo of the Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency **a bill revoking the 1933 Municipal Law.**

The Bill Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw discussed **the Disaster Management Bill, treasury bonds bill, a bill amending the transfer of property act, a bill revoking the Custodian of Movable Property Act 1945 and a bill revoking the 1933 Municipal Law.**

Regarding **the Disaster Management Bill** submitted by the Union Government, U T Khun Myat, Chairman of the Bill Committee, said that the Disaster Management Law would help to carry out rescue, rehabilitation and environmental conservation tasks speedily and independently in the country.

There are eight chapters and 20 sections in the bill. The law is aimed at setting up the national level committee and regional committees to speed up the disaster management tasks systematically and effectively in an attempt to reduce losses and damages caused by disasters, encouraging coordination and cooperation among governmental departments, NGOs and INGOs and overseas organizations to carry out disaster management tasks, encouraging conservation of environment when it is damaged by disasters and assisting in education, health, socio-economy and livelihood of the people.

The second day session continues tomorrow.

MNA

Proposals calling for cultivating of democratic practices in BEHSs, fully lifting of US sanctions against Myanmar submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan — In his greetings at the six-day session of first Amyotha Hluttaw, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint urged those present to strive for completion of ongoing tasks at the Hluttaw session where it is planned to pass of National Planning Bill and Union Government Budget Bill. Hluttaw representatives of respective committees would be allowed to focus on their committee-wise matters after the Hluttaw sessions, he added.

The Speaker called on Hluttaw representatives to shoot short-to-the-point questions in accord with the provisions stated in Amyotha Hluttaw Bylaw 126 (e) in which those concerned are to reply short answers.

Regarding the question raised by Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No (6) on the Union government's implementation of the plans laid down by the 4th GMS, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw replied that plans were underway to focus on fostering regional cooperation among the nations for more investments in infrastructural development. Papers on investment in goods transport and service sectors and on SME credit guarantee scheme and industrial development of GMS economic corridor were submitted and discussed.

The MoU on formation of Freight and Transport Association among GMS nations was signed. Myanmar hosted 4th GMS Economic Corridor Forum and other GMS meetings and Strategic Framework and Action Plan and Draft Action Plan for GMS Human Resources Development.

Regarding the question raised by Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No (4) on whether there is a plan to take actions against entrepreneurs who committed malpractices in garment sectors, the Union minister vowed to take actions against those found guilty of malpractices in a tour of inspection made by a combined team comprising UMFCCI officials and those from Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw approved Bill Revoking the Law Protecting the Peaceful and Systematic Transfer of State Responsibility and the Successful Performance of the Functions of the National Convention against Disturbances and Oppositions and Bill Revoking the National Traditional Medicine Council sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Economic and Commerce Committee Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye and Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Monetary and Taxation Committee read out the reports of their committees.

Then U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency No (5) submitted a proposal urging the Union government to make necessary measures for cultivating democratic practices in basic education high schools and U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No (12) submitted a proposal urging the Union government to call on the US government for fully lifting of its sanctions against Myanmar. The Hluttaw approved to hold discussions on the proposals.—MNA

An Amyotha Hluttaw representative takes affirmation at Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

Moderate earthquake hits 19 miles west of Htamanthi

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.9 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, about 19 miles west of Htamanthi, about 240 miles northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 8 hr 11 min 22 sec M.S.T today, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced.

MNA