

Vice-President U Nyan Tun visits “Shwe” offshore natural gas project, Myanmar-China oil and gas pipeline project

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Patron of National Energy Management Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun visited “Shwe” offshore natural gas production site of Daewoo Company, partner of the Ministry of Energy today.

Chairman of National Energy Management Committee Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and Deputy Minister for Energy U Htin Aung accompanied the Vice-President on his tour.

The Vice-President heard reports on production process and environmental conservation measures presented by Site Representative Mr Thomas Coleman and Managing Director Mr SB Joo. He presented a basket of fruits to local and foreign technicians working there.

The Vice-President and party then attended the opening of the gas platform of “Shwe” offshore natural



gas production project. The Vice-President then looked round operations at the platform which is situated 70 kilometers from Sittway

and 105 kilometers from Kyaukpyu.

The Vice-President then visited Myanmar-China oil and natural gas

pipeline project in Ma-de Island in Kyaukpyu Township and heard reports on implementation progress of the project presented by

Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union Ministers U Than Htay and U Khin Maung Soe, Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and Deputy Minister U Htin Aung at “Shwe” offshore natural gas project.—MNA



“Shwe” rig of Daewoo Company.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents basket of fruits to a technician of “Shwe” project.—MNA

South East Asia Pipeline Co Ltd (SEAP) Chairman Mr Jiang Changliang of CNPC Company and Union Minister U Than Htay. He then looked round the construction works of the project.

The Vice-President then viewed construction of

onshore gas terminal being undertaken by Daewoo Co, construction of No.1 concrete pontoon bridge and another pontoon bridge built by Daewoo for locals. The Vice-President and party arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Outstanding persons of Taninthayi Region honoured



DAWEI, 12 Jan — A ceremony to present prizes to outstanding persons of Taninthayi Region was held at the town hall in Dawei on

4 January.

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Kospoke on the occasion, and presented prizes to outstanding

persons who were awarded in International and Central level competitions and U Khin Maung Gyi, Dawei correspondent of Kyemon Daily, who rescued Maung Shin Thant, Grade IX student of Longlon Township basic education middle school, from the danger.

Next, the Speaker of the Region Hluttaw and region ministers awarded outstanding persons.

After the ceremony, the chief minister and party cordially greeted those present.

Kyemon

Seizure of illegal teak, hardwood in regions, states

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan — A combined force comprising staff of Kyaukpyu Township Forest Department and police members of Myoma Police Station seized 2.5146 tons of sawn timber and arrested three suspects while conducting a search of a vehicle at the checkpoint on the road to Kyaukpyu on 3 January.

Likewise, staff of forest department launched a search and seizure for illegal teak and hardwood in the townships of Ayeyawady Region during the period from 26 to 31 December. Staff of Kangyidaunt Township Forest Department seized 2.361 tons of teak together with one motorized boats and two boats and arrested three suspects in the Kyein

creek near Kywekhaung village in the township. Staff of Patheingyi Township Forest Department seized 1.673 tons of hardwood and arrested two suspects while searching a vehicle on Patheingyi-Chaungtha road in the township. Staff of Ngapudaw Township Forest Department seized 2.7818 tons of hardwood together with three trailers and arrested four suspects while conducting a search of the three trailers on Patheingyi-Mawtin road in the township. Staff of Yekyi Township Forest Department and police members seized 7.6034 tons of sawn wood and a vehicle and arrested two suspects at Yenantha checkpoint in the township. Staff of Nyaungdon Township Forest

Department seized 3.8282 tons of sawn woods at the tollgate of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) and arrested three suspects in the township.

Staff of Thabaung Township Forest Department seized 4.5310 tons of ownerless hardwood at Hsaungbonkyaw village in the township.

In Sagaing Region, staff of forest departments in Katha District, Pinlebu and Kawlin Township seized 23.4136 tons of teak and hardwood, a sawmill and wood-cutting equipment and arrested four suspects in the forest reserves while combing the area to take action against illegal timber extraction on 6 January.

Similarly, staff of Lewe Township Forest Department seized 5.5108 tons of hardwood and three suspects while making a search of a vehicle on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway on 4 January.

The team also seized four carts carrying 1.484 ton of illegal teak together with eight head of cattle near Hngetpyaw village in the township. The suspects were at large.

MNA

Cold storage fire in Kyauktan

KYAUKTAN, 12 Jan — A fire broke out at Aung Moe Khaing crab cold storage near west ward of Kyauktan Township in Yangon South District at about 4 pm yesterday.

The fire started the leakage of ammonia gas came out of the pipeline in

Myanmar leads first-day archery contest of fifth Southeast Asian Archery Championship

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan — The first-day of the fifth Southeast Asian Archery Championship and the archery trials of the XXVII SEA Games took place at Wunnatheikdi archery shooting range in Zabuthiri Township, here, yesterday morning.

Among the spectators were Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, the president of Myanmar Archery Federation and

(team), Myanmar team stood first, Malaysia second and Vietnam third. At men's compound archery contest (individual), Mr. Nguyen Tien Cuong stood first followed by Mr. I Gusti Nyoman Purnhito (Indonesia) and Mr. Nguyen Tuan Anh (Vietnam). At men's compound archery contest (team), Vietnam team stood first and Myanmar second.

At women's compound

recurve archery contest (individual), Mr. Khairul Anuar Mohamad (Malaysia) stood first followed by Mr. Atiq Bazil Bakri (Malaysia) and Mr. Si Lei Tan (Singapore). At men's recurve archery contest (team), Malaysia stood first, Myanmar second and Vietnam third.

At the first day archery contest of the fifth Southeast Asian Archery Championship participated



responsible persons.

At the women's recurve archery contest (individual), Thin Thin Khine (Myanmar) stood first followed by Ms. Loc Thi Dao (Vietnam) and Ms. Nur Aliya Ghapar (Malaysia). At women's archery contest

archery contest (individual), Aung Hngein (Myanmar) stood first, Ms. Sri Ranti (Indonesia) second and Yaw Sein Ya (Myanmar) third. At women's archery contest (team), Vietnam team finished runner-up behind Myanmar. At men's

by Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia, Myanmar women archery team won four gold and one bronze and Myanmar men archery team bagged two silver.

MNA

Motorcyclist killed in head-on collision with hit-and-run truck

PYU, 12 Jan — A head-on collision happened to a truck and a motorbike in front of the Ottarayon monastery on Yangon-Mandalay old road near Wedaunk village of Pyu Township on 8 January. According to the information

that a truck collided head-on with a motorbike in front of the monastery at about 7.45 pm on that day, police member of Pyu Police Station rushed there and made an investigation into the road accident. Prathi Kuma, 35, was found dead together

with his wrecked motorbike at a place between mile post Nos (142/7) and (143/0) on Yangon-Mandalay road. Pyu Police Station filed a lawsuit against the hit-and-run driver and the investigation into the hit-and-run accident is ongoing. —Kyemon

Myanmar Equestrian Federation to celebrate its 40th Anniversary

YANGON, 12 Jan — A press meet to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Myanmar Equestrian Federation took place at Sein Hlyan Restaurant on Saya San Road in Bahan Township, here, on 10 January.

First, Myanmar Eque-

strian Federation President U Nyein Kyaw elaborated the difficult emergence of the association, the role of the association in winning several medals in international events for the country and its training lessons and turning out of

selected jockeys from the association.

Next, the president and responsible answered the queries on training lessons used in nurturing new generation raised by media persons.

Kyemon



Photo shows a herd of cattle grazing on the railroad under the North Okkalapa bridge on 9 January. Breeders' indiscipline in taking care of their cattle may cause rail accident while Myanmar Railways is striving for the safety of trains and convenience of users by carrying out the substitution of wooden sleepers with concrete ones and maintenance works in Yangon Region. — KYEMON



the cold storage. Firefighters accompanied by 19 fire engines and two water bowsers brought the fire under control at about 5 pm.

The fire engulfed machines and furniture worth K 15 million and left no one injured.

Kyemon

WORLD

Obama, Karzai accelerate end of US combat role in Afghanistan



US President Barack Obama (L) and Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai shake hands at the conclusion of a news conference at the White House in Washington on 11 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan—President Barack Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai agreed on Friday to speed up the handover of combat operations in Afghanistan to Afghan forces, raising the prospect of an accelerated US withdrawal from the country and underscoring Obama's determination to wind down

a long, unpopular war.

Signaling a narrowing of differences, Karzai appeared to give ground in talks at the White House on US demands for immunity from prosecution for any American troops who stay in Afghanistan beyond 2014, a concession that could allow Obama to keep at least a small residual force there.

Both leaders also threw their support behind tentative Afghan reconciliation efforts with Taliban insurgents, endorsing the establishment of a Taliban political office in Qatar in hopes of bringing insurgents to inter-Afghan talks. Outwardly, at least, the meeting appeared to be something of a success for both men, who need to show their vastly different publics they are making progress in their goals for Afghanistan. There were no signs of the friction that has frequently marked Obama's relations with Karzai.

Karzai's visit came amid stepped-up deliberations in Washington over the size and scope of the US military role in Afghanistan once the NATO-led combat mission concludes at the end of 2014.

"By the end of next year, 2014, the transition will be complete," Obama said at a News Conference with Karzai standing at his

side. "Afghans will have full responsibility for their security, and this war will come to a responsible end."

The Obama administration has been considering a residual force of between 3,000 and 9,000 troops—far fewer than some US commanders propose—to conduct counterterrorism operations and to train and assist Afghan forces.

A top Obama aide said this week that the administration does not rule out a complete withdrawal after 2014, a move that some experts say would be disastrous for the weak Afghan central government and its fledgling security apparatus.

Obama on Friday left open the possibility of that so-called "zero option" when he several times used the word "if" to suggest that a post-2014 US presence was far from guaranteed.

Reuters

Spain seizes valves bound for Iran's nuclear programme

MADRID, 12 Jan—Spanish police arrested two men and seized the contents of a truck bound for Iran loaded with materials destined for use in the Islamic state's nuclear programme, the Interior Ministry said on Friday.

The truck, intercepted on

men worked, a ministry spokesman said.

"The company, registered in the Basque Country, used false companies in the United Arab Emirates for the deliveries, channeling cash through banks in other countries," the ministry statement said.



Seized highly corrosion-resistant valves are seen in an unknown location in this handout picture provided by the Spanish police on 11 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

a motorway in northern Spain early on Wednesday, was carrying highly corrosion-resistant valves, the ministry said in a statement. Police were examining computer databases and documents at Fluval Spain, the company where the two arrested

The company had commercial links with Iranian firms that featured on lists drawn up by the European Union as having connections with Teheran's nuclear programme, the ministry said.

Reuters

Central African Republic signs peace deal with rebels

LIBREVILLE, 12 Jan—Central African Republic's government and rebels agreed on Friday to the formation of a national unity government under a ceasefire deal to end an insurgency that swept to within striking distance of the capital. The agreement, signed in Gabon's coastal capital Libreville after three days of talks mediated by regional neighbours, averted the biggest threat to President Francois Bozize's decade in charge of the mineral-rich former French colony.

Aid groups had warned that a rebel attack on the capital Bangui could trigger a humanitarian crisis. Rebel spokesman Eric Massi said the

deal was good for the country's conflict-weary citizens, but warned fighting could erupt again if the government failed to meet a list of rebel demands included in the accord.

Massi said that among the Seleka rebel coalition's demands was the release of political prisoners held by the government and the withdrawal of most of the foreign forces deployed to reinforce the country's military. The deal also called for the transitional government to have a prime minister drawn from the opposition, and for a parliamentary election to be held within 12 months to replace the current national assembly.

"We will judge Mr.



Michel Am-Nondokro Djotodia (L), leader of Central African Republic's (CAR) Seleka rebel alliance, shakes hands with CAR's President Francois Bozize (R) during peace talks with delegations representing the government and the opposition rebels in Libreville on 11 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Bozize's sincerity in the coming days," Massi told Reuters by telephone. UN special envoy to Central African Republic, Margaret Vogt, told the UN Security

Council on Friday that the government and rebels needed to discuss why past peace deals had failed to avoid history repeating itself.—Reuters

Syria rebels seize base as envoy holds talks

BEIRUT/GENEVA, 12 Jan—Rebels seized control of one of Syria's largest helicopter bases on Friday, opposition sources said, in their first capture of a military airfield used by President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

Fighting raged across the country as international mediator Lakhdar Brahimi sought a political solution to Syria's civil war, meeting senior US and Russian officials in Geneva.

But the two world powers are still deadlocked over Assad's fate in any transition. The United States, which backs the 21-month-old revolt, says Assad can play no future role, while Syria's main arms supplier Russia said before the talks that his exit should not be a precondition for negotiations. Syria is mired

in bloodshed that has cost more than 60,000 lives and displaced millions of people. Severe winter weather is compounding their misery. The UN children's agency UNICEF says more than 2 million children are struggling to stay warm.

The capture of Taftanaz air base, after months of sporadic fighting, could help rebels solidify their hold on northern Syria, according to Rami Abdelrahman, head of the pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. In Geneva, UN-Arab League envoy Brahimi's closed-door talks began with individual meetings with US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov. He later held talks with both sides together.—Reuters



Syrian refugees queue to receive food and bread at Bab al-Salam refugee camp in Syria near the Turkish border on 10 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

France launches military intervention in Mali against terrorists offensive

PARIS, 12 Jan—French President Francois Hollande announced on Friday that French forces have launched military intervention in support of Malian troops countering rebels' offensive. "We are faced with a blatant aggression that is threatening Mali's very existence. France can not accept this," said the French head of state.

"I have decided that France will respond, together with our African partners, to the request from Malian authorities. We will do it strictly within the framework

of a UN Security Council resolution," the president said, referring to motions adopted by the UN Security Council since the beginning of the crisis in Mali in March 2012. Hollande's remarks came after Malian President Dioncounda Traore made a request to UN Security Council and Hollande, seeking for military aid from France countering the military movements and attacks by terrorist and extremist groups.

The UN Security Council had agreed last

month to authorize the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA), with 3,300 soldiers deployed, to support the African country in its fight against terrorists and armed rebel groups.

Latest reports showed that Mali's rebel groups had controlled the northern half of the country and are heading south. They have captured the strategic city of Konna, a central town of 50,000 people some 700 km northeast of capital Bamako, putting

Mali sovereignty at risk.

The situation had caused UN's grave concern about the military movements of rebel groups along the frontline in northern Mali.

The Security Council met on Thursday, calling on member states to "assist the settlement of the crisis and, in particular, to provide assistance to the Malian Defence and Security Forces in order to reduce the threat posed by terrorist organizations and associated groups."

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Amazon offers free digital versions of purchased CDs

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Jan—Amazon.com Inc, taking aim at Apple's dominant iTunes store, on Thursday unveiled a service that it hopes will boost digital music sales and encourage more people to use its Cloud music service.

Amazon launched Amazon AutoRip, which gives customers free digital versions of music CDs they purchase from the world's largest Internet retailer.

The digital music files are automatically stored in customer libraries in remote datacenters run by Amazon, where they are available to play or download immediately through the company's Cloud Player service, the company said.

Amazon customers who have bought AutoRip-eligible CDs at any time since the company started selling discs in 1998 will also get digital versions of that music stored in their Cloud Player libraries for free, the company added.

Amazon's MP3 digital music business has been around since 2007, but its market share is less than 15 percent, according to The NPD Group. Apple Inc's iTunes store is the clear leader, with over 50 percent of the market.

The move sparked speculation that Amazon may be able to do the same for books, making Kindle ebook copies of physical titles.

"It would even be profitable for Amazon.com to pay publishers a subsidy to transition all the books purchased on Amazon.com to Kindle books," said Scott Devitt, an analyst at Morgan Stanley. "Having a digital library that is accessible only on the Kindle platform essentially locks a customer into the Kindle ecosystem forever."

"If executed, it would possibly be the largest coup in company history," he added.

An Amazon spokeswoman did not respond to an

e-mail seeking comment on Thursday afternoon about a book version of AutoRip.



More than 50,000 albums are available for AutoRip. Steve Boom, head of digital music at Amazon, said the company focused on music that has been the most popular among its customers during the past 15 years.

Albums include "21" by Adele; "Overexposed" by Maroon 5; "Dark Side of the Moon" by Pink Floyd and "Thriller" by Michael Jackson.

Boom declined to estimate how many CDs

A zoomed illustration image of a man looking at a computer monitor showing the logo of Amazon is seen in Vienna on 26 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

Amazon expects to digitize through the new service. However, he noted that the company has sold hundreds of millions of CDs to millions of customers.

"When we picked those 50,000 titles we focused on having a substantial majority of our physical CD sales covered," he added. "People will be exposed to Cloud Player and our digital music offering, which is a good thing," Boom said. "We want to take this global."—Reuters

Verizon CEO says no Verizon Wireless buyout talks with Vodafone

LAS VEGAS, 12 Jan—Verizon Communications is not in talks with Vodafone Group Plc about taking full ownership of their Verizon Wireless venture, despite market speculation this week that such a deal could happen, Verizon's top executive said.

"There's no discussions about it," Verizon Chief Executive Lowell McAdam told Reuters late on Tuesday at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Verizon, which owns 55 percent of the wireless venture, has long said that it would be interested in buying out Vodafone if the 45

percent owner would sell its stake.

Vodafone shares rose 2.6 percent on Tuesday and added almost 8 points to the FTSE 100 Index, the UK benchmark, after McAdam was quoted in a Dow Jones report saying that a deal could be feasible.

But McAdam said his comment did not mean that Verizon was any more likely now to be able to purchase Vodafone's 45 percent stake in Verizon Wireless than it was before.

"It's been feasible for 10 years," McAdams said. "There's nothing that's changed."—Reuters



Lowell McAdam, Verizon's chief executive officer (CEO), speaks at the closing first day keynote at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 8 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Weightlessness no cure for "morning clumsies," astronaut says

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 12 Jan—Like many people, Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield confesses that he's sometimes clumsy in the morning just after waking up.

The three-time astronaut, now living aboard the International Space Station, was surprised to learn that did not change in the weightless environment of space.

"When I come out of my sleeping berth to go into our galley and our bathroom, I bump into things even though I'm floating weightless," the 53-year-old pilot told reporters during an in-flight Press conference on Thursday.

"You can still have the morning clumsies up here and that surprised me," said Hadfield, who is in line to become the first Canadian commander of the orbital outpost in March.

Hadfield has been sharing his experiences in orbit with a growing flock of Twitter followers. His "Cmdr—Hadfield" Twitter account

has added more than 130,000 new subscribers since the astronaut blasted off on 19 December for a six-month stay on the station.

"What we're doing on the space station is fundamentally fascinating ... It encapsulates where we are in history, with people permanently living off Earth. With these new technologies and communications, we can directly give people the human side of that," said Hadfield, who now has more than 163,000 followers.

In between Twitter posts about false fire alarms and fixing the station's toilet, Hadfield has been sharing photographs taken from his unique vantage point 250 miles above Earth.

His favourite subject so far has been so-called noctilucent, or "night shining" clouds that form at the outermost edge of Earth's atmosphere. These tenuous patches of ice crystals are barely visible from the planet's surface, but sparkle clearly in orbit, Hadfield said.—Reuters

GM to open third US tech centre, hire 1,000 people

DETROIT, 12 Jan—General Motors Co will open a third US information technology centre as part of its plan to bring that work in-house and improve the automaker's efficiency and productivity.

GM said on Thursday it will hire about 1,000 people, including software developers, database experts and business analysts, to staff the centre near Atlanta. It will be the third of four centres in the United States GM previously said it would open.

Last summer, GM, a pioneer in outsourcing information technology, said it would reverse that trend with plans to vastly expand the number of in-house IT experts over three years.

At the time of the announcement, GM outsourced



A view of the General Motors headquarters at the Renaissance Centre in Detroit, Michigan is seen in this file photograph taken August 25, 2009.

REUTERS

some 90 percent of its IT services and provided 10 percent of that work in-house, an approach that had been the model at the Detroit company for most of the last three decades. The US automaker said it planned to flip those percentages.

GM Chief Information Officer Randy Mott, a former Hewlett-Packard Co executive, outlined his plans last June to GM's IT employees, which then numbered

about 1,500. GM currently employs about 2,200 IT staff and that number will rise to about 9,000 when the transition is completed, Mott said on Thursday. "We've been on a journey for the past few months to transform GM IT," Mott told reporters on a conference call. "One of the key strategies in this turnaround is the opening of (information technology) innovation centres in key US markets and bringing the work back

in-house to GM."

Last October, GM said it would shift 3,000 people over six months to its payroll from HP, which has long handled IT work for the automaker. In the two months prior to that, GM had announced plans to hire 2,000 workers to staff new IT centres in Texas and Michigan. The location of the fourth IT centre will be announced later but employment will be on the same scale, Mott said.

GM said it has hired more than 700 IT specialists to work at the centres in Austin, Texas, and Warren, Michigan. The Georgia centre will be located in Roswell, a northern suburb of Atlanta, and Mott said interviews for the location will begin next week with hiring to occur as soon as possible.—Reuters

EU says Google must change search results presentation

LONDON, 12 Jan — Google will be forced to change the way its search results are presented in Europe or face antitrust charges for "diverting traffic" to its own services, The Financial Times reported the European Union's antitrust chief as saying.

The EU's competition commissioner, Joaquin Almunia, told the newspaper in an interview published on Friday that he intends to prevent Google from allegedly distorting choices for consumers and taking business

from rivals.

"We are still investigating, but my conviction is are diverting traffic," the newspaper quoted him as saying, referring to Google's preferential treatment of its own vertical search services.

"They are monetizing this kind of business, the strong position they have in the general search market and this is not only a dominant position, I think—I fear—there is an abuse of this dominant position," he said.

The EU issued Google an ultimatum on 18 Decem-



A neon Google logo is seen as employees work at the new Google office in Toronto, on 13 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

ber, giving it a month to come up with detailed proposals to resolved a two-year investigation into complaints that it used its power to block rivals such as Microsoft

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Google has been the centre of a two-year investigation by the EU based on complaints that Google unfairly favoured its services over its rivals in search results and that it may have copied material from travel and restaurant websites without permission. Almunia told the newspaper that his concern was "the way they present their own services" and that he was "not discussing the algorithm" the top-secret formula behind Google's search engine.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Cancer studies often downplay chemo side effects

LONDON, 12 Jan—Doctors relying on studies published in top journals for guidance on treating women with breast cancer may not be getting the most accurate information, with the side effects of various treatments downplayed, according to a North American study.

“Investigators want to go overboard to make their studies look positive,” said Ian Tannock, senior author of the study that appeared in the *Annals of Oncology*.

In two-thirds of the 164 studies that Tannock and his colleagues scrutinized, that meant not listing serious side effects, whether of chemotherapy, radiation or surgery, in the paper’s abstract. Such abstracts summarize the findings, and run a few hundred words. That’s important, said Tannock, at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, because doctors have little time to read.

“Most of us are so damn busy, we only read the abstract and skim the tables and figures,” he added. In fact, a fifth of the studies didn’t include



A patient receives chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer at the Antoine-Lacassagne Cancer Centre in Nice on 26 July, 2012.—REUTERS

serious side effects in results tables, and about a third failed to mention them in either the abstract or the discussion section. Most surprising, said Tannock, was that in a third of the studies, if the treatment didn’t work as well as one might hope, researchers moved the goalposts, reporting results that weren’t what the study was originally designed to test. Often, those so-called “secondary endpoints” may be less important and meaningful. There is a difference, for example, between showing people lived longer overall, or simply lived longer without their cancers coming

back. Cancer research is not the only area where some researchers are concerned.

In November, a group of cardiology journal editors urged authors to watch their language when describing their results, and a month earlier two pediatrics researchers warned of “spin and boasting” in their field’s journals.

Tannock, whose team analyzed reports of late-stage trials of the kind used by the US Food and Drug Administration to decide whether to approve drugs, said researchers “gain more influence with positive studies.” There are

also various pressures on researchers to make their results look better than they really are, he added, including from the drug companies that often sponsor trials. But in his study, who paid for a study didn’t have any relationship with how the results were presented.

Scientists may also spin their results to increase their chances of publishing in the top journals surveyed by the study. Such marquee publications can improve the chances for tenure, promotion and grants.

One of the journals whose studies Tannock and his colleagues looked at, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, declined to comment, saying they don’t typically comment on other studies. Another, the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, could not provide a comment by deadline.

Journals can help, Tannock said, by insisting that authors include serious side effects in abstracts.

“Even in 250 words, everybody can get that in there,” he said.—Reuters

American Express to cut 5,400 jobs, take charges in fourth quarter

NEW YORK, 12 Jan—Credit card company American Express Co said it would cut about 5,400 jobs, or 8.5 percent of its workforce, as it restructures its business and pay legal bills. The steps will cost the company about \$600 million in charges in the fourth quarter after taxes, which will halve its net income.

Nearly \$300 million of the charges are to cover restructuring, primarily in its travel division, to save money and adapt to the fact that customers increasingly book travel online and on their mobile phones instead of with travel agents.

The other half of the charges are for higher costs from customers redeeming more rewards for spending with cards, as well as \$153

million of payments to reimburse customers that were overcharged or short-changed benefits.

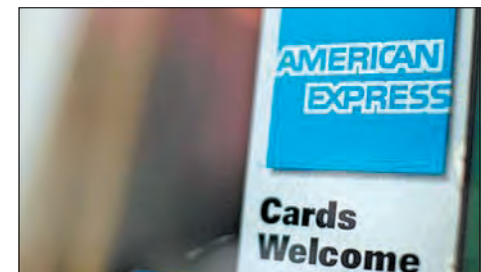
American Express tends to cut staff at the beginning of recessions. But CEO Kenneth Chenault, speaking to stock analysts after the announcement on Thursday, said spending with its cards continues to grow.

“This is not driven by our view of the macro environment,” he said.

The company said the job cuts will happen over the year and come even as it hires some new employees and invests in more online customer service. The current workforce of 63,500 people will be about 4 to 6 percent smaller by the end of 2013.

Reuters

An American Express sign is seen on a restaurant door in New York on 22 July, 2010. REUTERS



Fed hawks worry about threat of inflation

“A prolonged period of zero interest rates may substantially increase the risks of future financial imbalances and hamper attainment of the 2 percent inflation goal in the future,” she said in her most extensive remarks in a year on policy.

“Monetary policy, by contributing to financial imbalances and instability, can just as easily aggravate unemployment as heal it,” she said in a speech in Kansas City.

That stance is hardly representative of other influential officials at the central bank, including Bernanke and the vice chair, Janet Yellen.

Their view was more closely captured by

comments from Narayana Kocherlakota, who noted inflation was forecast to remain below the central bank’s 2 percent target for the foreseeable future, even by the Fed’s own estimates.

“This forecast suggests that, if anything, monetary policy is currently too tight, not too easy,” he said in remarks in Minneapolis.

Last month, the Fed voted to keep up asset purchases at an \$85 billion monthly pace to lower borrowing costs and spur hiring. It said it would continue that policy, called quantitative easing, until it saw substantial improvement in the labour market outlook. US central bankers also pledged to hold interest rates near zero

until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent, provided inflation does not threaten to rise above 2.5 percent.

George will cast her first vote this month on monetary policy since taking the helm at the Kansas City Fed in October 2011, while Kocherlakota is not a voter this year.

“The latest remarks from Kansas City Fed’s Esther George have cemented the presence of a hawkish dissenter on the FOMC in 2013, with Richmond Fed’s (Jeffrey) Lacker passing along the hawkish torch,” said Gennadiy Goldberg, US strategist at TD Securities.

Lacker was the lone dissenter on the Fed’s policy-setting panel last year.

St Louis Fed President James Bullard, who votes as well this year on US monetary policy, also warned about the potential for inflation, although he noted that inflation was so far running under the Fed’s 2 percent goal.

“It is a very aggressive policy and it is making me a little bit nervous that we are overcommitting to the easy policy,” he told reporters after a speech to the Wisconsin Bankers Association in Madison. “We are taking risk.”

As Fed officials mull when to reduce or end the asset buying - some, including Bullard, say that could happen this year - the debate may focus on potential inflation as well as the outlook for the economy.

On the latter front, George was decidedly more downbeat than Bullard, saying she expected the US economy to grow just above 2 percent in 2013, while unemployment falls about another half percentage point.

Bullard sees growth at 3.2 percent this year and next, he said Thursday, and sees the jobless rate dropping to 6.5 percent - the Fed’s threshold for rethinking its low-rate policy - by the middle of next year. The US jobless rate in December was 7.8 percent.

Kocherlakota predicts US gross domestic product will expand at an annual pace of 2.5 percent in 2013 and 3 percent next year, estimates that put him on the weak end of Fed policymakers’ forecasts.

“This growth will do little in terms of returning the economy to the historical trend,” Kocherlakota said in prepared remarks to a Minneapolis Fed event.

Reuters



President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis James Bullard poses during an interview at the Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis on 8 June, 2011.—REUTERS

MADISON, 12 Jan—Two top Federal Reserve policymakers expressed discomfort on Thursday with the US central bank’s easy monetary policy, in comments suggesting Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke may face more dissent this year.

In remarks that stamped her as a hawk on the Fed’s policy-setting committee, Kansas City Federal Reserve President Esther George warned that the Fed’s near-zero interest-rate policy—aimed at boosting the economy - could spark inflation.

Boeing to cut 40 percent jobs at El Paso plant

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Jan—Boeing Co (BA.N) said it will cut a little more than 40 percent of jobs, or 160 positions, at its El Paso plant as it looks to reduce the impact of planned US defence budget cuts.

The company said it will reduce occupied square footage 50 percent at the plant by moving from three buildings to one. The plant in Texas manufactures electronics for a variety of Boeing products.

The reductions will be completed by the end of 2014, the company said.

Boeing announced a major restructuring of its defence division in November that would cut 30 percent of management jobs from 2010 levels, close

facilities and consolidate several business units.

The company’s shares

closed at \$77.09 on the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday.—Reuters



The Boeing logo is seen on a Boeing 787 Dreamliner airplane in Long Beach, California on 14 March, 2012. REUTERS

WORLD

US court delays trial of suspected mass shooter until March

AURORA, United States, 12 Jan—The US District Court hearing James Holmes' case for his suspected role in killing 12 people in a theater shooting spree decided on Friday to postpone his arraignment until 12 March. Judge William Sylvester made the announcement to postpone Holmes' arraignment, the official laying of charges until 12 March, despite objections from prosecutors and the overwhelming majority of the victims and their families.

Shortly after the announcement, the court was recessed following an outburst. The father of a victim of the theater shooting yelled "rot in hell!"

at the alleged gunman and was immediately detained by Arapahoe County sheriff deputies. The judge reconvened the court and brought back all parties, including hand-cuffed Steve Hernandez, father of Rebecca Wingo, one of the 12 people killed in the shooting.

"I'm terribly sorry for your loss...I can only imagine the emotions that are raging," Sylvester said in a consoling tone. "But we don't want to have any outbursts," he added. Hernandez apologized, promised never to act out again, was released and taken out from a back door of the court building. He was escorted to his car by 5

sheriff deputies and refused to talk to the media.

Sylvester ruled on Thursday night that prosecutors had presented enough evidence to proceed toward trial — after a week of emotional testimony that included tearful police officers recalling the horror they faced, riveting emergency phone call recordings and disturbing self-portraits taken by Holmes just prior to the shootings.—Xinhua

Czech president urges voters to avoid media influence in election

PRAGUE, 12 Jan— The first ever direct presidential election in the Czech Republic started on Friday afternoon, with a colourful spectrum of candidates vying to take over eurosceptic out-going President Vaclav Klaus. Casting his ballot, Klaus said the voters should not let their decision affected by media as the country's first ever direct presidential election started on Friday afternoon.

The new president should be someone who has already done something for the Czech Republic, whose experience is evident to everyone and "who really cares for this country," Klaus said when casting his ballot.

He said he hopes all people will take part in the election and will "decide according to their own minds, their own heads, not in accordance with the strong media campaign that has culminated these days."

Klaus refuted the speculations that he may shun the direct election, which he had sharply criticised.

Milos Zeman, former Social Democrat (CSSD) prime minister now running for the Citizens' Rights Party (SPOZ), is considered a favorite out of the nine presidential candidates.



Actors give performance at the opening ceremony of the 16th Shenyang International Ice and Snow Festival in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 10 Jan, 2013. The festival will last for three months.

XINHUA

Greek parliament approves tax bill to ensure next rescue loans tranche

ATHENS, 12 Jan—Greek parliament approved on early Saturday a new tax bill to ensure the disbursement of the next tranche of international rescue loans aiming to lift the debt-laden country onto the path of recovery.

The so-called "mini" tax bill which is part of a wider tax system overhaul scheduled to continue in spring, passed with the backing of the 163 deputies of the three-party coalition government at the end of a marathon session which was broadcast live on the parliament's television channel.

During the roll call vote the bill's articles were ratified by a wide majority with 288 MPs present in the 300-member chamber.

The new law aims to boost revenues by approximately two billion euros (2.65 billion US dollars) over the next two years through extra taxes, to simplify the taxation system and address widespread tax evasion, which is seen as a fundamental factor behind the debt crisis which erupted three years ago.—Xinhua



Jin Jigang, who is wounded in a blast, receives treatment in a hospital in Shuangyashan City, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 11 Jan, 2013. Seven people were killed and 39 others injured after a commuter-van exploded in Shuangyashan on Friday, local authorities said. The commuter-van from a mine company in Shuangyashan City exploded around 6:30 am in the District of Lingdong, a city government spokesman said at a Press Conference in the afternoon. An investigation into the cause of the accident is under way. —XINHUA

Investigation launched over Guangdong officials property suspicions

GUANGZHOU, 12 Jan— Disciplinary authorities in south China's Guangdong Province have begun investigating accusations that two local officials own huge property portfolios that suggest corruption.

An investigation team was set up on 4 January by the disciplinary committee

in Xiaolan Township, Zhongshan City, to look into the case surrounding Huang Xinze and Huo Chengtang, according to Feng Jiehong, top disciplinary official of the township.

Huang is the chief of the Communist Party of China Lianfeng community committee, while Huo is the

community's top financial official. The duo were exposed by an Internet user "13800abc" on the popular Sina Weibo microblogging service of owning eight pieces of land and properties valued at more than 100 million yuan (15.87 million US dollars).

Xinhua

Harsh winter brings new difficulty for 600,000 Syrians

GENEVA, 12 Jan — The severe winter conditions across Syria and the surrounding region in the past week have brought new difficulties for over 600,000 Syrian refugees fleeing the conflict, said the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on Friday.

To date, UNHCR has registered or assisted 612,000 Syrians around the region,

in which 194,000 taking refuge in Lebanon, 176,000 in Jordan and 153,000 in Turkey, others are in Iraq, Egypt and North Africa, said Adrian Edwards, spokesman for the agency. "There has been no let-up in the numbers of people fleeing Syria into neighbouring countries," he said.

Despite the preparations for the winter months,

many refugees are facing particularly cold and damp conditions, Edwards added.

UNHCR and its partners are working together to provide significant winterization aid to refugees, including blankets, mattresses and emergency clothing. However, with difficulties of access in Syria, they cannot reach all people in need.—Xinhua

Buildings are seen amid dense fog in Wuhan City, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 12 Jan, 2013. XINHUA



LOCAL NEWS

Book show in Pyigyidagun Township 13-14 Jan

MANDALAY, 12 Jan—With the concerted efforts of social organizations, literati and local people of Pyigyidagun Township of Mandalay Region, the documentary photo, cartoon and book shows and sales are being held from 10 to 14 January in the precinct of Inkhayu Pagoda

on Mingyi Yan Aung Road in Kyigyidagun Township.

The literary talks will be held at 7 pm on 14 January. The literati who will give talks are Saya Ko Lay (Inwa Gonyi), Saya Chit Oo Nyo, Saya Maung Tha Cho and Saya U Phone (Chemistry).

Myanma Alinn

Ward library opened in Myaungmya

MYAUNGMYA, 12 Jan—With the aim of raising reading habit of the local people, a ceremony to put the library into service was held at Ward 1 in Myaungmya on 6 January morning.

Acting Township Administrator U Myint Khaing and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Yi Yi Lwin formally opened the library.

The library was constructed with K 800,000 contributions of the local people. A total of 500 journals and books are

being systematically kept at the library where the local people read the books conveniently.

Myanma Alinn

Twin towers, view deck for enjoying scenes of Nay Pyi Taw



NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—At present, the people can enjoy scenic beauties of Nay Pyi Taw from the twined towers that are 180 feet each long in the compound of National Landmarks Garden of Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The garden was built in 2008 and opened on 11-2-2010. The twin towers were built at the entrance to the garden. The visitors can climb atop the towers with the use of lifts free of charge.

From the towers, the visitors may enjoys

beautiful scenes of the international level stadium that can accommodate 30000 spectators to host the 2013 SEA Games and sports complex, Defence Services Museum, Yezin Dam, Safari Park, Zoological Garden, Planetarium, buildings and

Long distance race attracts 65 athletes in Katha District

KATHA, 12 Jan—In commemoration of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day, the 18-mile long

Indaw-Katha distance race was held in Katha District of Sagaing Region on 4 January.

A total of 65 athletes participated in the race that started near Indaw Myaintha Hall to the finishing line along the Union Road.

Maung Myat Min Soe of Katha secured the first prize, Maung Ye Aung of Htigyaing the second and Maung Aung Paing of Htigyaing the third. Maung Po Htaung stood fourth and Maung Min Min Oo of Katha fifth.

It was the first of its kind in the district.

The race was organized by Katha District Sports and Physical Education Department.

Myanma Alinn

Under the supervision of the Senior Engineer (Civil) of Myanmar Railways Division 5 of Toungoo, the junior engineer of Tatkon and party carrying out maintenance and improvement of the rail tracks between Kyitaungkan and Ingon stations of Yangon-Mandalay Railroad. The photo shows already-improved Shwemyo-Hsinthe railroad on 4 January.—MYANMA ALINN



Pyapon BEHS No. 2 facilitated with library



PYAPON, 12 Jan—Alin Thit Library was opened at No. 2 Basic Education High School in Pyapon of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region on 5 January.

Thanks to opening the library, the students are delighted for their opportunity to read books of various subjects at their school.

There are three Basic Education High Schools in Pyapon and these schools have been facilitated libraries separately.

Myanma Alinn

natural beauties of Shan mountain ranges, Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda and middle mountain ranges.

A canteen is kept open on the tower to sell various kinds of foodstuffs to the visitors.

The towers are the most suitable for those wishing to take photos of panoramic views around Nay Pyi Taw area.

Myanma Alinn

Blood donors association formed in Katha

KATHA, 12 Jan—The Tazaungdaing Parahita Blood Donors Association was set up at the foot of Taungpaw Monastery on Shwethiha Street in Ward 7 of Katha on 4 January.

It was attended by Taungpaw Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Jotalankara and members of the Sangha, blood donors and members of the Parahita associations.

The blood donors association was constituted with executives systematically and it is ready to donate blood to any person.

Myanma Alinn

Thriving cauliflowers in Sagaing marketable

SAGAING, 12 Jan—The cauliflowers thriving in Nandawun Station of Chinsu Ward in Sagaing Township are now marketable due to bigger sizes.

In the past, cauliflowers were flowed from Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay

and Sagaing and Monywa. At present, the local growers produce cauliflowers in Chinsu Ward and send them to the market.

The local farmers sell a big cauliflower per K 400-K 450 each.

Myanma Alinn



OPINION

Trust in Reform

Min Bahtoo



(Continued from 4 January)

Examples of some Northeast Asian countries

Many analysts have been concerned that decline of public trust in governments over a few decades is a phenomenon of globalization. A wave that some developed countries have been committed to efforts for engendering public trust is also found. Some say it is because there are changes in opinions of the people and in dynamics of politicians. Some claim that negative popular perception of the government is due to the government's public trust efforts and "social capital". It was a major issue not only in the western countries but also in East and Northeast regions. Here is a brief account of related reforms in China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and Mongolia.

China has shifted clearly from centralized economy to market-oriented one on over past three decades. The rapidly growing market of China could attract substantial foreign investments. According to a January 2010 press release of World Values Survey, public trust in the Chinese government and National People's Congress was pretty high then. According to 2009 official figures, China had 415,000 registered civil societies and thousands of business organizations and unregistered civil societies. Many NGOs are initiating socio-economic development of China and serving the interests of people in environmental conver-

sation, education, health, science research, culture, poverty alleviation, legal assistance and social works.

The 2005 Public Servant Law is one of the prominent steps in reform processes of the government. The reforms in public service include four aspects—the transformation from cadre management to public service, organizational reform, wage reform and reform in training public servants. These reforms include downsizing the management structure, recruiting the qualified staff from private sector as government employees, getting them involved in management and other important issues, considering only expertise and qualifications in recruiting new staff, increasing wages to prevent brain drain from the government departments, granting promotion to the staff based on their performance and training and recruiting qualified staff for ministries directly.

Most of initial legislative reforms are associated with economic sector. According to 1994 administrative law, every citizen has a right to sue any corrupted officials. Constitutional amendment that covered human right protection and ownership right in 2004 and establishment of National Bureau of Anti-corruption in Beijing in 2007 were regarded as major reforms.

In Japan, according to statistics of World Values Survey, although public trust in governmental departments is generally low, judiciary and police force win high public trust. Public trust in parliament, political parties and civil societies is slightly low compared with that of the people in government. There has been high

trust in media. Despite difficulty in the legitimacy of independent social organizations through rules and regulations, formation of community-based groups is provided with support and encouragement from the government. Some argued that only non-governmental organizations that have the least ideological differences and that are assisting in the government policy are allowed to enjoy more social capital.

There have been calls for reform in public servant affairs. In Japan starting from 19th century, the best men were allowed to discharge duties in selected departments.

As the traditional method of selection in which the best men were appointed as government bureaucrats led to insufficient manpower not only because the bureaucrats continued to take major positions in private sector after their resignations from the government duties but also because traditionally, bureaucrats of central government had authority over legislation and financial matters. This trend calls for reform emerged.

However, it can be witnessed that reform in public servant affairs cannot be made easily as government employees themselves prefer the current tradition.

According to Transparency International's 2008 corruption perception index, Japan was ranked 18th among 180 countries.

There has been more substantial reduction in corruption than before and it is expected to continue to reduce corruption in future.

Regarding the facts on the Republic of Korea collected until recent years,

public trust in government has slightly decreased and they have placed great trust in judicial system and police force. It is found that there has been a high degree of public trust in public servants and media. It is witnessed that there has been low trust in parliament and political parties. So it can be said that public trust in political process is low in ROK. By 1990s, the ROK became a mature democracy. The National Assembly of the ROK is vested with enough power. Civil societies with the rapid development are playing a role of criticizing social and economic systems, doing positive monitoring and developing an awareness of all-round development through mass media. In the time of Kim Dae-Jung administration, reforms in public administration, financial, economic and worker sectors associated with work programme for tackling 1997 economic crisis were undertaken.

The government had initiated management systems based on transparency, competition and capability. According to the course of the history, laws which were once employed by the dictatorship were amended, making them useful in democratic transition. Although there have been considerable criticisms over some weaknesses in the Constitution, the government gained public satisfaction as its functions were working in support of the verdict of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Source: *Building trust in Government in Northeast Asia*, Contributor-Pan Suk Kim

(To be continued)

Trs: HKA+YM

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 13 January, 2013

Synergy of pluralism

In his New Year Message to the Parliament, the President praised the resurrection of the new political culture that enables the ideological differences to coexist peacefully in the Myanmar society which is on the right track to a pluralistic democracy.

Hopes are high again and we are convinced of peace and tranquility in 2013 despite the peace talks between the government and KIO/KIA is at a standstill while the people want to get both sides back to the negotiating table.

We firmly believe that efforts to resolve the last of the country's decades-long ethnic conflicts in the northern part of the country will be realized soon and the peace dialogue with renewed enthusiasm will facilitate the peaceful ending of the conflict.

Only a negotiation process within the pluralistic framework that can bring about a common good acceptable to all stakeholders could help us achieve the lasting peace.

Within the pluralistic framework, it is very important to guarantee a point that no one is put aside and given undue privileges. Generally saying, all stakeholders are to be allowed to make their cent per cent commitment in decision-making process.

All players are to be free from obstacles like fear, external influence, display or exercise of power, sense of disenchantment and suspicion, mistrust and misrepresentation of the facts and figures that can all forbid a carefully negotiated series of concession from emerging. Only if these conditions are fulfilled can all players be prevailed upon to participate in the good-faith peace negotiation with no ethically ambiguous tactics.

Myanmar is home to more than a hundred nationalities. So we have different cultures and traditions, different languages and ideas and different races and religions. Although we live in a multicultural society, we all belong to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Now the country sees cease fire agreements with 10 main nationalities armed groups. The government extends its hand and opens the door for the last armed group. If both sides were at peace, the Union would regain the synergy of pluralism which has been lost long since post-independence period.

A war of words over which one should come first—cessation of ongoing fighting or a genuine political dialogue—is not the answer to the country's woes, especially displaced persons in the conflict area. Actually, an immediate ceasefire would be much more sensible to do at once.

UMFCCI to meet Indian entrepreneurs on 14 Jan

YANGON, 12 Jan—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) has made an arrangement to hold discussions with a 18-member Indian entrepreneurs under the leadership of Cocalta-based EEPIC India (Formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council),

at UMFCCI, here, on 14 January.

They will discuss manufacturing of machine equipment, steel, automobile, heavy industry, construction materials, cold storage, electrical equipment and power generation etc. Those wishing to attend the meeting may register at UMFCCI not later than 12 January.—MNA

Cash and kind donated to quake victims

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Wellwishers donate cash, foodstuffs and clothes for earthquake victims from Mandalay and Sagaing Regions to Department of Relief and Resettlement (Head Office) under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the office of the Head of Yangon Region DRR.

U Mya Thein Aung

donated K 100,000, Dr U Tin Myint-Dr Daw Khin Yi Thin and family K 500,000 on 31 December 2012, Dr Thein Tun, Dr Daw Than Toe K 100,000 and clothes on 3 January 2013, Daw Thin Thin Gyaw and family 400 US dollars on 8 January and Daw Ni Ni Khaing and granddaughter Kay Zin Khaing K 100,000 on 10 January.—MNA

CB, Western Union inks mutual agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Cooperative Bank, one of leading private banks in Myanmar penned a deal with US money transfer giant Western Union here yesterday.

Executive Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CB U Kyaw Lin extended greetings and Senior Vice-President of

Western Union Mrs Drina Yue spoke of the contract.

The documents were then signed and exchanged.

CB will provide global money transfer services in cooperation with Western Union Company.

At present, CB branches can operate remittance with 220 countries.

NLM

NATIONAL

A & I Union Minister visits pilot farm for mechanized farming transformation in Dekkhinathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing called for practice of multiple-cropping while visiting 3000-acre mechanized farm near Kyuntetpe Village in

Dekkhinathiri Township here today.

The 3000-acre farmland is the pilot project of transformation to mechanized farming. The Union minister called on agriculturalists and

irrigation experts to mobilize the farmers for success of the project. He also visited 10-acre high yield sugarcane model farm in Pobbathiri Township, and 50-acre groundnut farm in Zabuthiri Township.—MNA

Elephants and horses contributed for opening and closing ceremonies of XXVII SEA Games

YANGON, 12 Jan—Hotel owners donated elephants, horses, mascots and tents to be used for opening and closing ceremonies of XXVII SEA Games at Myanmar

Hoteliery Association in Thingangyun Township here this morning.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and wife Professor Daw Khin Swe Myint presented

a mascot each. A total of eight Kyaukse elephants, three elephants, six horses, seven mascots and six tents were contributed for the opening and closing ceremonies.—MNA



An aerial view of Myanmar-China oil and natural gas pipeline project in Ma-de Island in Rakhine State. (News on page 1)—MNA

Railroad blasted in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—A mine blast occurred on a railroad in Kachin State 10 January, causing no casualties and no disruption of train routes.

The mine exploded between mile post (641/24) and mile post (642/1) near bridge No (680) 150 miles from Nanma railway station in Mohnyin Township as the

Mandalay 57 Up train passed across the mine planted on the rail track.

A wooden sleeper was burnt.

MNA

BIDV gives stipends to 50 students



Dr San Lwin of Yangon Institute of Economics (Kamayut) also presents certificates of honour and gifts to Mr Tran Tien Dong.—NLM

YANGON, 12 Jan — Bank of Investment and Development of Vietnam has provided stipends to 50 outstanding students from Yangon Institute of Economics (Kamayut).

Chief of Yangon branch office of the BIDV Mr Tran Tien Dong presented the stipends to the students through Rector of YIE Dr San Lwin on 10 January.

Dr San Lwin also presented the certificates of honour and gifts to Mr Tran Tien Dong and a student spoke words of thanks.—NLM

Myanmar women win two gold, one bronze in Fifth SEA Archery Championship



Chairman of Kangwondo Archery Association Prof Park Young Il donates US\$ 8000 for Myanmar Archery Federation through Union Minister U Tint Hsan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—The second-day events of

the fifth South-East Asian Archery Championship took place at Wunna Theikdi Archery Range in Zabuthiri Township here today. Among the spectators were Chairman of the committee for holding fifth South-East Asian Archery Championship Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Myo Hlaing, students from basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw and archery enthusiasts.

In women's compound final, Aung Ngein (Myanmar) beat Ms Sri Ranti to stand first and Yaw Sein Ya (Myanmar) secured third.

In men's compound event, Vietnamese archers bagged all the medals as Mr Vu Viet Anh stood first, Mr

Nguyen Tien Cuong second and Mr Ngyuen Tuan Anh third.

In women's recurve event, Thin Thin Khaing from Myanmar stood first, Ms Sunantra Su Chat from Malaysia second and Ms Loc Thi Dao of Vietnam third.

Secretary of South East Asian Archery Federation Maj Baharuddin and Vice-President of World Archery Federation and President of South East Asian Archery Federation Mr Sanguan Kosavinta, Union Minister U Tint Hsan presented prizes to winners.

President of Kangwondo Archery Association Prof Park Young Il presented archery gear worth 8000 USD to Myanmar Archery Federation.—MNA

Embraer 190 of MA makes maiden flight

YANGON, 12 Jan—Embraer 190 Jet XY-AGP made its maiden flight, a round one from Yangon to Mandalay yesterday. Staff of Myanmar Airways presented gifts to guests and passengers to mark the maiden flight.

Myanma Airways also

held a dinner in the evening. Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung gave a speech on the occasion and Mr Antony David Snelleman from Civil Aviation Services of General Electric Company extended greetings.

The plane equipped

with GE-CF, 34-8E engine from GE Co is a new one rented from Embraer 190 with seating capacity of 100. The Embraer 190 models reportedly have only one record of crash in their history.

MNA



Photo shows maiden flight of Embraer 190 Jet XY-AGP of Myanmar Airways.—MNA

Iran warns of civil war in Iraq: cleric

TEHERAN, 12 Jan—Tehran's interim Friday Prayers leader warned on Friday of what he referred to as the threats of civil war in Iraq.

Several cities of Anbar Province in western Iraq have been the scene of anti-government protesters in the past days. Anbar protests, which first began on 23 December, swiftly spread to cities in the Sunni Provinces of Nineveh, Kirkuk, Salahudin and Diyala, as well as in Baghdad's Sunni District of Azamiya.

The Sunni protesters complained about injustice, marginalization, Discrimination, double standards

and politicization of the judicial system. They also accused Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of using judiciary to fight his political opponents in order to legally tame the opposition in the political process.

"The United States and the Zionist regime have devised a plot for Iraq and seek to ignite the flames of sedition and civil war in the country," Jannati was quoted as saying.

He added that the people of Iraq should remain vigilant and not pay attention to the enemy efforts which aim to sow discord among Iraqis.

Xinhua



Rescuers try to transfer an injured person to an ambulance in State of Perak, Malaysia, on 11 Jan, 2013. A 11-vehicle pileup occurred here on Friday, which caused more than 10 persons injured.—XINHUA

Chinese, Angolan leaders mark 30 years of ties

BEIJING, 12 Jan—Chinese President Hu Jintao exchanged congratulatory messages with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on Saturday to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

In his message, Hu said China and Angola had always respected and treated each other as equals since they established diplomatic ties 30 years ago, with their traditional friendship continually brimming with fresh vitality and energy.

The two sides had made rapid progress in mutual political trust, achieved fruitful results in exchanges and cooperation in such fields as the economy, trade, culture, education and healthcare, and maintained close coordination in international and regional affairs and important issues of common concern, he said.

Hu said China, taking the anniversary as an opportunity, was ready to make concerted efforts with Angola to push for in-depth development of their strategic partnership.

In his message, dos Santos said Angola and China, based on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, had advanced the continued development of their cooperation in various areas.

He said he was confident the two countries' consistent political will and economic complementarity would continue to deepen bilateral relations, boost common development, and benefit the two peoples. Also on Saturday, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi exchanged congratulatory messages with Angolan counterpart Georges Chikoti.—Xinhua



Blooming azaleas are seen at an exhibition in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 11 Jan, 2013. The one-month exhibition kicked off here on 10 Jan, displaying more than 10 kinds of azaleas. XINHUA

UN chief appoints acting head for Department of Safety and Security

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Jan—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on Friday the appointment of Kevin Kennedy of the United States as Acting Head of the UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS), a UN spokesman told reporters here.

Kennedy "brings to the position extensive experience in organizing the international community's responses to humanitarian emergencies worldwide at the strategic, political, policy and field levels," said Martin Nesirky, Ban's spokesperson, at the daily briefing.

Established in January 2005, DSS is responsible for providing leadership, operational support and oversight of the security management system to enable the safest and most efficient conduct of the programs and activities of the UN System.

The acting head of DSS is replacing Gregory B Starr, "who announced his intention to leave the position of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security due to personal and family reasons," Nesirky said.

Prior to this appointment, Kennedy recently

served as Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) from April 2010.

He joined the UN in 1993 and has "served as Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle-East Peace Process and Director of the Coordination and Response Division in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs," Nesirky said.

Kennedy has also "held senior humanitarian positions in the Sudan, Iraq, the Balkans, Timor-Leste and Somalia," he said.

Xinhua

Rain to hit south China, snow forecast for north

BEIJING, 12 Jan—China's meteorological authority forecast on Saturday that rains are expected to fall on southern China while snow will hit parts of northern China in the coming three days.

Light to moderate rain is forecast for most areas south to the Yangtze River from Saturday to Monday. Some parts may even see heavy rain, according to a statement on the website of the National Meteorological Centre.

Snow will fall on parts of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Inner Mon-

golia Autonomous Region and northeastern China over the next three days, the statement said.

The centre also forecast that fog and haze will decrease visibility to within 1,000 meters in some parts of Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Jiangsu, Anhui, Zhejiang, Hubei and Sichuan provinces and as low as 500 metres in some areas on Saturday morning.

The post has been widely circulated on the Internet, with netizens suspecting the two officials of illegally profiting from land

management during their tenure.

"It is hard to imagine that officials at community level have so much wealth!" said an Internet user with the screen name "Xiyawenqing."

Another user, "Zhainanweipangdedashu", however, pointed out that local people of that region are quite wealthy and it is not unusual for people to have several houses there.

In an interview with Xinhua, Huang confessed that he and Huo jointly own the properties.

Xinhua

Cyprus obtains qualified support for bailout from Eurozone leaders

NICOSIA, 12 Jan — Cyprus obtained qualified support on Friday from Eurozone leaders in its efforts to push through a bailout agreement after several warnings from German lawmakers that the German parliament was not ready to endorse the deal.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, participating in a meeting of European People's Party (EPP) leaders in Cyprus' southern city of Limassol, said Cyprus deserved solidarity from the European Union

but at the same time it has to pursue economic reforms.

"Cyprus must move forward with reforms of its economy but on the other hand we must show solidarity," said Merkel, who had earlier warned Cyprus not to expect special treatment by its Eurozone partners.

Even as she spoke, government spokesman Stefanos Stefanou said Cyprus had fully complied with conditions set by the troika—the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary

Fund—including enacting stricter legislations to fight money laundering.

"We have proven our will to do all it takes to overcome difficulties and this has been recognized by the most recent Eurogroup meeting," Stefanou added.

He also said Cyprus did not asked for special favours.

"We only ask for justice, given the fact that Cyprus is the victim of a European decision for a haircut to the Greek debt," he said.

The Greek debt write-

Austria court convicts three for glorifying Nazism

VIENNA, 12 Jan—An Austrian court has sentenced a leading neo-Nazi figure to nine years in prison for glorifying Nazism on an extreme-right website.

Gottfried Kuessel, 54, was convicted on Thursday for running the "Alpen-Donau" website and glorifying Nazism which is banned in Austria.

Kuessel has denied any wrongdoings and said he would appeal against the conviction.

"I had expected an acquittal because of the very thin evidence. There was only circumstantial evidence, not more," he was quoted as saying by Austria's ORF radio. Two others of his accomplices were also sentenced to seven and four and a half years in jail.—Xinhua



The Japanese icebreaker Shirase is blocked by sea ice off Japan's Showa Base in Antarctica on 8 Jan, 2013. Japan's science ministry said on 11 Jan that the icebreaker had failed to dock at the Showa Base for the second year in a row due to snow and thick ice. KYODO NEWS

down cost Cyprus banks an estimated loss of 4.5 billion euros (about 6 billion US dollars) and forced them to apply for state support to recapitalize.

The Cypriot government says that it was forced to apply for bailout because of the recapitalization needs for the banks, estimated at 10 billion euros, although it is negotiating an additional amount of 7.5 billion euros for budget financing and paying back the sovereign debts up to the end of 2015.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Foreign ministers of Singapore, Japan discuss economic cooperation, Singapore says

SINGAPORE, 12 Jan—Singapore's Foreign Minister and his Japanese counterpart exchanged views on boosting bilateral economic cooperation on Friday, according to Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Fumio Kishida, who was on his first overseas visit since his appointment as Japanese Foreign Minister, met with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Friday. Separately, he met and was hosted to lunch by his Singaporean counterpart K Shanmugam, the ministry said in a state-

ment.

The Singapore leaders and Kishida "reaffirmed the excellent bilateral ties and close cooperation between Singapore and Japan, which are underpinned by longstanding and deep economic and business links," the statement said.

The bilateral trade and investment has expanded steadily since the conclusion of the Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement (JSEPA) in 2002. Both countries also work closely under the Japan-Singapore Part-

nership Programme for the 21st Century (JSPP21) to extend joint technical assistance to other countries in the region.

"Our leaders discussed with Minister Kishida how both countries could further strengthen cooperation in the bilateral and regional context through the JSEPA, JSPP21 and other mechanisms," it said.

The statement mentioned briefly that both sides have been engaged in an exchange of views on regional political and security developments.—Xinhua



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe holds a Press conference at his office in Tokyo on 11 Jan, 2013, announcing a stimulus package worth 20.2 trillion yen. Abe's Cabinet endorsed a stimulus package earlier in the day entailing the biggest government spending since fiscal 2009 in an attempt to add around 2 percentage points to Japan's gross domestic product growth in real terms and create at least 600,000 jobs.—KYODO NEWS

Japanese PM to visit Thailand next week

BANGKOK, 12 Jan—Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will pay an official visit to Thailand next week and hold talks with his Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra on bilateral and regional issues.

The newly-named Japanese Prime Minister will visit the Thai capital on 17 and 18 January to discuss with the Thai lady Prime Minister at the Government House on issues of economic cooperation, bilat-

eral trade and investment, a senior Thai government official said on Friday.

Topics of mutual interest between the two leaders also include infrastructure development projects in Thailand, anti-flood measures, human resources issues and regional security, according to Thailand's East Asia Affairs Department head Damrong Kraikruan. "Nevertheless, no military issue will be included on the agenda of bilateral talk.

We'll only create an atmosphere of regional peace and constructive cooperation. We will by no means discuss anything which might otherwise be misconstrued or cause international tension," he said.

Thailand remains as Japan's largest overseas investment site in the Southeast Asian region, and Japan has remained Thailand's biggest trade partner with last year's bilateral trade volume amounting to

70 billion US dollars.

Besides, the number of Japanese tourists to Thailand accounted for the third largest, after the Malaysians and Chinese in 2012. An estimated 1.2 million Japanese tourists visited Thailand last year.

The Japanese prime minister is scheduled to visit Hanoi before coming to Bangkok from where he will proceed to Jakarta during his first ASEAN tour.

Xinhua



Citizens watch books during the 2013 Beijing Book Fair at the China International Exhibition Centre in Beijing, capital of China, on 11 Jan, 2013. The 3-day book fair kicked off on Friday, displaying about 500,000 kinds of books.—XINHUA

Indonesia outlines plans to bolster tourism by 2014

JAKARTA, 12 Jan—Indonesia's government will boost 16 tourism destinations within the country and set up seven particular interests tour zones by 2014, according to the nation's tourism ministry statement on Friday.

A total of 5 destinations, including Bromo-Tengger-Semeru volcano chain in East Java, Komodo dragon in East Nusa Tenggara, Wakatobi and Toraja in Sulawesi and

Sanur in Bali, would be developed this year, Director General of Tourism Marketing of the ministry Esthy Reko Astuty said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the seven special-interest tours planned to be developed by the ministry were historical and cultural tour, nature and eco-tour, recreational sports (such as diving, surfing, sailing, trekking, hiking and golf), cruise ship, shopping and

culinary, health and wellness, and convention.

"Until November last year Indonesia recorded a year-on-year growth of 5.09 percent growth in tourism sector," Esthy said.

Indonesia is aiming at attracting 9 million foreign tourists this year. The tourism and creative economy industry is the seventh largest sector contributing to the country's growth.—Xinhua

Climate change costs Vietnam 15 bln USD annually

HANOI, 12 Jan—Climate change has cost Vietnam 15 billion US dollars per year, equal to 5 percent of the country's GDP, local *Dan Tri* newspaper reported on Friday, quoting results of a survey by DARA International, a member of the Climate Change Working Group.

According to DARA International's research on vulnerable climate change in 2012, the damage to Vietnam's seafood sector due to climate change ranks top.

Nguyen Quang Thanh,

member of the Live & Learn Centre, said without effective and urgent measures taken, the impact caused by climate change will likely cost Vietnam more, up to more than 11 percent of its GDP by 2030.

DARA International's report revealed that the sea water rising costs Vietnam about 4 billion US dollars per year. Specifically, damages to the production input annually reach 8 billion dollars, to the fishery sector with 1.5 billion dollars and to agriculture with 0.5 billion dollars.

Greenhouse emission in Vietnam reaches 3.5 tons per person in 2010 and is estimated to retain below 4 tons per person by 2020.

Meanwhile, air pollution led to 10,000 casualties in 2010, which would rise to more than 60,000 by 2030, said the report.

The report also pointed out the necessity to enhance public awareness of climate change as well as measures to encourage innovations and actions in minimizing its impacts.

Xinhua

Philippine police nab Abu Sayyaf member in Manila

MANILA, 12 Jan—The Philippine National Police (PNP) arrested early on Friday a suspected member of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group in Metro Manila, the capital of the country, a ranking police officer said later that day.

PNP spokesman Chief Superintendent Generoso Cerbo Jr said that joint police and military operations resulted in the apprehension of Suhod

Salasim in Taguig, a city of Metro Manila, at around 6:20 am.

The suspect was nabbed by virtue of three arrest warrants for his involvement in the kidnapping of nurses in a hospital in Lamitan City in June 2011, kidnapping and illegal detention of teachers and students in Sumisip town, both in southern Philippine Province of Basilan.

Authorities recovered

from Salasim a grenade and two cartridges of ammunition for M203 grenade launcher, Mr Cerbo said.

The Abu Sayyaf was founded in earlier 1990s by Islamic extremists, and it has degenerated into a loose alliance of local armed bandit groups over the past decade, carrying out a series of public terrorist attacks and high-profile kidnapping.

Xinhua



A wholesaler carries cabbages at a market in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 11 Jan, 2013. Vegetable prices jumped 14.8 percent year on year in December as cold weather disrupted supplies, pushing the consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, up 0.41 percentage points.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Ministry of Information Myanma Radio and Television Invitation to open tender for construction of factory manager house and new factory building at Myanma Radio and Television

1 Open tenders are invited for construction of (two) houses for factory manager and new factory building at three retransmission stations of Myanma Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.

2 Open tender forms may be drawn from Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr during the office days from (14-1-2013) to (17-1-2013).

3 Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of the Tender board at Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) from 09:30 hr to 16:30hr.

4 The open tender forms and detailed information are available at the following address.

Construction Supervisory Committee
Myanma Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)
Ministry of Information
Ph: 067-79483; 79135

Two hurt in California high school shooting

LOS ANGELES, 12 Jan—Two people were injured in a high school shooting in Taft city of Kern County, California, on Thursday morning.

According to local police, one of the victims, a science teacher, suffered minor injury, while the other was a student who is now in serious but stable condition. The student was airlifted to Kern Medical Centre after the shooting.

Kern County sheriff's spokesman Ray Pruitt told media that the suspect was a student, and is now under police custody. He also said the suspect's weapon was a shotgun.

The motivation behind the shooting is still under investigation, Pruitt added.

The Bakersfield Californian, a local newspaper, quoted another police source as saying that the 16-year-old suspect walked into his

class at around 9:00 am local time (1700 GMT) with a 12-gauge shotgun.

A neighbour in the area saw the student walking to school with a gun and called 911. It is reported that the suspect talked to the student before he shot at him. A teacher named Ryan Heber and a campus supervisor heard the gun shots, and managed to persuade the suspect to put down his gun. The police said the wounded student was an intended target of the suspect, who also named a second intended target that was not hit. School students were evacuated to a football field in the wake of the incident, and their parents were called to pick them up.

Also on Thursday, US Vice President Joe Biden held talks with hunters, wildlife interest groups and gun rights groups over gun control.—Xinhua



A Press Conference is held to introduce China's imports and exports in 2012 by the Information Office of the State Council in Beijing, capital of China, on 10 Jan, 2013. According to the latest statistics released by the General Administration of Customs, China's total foreign trade volume in 2012 reached more than 3.86 trillion US dollars, growing by 6.2 percent year on year. The growth rate is 16.3 percentage points less than 2011. —XINHUA

Children in Central African Republic at edge of survival

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Jan—Children in the Central African Republic (CAR) need urgent protection amid widespread tension between pro-government forces and Seleka rebels, a UN humanitarian official said. "You can imagine children living in a temporary shelter or outside a farm, children that do not have access to a school, children that fall sick and cannot get access to medical treatment," Shannon Strother, Chief of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) emergency team in CAR, in a recent interview with Xinhua.

The Seleka rebels, who accused CAR President Francois Bozize of reneging on a 2008 peace deal and cracking down on dissidents, launched another revolt early December, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes.

The rebels have attacked several towns across the country and are moving from the northeast toward the capital, Bangui. The UN agency is worried that children might not have access to food or nutrition and that children might be recruited by armed groups or targeted by particular violence, Strother said.

The emergency coordinator said children outside of protection, such as the thousands of street children in Bangui with no families or parents, are under pressure to join the militia groups as porters, cooks or even combatants and sex slaves. "We want to make sure we work with these armed groups whether they be rebel or governmental to make sure they (children) do not join this conflict," Strother said.

Xinhua

Nigerian navy says detained Russian crew handed over to police for prosecution

ABUJA, 12 Jan—The Nigerian Navy on Thursday said the 15 illegal Russian crew members arrested on 19 October, 2012 had been handed over to police for prosecution.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dele Ezeoba told reporters in Abuja that the crew members were handed over to the Nigerian police authority for under a due process.

"In every society, there are procedures and rules that guide whatever act of bridge of security that may have occurred, due process was taken into cognizance

about the offenders," he said.

"We handed them over to the police because they have the authority to prosecute. The police took them to court and they were granted bail, nobody was under pressure to release them because the period which they were held was to allow for proper investigation. It was also to establish a fact about the alleged offense preferred against the Russians," he added.

According to the Navy chief, the Russians were entitled to ask for bail.

Ezeoba told reporters

that security was a collective responsibility and that the navy was doing the best it could to provide security for the nation.

The crew and their vessel were detained in the Lagos waterways by the Navy for alleged illegal entry.

The Navy also alleged that the Russians did not declare their cargo and were found in possession of a cache of arms and ammunition. Items found with the crew include 14 assorted AK47 rifles with 3,643 rounds of ammunition and 20 Benelli MRI 20 barrel with 4,955 rounds ammunition.

tion.

"He noted that three years after the earthquake the focus is now moving from emergency to stabilization," Nesirky said.

During his visit, Ladous is scheduled to meet a number of government officials, including the Haitian minister of foreign affairs, said Nesirky.

The under-secretary-general will also meet with officials and staff from the UN mission there before returning to New York over the weekend, Nesirky added.

Xinhua

Founder of Kurdish PKK among three women slain in Paris

PARIS/ISTANBUL, 12 Jan—A woman who helped found the Kurdish PKK rebel movement and two other women were found shot dead in Paris overnight after execution-style killings that cast a shadow over peace moves between Turkey and the guerrillas.

The bodies of Sakine Cansiz, a founder of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the early 1980s, and her two fellow activists were found in the early hours of Thursday at an institute in the French capital that has close links to the PKK.

They appeared to have been shot in the head, a French police source said. Kurdish media said one woman was also shot in the



A member of the Kurdish community cries as she stands in front of the entrance of the Information Centre of Kurdistan in Paris, where three Kurdish women were found shot dead, on 10 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

abdomen. Workers had broken in to the room at the Information Centre of Kurdistan after seeing blood stains on a door.

Cansiz was a promi-

nent PKK figure, initially as a fighter and later in charge of the group's civil affairs in Europe, according to a Kurdish lawyer who knew her. A 1995 photograph

shows her standing next to militant leader Abdullah Ocalan, wearing olive battle fatigues and clutching an assault rifle.

"The choice of Cansiz as a target is because she was symbolic of the Kurdish movement," said Franck Cecen, a Kurdish lawyer in Paris who met Cansiz at least half a dozen times and described her as exceptionally well-spoken and well-educated. "She had been one of its founding members, she had spent years in prison for her convictions, and she had become a historical figure," he told Reuters, adding that he found it hard to believe fellow Kurds would have taken her life.

Reuters

Singapore's long-haul budget airline Scoot makes debut flight to China's Qingdao, Shenyang

SINGAPORE, 12 Jan—Scoot, the long-haul budget unit of Singapore Airlines, made its debut flight to China's Qingdao and Shenyang early on Friday. The airline had before canceled some 20 flights from Singapore to the two cities last year, citing problems with regulatory approval.

"The new schedule requires the thrice-weekly service to operate a route of Singapore QingdaoShenyangQingdaoSingapore routing, instead of the originally-planned circular routing of SingaporeShenyangQingdaoSingapore," the company said in a statement. They're the eighth and ninth routes

for Scoot.

The route between Singapore and Shenyang via Qingdao will be operated on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday every week.

Flight information on Changi Airport's website has unveiled that the flight was scheduled to leave Singapore at 00:05 am on Friday, but the departure time had been revised to 01:30 am. Last November, the Scoot said in the statement issued from its account on Weibo.com, a Chinese website like Twitter, that all the flights to both destinations on the route between 27 November last year and 8 January this year were canceled.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

News Corp's Fox leads Hollywood studios in Oscar nods

LOS ANGELES, 12 Jan—News Corp's 20th Century Fox led the Oscars race among Hollywood studios by scoring 31 nominations, including best picture nods for both "Lincoln" and "Life of Pi," setting the stage for the box office bounces that selected films often get.

The coveted nominations for the 85th annual Academy Awards, to be held on 24 February, will trigger new and frenzied marketing efforts for the highlighted films, as studios jostle to take advantage of the buzz before Hollywood's biggest night. The high scorecard for Rupert Murdoch's News Corp marked yet another triumph for the media company which has seen its stock almost double from a panic-

driven sell-off in 2011 in response to a phone hacking scandal that engulfed its British newspapers.

Its Fox film unit earned 12 nominations on Thursday for "Lincoln," a US Civil War-era movie starring Daniel Day-Lewis that took home more nominations than any other film. Fox co-financed the film and distributed it internationally. "Lincoln" was produced by Dreamworks and distributed domestically by Walt Disney, ranking third among studios in nominations, with 17 nods, including 12 for "Lincoln." Sony Pictures Entertainment, which was second with 24 nominations, earned nods for "Zero Dark Thirty," "Skyfall" and "Amour," with five nominations each.

Fox also earned 11

Tom Cruise turns down Psy's Gangnam challenge



Tom Cruise, who was in Seoul to promote his new film, hailed Psy as "quite a sensation" but declined to follow the likes of UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon in imitating the singer's dance moves.—PTI

SEOUL, 12 Jan—Tom Cruise turned down a chance to try out his Gangnam Style dance skills on Thursday, despite topping South Korean rapper Psy's list of celebrities who should attempt the signature horse-riding dance. When asked last year which person he would most like to see "go Gangnam Style", Psy named the Mission Impossible star as his first choice.

Tom Cruise, who was in Seoul to promote his new film, hailed Psy as "quite a sensation" but declined to follow the likes of UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon in imitating the singer's dance moves. "He does it better than me," Mr Cruise told reporters dur-

ing a Press conference to promote his movie "Jack Reacher" which will be released in South Korea next week. "I'm very happy for his success. Everyone has really enjoyed it," Mr Cruise added.

Psy made Internet history shortly before Christmas when his "Gangnam Style" video clocked more than one billion views on YouTube. Mr Cruise was one of many celebrities around the world who took to social networks last year to promote Psy's video as it became a viral sensation. "Think @Psy_oppa would make a good future co-star Gangnam Style?" the Hollywood star tweeted last September.

PTI



An Oscar statue is seen at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences following the 85th Academy Awards nominee announcements in Beverly Hills, California on 10 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

nominations for "Life of Pi," among them best picture, best director and adapted screenplay, while its Fox Searchlight unit scored four nods for independent film "Beasts of the Southern Wild," including best picture and best director.

"We couldn't be more

thrilled to have such a diverse range of films recognized by the Academy," said Jim Gianopulos, CEO and Chairman 20th Century Fox Film. "And it's been equally gratifying to see how audiences throughout the world have embraced these pictures."

Reuters

Taylor Swift reportedly told ex-boyfriend he was "lucky to even be with her"

LOS ANGELES, 12 Jan—Taylor Swift reportedly told Harry Styles he was "lucky to even be with" her.

The pop couple ended their two-month relationship earlier this week with a blazing argument, in which Taylor told the One Direction lothario her career was more important than his.

A source close to the couple told *The Sun* newspaper: "Taylor Swift knows she's far more high-profile in America and way richer, and saw her career as more important. She always brushed off his schedule and needs and put hers first. When he complained his bandmates were getting irritated and she should do more to make things work, they started to yell crazy things. Taylor even yelled he was lucky to be with her."

"There were also problems over commitment. Harry wasn't committed enough for her liking."

Another source agreed, adding Taylor Swift, 23, had trouble trusting charmer Harry, 18, who is known for his flirting and womanising ways, having wooed TV presenter Caroline Flack and married radio DJ Lucy Horobin during his time in the boy band.

The insider told the *Daily Star* newspaper: "Taylor's been in the industry longer than Harry. She finds it embarrassing that he always stops for female fans posing for endless photographs and signing autographs. But she told Harry she thought it was really cheap. Harry's a happy-go-lucky guy and would never dream of snubbing fans.—PTI



Taylor Swift had trouble trusting charmer Harry who is known for his flirty ways.—PTI

I didn't know I was still so important: Hrithik Roshan

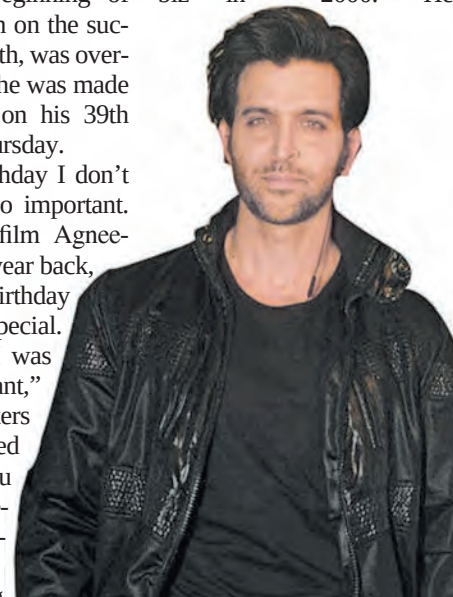
MUMBAI, 12 Jan — Hrithik Roshan, who last came at the beginning of 2012 riding high on the success of Agneepath, was overwhelmed when he was made to feel special on his 39th birthday on Thursday.

"Every birthday I don't expect to feel so important. Since my last film Agneepath released a year back, I thought this birthday won't be so special. I didn't know I was still so important," he told reporters who gathered outside his Juhu house to celebrate his birthday.

Talking about his surprise party, organised by his wife Sussanne on Wednesday night at a yacht, he said he too came to know about the bash through newspapers. "People got to know about it and so did I through the papers. When I asked my wife, she denied it. But the party was fun," said the actor who feels like a newcomer in the industry.

"There is no mantra to staying young. You are as young as you feel. I still

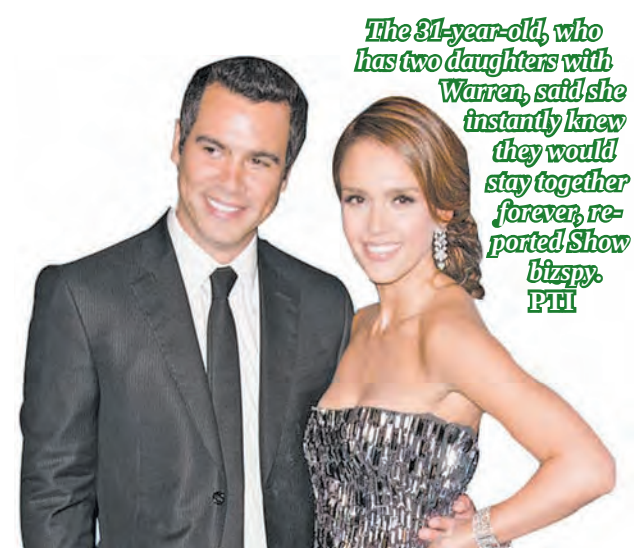
feel like a newcomer," said the actor who joined showbiz in 2000. He



Talking about his surprise party, organized by his wife Sussanne on Wednesday night at a yacht, he said he too came to know about the bash through newspapers.—PTI

doesn't believe in making resolutions. "I am not used to making resolutions. They are made to be broken... you must look at a day from sunrise to sunset and make sure everyday is well spent," he said.—PTI

Cash Warren is my soul mate: Jessica Alba



The 31-year-old, who has two daughters with Warren, said she instantly knew they would stay together forever, reported Showbizspy. PTI

LOS ANGELES, 12 Jan — Actress Jessica Alba says she felt a kindred connection when she met her producer husband Cash Warren on the sets of *Fantastic Four* in 2004. The 31-year-old, who has two daughters with Warren, said she instantly knew they would stay together forever, reported Showbizspy.

"I just knew when I met him that I was going to know him forever. It was weird; he instantly felt like family. I'd never felt like that with anyone. We got each other. We're kindred spirits," she said. Jessica

Alba has daughters Honour, four, and 16-month-old Haven with Warren after tying the knot in 2008. Although their love is still strong, her notion of romance has changed over time.

"On a weekend Cash might say, 'Go get your nails done with a girlfriend. Haven is down for a nap and Honor and I will play. I know you work hard. You deserve some time for yourself'. 'That, to me, is romantic. He's saying, 'You matter', and that I'm more than just the mother of the kids or the wife who goes out to events with him.'—PTI

SPORTS

Uruguay's striker Abreu joins Nacional

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 Jan —Uruguay's international striker Sebastian Abreu has ended his three-year deal at Brazilian club Botafogo to join Montevideo outfit Nacional. The 36-year-old agreed to a two-year

24 goals in 38 appearances from 2004 to 2005 and 18

in 16 matches while on loan from Spain's Deportivo La Coruna in 2001.

"Sebastian 'Loco' Abreu has just confirmed his exit from Botafogo and return to the club where his heart belongs," the statement said.

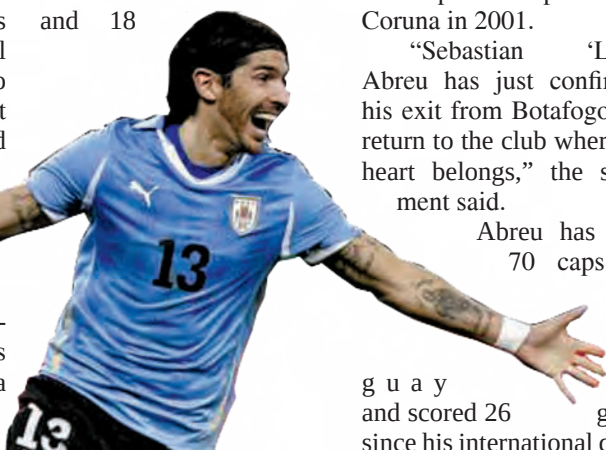
Abreu has won 70 caps for Uruguay

and scored 26 goals since his international debut in 1996.

Xinhua

deal with Uruguay's reigning top-flight champions on Friday, according to a statement on the player's official website.

It will be his third stint at the club, having scored



Uruguay's international striker Sebastian Abreu

Top runners to show up at Houston marathon

HOUSTON, 12 Jan—A number of top runners will be among about 30,000 half-marathoners and marathoners at the 2013 Chevron Houston Marathon on Sunday, organizers said on Friday.

The Houston marathon, in its 41st year, will bring roughly a quarter-million people to the Houston area this year between participants, spectators and volunteers, which makes the weekend race the largest single-day sporting event in Houston, organizers said a Press conference. Among the top runners at this year's event will be Bezunesh Deba, whose personal record is 2:23:19, and Merima Mohammed of Ethiopia, whose personal record is 2:23:04. On the men's side are Bazu Worku, who ran the Berlin Marathon in an astounding 2:05:25, and Debebe Tolassa with a personal record of 2:07:41. Race Weekend kicks off Friday with the Ironman Sports Medicine

Institute at Memorial Hermann EXPO and continues on Saturday with the ABB 5k. This will be the first

year that the 5k is the day before the Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon. Another first this year will be the addition of the We

ways, contests, inflatables and interactive experiences.

"We have 30,000

runners for the three races this year and great elite field. The majority of those runners will be running for a reason this year for our charitable pro-

Are Houston Runfest, which will feature all local major sports teams and include givea-



Merima Mohammed of Ethiopia

grams," said Wade Morehead, executive director of Houston Marathon committee. "We hope to raise again over two million dol-

Ferrer enters record books with fourth Auckland title

MELBOURNE, 12 Jan — World number five David Ferrer completed his Australian Open preparations by entering the record books with his fourth Auckland Open title on Saturday.

The 30-year-old's 7-6,6-1 demolition of 2008 Auckland champion Philipp Kohlschreiber in 78 minutes ensured the Spaniard joined Australia's Roy Emerson as the only four-time winners of the title.

Ferrer won his first Auckland title in 2007 and has won the last three editions of the tournament. His victory ensured he become the second player, after Emerson, to win the title in three successive years. The Australian won his four titles in 1960 and then again from 1965-67.

Ferrer will now travel to Melbourne for the Australian Open where he meets Belgium's Olivier Rochus in the first round.—Reuters

Spain's David Ferrer celebrates beating Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber during their men's singles final match at the Heineken Open in Auckland on 12 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS



Embattled Evans bids to prove his worth as BMC leader

NAZARETH, (Belgium), 12 Jan —Former Tour de France winner Cadel Evans has recovered from the mental scars of last year's race and is looking to re-discover his old form as BMC's team leader. The 35-year-old Australian was blown away in last year's Tour by Briton Bradley Wiggins and the defending champion only finished seventh overall in a largely forgettable season.

"(In) 2013, I certainly hope that I'll get back to my old level. That means play-



BMC Racing Team rider Cadel Evans of Australia holds his bike as he arrives at the cycling team's official presentation in Nazareth, near Ghent on 11 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

ing healthy and riding at the front again and if I am at my best I think I will be well worthwhile for the team to ride as a leader," Evans told reporters at BMC's season launch on Friday. Team mate and world champion Philippe Gilbert has the same aims as every year. "To win... the big classics like San Remo, Flanders, Amstel and Liege," the Belgian said.

The cycling world is currently waiting to see if disgraced American Lance Armstrong confesses to doping on the Oprah Winfrey Show on 17 January after being stripped of his seven Tour titles following rider testimony that he took drugs.

However, last year's best young rider on the Tour, American Tejay van Garderen, has had enough.

"I think Armstrong... That story has been going on way too long. I think it's time for it to be over," said the BMC rider. Meanwhile, the team's Italian former world champion Alessandro Ballan is recovering after a crash at high speed in December on a training run in which he broke his leg and a rib as well as having to have his spleen removed.

Thor Hushovd, another ex-world champion on the BMC team, recently spoke to Ballan.

"He's feeling better and better but, of course, he went through a really bad crash and I feel sorry for him and his family, what he went through," the Norwegian said. "But hopefully he will come back to his former level. That's his goal and that's our team BMC's goal."

Reuters

Ishikawa and Wiratchant get Masters invitations

MIAMI, 12 Jan—Japan's Ryo Ishikawa and Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant have received invitations to play in this year's Masters at Augusta, tournament organizers said on Friday.

"The Masters has long established a tradition of supporting the global game, and we were excited to extend invitations to Thaworn Wiratchant and Ryo Ishikawa, who we hope will provide added interest and enthusiasm for golf in Asia through their participation in the tournament," said Billy Payne, chairman of Augusta National Golf Club.

The tournament is scheduled for 11-14 April. Wiratchant, who won the 2012 Asian Tour Order of Merit, will be making his first Masters appearance.

The 46-year-old holds



the Asian Tour record for most career victories, having won for the 15th time

at the Indian Open last October.

This will mark the 21-year-old Ishikawa's fifth consecutive start at the Masters where he has missed the cut on three occasions and finished tied for 20th in 2011.

Reuters

Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant



Japan's Ryo Ishikawa

GENERAL

Opening Ceremony of HOUSING, LIVING & AUTOMOBILE Fair 2013



YANGON, 12 Jan—Organized by GREAT FATHER LAND and Dagon Exhibition Limited, opening ceremony of HOUSING, LIVING & AUTOMOBILE Fair 2013 was held here at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road, Dagon Township this morning. The ceremony

was attended by Yagon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

At the ceremony, Yangon Region Planning and Economic Minister U Than Myint, Region social and Education Minister Dr Myint Thein and President of GREAT FATHER LAND U Kyaw Myint formally opened

the show and visitors viewed the exhibition. The exhibition includes housing show room and interior decoration material, construction material, modern furniture, sanitation material and kitchen ware, modern painting material, mobile phone accessories, computer and accessories, stationery, cosmetics, fashion items, education services, economic and banking services, automobile show rooms, authorized foreign automobile companies, car battery, tyres, car engine and accessories. entertainment programme were included in this show. The exhibition hour is from 9 am to 6 pm till 13 January.—NLM

Djokovic backs old routine to break new ground

MELBOURNE, 12 Jan—For Novak Djokovic, the formula for success at the Australian Open is simple - if it ain't broke, don't fix it. The world number one will try to create history over the next two weeks by becoming the first man to win three straight Australian Open titles in the professional era. Twelve months ago, Djokovic picked up his fifth grand slam title with victory over Rafa Nadal in an epic final, lasting just short of six hours.

Back in Melbourne after a few weeks rest, including a holiday in the Maldives, Djokovic looked fresh and raring to go again as he looks to create history. "So far so good," the Serb told reporters after taking part in the Australian Open Kids Tennis Day on Friday, which drew a packed crowd to the Rod Laver Arena. "We haven't changed much the daily routines in preparing for the new season for the Australian summer. Generally it's all

the same. "I have the same team of people around me that are making sure that I'm prepared well, so I'm just looking forward to start playing here." The last man to win three straight titles in Melbourne was Roy Emerson, who won five in a row from 1963-67, his last claimed in the year before tennis turned professional. The hot conditions and its place in the calendar makes the demands of the Australian Open unique but Djokovic, who also won the title in 2008, seems to have worked things out perfectly.

"I like playing here because it's after probably five, six, seven weeks of break with no official tournament," said Djokovic, who plays Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu in the first round next week.

"You get time to recover, regroup, recharge your batteries mentally and physically, try to get ready for the new season with four, five weeks of good



Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a shot through his legs during the Kids Tennis Day at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 12 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

practice. You come here fresh. You're motivated and inspired to play some good tennis. "Yes, the Australian summer can be brutal sometimes with the heat. But it has been this way for so many years. I got used to it, I know how it feels like to practice, to play in the heat.—Reuters



Brazilian soccer player Alexandre Pato shows his new jersey during a Press conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 11 Jan, 2013. Pato, a former player of AC Milan, has been contracted to be a player of Brazilian soccer club Corinthians for 15 million euros, according to the local Press.—XINHUA

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(13-1-13 09:30 am ~

14-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Myanmar International Frontier; Israeli-Myanmar Bilateral Relations
- * News
- * Press Conference of NLD's Music Concert
- * Fund Raising Fete Music Festival
- * Journey to Unimaginable Spots (Episode-2)
- * News
- * Why So Melodious?
- * News
- * A Future Star for Myanmar Movie
- * "The Art of Peace" Art Exhibition
- * News
- * The Mountain with antique Stone Sculptures & Mural Painting
- * News
- * The 13th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference
- * Sand Sculptures on Beautiful Beach Chaung Tha
- * News
- * Off Shore Challenge
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "Love Compensation"

MYANMAR TV

(13-1-2013, Sunday)

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|-----------------|---|----------------|--|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 4:10 pm | 13. Musical Programme |
| 7:25 am | 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 4:20 pm | 14. Song of National Races |
| 7:30 am | 3. Morning News | 4:30 pm | 15. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Psychology) |
| 7:40 am | 4. Dhamma Puja Song | 5:00 pm | 16. Documentary |
| 7:50 am | 5. Nice & Sweet Song | 5:20 pm | 17. Sing & Enjoy |
| 8:00 am | 6. Health Programme | 6:00 pm | 18. Evening News |
| 8:10 am | 7. (38) Phyar Mingalar | 6:15 pm | 19. Weather Report |
| 11:10 pm | 8. The 5 th South East Asian Archery Championships and Test Match for 27 th South East Asian Games (Live) | 6:20 pm | 20. Cartoon Series |
| 12:00 pm | 9. Round Up Of The Week's TV International News | 6:50 pm | 21. TV Drama Series |
| 1:45 pm | 10. Songs Programme | 7:00 pm | 22. News |
| 2:00 pm | 11. Teleplay | 7:10 pm | 22. TV Drama Series |
| 4:00 pm | 12. Martial Song | 8:00 pm | 23. News |
| | | | 24. International News |
| | | | 25. Weather Report |
| | | | 26. Tamyethnar Takwetsar |
| | | | 27. New Melody |

British bottle thrower at Bolt found guilty

LONDON, 12 Jan—A mentally ill British man who shouted abuse at Usain Bolt and threw a beer bottle on the track at London Olympics was found guilty of a public order offence on Friday. Ashley Gill-Webb, 34, shouted at the Jamaican sprinter on 5 August last year.

As 80,000 fans in the packed stadium fell silent and all eyes were fixed on the competitors in the starting blocks, Gill-Webb looked over each shoulder to check no one was looking at him, hid behind a group of spectators and lobbed the bottle at the track, video evidence showed. "I am sure that he was at that point acting rationally and wrongly and that he intended to cause harassment, alarm or distress to the competitors, and accordingly, he is guilty," said judge William Ashworth at Stratford Magistrates' Court in east London, a short distance from the Olympic Stadium. The court had heard that Gill-Webb, who suffers from bipolar disorder, was in the throes of a manic episode at the time. The crux of the legal case was whether, despite his condition, he acted with the intention to cause distress to others.—Reuters

Word for Word

"There will be teething problems from time to time."



Akbar al-Baker
Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Airways

The chief of Boeing's largest customer of its new Dreamliner aircrafts declined Wednesday to share security concerns over the aircrafts after All Nippon Airways' cancelled flight due to brake problems. Qatar has put an order for 60 Dreamliner aircrafts—30 firm orders and optional 30—and is currently operating a fleet of first five.



Victoria Nuland
US State Department Spokeswoman

"You can't create a state by rhetoric and with labels and names."

The United States said Monday it is "a bad idea" to change the name of "Palestinian National Authority" as "State of Palestine" without negotiated settlement. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also spoke critically of the move, saying the statehood of Palestinian would be achieved through a peace treaty with Israel.

"We're all Chavez!"



Supporters of Venezuela's ailing president

The supporters of the socialist leader gather outside National Assembly before the vote to choose the parliament chief. Diosdado Cabello was elected to lead the parliament in line for the position of caretaker president if Hugo Chavez is blocked by his cancer from holding the public office or die.

—NLM—



MPs celebrate Kayin New Year

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Kayin national MPs celebrated diamond jubilee Kayin New Year at Nay Pyi Taw Sabin Guest House this evening. The dinner was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, the

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, the Hluttaw Committee Chairs, national races MPs, deputy ministers and guests.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, the Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee and the Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peace-making Committee proposed a toast at the dinner.

National races cultural troupes entertained those present at the dinner.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and national races MPs attend dinner to mark diamond jubilee Kayin New Year.

MNA

MNA

Poem recitation of MRTV, CRI contest held

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—A poem recitation contest, jointly arranged by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) under the Ministry of Information and China Radio International (CRI), was held at MRTV in Tatkon Township here this morning.

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi and wife Daw Thet Thet Swe, Deputy Minister U Ye Htut and officials, the cultural counsellor from Chinese Embassy, the Vice-President of China-Myanmar Friendship Association, the deputy director-general

of CRI and enthusiasts enjoyed it.

Officials presented prizes to the winners. The poems are short-listed manuscripts scrutinized by poets out of 224 poems.

MNA

National race girls participating in dances at poem recitation contest at Myanmar Radio and Television.

MNA



Despite short time frame, CB trying to provide best global money transfer services: CB's general manager

Cooperative Bank has started to provide global money transfer services in cooperation with Western Union Company from 220 world countries. Here is excerpt of interview with Daw Theingi Nwe, general manager of CB's International Banking Services:-

NLM: What makes CB launch global remittance services?

TN: We started international money transfer services aimed at enabling Myanmar citizens abroad to transfer swiftly and safely under the guidance of the Central Bank of Myanmar. We established contacts with International Money Express Agency and May

Interview: Moe Thuzar Soe

Bank of Malaysia, and Sing Post of Singapore. Western Union Company is the last company cooperating with us. Western Union Company has branches in world countries and CB has launched the global money transfer services. Money can be transferred to Myanmar from 220 world countries now directly. Cash is now transferred even from Lebanon and Papua New Guinea. We have been dealing with transfers from Australia and Canada and many other countries. Myanmar customers are found to be satisfied with the services. We started as a money changer and received

Foreign Banking Authorized Dealer on 9 July, 2012. We then provided foreign currency opening. We are providing services as regards trade including export and import in cooperation with Bank of Tokyo of Japan, UOB, DBS and OCBC of Singapore, May Bank of Malaysia, four Thai banks, and Commerce Bank of Germany. We are trying to provide the best banking services within short time frame of launching services.

NLM: How much do you charge for foreign transfer?

TN: As the service is currently available for receipt, CB charges nothing

for it. The foreign bank where the transfer is made charges the fee. Sometimes, we have to exchange the transferred foreign currency to Myanmar Kyat, but we do not charge for it. We will expand the services for transfer and receipt.

As a special discount, Western Union charges a relatively cheap rate for Myanmar citizens in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

NLM: Does the service cover all branches of CB?

TN: CB has 31 branches across the country. All the branches can provide the service. Branches which will be opened next will also provide the service.

Trs: HKA

YCPTA holds press conference

YANGON, 12 Jan—Yangon City Public Transport Authoritative will draw plans for smooth transportation in Yangon, taking not only the current population but also the future population in the city, said Chairman of YCPTA U Kyi Thein.

At the press conference, here, yesterday, he also called for the cooperation of the people. The chairman and members of the board answered the questions of the journalists at the press conference.

MNA

Tatmadaw helicopter makes emergency landing

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—A military helicopter which had to make emergency landing due to engine failure about 20 miles of south of Myitkyina yesterday evening was found at 9.15 pm yesterday.

Some parts of the helicopter were damaged, and two pilots and one flight sergeant who were on board sacrificed their lives for the country, according to the

source from the Ministry of Defence.

The helicopter left Myitkyina Airbase to complete the security and administrative mission and made the emergency landing to the forest south of Myitkyina.

The rescue teams flew immediately to the area where the helicopter made emergency landing and carried out rescue.— MNA